

Our Little Cupids

Revision 1

By

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INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - DAY

1

REBBECA (30s) approaches with a birthday cake. People are singing "Happy Birthday". The cake finally arrives at the birthday boy, JOHNNY (11). His father, JOHN (30s), is standing next to him, holding a video camera.

As the song ends, Johnny blows out the candles. People are clapping and wishing him happy birthday.

In front of Johnny are two young women, ALEXIS and CATHY (30), fraternal twins, standing together, smiling.

Alexis is tall, blonde and beautiful. She is in a fabulous outfit and expensive Chanel sunglasses.

Cathy, a redhead, is not as tall as Alexis, but she is beautiful as well.

Johnny runs to these women, his aunts. Cathy hugs him and Alexis strokes his hair.

ALEXIS AND CATHY
Happy birthday, Johnny!

JOHNNY
(to his aunties)
Thank you.

EXT. JOHNNY'S HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

2

The party is finishing.

Alexis and Cathy are leaving - they immediately split and walk towards their cars. There is something cold and distant between the two sisters.

As they enter their cars, they wave to their brother, who is standing at the door with his wife, REBBECA.

REBBECA
I can't believe they are still not talking.

JOHN
My sisters... It's going to take a miracle for them to talk again.

He embraces his wife and kisses her. The sisters drive away; one right, the other left.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

INT. SPECIAL MOMENTS - DAY 3

Throughout the building we see the company's name, "SPECIAL MOMENTS".

Cathy oversees a meeting with her staff in a conference room. We see pictures of party rooms, flowers, catering setups and decorations.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY 4

Alexis dines with an older man, RAY GILMORE (50s), a wealthy, well-groomed man. He is wooing her with expensive dinner. A waiter is pouring champagne for the couple. Ray hands her a TIFFANY'S box. She opens the box and smiles. It is diamond earrings.

INT. CLUB - NIGHT 5

SUPER: A WEEK LATER

Alexis sits in a VIP section with a few upper-class people. She is the center of the party.

Her phone is buzzing at the table, but she does not see it.

INT. CATHY'S APARTMENT - LATE NIGHT 6

Cathy is sleeping in bed, alone.

The phone rings. At first, she ignores the phone. It rings again.

CATHY

(on the phone)

It better be good... who is this?

DOCTOR RODGER (O.S.)

Hello, is this Cathy Cooper?

CATHY

Yes. Who is this?

DOCTOR RODGER (O.S.)

My name is Natalie Rodgers. I'm a nurse at Saint Millard Hospital. I found your number in Mr. Cooper's wallet. He listed you as an emergency contact.

(CONTINUED)

CATHY

What? What... happened?

INT. HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY ROOM

7

Cathy rushes into the ER. As she approaches the information desk, she sees Johnny sitting in the waiting area. His clothes are torn and his eyes are red from crying.

As he looks up, she rushes to his side. He doesn't move from his chair. She hugs him tightly, checks for physical injury.

CATHY

Are you OK? Are you hurting anywhere?

He shakes his head.

CATHY

I'm so sorry, honey. I'm so sorry.
Don't worry, I'm here and I will
take care of you.

He starts to cry.

ALEXIS

Johnny... Cathy?

They turn to see Alexis standing a feet away, tears rolling. She walks towards them and kneels down to her nephew. The three of them hug.

INT. CATHY'S APARTMENT

8

Cathy and Johnny enter, carrying bags - Johnny is moving in. He looks around the apartment, it's not a typical apartment for young children, everything is white and expensive.

CATHY

So, what do you think? I know, I
know... it's a bit much.

Still looking around, he shrugs.

CATHY

Okay... why don't you put the stuff
in your room... right down the
hall. You go ahead. I'm just
calling Aunt Alexis and see where
she is.

(CONTINUED)

He grabs a bag and walks through the hallway, and stops at a picture of his parents' wedding. When he sees Cathy watching him with a worried look, he walks to the room.

As she dials, the doorbell rings. It is Alexis, also carrying bags.

CATHY
(whispering)
I was just calling you. You're late... I wanted you to be here when we arrived.

ALEXIS
I know, I know, traffic was bad and I didn't realize how much junk I had.

Alexis hands a couple bags to Cathy, and grabs some herself.

ALEXIS
How is he?

CATHY
Still not talking.

ALEXIS
Poor Johnny... It's going to take some time.

Alexis looks around.

ALEXIS
Nice place.
(beat)
So, where is my room?

Cathy points to a room next to Johnny.

CATHY
You settle down and I'm going to order some dinner for us.

INT. CATHY'S BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

9

Exhausted, Cathy walks to her bed and turns off the nightstand lamp. She covers herself with the blanket.

Just when she closes her eyes - loud music comes from Alexis' bedroom. She's annoyed.

(CONTINUED)

She waits and waits and waits for Alexis to turn off the music. Cathy jumps up and walks to the door, but then Alexis turns off the music. She walks back to her bed; now she hears Alexis's loud voice, fighting on the phone.

CATHY

(sotto)

OK, Cathy, this is the first night... take a deep breath and let it go.

She wraps pillows around her ears to block the sound.

INT. ALEXIS' BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

9A

Alexis is talking on the phone.

ALEXIS

(angry)

I can't believe you're canceling our trip.

(beat)

Are you going with your wife?

(beat)

Listen, if you cancel our trip, you better lose my number.

She hangs up the phone.

ALEXIS

BASTARD!

She turns off her light.

INT. WOODSMAN SCHOOL - EARLY MORNING

10

Cathy and Johnny are in front of his school. Cathy strokes his hair before leaning down in front of Johnny.

CATHY

Are you ready? I gave you my cell number and my office number. Call me if you need me... for anything.

He nods.

DANNY (30) and his daughter LENNY (11) walk behind Cathy.

DANNY

Cathy, is that you?

(CONTINUED)

CATHY
(recognizing voice, closes eyes)
Danny?
(she turns around)
Hey.

DANNY
(he looks happy to her)
Wow, this is amazing... how long has it been... 12 years?

CATHY
(unhappy, could care less)
Something like that?

She glances to his daughter.

DANNY
Oh, this is my daughter Lenny.

CATHY
Hello, it's nice to meet you.
(to Danny)
She's beautiful.

DANNY
Thank you.
(at Johnny)
And who is this?

CATHY
(uncomfortable)
Oh... this is Johnny.

A teacher, MISS MARY, walks to them.

MISS MARY
Good morning, folks.

They all greet the teacher - except Johnny, who stares at the ground.

MISS MARY
I will take the kids from here.
Hello, Johnny. It's nice to see you again.

CATHY
Oh... should I...

(CONTINUED)

MISS MARY
(touches Cathy's shoulder,
trying to ease her)
It's OK... I will take it from
here.

Cathy nods OK. The children and Miss Mary disappear into the building. Cathy turns around to Danny.

CATHY
Well, it was nice to see you. I've
got to go, I'm late for work.

DANNY
Okay... see you later.

CATHY
Oh, Danny... Johnny is not my son
-- he is my nephew. See ya.

She turns around and rushes to her car.

INT. ALEXIS' BEDROOM - DAY

11

Alexis, lying on her bed, takes off her eye mask, and looks at the clock.

It is noon.

She puts her mask back on. Her cell rings.

ALEXIS
(into the phone)
Yeah.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)
Who is this?

ALEXIS
Alexis? Who is this?

It takes JENNY GILMORE a moment to respond.

JENNY GILMORE (O.S.)
Jenny Gilmore... Ray's wife.
(Alexis jumps up and takes off
the eye-mask)
I need you to stay away from my
husband.

(CONTINUED)

ALEXIS

I... I...

The phone is disconnected.

INT. CATHY'S APARTMENT - EARLY EVENING

12

Cathy walks in. Music is playing loudly, the apartment is messy. Alexis is on the sofa, reading US magazine.

ALEXIS

(shouting over the music)

Hey, how is work?

CATHY

It was OK. How is Johnny?

ALEXIS

What?

Cathy walks to the radio and turns off the music.

CATHY

How was he when you picked him up from school?

ALEXIS

He was fine. Quiet, as usual.

Alexis throws the magazine on the floor and quickly sits up on the couch.

ALEXIS

So, I ran into Danny.

Cathy walks to the kitchen and starts to clean the mess. Alexis follows her into the kitchen, opens the fridge and grabs a bottle water.

Alexis leans against the fridge and takes a sip of the drink, ignoring Cathy's frustrated face.

ALEXIS

So... when was the last time you saw him?

CATHY

Did he eat anything?

ALEXIS

Yes, he ate two slices of pizza.

Cassie opens the trash can -- it is full.

(CONTINUED)

ALEXIS

Why are you changing the subject?

She takes the bag out and hands it to Alexis.

CATHY

Do me a favor and clean after yourself.

Cathy leaves the kitchen. Alexis picks up the trash; the bag is so full, it breaks.

ALEXIS

SHIT!

CUT TO:

Alexis throws the trash into the trash room, and walks back to the apartment.

A few doors away - GEORGE (30s) comes out of his apartment. Alexis sees George - it takes her a second, but she recognizes him. Swiftly, Alexis leans against the wall and slowly walks to her door. He doesn't see Alexis, she quickly opens the door and HURRIES back into the apartment.

CUT TO:

ALEXIS

OH MY GOD! OH MY GOD!

CATHY

What are you doing?

ALEXIS

I can't believe it. Did you know that George lives right next to you?

CATHY

Uh... you mean George Firestone?

ALEXIS

Why the hell didn't you tell me that George Firestone lives in this building?

CATHY

Why does it matter?

ALEXIS

Have you seen him or talked to him? Is he still married?

(CONTINUED)

CATHY

No, he has been divorced for two years. It's funny that we see both George and Danny after all these years, huh?

ALEXIS

Yeah... Hilarious.

Alexis goes to her bedroom and slams the door behind her.

INT. CATHY'S BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

13

Cathy is in her bed. She stares at the ceiling and waits for the music to stop.

She glances to the clock: 12:30 a.m. Angry, she gets out of the bed and goes into the hallway.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME NIGHT

14

Cathy, more aggravated, tries to open Alexis' door, but it is locked. She knocks softly, no response. She knocks harder.

CATHY

OPEN THE DOOR!

Alexis opens the door.

ALEXIS

Yes?

CATHY

It's 12:30! Turn off the music or use damn headphones. I'm trying to sleep here and you have a little boy sleeping next to your bedroom.

She rolls her eyes and closes the door on Cathy.

Cathy bangs on the door, hard.

Johnny opens his door and stares at his aunt.

CATHY

It's OK, sweetie, just go back to bed.

Johnny closes his door. Cathy takes a breath and returns to her room.

EXT. WOODMAN SCHOOL - EARLY MORNING

15

Cathy watches as Johnny walks into the building. Lenny is running after him.

Cathy looks around for Danny and sees him walking towards her.

CATHY
(impassively)
Hello.

DANNY
Good morning. So, how does Johnny feel about the school?

CATHY
I don't know. He doesn't talk, so...

DANNY
Yes, I know, Alexis mentioned it. I saw her yesterday.

CATHY
(small smile)
Right.

DANNY
I'm sorry to hear about your brother and his wife.

CATHY
(in a hurry)
Yeah... thanks. I've got to go to work.

She tries to walk away...

DANNY
Cathy? Please let me know if you need help with Johnny.

CATHY
Thanks, Danny. See ya...

DANNY
Bye.

INT. SPECIAL MOMENTS - DAY

16

Cathy, at her desk, is typing.

RACHAEL WALKER (30) comes into the office and sits in a chair, facing Cathy.

RACHAEL

The client called the Bitch has yet again changed the menu.

Cathy does not look up and just nods, pretending to listen.

RACHAEL

This is the third time she's changing the menu... THIRD. UUUGGG!!! You want to hear another crazy request from the bride? She wants everyone to wear black. Everyone! The staff, the guests, and the... Are you listening?

CATHY

I'm sorry... yes. She changed her mind. I know, just charge her extra.

RACHAEL

(losing patience)

Charge her extra? It's not about the money.

CATHY

(still looking at computer)

It's not?

RACHAEL

No, girl. It's about...

She stops as she realizes that Cathy is distracted.

RACHAEL

What's so important?

She glances to Cathy's computer -- on Danny's Facebook page.

Embarrassed, Cathy exits the site.

RACHAEL

Isn't that Danny from high school?

(CONTINUED)

CATHY

Maybe.

RACHAEL

Why are you suddenly interested in him? I thought you hated him...

CATHY

I don't hate him. We were actually great friends back in high school.

RACHAEL

I know... almost as close as we were, until the last day of high school and suddenly you couldn't stand him. Is he back in the picture?

CATHY

No. Yes. I mean, not like that. His daughter goes to the same school as Johnny.

RACHAEL

Daughter? Really? How does he look? Is he married?

CATHY

I don't know... I don't know why it even matters. He offered to help us with Johnny.

RACHAEL

That is nice of him. It sounds like he's the same Danny.

CATHY

It does, doesn't?
(beat)

Now, what did you say about everyone wearing black?

INT. CATHY'S APARTMENT - EARLY EVENING

17

Cathy enters, carrying dinner and her briefcase. Again, the apartment is messy and chaotic.

Alexis is lying on her sofa, watching TV.

Angry, Cathy dumps the food on the coffee table and turns off the TV.

(CONTINUED)

CATHY

Alexis, it's been several weeks since you moved in, and all you do is sit, eat, and make a mess of everything. I'm sick and tired of this!

ALEXIS

I moved in to help with Johnny, not to be criticized. You know... I had a life before I came here.

CATHY

Oh really! As if I didn't. I didn't ask you to be here.

ALEXIS

What life?! You had nothing!

CATHY

No, darling sister. You had nothing! I've got good friends, a company, and my own apartment. You know what you can do for me?

ALEXIS

What?!

CATHY

Go back to your miserable little life!

ALEXIS

OH REALLY!

CATHY

YES!

JOHNNY

(crying, standing behind them)
STOP IT!

Alexis and Cathy exchange a look of incredulity.

CATHY

Oh my God...

ALEXIS

You're talking.

JOHNNY

Yes, I'm talking. Can you please stop screaming?

(CONTINUED)

He sits down on the sofa.

CATHY

I'm so sorry you had to hear us
scream.

JOHNNY

You always scream at each other.

They look at him miserably.

ALEXIS

We're sorry, sweetie.
(kneels and hugs him)
We're just so glad to hear your
voice.

CATHY

(full of joy)
We need to celebrate. Let's order
some food.

She walks to the kitchen, and as she arrives...

CATHY

OH MY GOD!

Alexis and Johnny rush to the kitchen. The kitchen floor is covered with inches of foam. Cathy turns to Alexis.

CATHY

What happened?

ALEXIS

How would I know?

CATHY

What did you use in the dishwasher?

ALEXIS

What kind of question is that? As
if I had never used a dishwasher in
my life...

Cathy walks through the foam - the floor is slippery, she tries to hold onto the counter, but loses her balance - falls right on her butt. Alexis rushes to help her, but also falls and lands next to her sister.

Watching all this, Johnny bursts into laughter. The twins are at first irritated, then smile at each other. This is the first time Johnny has laughed so hard since his parents died. The sister laughs with Johnny.

In the corner of the kitchen, we see laundry detergent.

INT. JOHNNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

18

Alexis is tucking in Johnny, kisses his forehead, smiles.

JOHNNY

Can I ask you something?

(she nods)

Do you really hate Aunt Cathy?

ALEXIS

Of course not... we're sisters.

JOHNNY

Why do you fight so much?

ALEXIS

That is what sisters do.

He looks confused.

ALEXIS

Goodnight. I love you.

JOHNNY

I love you too.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME NIGHT

19

Alexis is looking through their family albums. Cathy walks towards to her and sits next to her.

CATHY

What are you doing?

She smiles at a picture of them at a young age, and touches the picture gently.

ALEXIS

I can't believe we used to be this close.

CATHY

(at a picture of a young John)

Yeah. I guess things have changed.

ALEXIS

Johnny asked me if I hated you...
it broke my heart.

(CONTINUED)

CATHY

(smiles)

I know how you feel... he asked me
the same question.

ALEXIS

He did?

(small smile)

I can't remember when we talked
like sisters, without fighting.
What happened to us?

CATHY

Who knows?

They stop abruptly when a picture of a woman falls from the
album. The woman is blonde and looks like Alexis.

CATHY

Where did that come from?

ALEXIS

I've no idea. Look at her.

CATHY

You start to look like her the
older you get.

ALEXIS

I guess I do. I haven't seen her
picture since...

CATHY

I know... me either.

Alexis puts the picture back into the album, and closes it.
They continue to sit in silence, busy with the memories of
their mother.

EXT. STREET - DAY

20

Alexis is taking a stroll around the city, carrying some
shopping bags.

As she's walking by a restaurant, she catches a couple
sitting next to the window. It's Ray and his wife Jenny.

Alexis stares at the "happy couple". She feels like
something punched her stomach. A smiling Ray turns to her
and glares. He resumes talking to his wife as if nothing
happened.

With tears in her eyes, Alexis runs off.

EXT. STREET - DAY

21

Alexis, Johnny, and Lenny are walking from school. The kids are a few feet behind Alexis.

She stops abruptly when she sees George crossing the street, and hides from him. The kids exchange weird looks.

LENNY
(whispering)
What is she doing?

JOHNNY
(points at George in distance)
She's hiding from him.

LENNY
Why?

He shrugs; I don't know.

Alexis sees the kids staring at her.

ALEXIS
(apologetic smile)
Sorry, kids... just playing. Let's go.

The kids shake their heads.

LENNY
Adults can be so childish
sometimes.

Johnny nods, agreeing.

INT. FOYER - DAY

22

Cathy, wearing a facial mask and with curlers in her hair, rushes to the door.

CATHY
Where have you been? I've been
calling for two hours.

It is Danny at the door, looking handsome. In shock, she slams the door on him.

CATHY
(whispering)
No. No.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY (O.S.)
Hello, Catherine! I came to pick up
my daughter.

She opens the door, embarrassed and trying not to show it.

CATHY
Lenny? Lenny's not here...
Actually, no one is here.

DANNY
I might be a little bit early.
(looks at his watch)
Alexis told me to meet them here.

CATHY
Did she? She didn't say anything to
me. Well, come in.

DANNY
Are you sure? I wasn't sure I was
welcome - I believe you just
slammed the door in my face.

She feigns a smile as she escorts him to the living room.

DANNY
Nice place.

CATHY
Thank you. Please relax, I will be
back in a moment.

INT. CATHY'S BATHROOM - SAME DAY

23

Cathy quickly closes the door and looks at the mirror. She's mortified.

CATHY
Yes, I had to look like this.

She washes her face, takes out the curlers, and quickly brushes her hair. She looks at her face once more, pinches her cheeks and puts on lip gloss.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

24

Danny grins as she returns - Cathy looks ravishing, now in a white dress.

She takes a seat across from him, legs crossed, arms on her lap and looking around the room.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

So, how is everything?

CATHY

(blank smile)

Fine, thanks.

DANNY

Johnny seems to be adjusting better.

CATHY

Yes, he is.

Both uncomfortable - the silence is unbearable.

DANNY

I heard you have your own business. Event planning. How is it going?

CATHY

Good.

DANNY

Wow, your answers are getting shorter and shorter.

(irritated)

What's wrong with you?

Cathy shifts uncomfortably - playing with her dress.

CATHY

(agitated)

I don't know what you are talking about.

(gets up)

Would you like something to drink?

She walks to the kitchen, he follows.

DANNY

Why are you so cold?

She opens the fridge.

CATHY

Water, Coke...

He gets closer to her.

DANNY

I don't want a goddamn drink. I want to know what's so bad that I

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DANNY (cont'd)
did that still makes you hate me
after all these years.

CATHY
(angry)
You know--

They are standing very close now. Tension is getting higher.

DANNY
(angry)
Don't you think...

Alexis and the children enter the apartment, hear a scream.

ALEXIS
(clearing throat)
Is everything OK?

Cathy and Danny, embarrassed, quickly move from each other.

CATHY
Hello, kids.

DANNY
Kids? Alexis?
(small pause)
Well, we've to go. Thank you,
Alexis.
(he strokes Johnny's hair)
See you tomorrow, buddy.
(turns to Cathy)
Cathy... bye.

She waves goodbye.

After they're gone, Alexis and Johnny stare at Cathy,
waiting for an explanation - she just walks away.

INT. CATHY'S BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

25

Cathy is in bed, struggling to sleep.

Alexis opens the door slightly - comes in and walks softly
to the bed.

ALEXIS
(whispering)
Are you awake?

(CONTINUED)

CATHY

Yes.

Alexis sits beside her, looks around. Cathy turns on a light.

ALEXIS

What's going on, Cathy? Why're you so angry with Danny?

CATHY

It's nothing... It's in the past.

ALEXIS

Whatever happened, let it go. You're not little teenagers anymore.

CATHY

HA... You're one to talk. Aren't you the one who is scared to face George?

ALEXIS

That is different. Besides, Danny is a much better man than George ever was. George is a heartbreaker. A player.

CATHY

That is the old George. I don't think he's like that anymore. Not since that incident...

She looks at her; what incident?

CATHY

Are you serious? You don't know what happened to him? He lost his baby. It was a horrible thing... couple years ago, early morning, he was supposed to take his baby to childcare on his way to work, but apparently he forgot about the baby until the mother calls, during lunchtime. The baby died in the car.

Alexis, in shock, puts a hand on her heart.

ALEXIS

That is horrific. Poor George. What happened to his wife?

(CONTINUED)

CATHY

I guess the guilt and the blame
made it hard for them.

Alexis lays next to her sister, taking this in.

INT. LENNY'S BEDROOM - DUSK

26

Lenny and Johnny are working on a science project.

Johnny keeps looking up to a picture of Danny.

LENNY

What? You keep staring at my dad's
picture.

JOHNNY

Do you think your dad and Cathy
used to date?

LENNY

I don't know. Why?

JOHNNY

Don't you think that they were
acting weird when they're together?

LENNY

I know what you mean.
(thinking hard)
I will be back.

A moment later, Lenny comes back with an old high school album, and sits next to Johnny.

They scroll through the book and stop at a picture of Cathy and Danny at about 17 years old. They look happy and very close, Cathy is smiling, and Danny is looking at Cathy.

LENNY

WOW, look at them.

JOHNNY

Yeah...

They stare at the picture for a second - trying to see any resemblance of the current people.

LENNY

I wonder what happened. Maybe my
dad met my mom.

(CONTINUED)

JOHNNY

Is your dad seeing anyone?

She shakes her head.

JOHNNY

Neither is my aunt.

They look at each other devilishly.

LENNY

Are you thinking what I'm thinking?

He nods. They smile.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

27

Cathy, Alexis, and Johnny are eating dinner. It is very quiet, everyone is busy with their thoughts.

JOHNNY

I like Lenny's dad.

The two sisters look at each other, Alexis smiles.

ALEXIS

Do you? That is great.

JOHNNY

(to Cathy)

Yeah... Do you like him?

CATHY

Yes, sure... I like him just fine.

JOHNNY

He's really nice to me. He told me he will take me to a game next week, isn't that nice of him?

Cathy doesn't respond, continuous to eat.

ALEXIS

Yes, it's very nice of him. Don't you think, Cathy?

CATHY

Can we just eat, please? Let's enjoy the dinner Aunt Alexis prepared for us today.

Disappointed, he eats his food.

INT. DANNY'S DINING ROOM

28

Danny and his daughter are eating dinner, Lenny just keeps looking at her father.

LENNY

Mmm, I do. I think Cathy is beautiful, don't you think?

Danny chokes on his food, looks at his daughter, takes a sip of his drink.

DANNY

Where did that come from?

LENNY

(innocently)

I was just thinking.

He looks at her suspiciously.

LENNY

Did you like her? Like, more than friends?

DANNY

(shocked)

OK, let's stop talking and just eat your dinner, young lady.

EXT. STREET - RAINY DAY

29

Alexis, Johnny, and Lenny walk from school, in pouring rain.

George, with his dog, walks across the street - crossing towards them.

Alexis quickly hides behind a car, but loses her balance and falls face down in the mud. The children are watching her, trying to hold their laughter.

George walks to her and stops right in front of her.

GEORGE

Hello, Alexis. I thought it was time we talked.

He helps her get up.

ALEXIS

How? I mean, you knew, the whole time...

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE

(big smile)

Yes, you're really not that good at hiding.

ALEXIS

(humiliated)

Well... I... Excuse me. Let's go, kids!

She grabs the children and storms away.

INT. THE APARTMENT - SAME DAY

30

Wet and covered in dirt, Alexis storms in with the children.

At the sight of Alexis, Cathy explodes with laughter, the children join her.

CATHY

I know you're a retired as a model, but this... is a bit extreme.

(Alexis storms to the bathroom, and Cathy turns to the children)

George?

They nod. Cathy follows her sister.

JOHNNY

I think we've got another project on our hands.

LENNY

I think so. Adults...

JOHNNY

...they are so childish.

They burst out laughing.

INT. SPECIAL MOMENTS - DAY

31

Cathy is busy working, when Rachael enters the office.

RACHAEL

So, did you find an opening at the Hilton for the Walkers' party?

(CONTINUED)

CATHY

Yes, how about you? How are we with the flower selections?

RACHAEL

Great. She wanted to add the mini calla lilies. Hopefully she will not change her choices again. Anyway, you called? What can I do for you, partner?

She stops her work.

CATHY

Do you think we need extra help? I've got this crazy idea. I was thinking of hiring Alexis.

RACHAEL

Alexis, really? Are you sure you want to work and live together? I didn't realize your relationship has changed that much.

CATHY

We've learned to coexist peacefully.

RACHAEL

It's up to you. I support you in whatever you choose to do.

She smiles at her partner.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

32

Alexis is lying on her bed, sick. She turns on the TV, and changes to THE VIEW.

Her cell rings, she looks at it; it's Ray GILMORE, she ignores it. He calls three more times, then finally texts her:

TEXT: Sorry, baby. I miss you. Call me.

ALEXIS

ASSHOLE!

She texts him: No! Leave me alone.

She starts to cough, and covers herself with the blanket.

She hears a couple text notices, but she ignores them.

INT. DANNY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 33

Danny is tucking Lenny into her bed.

INT. JOHNNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 34

Couple blocks away, Cathy is doing the same with Johnny.

JOHNNY

Can I ask you something? How come
you're not married?

CATHY

(small smile)

I don't know. I guess it wasn't
meant to be for me... why?

INT. DANNY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 35

LENNY

Daddy... do you miss Mommy?

DANNY

Sometimes, why?

LENNY

It's just, Mommy got remarried and
you're still alone. Why don't you
get married again? Don't you feel
lonely?

DANNY

How can I be lonely when I've a
great little daughter like you in
my life?

LENNY

OH, Daddy, you always say that, but
I'm serious. I'm *not* a little girl
anymore.

DANNY

You'll always be my little girl.
Who do you think I should marry?

INT. JOHNNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

36

JOHNNY

I think if you marry and have
children you will be a great mom.

CATHY

(touched by his words)

Awww.

(kisses him on the forehead)

That is the sweetest thing anyone
has ever said to me.

JOHNNY

(devilish smile)

I've the perfect husband for you--

CATHY

You do, huh? Who?

SPLIT-SCREEN between Cathy/Johnny and Lenny/Danny:

LENNY

Cathy.

JOHNNY

Danny.

CATHY

WHAT!

DANNY

Why her?

LENNY

Because...

JOHNNY

You're perfect for each other.

Cathy stares at Johnny, speechless, while Danny just smiles
at his daughter.

INT. ALEXIS BEDROOM - NIGHT

37

Cathy goes to her sister bedroom, who is watching TV.

ALEXIS

(at Cathy's shocked face)

What is wrong?

(CONTINUED)

CATHY

Our little nephew just told me to get married and have children.

ALEXIS

What?

CATHY

He also says... I should marry Danny.

(beat)

Why aren't you shocked or surprised?

ALEXIS

I'm surprised, you're shocked.

Cathy looks at her; What do you mean?

ALEXIS

It's not the first time he mentioned Danny's name like that to you.

CATHY

Huh... You're right. He does bring up Danny's name in many conversations. I wonder, why he does that to me and not to you?

ALEXIS

Oh, please, it's so obvious. It's obvious to a little boy, how come it's not obvious to you?

LONG PAUSE.

CATHY

Anyway, change of subject. I was wondering if you're interested to work with us at the company. I think you will be a great fit.

ALEXIS

Working and living together? Isn't that a bit much?

CATHY

I don't think so; besides, if it doesn't work, you can always quit...

(CONTINUED)

ALEXIS

Or you can always fire me.

Cathy throws a small pillow at her, she throws it back - they laugh.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

38

Alexis and Ray are having dinner at a fancy restaurant. Their table is in an exclusive corner, some candles on the table.

RAY

I'm so glad you came.

ALEXIS

I shouldn't have come.

RAY

I missed you.

ALEXIS

Ray...

Ray takes out a small box from his pocket and puts it on the table. Alexis looks irritated.

ALEXIS

Do you think you can just buy me things and all is forgiven?

RAY

Darling... I just want to show you how much I missed you. I actually went to the store and thought of you when I saw this. Please, just open it.

Alexis picks up the box and slowly opens it; it's a diamond bracelet. When she picks up the bracelet, she sees a little note: "I love you, darling."

She looks up to Ray, who waits for her reaction. She smiles. He gets up and helps with the bracelet. He bends down to kiss her on the lips.

RAY

So, we're back on?

She finds herself back in Ray's web.

(CONTINUED)

ALEXIS

I guess so.

RAY

Good.

He walks back to his seat, satisfied. Realizing what just happened, her smile fades away.

INT. SKY TOWERS HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

39

Alexis and Johnny walk to the apartment. As they pass George's apartment, she increases her speed without realizing. Johnny stops and knocks on the door.

She turns to see Johnny standing at the door.

ALEXIS

(whispering)

What are you doing? Come here.

He ignores her. She walks back to grab him, but it is too late -- George opens the door.

GEORGE

Hello...

ALEXIS

(startled)

Oh, hi... hello. I... am sorry, but he...

GEORGE

Yes?

She winces slightly.

ALEXIS

Sorry, he knocked on your door. We will go now.

She grabs Johnny.

GEORGE

(to Johnny)

Why did you knock on my door, young man?

JOHNNY

(soft voice)

I'm just wondering if I could play with your dog?

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE
Play with Bucky?
(looks at Alexis)
It's up to your aunt.

He looks to Alexis, taking her time to consider; she nods. George lets Johnny enter his apartment, he gestures for Alexis to come in.

ALEXIS
No, it's OK... thank you, just send
him after one hour or whenever...

GEORGE
I will.

He closes the door as she walks away.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

40

Alexis enters the apartment, still irritated with Johnny.

ALEXIS
UGGG!

CATHY
Are you OK? Where is Johnny?

ALEXIS
Johnny? Are you asking me about our
little, sneaky nephew?

She walks to the kitchen, takes out a bottle of water, and walks to the living room. Cathy just follows her.

CATHY
Oh, boy... what did he do? Is it
Danny?

ALEXIS
Oh, don't worry... he moved on...
TO ME!

CATHY
What are you talking about? Where
is Johnny?

ALEXIS
Johnny's with.... George.

She collapses onto the sofa.

(CONTINUED)

CATHY
(laughing)
George? Why?

Cathy sits next to her, laughing.

ALEXIS
YEAH... laugh it out. It was sooo humiliating. We're walking by his apartment, and this boy just stops and knocks on his door.

CATHY
What did he want?

ALEXIS
He says he wanted to play with Bucky. I think, he did that on purpose. Oh my gosh!

Cathy starts to laugh and laugh. Annoyed, Alexis puts a pillow on her face and screams into it.

CATHY
(on a more serious note)
Can I ask you something?

ALEXIS
(still her face on her pillow)
Shoot.

CATHY
Who's the guy you're dating?

ALEXIS
(looks up)
What guy?

CATHY
That guy. I don't know his name. The one you fight with on the phone. The one you're secretly dating.

ALEXIS
I'm not dating anyone.

CATHY
(suspiciously)
You're *not* dating.

She glances at the bracelet that Ray gave to her.

(CONTINUED)

CATHY

Who got you that bracelet?

ALEXIS

Hey, what is going on with you? Why are you all up in my business?

CATHY

I'm not. I'm just curious about the guy that my sister is spending time with. What is wrong with the guy? Why are you hiding him?

ALEXIS

There is nothing wrong with him.

CATHY

So, there is someone.

ALEXIS

No. Please stop asking me questions. Geez!

CATHY

Alright. I will back off. Sorry for caring.

ALEXIS

No, I'm sorry. I did not mean to be rude.

CATHY

That's... fine.

Alexis takes a sigh of relief, glad that topic is closed.

INT. SPECIAL MOMENTS - DAY

41

The girls are working hard on their big project. The office is hectic, bustling with employees decorating and taking pictures. Cathy is smiling at a picture, Alexis is pointing at a party room.

ALEXIS

You like?

CATHY

I love.

Alexis smiles at her sister and turns back to the picture.

(CONTINUED)

An elite client, JANE (24), enters the office. She's dressed in a beautiful, expensive suit-dress, accessorized with the most expensive jewelry. She walks into the office as if she owns the place. Cathy jumps from her chair when she notices the client.

CATHY
Hello, Jane.

JANE
Cathy.

An employee takes her coat and helps her to a seat.

EMPLOYEE
Can I get you something to drink?

JANE
(barely makes eye contact)
I would like some cappuccino.

EMPLOYEE
Uhhh... cappuccino?

JANE
Do you have problem with my
English?

EMPLOYEE
Sorry. I will get your cappuccino.

The employee leaves, Cathy looks at Alexis, who is not surprised about this kind of behavior. Jane looks at Alexis.

JANE
Do I know you?

CATHY
Jane, this is my sister Alexis.
Alexis, this is our client Jane...

JANE
I never forget faces. Were you like
a model?

ALEXIS
Yes. I was in the modeling industry
for 10 years.

JANE
You were pretty famous.

(CONTINUED)

ALEXIS

I suppose.

Jane looks her up and down; her eyes catch the bracelet Ray gave to her.

JANE

Nice bracelet.

ALEXIS

(smile)

Thank you.

JANE

My mother has the same.

It isn't clear if that's an insult, but she turns back to Cathy.

JANE

So, how far are we with the wedding plans?

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

42

Cathy, Alexis, and Johnny are sitting for dinner.

JOHNNY

Can I invite Lenny for Thanksgiving dinner?

ALEXIS

Sure...

CATHY

Thanksgiving is usually with the family.

JOHNNY

Her dad has some plans and her mother is out of town.

CATHY

Well, in that case, the more the merrier.

INT. CATHY'S APARTMENT - DUSK

43

Cathy is busy with the turkey, and Alexis is setting the table, when the bell rings.

Johnny runs to the door, as the two women stare at each other, surprised about his excitement.

It is Danny and Lenny carrying trays of food. Alexis walks to the door.

ALEXIS

What's all this?

DANNY

I didn't want to be rude and come empty-handed. It was generous to invite us on your first Thanksgiving together.

ALEXIS

(looks at Danny and Lenny,
sees Johnny smiling at her)
Oh, it's... no problem. Come in.

Lenny and Johnny smile at each other, relieved.

Alexis quickly runs with the food to the kitchen, where Cathy is still busy with the turkey.

ALEXIS

(whispering)
OK, don't panic. Your nephew not only invited Lenny, but also Danny.

CATHY

(looking at Danny and Johnny)
He did what? Oh my god, I'm going to kill him.

ALEXIS

I know, I know, but just relax now, he is just a little boy.

At that moment, George enters the apartment. He shakes hands with Danny.

CATHY

(whispering)
Just a little boy. Look what he did.

(CONTINUED)

ALEXIS

(turns around and sees George)
Oh my God, what is he doing here?
I'm going to kill Johnny.

CATHY

Stand in line, sister. We can't
stay here forever. How do I look?

Alexis looks at her, fixes Cathy's hair and dress.

ALEXIS

How about me?

CATHY

You look great. You always look
good.

They force a smile and walk toward their guests.

INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING

44

In the midst of dinner. The group are gathered at the table,
barely sharing a glance.

DANNY

(at his plate)
This is great, ladies.

GEORGE

Yes, it is.

JOHNNY

My aunts are such good cooks.

The sisters shoot angry looks at him, he smiles at them.

Lenny turns to Johnny, grinning.

DANNY

(to George)
It's really good to see you, it's
been a while. I heard you were
married and had a baby girl.

The room comes to a stark halt - everyone freezes. George
looks like he has seen a ghost.

JOHNNY

Are you married?

George looks at Johnny, eyes full of unspeakable sadness.

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE
(looking down)
No... excuse me.
(gets up)
I've got to go.

DANNY
(confused)
I'm sorry... did I say something
wrong?

GEORGE
No. Happy Thanksgiving.

George rushes out of the apartment.

Shocked, Alexis gets up and follows him. Cathy looks at
Danny.

CATHY
I will explain later.
(looks at the children)
Why don't you guys take your
desserts and go to Johnny's room?

The children, with their desserts, leave the room.

INT. CATHY'S LIVING ROOM - SAME EVENING

45

Danny and Cathy are sitting. Cathy has explained George's
past.

DANNY
(shocked)
What! I can't believe it.

CATHY
Yeah... It's sad.

DANNY
I can't imagine how he feels. If
this would have happened to me...

CATHY
I know...

DANNY
I can't believe I mentioned his
daughter on Thanksgiving day...

(CONTINUED)

CATHY

Well, you didn't know.

DANNY

He looks like he has changed. I remember him as the popular jock, who always got what he wanted.

CATHY

That is life. It changes us. We all change... except you.

DANNY

You don't think I've changed? Gosh, I feel nothing like I used to be.

CATHY

No, you're still the same Danny I grew up with.

DANNY

I miss you, you know. The friend who was always there to support and to confide all my troubles to.

He gets up and walks around in a circle.

DANNY

Boy, did I need you during my divorce.

CATHY

I'm sorry to hear about the divorce. What happened?

DANNY

Short version. She just fell in love with another guy, who she married. The truth is... we should have never been married... we were never in love. It's just...

CATHY

She got pregnant... with Lenny.

He nods his head.

INT. GEORGE'S LIVING ROOM - SAME NIGHT

46

As George pours himself a drink, Alexis settles down on the sofa. The apartment is pitch dark.

GEORGE

Would you like some wine?

ALEXIS

Sure.

He pours her a drink, walks to her and hands her the drink. He sits next to her and quietly drinks his wine.

Alexis uncomfortably nurses her drink, searching for the right words to say.

ALEXIS

George?

He turns to her, as if he forgot she's here. Alexis starts to say something to George, but stops herself.

ALEXIS

I... just want to say... I'm really sorry. About your daughter.

Silence.

ALEXIS

Do you want me to leave?

GEORGE

Do you want to leave?

She shakes her head.

He takes a big sip from his drink and leans back. Alexis sits closer to him and puts her hand on top of his. Without looking, he holds her hand. She puts her hand on his shoulder. It is painfully quiet for a moment.

Now, they face each other.

GEORGE

Hi.

ALEXIS

Hi.

They kiss. It starts sweet and innocent, and gets more passionate.

INT. CATHY'S KITCHEN - SAME NIGHT

47

Cathy and Danny are cleaning up the mess after the dinner. Danny loads the dishwasher and Alexis is boxing leftovers.

DANNY

So, what is going on with your dating situation?

CATHY

My dating situation?

DANNY

Yeah, I know you never got married -- but did you get close?

CATHY

I can't say I have. I've dated, but nothing serious.

DANNY

By choice?

CATHY

I think so.

He continues to stare as she loads the dishwasher.

INT. JOHNNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

48

Lenny is leaning against the door, trying to figure out what is going on with Cathy and Danny. Johnny is lying on his bed.

LENNY

If you had to choose between your aunts, which one would you choose to live with?

JOHNNY

Why are you asking me that?

LENNY

If they get married, they have to live in two different houses.

JOHNNY

(uneasy with the question)
I don't know. I never thought about that.

(CONTINUED)

LENNY

Maybe they will decide. That was what happened with my parents.

JOHNNY

Do you hate it?

LENNY

I did in the beginning. Now I love my dad and the time we spend together. He is my best friend.

JOHNNY

My dad was my best friend.

LENNY

You must miss him a lot.

JOHNNY

Yeah...

LENNY

Now I'm your best friend and you're my best friend.

JOHNNY

Thanks.

LENNY

No problem.

(looks up as if she has something on her mind)

Do you think we should have some kind of a deadline?

(at his look)

You know... the plan.

JOHNNY

I don't know... maybe.

LENNY

Well, I do. I think it should be New Year's. You know -- a new year, a new love and a new life. I think that is great time to bring these people together.

JOHNNY

What is this? Some kinda girl stuff?

(CONTINUED)

LENNY

No! It's love stuff.

JOHNNY

(shrugs)

Whatever. New Year's it is.

Johnny looks at the door.

JOHNNY

I wonder what they are doing now.

LENNY

Me too.

INT. CATHY'S APARTMENT - EARLY MORNING

49

Alexis, in the same outfit as last night, sneaks into the apartment. As she is about to close her bedroom door, Cathy opens hers. With just a glance at Cathy, Alexis sees that her sister disapproves. Cathy closes her door and so does Alexis.

CUT TO:

SEVERAL HOURS LATER

Cathy and Johnny are preparing to get ready to leave for the day. Alexis enters the living room.

ALEXIS

Hey...

JOHNNY

Hi. Are you feeling better?

ALEXIS

Feeling better?

(looks at her sister, who is
not making eye contact)

Yes, thank you.

CATHY

(to Johnny)

Come on. You're late for school.

Johnny watches the distance between the two sisters.

ALEXIS

OK. Bye, Johnny. Have a nice day at
school.

(CONTINUED)

JOHNNY

Bye!

And they are out the door, leaving Alexis alone.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - SAME DAY

50

Cathy rushes into the principal's office and sees Johnny, Lenny, Danny, and the PRINCIPAL sitting quietly.

PRINCIPAL

Good afternoon, Miss Cooper.

CATHY

Hello.

PRINCIPAL

Please have a seat.

She sits next to Danny, facing the kids. The room is quiet.

CATHY

What happened?

PRINCIPAL

That is what we're trying to determine right now. There was a fight between these two and two other boys.

(to the kids)

What I would like to know is what the fight was about.

CATHY

Johnny?

Johnny looks away. He is not planning to talk.

PRINCIPAL

Since no one is talking, I will have to give both of you two weeks of detention.

JOHNNY

That is not fair... Lenny didn't do anything.

CATHY

And you? What did you do?

(CONTINUED)

JOHNNY
(to the principal)
If you need to punish someone -
punish me.

LENNY
It's okay, Johnny.

PRINCIPAL
Young man, all I want is to
understand what happened. If you
talk to us, we can let this go.

Johnny looks at Lenny, she shakes her head.

He takes a deep breath and gives in to the negotiation.

JOHNNY
They were making fun of me.

CATHY
What did they say?

Johnny is not able to form the ugly words.

LENNY
(jumping in)
They were making fun of him because
he doesn't have any parents.

The room is silent.

Cathy gets up and kneels in front of him. He starts to sob.

She hugs him.

EXT. PARK - DAY

51

Danny and Cathy are sitting on a bench. Danny hands \$5 to Lenny. Johnny looks to his aunt for permission, she smiles and nods. After the children run to the convenience store, Danny turns to her.

CATHY
Wow.

DANNY
I know.

CATHY
What kind of parent raises children
like that?

(CONTINUED)

Danny puts his hands on hers, trying to calm her.

DANNY

It's OK. Johnny is a strong boy. He will be fine.

CATHY

(sad smile)

Thank you. I can't believe you're here again... supporting me with another loss.

DANNY

(gives her a funny face)

Your mother never died, Cathy.

CATHY

She might as well have. She disappeared and left us after my father left her for a younger woman. It was like... we didn't matter. Poor John, he had to be the adult... so fast. He took care of us and took the responsibility without any second thought. He quit his college, worked full time... I couldn't understand how he was able to be so unselfish. He was only 21 - taking care of two fifteen year olds. I always wanted to pay him back for everything he did for us, but I never did.

DANNY

What are you talking about? You paying him back... by taking care of his son.

CATHY

Yeah. I guess it came in a full circle. You remind me of John. The way you gave up your career for Lenny. You quit your job as a well-respected, upcoming lawyer to be a full-time dad.

DANNY

It's nothing. I was lucky to have the opportunity to quit and focus on my child. I don't know how I could do all this without the financial stability.

(CONTINUED)

CATHY
Are you planning to go back?

He nods. Her cell buzzes. She looks at the message.

CATHY
(looks at Johnny, worried)
Oh, shit. We've an emergency at work.

DANNY
You can go. I will drop off Johnny.

CATHY
Are you sure?

DANNY
Yes, absolutely.

Johnny and Lenny return with two bags full of candies.

CATHY
Johnny, I'm so sorry, but I've to go back to the office for a couple hours. Danny is taking you home and we can talk later. Is that alright?

JOHNNY
Sure.

CATHY
I'm really sorry.

She quickly kisses him, hugs Lenny and waves bye.

INT. CATHY'S APARTMENT - LATE MORNING

52

Cathy walks toward the kitchen - Alexis is making breakfast, facing the stove.

CATHY
Is Johnny still sleeping?

ALEXIS
Yep.

CATHY
Smells nice.

No response.

Alexis turns around with a plate of scrambled eggs and two slices of toast - she puts the plate in front of Cathy.

(CONTINUED)

CATHY
Is this for me?

ALEXIS
Yes.

CATHY
Can we talk?
(silence)
I just want to get along.

ALEXIS
How do you propose we do that?

She takes a seat with her own plate.

CATHY
Uhm... communicate.

ALEXIS
Oh. Like when you communicate how you feel about me spending the night with George -- or like how you communicate what happened with Johnny at school? You didn't even bother to call me.

CATHY
Granted... I've got a lot to learn myself.

ALEXIS
I'm just sick and tired of being painted as the bad twin.

CATHY
I'm sorry you feel that way. That is not my intention.

ALEXIS
I just want a fresh start between us--

CATHY
I do too. Please--
(looks at her sister as she pours coffee)
I've been thinking a lot about our family.

ALEXIS
What do you mean?

(CONTINUED)

CATHY

I'm just realizing - we just have each other. Our parents left us - John is gone.

ALEXIS

It's hard to believe we were once a happy family.

Johnny enters the kitchen.

JOHNNY

What is going on?

ALEXIS

Good morning.

CATHY

We're having a nice breakfast. Come on... join us.

Happy that the tension between his aunts is over, he takes a seat.

ALEXIS

I think we should make today a family day.

JOHNNY

What do you mean?

ALEXIS

I think we should do something fun.

CATHY

Like?

ALEXIS

Like... I don't know. How about we let Johnny decide?

JOHNNY

Swimming!

CATHY

No! No swimming.

JOHNNY

Why not?

CATHY

Because... it's too cold.

(CONTINUED)

ALEXIS

Too cold or just scared. You see, Johnny... Aunt Cathy never learned how to swim.

CATHY

Oh, please. You're acting like I'm the only one who never learned how to swim.

ALEXIS

How about if I teach you?

CATHY

No!

ALEXIS

Come on. Please. Don't you trust me?

CATHY

Is that a trick question?

Alexis gives her a face, Cathy bursts out laughing - Alexis throws cereal at her. Johnny is loving their playful interaction.

ALEXIS

(mock-threatening)

Oh, you think that is funny?

Johnny runs to the living room, but they chase and catch him. They tickle him, he is laughing hard.

JOHNNY

OK, stop... please!

ALEXIS

What did you say?

CATHY

We can't hear you!

INT. CATHY'S APARTMENT - DUSK

53

Danny and Johnny are playing a video game. Lenny is sitting on the sofa, drawing. Alexis is clearing the dining table of dirty dishes and leftovers.

Cathy is in the kitchen, watching Danny and Johnny interact. Alexis joins Cathy in the kitchen, carrying some dishes.

She watches her sister eying Danny.

(CONTINUED)

ALEXIS

They seem to get along well.

CATHY

They do, don't they?

Pause.

ALEXIS

You like him?

(off her look)

What? Don't deny your feelings.

We're twins. I can read you like an open book.

Alexis nudges her.

CATHY

Please don't start with the psychobabble. Danny and I are just friends. Nothing more.

ALEXIS

My darling sister -- thy protest to much.

CATHY

Please.

ALEXIS

Honestly, I'm jealous of your relationship with Danny. Is the reason you're so against any possibility of relationship between you and him -- because you're scared to open up?

CATHY

I'm not scared. Besides, why do I want to ruin our friendship, which you described as "special," for something that is not guaranteed to happen or to last? Relationships ruin friendships.

ALEXIS

Not this kind of friendship.

CATHY

Maybe? Maybe not. Why do you care?

(CONTINUED)

ALEXIS

Because you're my sister. Your
happiness matters.

She hugs her sister, gives a quick kiss on the forehead, and leaves the kitchen.

Cathy takes a deep breath and glances to the living room. Danny catches her glance, smiles. She smiles back.

EXT. CHRISTMAS TREE STORE - DAY

54

Cathy, Johnny, Danny, and Lenny are shopping for a Christmas tree - they look like a happy family.

Cathy and Johnny are deciding between two trees, while in the back we hear Lenny begging for a big, big tree - too big for the apartment.

INT. DANNY'S CAR - DUSK

55

They are driving back from Christmas tree shopping.

Danny is driving - the children are playing video games in the back seats.

CATHY

(to Danny)

I'm just glad they are able to
deliver the trees.

DANNY

I know. Saved me a lot of hustle.

(small pause)

So... what do you want to do now?
Go home?

CATHY

I think so. Why?

DANNY

I just realized we're driving by
our place and --

CATHY

Yeah?

Johnny - listening to the conversation - pokes Lenny. Lenny looks up - Johnny mouths "say something".

(CONTINUED)

LENNY

Yeah, Daddy. They should come to our place.

DANNY

(looking in rear-view mirror)
You think so?

Lenny nods.

JOHNNY

(to his aunt)
Can we?

DANNY

I will cook dinner--

CATHY

Fine -- but only if I can help with the cleaning.

The adults smile at each other - the kids high-five.

INT. CATHY'S APARTMENT - DUSK

56

Alexis comes into the apartment - from work. She kicks off her heels at the door and walks to the kitchen. She pours herself a glass of wine and puts her silky, long, blonde hair down. As she's going through the mail - a knock on the door. She opens the door to: George.

ALEXIS

George.

GEORGE

I saw you entering the building and I realized... I just want to apologize about that night.

Alexis stops for a moment -- she hardens.

ALEXIS

OK. Thank you. Goodnight.

She attempts to close the door, but he stops her.

GEORGE

Look -- I know I was MIA after that night...

(CONTINUED)

ALEXIS

Just a little tip for you, George. Don't apologize for sleeping with a woman. It makes the person feel worse. I'm a grown woman and I decided to sleep with you. As they say -- it takes two to tango.

GEORGE

Fair enough. So you're not upset with me?

ALEXIS

I think you have enough demons to fight and I wish you all the best -- I've no any animosity towards you.

GEORGE

Thank you. Friends?

ALEXIS

(small sad smile)
Friends.

He takes out four tickets and hands three to her.

ALEXIS

What is this?

GEORGE

I just want to apologize for how the Thanksgiving ended.

ALEXIS

You don't have to do that. Besides, it's been a month. I've let it go.

GEORGE

I'm glad you did, but I didn't. Please, it will make my day if you, Cathy, and Danny join me for the show. I always get these tickets, so I thought... it was about time to go and see what everyone is talking about. I've never been to a Broadway show. It's Friday night.

As she considers his invitation, he continuous to stare at the tickets.

(CONTINUED)

ALEXIS

I heard great things about this show. I will ask the gang and call you.

GEORGE

Great.

ALEXIS

Goodnight.

GEORGE

Goodnight, Alexis.

She closes the door.

INT. DANNY'S APARTMENT - DUSK

57

Lenny and Johnny are in the living room - Cathy and Danny are cooking dinner. Cathy prepares the salad, Danny makes pasta.

CATHY

I can't believe you're such a chef.

DANNY

Hey... I'm single a parent. I've got to be the chef, the driver, the maid, the teacher, and yes... the father.

CATHY

Well, I'm impressed. I have Alexis and we're still struggling to catch up with everything.

DANNY

I had a few years practice.

She walks to the stove and looks down to the boiling water.

CATHY

I've got a little confession -- I suck at cooking. My sister "the model" is a better cook than I will ever be. The only thing I know how to cook is the turkey. I don't know how I learned that instead of a simple meal, but that stuck with me. So... you need turkey, I'm your girl, you want pasta... well, don't look at me.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

Checking if the pasta is ready --
is not cooking.

(he grins)

Why don't you take a single hair of
pasta out and throw it against the
wall?

CATHY

What?

He smiles, walks to the stove and takes a thin, long line of
pasta, and throws it against the wall. The pasta sticks.

DANNY

It's ready.

CATHY

Why throw it against the wall?

DANNY

I don't know -- tradition, I guess.
My grandmother used to do that --
she was Italian. She had this wall,
just above the stove - stains of
old pasta. It looks either
disgusting or like some kind of
art. I asked her - I was about 11
years old - "Grandma, why don't you
clean this off or ask Grandpa to
paint it?" She says, "Boy, are you
trying to erase me? This is a
tradition - you just don't erase
someone's tradition." She grabbed
my chin and forced me to look at
her, warning me to honor her -- our
-- tradition.

CATHY

Really? She sounds... interesting.
Are you close?

DANNY

Yes. We are. She is... my rock. I
named Lenny after her - Lenny is
short for Violetta.

CATHY

Violetta... that is a beautiful
name.

(small pause)

That is what I missed...
grandparents. Someone to teach me

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CATHY (cont'd)
all this little stuff. Like
cooking, throwing pasta on the
wall... not that I will learn that,
anyway...
(beat, she leans over the
pasta)
Uhm, I just want to taste it. Can I
do that?

He takes out another string of pasta and lingers in front of her. She opens her mouth, but he pulls back.

DANNY
(husky voice)
You have to blow it.
(she raises her eyebrows)
Hey... I don't want you to burn
yourself.

Slowly, she blows the pasta and he watches her mouth as she slurps the pasta playfully. He can't help but smile - she smiles back.

Standing close, they feel something has changed; he leans in to her. He puts down the fork and grabs her face with his hands. Nervously, she licks her lips.

As they are about to kiss, the pasta explodes; the magical moment vanishes. Danny quickly turns off the stove and cleans the mess. Cathy is unable to move.

INT. CATHY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

58

Danny helps carry sleepy Johnny to his bedroom, Cathy is following them. Cathy takes off Johnny's shoes and tucks him in, then softly closes the door.

They walk to the front door.

CATHY
Thank you so much. He is getting
really big for me to carry.

DANNY
No problem. It's a good thing you
have a doorman to watch Lenny.

CATHY
Thank you for a lovely day - and
night.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

I'm glad you came.

Awkward silence.

CATHY

Well--

They head for the door, stop and face each other. Danny leans in and kisses her - on the cheek. She smiles, disappointed - he pushes hair from her face.

DANNY

I feel something is going on between us. Do you?

CATHY

Maybe.

DANNY

What do you think we should do about it?

CATHY

I just... I'm not ready right now. Less than a year ago, we've not seen each other for a decade, and we're barely speaking. Now, our friendship is a very important part of my life and Johnny's life. Disrupting that... I can't handle it.

(he takes a small breath)

We can talk about it another time. A later time.

He reluctantly moves his hand from her face.

DANNY

How about a movie night? What is your favorite movie?

CATHY

(no second thought)

Jerry McGuire.

DANNY

Jerry McGuire? I expected more of a chick flick.

CATHY

What is more romantic than "you complete me"?

(CONTINUED)

He looks into her eyes and smiles.

DANNY

Alright, *Jerry McGuire* it is.
(in an Italian accent)
Goodnight, Catherine.

CATHY

Goodnight, Danny.

And so he leaves.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

59

Johnny anxiously looks around. He opens the bathroom cabinet and takes out a small hammer. He stares at the hammer, thinking hard. He bends down under the sink and smashes softly against the pipe.

First, we see a drop of water, then two drops, and before we know it, water is flowing. Johnny quickly hides the hammer behind the bathroom sink, and opens the door.

JOHNNY

Aunt Alexis! Aunt Alexis!

Alexis rushes to the bathroom and sees the water.

ALEXIS

What happened?

JOHNNY

I don't know.

ALEXIS

Let me look.

Johnny moves away, Alexis bends down, water explodes on her.

Johnny runs out of the room.

We follow George and Johnny rushing through the apartment and into the BATHROOM.

Cathy is soaked now, holding the pipe with a towel.

George smiles at the vision of Alexis soaking wet, struggling.

ALEXIS

George? What are you doing?

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE

Johnny informed me you requested
some assistance. What are you using
to hold the pipe?

George takes over her hold on the pipe.

At that moment, they slightly touch. Their eyes lock. The
stare is quite long and hard.

With the distraction, their hands move and the water again
explodes. They are both soaked. Alexis screams. George
laughs. And so does Alexis.

Johnny, still at the door, leaves the bathroom, smiling.

INT. BROADWAY SHOW - NIGHT

60

The two couples arrive. The entrance is packed with people.
They hand over the tickets and continue to enter the
building.

George turns to the group, looks at his watch.

GEORGE

I think we've got some time.
Ladies, let's take your coats and
we will return in a short time.

The girls take off their coats, both looking beautiful in
their little black dresses. The men are unable to hide their
admiration. Cathy nervously clings on her dress as she hands
her jacket to Danny.

ALEXIS

While you guys take care of this,
we will be at the ladies room.

Alexis pulls Cathy away with her.

The men watch them disappear into the restroom.

INT. WOMAN'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

61

Alexis, still pulling Cathy, starts to breathe heavily. As
they enter the room, she grabs some paper towels and puts
them between her armpits.

CATHY

What are you doing?

(CONTINUED)

ALEXIS

What do you think? I'm freaking sweating!

CATHY

You only perspire this much when you're nervous.

(off Alexis's look)

Why are you nervous?

ALEXIS

I don't know. It's something about George. He has such power over me. I feel like a high school girl with a crush.

She grabs more paper towels and puts them between her legs. Cathy bursts out laughing.

ALEXIS

What is so funny? Is my pain some kind of entertainment to you?

CATHY

No. No. It's not that. I just thought you were... so cool before, and now... you just give me a whole new vision of popular girls.

ALEXIS

What do you mean?

CATHY

It is just... I'm finally realizing - at the age of thirty - popular girls are just regular girls... deep, deep, deep down. Besides, who knew you could be so neurotic.

(she hugs her sister)

Don't forget, my darling sister, George is lucky to be with you and you don't have to be... anything but your fabulous self.

Alexis hugs her sister back, thanking her for her support. While hugging, she loses the grip between her legs and the paper towels fall on the floor, which makes them both laugh.

INT. THE THEATER - NIGHT

62

The play is underway. We see audiences laughing, crying, enjoying the music.

In the crowd, we see the two couples enjoying the show. Alexis and Cathy sit between the men. Alexis and George share a shy, nervous smile as their arms gently touch. The other couple hold hands secretly.

INT. PARK - DUSK

63

Alexis is power-walking. It's a cold day. In the distance, she sees George taking a picture.

As she approaches him from behind.

ALEXIS

George?

GEORGE

Hey.

ALEXIS

Taking pictures, huh? Can I see what you took?

He looks at her, comes closer and shows her his hobby. The pictures are of people, birds, the sky, the city of St. Louis.

ALEXIS

Wow. These are beautiful.
(sees one of a girl feeding a duck)
Can I?

He motions "go ahead". She kneels and takes a photo of the same scene. The duck takes the food, making the girl smile.

George looks over her shoulder as she observes her work.

GEORGE

You have a good eye.

ALEXIS

You think so?

They take a seat at a nearby bench.

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE

Yes. You're an artist.

ALEXIS

I do love beautiful things.
(at his sad face)
What? What is wrong?

GEORGE

My daughter would have been her age.

(a sigh)

Every little girl I see reminds me of the things my Emma will never be able to do. First step. First laugh. First kiss. She will never be a kid and I will never have the experience many parents take for granted.

They are holding hands.

ALEXIS

Life... is always a test. You lost your little girl and Johnny lost his parents. What is the point of that?

He sees Alexis in a different light.

GEORGE

You have changed, Alexis.

ALEXIS

What do you mean?

GEORGE

Back in high school. You were such an ice queen. I never understood what made you such a...

ALEXIS

...bitch.

(he's not willing to reply)

Well, it didn't help that your parents left you at that age. My father met some 20 year old and my mother dumped us - leaving John to take care for his little sisters. I was so hurt. I never told anyone how it impacted me. With my brother busy trying to make life normal for us, and my sister angry at the

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ALEXIS (cont'd)
world, I just built this wall up,
trying to hide the hurt.

GEORGE
I heard about that. About your
parents leaving. Is that why you
never dated in high school?

ALEXIS
What are you talking about? I dated
in high school.

GEORGE
You went on dates. You never dated
a guy for more than two dates. Did
you not like any of the boys in the
school enough to last for a week or
a month?

She gives him a look; You really had no idea, did you?

ALEXIS
I liked one boy throughout high
school.

GEORGE
Who?

ALEXIS
You.

GEORGE
Me?

ALEXIS
Yes. We kissed at Kevin's birthday
party. You were the first boy I
kissed. Remember Seven Minutes of
Heaven?

GEORGE
Kevin? Wasn't his party like the
eight grade? Gosh, that is such a
lifetime ago. You liked me since
the eighth grade?

ALEXIS
Yes. You were the first boy I
kissed. First crush. You don't
forget your first crush so quickly.

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE

Well, for what it's worth, you were the first girl I ever kissed. I always you thought were pretty.

ALEXIS

You did? I waited for you to ask me out -- but you never did.

GEORGE

I had no idea. I thought I had no chance, since you refused every guy.

She stops. Takes a step back.

ALEXIS

Well, those were the old days.

(silence)

Anyhow, I've got to go. Thank you for the quick class -- and trusting me with your camera.

GEORGE

You're welcome. Have a nice... power-walk. Alexis?

(she turns)

I'm sorry I didn't ask you out. I guess I missed out.

She flashes a smile. They wave goodbye. And she leaves.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

64

The trio are in front of the graves of Johnny's parents, holding flowers. Johnny puts flowers on his mother's stone.

JOHNNY

Happy birthday, Mom.

Both the girls wish her happy birthday.

JOHNNY

Do you think it's weird?

ALEXIS

What?

JOHNNY

Wishing her a happy birthday - when she's not here anymore.

(CONTINUED)

CATHY

No, it's not weird. Birthdays are about celebrating the day you were born and your life. Your mom's life was precious and we've got to celebrate... just like when we celebrate --

ALEXIS

George Washington's birthday.

Cathy looks at Alexis; "Really?" Alexis looks apologetic.

JOHNNY

Oh. OK.

They take a moment to say goodbye. As they leave...

JOHNNY

Sometimes I feel bad...

CATHY

Bad about what?

JOHNNY

Being happy. Laughing.

They stop.

ALEXIS

Oh, sweetie, I promise you - your parents are so happy to hear that you're happy.

JOHNNY

You think so?

ALEXIS

I know so. And it makes us feel... really happy to hear that you're doing well.

The sisters hug him.

MONTAGE:

INT. MALL - DAY

65

Alexis, Cathy, and Johnny are out Christmas shopping.

INT. DANNY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 66

Danny and Lenny are decorating the Christmas tree.

INT. GEORGE'S LIVING ROOM - SAME NIGHT 67

George is in the living room, eating dinner, watching TV.

EXT. ST. LOUIS - EARLY MORNING 68

We see the streets of ST. LOUIS covered in snow.

INT. CATHY'S APARTMENT - DAY 69

Lenny and Danny have just arrived, carrying gifts and food, still covered in snow.

DANNY
Merry Christmas!

CATHY
Merry Christmas!

ALEXIS
Look at you guys -- let me help you
clean off the snow.

Alexis and Cathy help the guests settle. Johnny is a no-show.

LENNY
Where is Johnny?

ALEXIS
He is in his room. I think he is a
bit sad today, sweetie --

LENNY
Can I talk to him?

Alexis plays with Lenny's hair, strokes her cheek.

ALEXIS
Of course. I think he would like
that.

And she disappears into Johnny's room.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

Poor Johnny--

CATHY

It's the holidays, you know? The loss of his parents is hitting him really hard around this time... I'm just worried.

ALEXIS

Let's go and see if we can persuade him to come out.

The trio walk toward his room. As they enter, Lenny is sitting quietly next to him.

DANNY

Hey, buddy--

JOHNNY

(small, forced smile)

Hello.

Alexis quietly looks to her nephew - suddenly, an idea pops into her head.

ALEXIS

You know...

CATHY

What?

ALEXIS

I've got an idea. Let's all get dressed - put your jacket and gloves on.

LENNY

What?

ALEXIS

It's a surprise.
(to Johnny)
Are you with us?

He shrugs.

ALEXIS

That is the spirit. OK, get dressed and make sure you're warm.

They stared at her, confused.

(CONTINUED)

CATHY

Where are we going? Is it far? Are we driving?

ALEXIS

I'm not saying anything -- but I will say it's not driving distance.
(small pause)
Let's go!

EXT. THE ROOF - DAY

70

Excited, Alexis opens the roof door, followed by the others. The gang are not particularly excited.

CATHY

(looking around the roof covered with 5-6 inches of snow)

This is your surprise?

Cathy turns to Alexis - SPLASH - a snowball hits her face.

CATHY

What the f...

The children start to laugh. Cathy notices Johnny laughing. Cathy then realizes Alexis's plan. She quickly grabs some snow and makes a snowball - scaring Johnny and Lenny.

CATHY

You think that was funny--

Laughing, the children spread out and start to run. Cathy then turns and hits Danny.

It is lots of fun. Children hit the women, the women hit Danny, Danny hits everyone. Alexis creates a big snowball, ready to shoot Cathy. She sneaks closer and closer.

ALEXIS

Cathy!

Cathy turns to Alexis, sees the snowball, ducks fast - hitting... George.

Silence for a second. No one moves - George's face is tense. Suddenly, he pulls out a well-molded snowball from his pocket and throws at Alexis - hitting her shoulder. Everyone laughs. It continues into a full-fledged snowball fight.

INT. CATHY'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

71

The gang returns, covered in snow, faces blue and red from the cold and fight. Smiles and laughter all around.

Alexis and George are standing at the door. They smile at each other. She touches his red face.

ALEXIS

I hope I didn't hit you too hard.

GEORGE

(grabs her hand)

With this small hand... please.

Johnny watches the couple flirt. Lenny points out that they are standing under a mistletoe.

JOHNNY

Hey, look... mistletoe!

George and Alexis look up, then look at each other, smiling. The gang peer-pressures them to kiss. And so they do.

The kiss is sweet, soft and innocent... or is it? They feel something - but they both shrug it off.

As they are kissing, Cathy and Danny share a glance.

GEORGE

Uhm... well, I will see you guys.
(to the children)
Merry Christmas.

JOHNNY

Why don't you stay?

GEORGE

Thank you, buddy -- but I think
I've imposed enough.

CATHY

No, you haven't. You're welcome to
stay. As matter of fact, we insist.

George gazes into the children's eyes, begging him to stay - to Alexis, letting him know he is welcome.

GEORGE

Sure. I will stay. Thank you.

INT. CATHY'S APARTMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT

72

Dinner is over. The children are in Johnny's room. The adults are standing at the foyer - George is leaving. He shakes hands with Danny, hugs both the women, and leaves.

ALEXIS

Well, let me see what the children are up to. I will send your daughter out.

DANNY

Thank you, Alexis.

They hug and wish each other "Merry Christmas". Alexis leaves, leaving Cathy and Danny standing uncomfortably.

Danny gently grabs Cathy and pulls her to the door, under the mistletoe.

CATHY

(whispering)

What are you doing?

He points at the mistletoe, they look at each other. This is a kiss they have waited for a very, very long time. Before he kisses her, his hands tenderly run through her long, Irish hair. She closes her eyes, his eyes watch her as she enjoys his touch. He finally kisses her - a long, slow kiss. It's as if they want to enjoy each second and touch.

The children's laughter and voices grow louder as they approach. They quickly separate. Flushed, they look around, hoping no one realizes what just happened. And no one does.

INT. DANNY'S BUILDING - SAME NIGHT

73

Danny and Lenny enter, greeting the front desk personnel. A woman, MELANIE (30), watches them walk by. She gets up.

MELANIE

Hey, baby.

Both Lenny and Danny turn to her, shocked.

LENNY

Mom!

DANNY

Melanie.

(CONTINUED)

MELANIE

(to Lenny)

Can I have a hug? I've been waiting
for an hour.

Lenny runs to her mother and hugs her tightly. Melanie and
Danny share a glance.

INT. JOHNNY'S BEDROOM - SAME NIGHT

74

Alexis is tucking Johnny in, stroking his hair.

ALEXIS

Did you have an OK Christmas day?

JOHNNY

Yeah, it was fun.

ALEXIS

I'm just so proud of you. I know
this was a difficult day for you.

JOHNNY

Yeah. Mommy and Daddy always made
Christmas a big deal. Since I can
remember, every Christmas day, we
wake up early in the morning and
open gifts throughout the day.

(small smile)

Mommy loved to hide the gifts and
make us guess the hiding places.

ALEXIS

Really? That sounds fun.

JOHNNY

(small smile)

It was.

ALEXIS

If you would like, we can keep your
mother's tradition. Would you like
that?

He takes a second to think, nods. She kisses his forehead.

INT. SPECIAL MOMENTS - LATE NIGHT

75

New Year's Eve. EMPLOYEES and their DATES enjoy the party.

Cathy, as the host, walks around the room, making sure everything is going smoothly.

She stops at Alexis - standing alone.

It is the countdown. Five, four, three, two, one - HAPPY NEW YEAR!

People are screaming and kissing.

The sisters look at each other. Alexis raises her glass - Cathy follows.

ALEXIS

Here is to being single.

CATHY

Cheers.

They clink their glasses.

INT. WOODMAN SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

76

Johnny is taking some books from his locker. Lenny arrives.

LENNY

Johnny--

Johnny is tense, he won't look at her.

LENNY

I'm sorry.

(still no response)

I just want my parents back together. Is that so bad?

JOHNNY

(sighs and turns to her)

No, it's not bad. Are they happy? Your parents. Is your father as happy with your mother as he was with Cathy?

LENNY

I think so.

(CONTINUED)

JOHNNY

Good for you. You have your family
back.

And so he leaves, exiting the school, toward Cathy.

Lenny follows him, glares outside at her mother and father,
who is unable to keep his eyes from Cathy. Cathy, on the
other hand, is avoiding any eye contact.

INT. SPECIAL MOMENTS - DAY

77

Lunchtime. Employees are out of the office.

Danny rushes through the building, looking for Cathy. Alexis
and he make eye-contact in the distance. It takes a second
for her to react, but then she points him to Cathy's office.

Cathy is working on the computer and talking to her
assistant. He knocks on the door.

CATHY

Come in.

And so he does. Silence.

DANNY

Hello, Cathy.

CATHY

Danny.

(she lets the assistant go)
What are you doing here?

DANNY

(he looks around the office)
Nice office.

CATHY

Thank you.

He closes his door, scans the office.

DANNY

It really suits you.

CATHY

Danny--

DANNY

She's gone.

(CONTINUED)

CATHY

Who?

DANNY

Don't do that. You know who I'm talking about.

CATHY

Listen. I'm busy. I've no time for personal issues. I'm sorry that Melanie is gone. I wish you the best...

DANNY

I'm not sorry that she's gone. I asked her to leave.

CATHY

You did?

DANNY

Have dinner with me... this Saturday?

CATHY

I can't.

Disappointed, he takes her reaction as "no". He turns to leave--

CATHY

But...

(he turns back)

I've an anniversary party for my company on Saturday... five years. Would you like to be my date?

He smiles, she smiles back.

INT. ELEVATOR - NIGHT

78

Alexis enters the building and goes into the elevator. She pushes her floor number, when she hears a man's voice, "Hold the elevator, please," and so she does.

The man turns out to be George. It's a different George - a well-groomed, sharp, smiling George.

GEORGE

Thank you. It's you?

(CONTINUED)

ALEXIS

Yes, it's me. The question is...
who are you? You look great.

GEORGE

Thank you.

(pause)

It's weird to get this kind of
compliment... makes you wonder how
you looked before. Anyhow, how are
things?

ALEXIS

Good. I'm really good. Busy
preparing for Special Moments'
fifth-year anniversary.

GEORGE

Really? That is great. Please
congratulate Cathy for me.

ALEXIS

I will. Though you can do it in
person. Come to the party. It's
this Saturday.

GEORGE

Saturday. I can't.

ALEXIS

(disappointed)

Well, try to make it. The party is
throughout the night.

GEORGE

I will do my best.

INT. CATHY LIVING - NIGHT

79

Johnny watches his aunts getting ready for the party, and waves goodbye as they blow him kisses. He looks at his babysitter, who is busy texting her boyfriend. He grabs the house phone and dials Lenny.

JOHNNY

They are gone.

LENNY (O.S.)

He is gone as well. I think tonight
is the night.

(CONTINUED)

JOHNNY

I hope so. Playing Cupid is tiring.

LENNY (O.S.)

I know.

JOHNNY

Lenny--

LENNY (O.S.)

Yeah.

JOHNNY

I'm really sorry about your parents, but I'm glad we're partners again.

LENNY (O.S.)

I know. Me too.

JOHNNY

So, what do we do with our deadline? New Year's has passed.

LENNY (O.S.)

I think we were wrong about New Year's.

JOHNNY

We?

LENNY (O.S.)

I mean what were we thinking... playing Cupid... all the romantic stuff... what other day could be more perfect than... Valentine's Day!

Johnny rolls his eyes.

LENNY (O.S.)

What do you think?

JOHNNY

Yes. But we're sticking to that. We've got to push for Valentine's Day.

INT. SPECIAL MOMENTS - SAME NIGHT

80

It's the big night. The room is full of employees and clients. Everyone is well-dressed. Rachael and Cathy are at the center of the party - networking and hosting. Alexis is in the background, making sure everything is running smoothly.

Jane enters the party, making a big entrance, followed by her FIANCÉ and her parents... the GILMORES.

Cathy welcomes the clients, and serves them champagne. Out of the corner of her eyes, she sees Danny and excuses herself.

Amidst the crowd, Danny locks his eyes with Cathy, as they make their way toward each other.

CATHY

Hello.

DANNY

You look beautiful.

CATHY

(nervous and a bit shy)
You don't look too bad yourself.
How long have you been here? Do you want something to drink?

DANNY

I just want to dance with you.

They move towards the dance floor. He pulls her close to him, waist to waist. She wraps her arms around his neck and he puts his arms around her waist.

They dance and dance. Their bodies fitting perfectly together like pieces of a puzzle, his hand slowly going up and down her back.

Unwilling to wait for him to make a move, she kisses him. And he kisses her back.

Alexis, on the other side of the room, sees this and smiles; finally.

Her smile quickly fades when she sees Ray and Jenny Gilmore. She moves away, disappearing into the crowd.

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

The party is ending. Cathy is getting ready to give a speech, signaling for her employees to gather. Danny gets a call from Lenny and leaves the party to a quiet area.

CATHY

(in front of the microphone)

Hello, everyone.

(all eyes on her)

I want to take a minute to give thanks - first to my employees, also known as my partners.

Applause.

CATHY

I also would like to thank my clients, who we consider our family. We would like to thank you for allowing us to celebrate each *special moment* with you and your beautiful families.

Applause.

CATHY

Finally, I would like to thank my partners... my best friend since high school, Rachael -- and my sister Alexis. Rachael has been my partner since the beginning, and this week we've asked my sister to be part of our company and... she accepted. Come on, ladies, join me here.

Applause. The ladies join her on the stage.

Jenny, realizing who Alexis is, drops her drink. The room turns to her.

JENNY GILMORE

You!

The party comes to a stark halt.

CATHY

Are you alright, Mrs. Gilmore?

JENNY GILMORE

She's your sister? And she works here?

Alexis and Ray are clearly shocked and nervous.

(CONTINUED)

JANE

Mother... what is the matter?

JENNY GILMORE

(turns to her daughter)

Jane, darling, I'm sorry to inform you this way...

RAY

Jenny, is it necessary...

CATHY

I'm sorry... I think... I am... confused.

JENNY GILMORE

Let me clarify right here in front of these wonderful people. My darling husband of 30 years -- is having an affair with your sister, who happens to be my daughter's wedding planner.

(at Ray and Alexis)

What is wrong? Did I embarrass you? Welcome to my world. I hope it was worth what you have been doing for the past year. I'm sorry to inform you about your sister's dirty secret, Catherine.

CATHY

(chuckles)

I... I... your husband... and my sister. I don't believe it.

Alexis, in tears, looks at the crowd and her sister, unable to speak. She rushes through the crowd, embarrassed - leaving Cathy stunned.

JENNY GILMORE

Now do you believe me?

(to Ray)

Oh, darling... I want a divorce.

And she leaves, followed by Jane.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME NIGHT

81

Alexis, in tears, bumps into Danny in the hallway, passes him, he runs after her. She reaches the elevator, pushes the button several times, but it is not moving quickly enough. She sees the stairs sign.

(CONTINUED)

They are at the stairs, out of sight. Danny grabs her arm.

DANNY

What happened? Why are you crying?

ALEXIS

What? You didn't see the big
showdown there?

DANNY

Showdown. No. I went outside to
call Lenny. What happened?

Alexis takes a seat at the top of the stairs, Danny joins her.

Silence. Danny gives Alexis a moment to breathe and calm down.

ALEXIS

Do you have this feeling that you
want to change how people see you
and all you do is prove that they
were right all along?

(small pause)

Ever since we were young... I got
the title of the easy twin, the
wild one.

(Danny quietly listens)

How did I become this way? I don't
want to be the slut sister. I want
to be loved and respected.

DANNY

I respect you.

ALEXIS

(smiles)

You're so sweet.

She puts her head on his shoulder and he holds her, trying to comfort her. And in comes Cathy.

CATHY

What is going on?

The two of them turn and separate quickly, looking a bit guilty. Before Alexis or Danny can speak, Cathy stops them.

CATHY

Talk about déjà vu.

(CONTINUED)

ALEXIS

What?!

CATHY

You're doing the same thing you did at that party.

ALEXIS

What party?

CATHY

Yeah... hard to keep them apart, right? Many parties, many men. Ray, George, Danny, and God knows who...

DANNY

Cathy--

Alexis's anger increases, but she keeps as calm as possible.

CATHY

That night... the last night at our high school. I was going to tell Danny I loved him... only to find you guys kissing and making out.

ALEXIS

I kissed Danny?

DANNY

You loved me...

Cathy tries to get a hold of herself. Her voice is shaking. She's standing close to Alexis.

CATHY

Is it true? Did you have an affair with Ray Gilmore?

(Alexis stares at her blankly)

How could you sleep with a married guy? Your problem is that you don't think about your actions. Every action has consequences, Alexis.

(to herself)

What am I doing? I can see I interrupted something here... please continue.

Alexis tries to stop her sister, but Cathy slaps her - hard. Alexis, paralyzed with shock, takes the hit.

Cathy leaves, passing George, who was listening to the whole conversation.

Alexis and Danny exchange confused looks - she motions him to follow Cathy and so he does.

INT. ELEVATOR - SAME NIGHT

82

Angry, Cathy proceeds down to the hallway and into an empty elevator, pushes the L button.

Danny enters just before the door closes.

DANNY

Cathy--

CATHY

Leave me alone.

She paces around the elevator.

DANNY

Calm down.

CATHY

Listen, I just slapped my sister.
I've no problem doing the same with
you.

DANNY

I had no idea what you saw that
night.

CATHY

That night... tonight. Who is
counting?

DANNY

Please. Stop. You know, I was just
comforting her--

CATHY

I bet you were.

DANNY

Stop it!
(grabs her shoulder to stop
her)
I've never, ever seen Alexis as
anything but your sister. I didn't
kiss Alexis that night. She kissed
me. She kissed me because she was
drunk. You must not have been
standing there long, because she
threw up the second I pushed her
away. Did you see that?

(CONTINUED)

(she shakes her head, no)
Right. I could see in Alexis'
reaction the next day... she didn't
even remember kissing me at all.

CATHY

Am I supposed to believe that I
misunderstand the kiss and the
whole thing?

DANNY

Do you think I would lie about
that? Look. Alexis knew... I loved
you... hell, everyone knew, except
you, apparently.

CATHY

You loved me... like... love, love.

DANNY

Catherine -- you had my heart. Ever
since I was sixteen years old.

CATHY

Why didn't you say something?

DANNY

I guess I was scared -- I didn't
think you would reciprocate my
feelings. But I'm not scared
anymore. I'm not that little, shy,
high-school boy anymore. Cathy --
you... complete me. You're my best
friend. My first love... and the
love of my life.

(he pulls her close)

I'm ready to scream... I love you!
I love Catherine Cooper!

Her face beams.

CATHY

I love you too, Danny. I love you
so much.

They kiss. And kiss. And kiss. The kiss is as passionate as
two star-crossed lovers who finally found each other.

CUT TO:

Alexis and George stand apart, face to face, a few feet
away.

She touches her cheek. The cheek is turning red.

(CONTINUED)

ALEXIS

Aren't you glad, you came? You have missed a great party.

George stands still, no reaction.

ALEXIS

Oh great. Silence.
(small pause)
Look, I can explain.

GEORGE

(quietly)
You don't have to.

ALEXIS

I don't?

GEORGE

(not hurtfully)
It's not my business. You're not my girlfriend and I've got too much going on in my own life to be in this... whatever this is.

ALEXIS

(takes his words as a blow to the heart)
This was a mistake.

GEORGE

I hope you're able to fix it -- or you will lose everything that is dear to you. You and your sister hold so tightly to your anger. Believe me, I get it. But it is time to let it go and not waste the time we have left.

ALEXIS

You know, George. I'm confused about our relationship. This may not be the right time, but I must admit -- I truly hate your actions. You're so -- ambiguous.

He takes this in. He turns to leave, she grabs his arm.

ALEXIS

Where are you going?

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE

Home. This is not the place or the
time to discuss this issue.
Goodbye, Alexis.

She lets him go - and he leaves. Alexis collapses into
tears; she knows it's too late - she's lost everything.

INT. CATHY'S LIVING ROOM - LATE NIGHT

83

Cathy, still dressed, has just arrived from the party. She
enters Johnny's room. She bends down to kiss his forehead,
and covers him with his blanket.

From the corner of her eyes, she notices a letter addressed
to Johnny, in Alexis's handwriting. Cathy picks up the
letter and reads the note.

CLOSE UP - THE NOTE:

Dear Johnny,

I hate to write this letter and not
do this face to face, but I
couldn't. I just want you to know
that I love you very much and I'm
going to miss you. I've to go for a
while and do some thinking. I made
some mistakes that I need to
correct and it's going to hurt --
but not as much as it hurts not to
see you. Please know that this has
nothing to do with you and I will
be back. Promise me to be good a
boy for Auntie Cathy. Having you in
my life has changed me in a good
way. I thank you for your wonderful
strength and spirit.

See you soon, my boy.

Love,

Aunt Alexis

Cathy returns the letter at his spot and leaves the room.

INT. CATHY'S APARTMENT - EARLY MORNING

84

Cathy sits at the breakfast area, drinking coffee. Johnny runs to her, with Alexis's letter in his hand.

JOHNNY

What happened?

CATHY

Come here.

JOHNNY

No! I don't want any hugs. What happened to Aunt Alexis?

CATHY

It is a long story. I think it's something that Aunt Alexis will explain when she returns.

JOHNNY

Please tell me.

CATHY

I can't, it's an adult thing.

JOHNNY

Bullshit!

CATHY

Johnny!

JOHNNY

Why did she leave? Did you kick her out?

CATHY

No, I didn't. We had a fight --

JOHNNY

Why?

CATHY

Look --

JOHNNY

I'm the man of the house and it's my job to fix --

CATHY

Sweetie, what are you talking about?

(CONTINUED)

JOHNNY

(crying)

I tried to fix your problems... and now everything is ruined.

CATHY

Nothing is ruined. We're going to be fine. People fight - it's nothing we can't fix.

JOHNNY

No! This is not the plan.

CATHY

Plan? Sweetie, take a deep breath. What plan?

JOHNNY

I promised Daddy... that I would take care of you and Auntie Alexis.

CATHY

You did?

(she hugs him)

That is so sweet of you.

(she looks at him)

I love you for taking care of us -- but it's not your job... it's our job to take care of you.

Johnny starts to sob, holding his aunt.

JOHNNY

You promise that Aunt Alexis will come back?

CATHY

Yes, I promise. Families always come back together.

JOHNNY

Really? Even... when we die?

CATHY

Yes. I really believe families come together in this life and in the afterlife... no matter what. You know how they say families are connected by blood. I say we're connected spiritually, which is much stronger.

He looks into her eyes, starts to believe her words, and he hugs her.

INT. SPECIAL MOMENTS - DAY 85
Cathy in meeting with Jane and Jenny Gilmore.

INT. CATHY'S APARTMENT - DUSK 86
Cathy, Danny, Lenny, and Johnny are having dinner.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DUSK 87
Alexis calling her family - voicemail. Disheartened, she hangs up, leaving no message.

INT. BASKETBALL COURT - NIGHT 88
George at a game, working.

INT. SCHOOL CAMPUS - DAY 89
Alexis is registering for some fashion design classes.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT 90
Cathy and Danny are at a fancy restaurant. Danny has something up his sleeve - it shows on his face. He takes a small box from his chest pocket - kneels and proposes. Cathy quickly accepts. He puts the ring on her finger, they kiss, everyone claps.

INT. HOTEL - DAY 91
Alexis, in turmoil, is watching TV. She keeps looking at her cellphone, she picks it up and starts to text Cathy.

CLOSE UP - HER CELL:

Alexis - Hey, we need to talk. Can we meet for some coffee?

Cathy - OK. How about tomorrow?

Alexis - At eight?

Cathy - sure.

Alexis - Great. See ya.

Cathy - OK. Bye.

(CONTINUED)

Alexis is beaming. Everything is turning around for her. Relieved, she smiles.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

92

Alexis is waiting for Cathy, nervously looks around.

Cathy arrives, looking equally nervous. Waves her hello and takes a seat in front Alexis.

ALEXIS

How is Johnny?

CATHY

Good. He misses you.

ALEXIS

I miss him too.

Silence.

CATHY

What have you been up to... this past month?

ALEXIS

This and that. Just making the necessary changes, I guess.

CATHY

Such as...

ALEXIS

I'm going back to school. Fashion design.

CATHY

(impressed)

Really?

ALEXIS

Yeah...

(beat)

I can't believe you thought I kissed Danny! You really think that low of me! What kind of sister are you?

CATHY

Excuse me! Are you or are you not the mistress of Ray Gilmore?

(CONTINUED)

A couple of people shoot curious looks at them - the girls don't notice or don't care.

ALEXIS

That is different. I would never go after someone you care about.

CATHY

Oh, but you did.

ALEXIS

I did NOT kiss Danny.

CATHY

YES, YOU... DID! Danny confirmed it.

ALEXIS

I kissed Danny... when?

CATHY

The last high school party. He told me you were too drunk to remember.

Alexis tries to remember that night, but nothing jumps up.

ALEXIS

(in disbelief)

I did? I'm so sorry. I don't remember.

CATHY

That is what I heard. I saw you guys kissing, but I left and didn't wait to see what happened.

ALEXIS

Why didn't you confront me?

CATHY

And say what? Danny was not my boyfriend.

ALEXIS

But he meant something to you. So much that it broke our relationship.

CATHY

I should have talked to you. I thought I was sure of what I saw and it hurt me. The truth is, we always fought about something and I

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CATHY (cont'd)
just put Danny as the icing on the
cake. I was fed up. Now, the issue
with Ray --

ALEXIS
Ray was a mistake.

CATHY
How could you be with a married
man?

ALEXIS
I didn't know he was married... in
the beginning. I tried to break it
off several times. He is a hard man
to refuse. Anyway, we're officially
over now.

CATHY
Well, you seem better.

ALEXIS
I am.

Both their expressions relax and that lets their defensive
attitudes slowly disappear.

CATHY
I'm glad. Can we please hug?

ALEXIS
(laughing)
Yes, please.

They hug and laugh.

ALEXIS
You know... I had no idea that the
Gilmores were a client.

CATHY
I know. We did keep you at
arm's-length with that contract. We
were planning to ease you into it
before you meet the more elite
clients.

ALEXIS
I hope you didn't lose the
contract.

(CONTINUED)

CATHY

No, we were able change their minds. We actually had the wedding a week ago.

ALEXIS

I guess I'm fired.

CATHY

I thought you quit.

(a little laughter)

Oh, I forgot about the latest news. Danny and I talked that night.

ALEXIS

And? Are you together?

CATHY

Better than that.

(shows her engagement ring)

We're getting married!

ALEXIS

No way!

CATHY

Yes!

ALEXIS

Oh my god. I'm so happy for you. When is the wedding date?

CATHY

Valentine's Day.

ALEXIS

Of next year?

(Cathy shakes her head, no)

This Valentine's. Like in two weeks. Why so fast?

CATHY

We just don't want waste any more time. We've been in love since high school and it took us more than a decade to admit it. I know it's late to invite you now, but please tell me you will come.

ALEXIS

Try to stop me.

(CONTINUED)

CATHY

Great. Now, let's go home... I've got a little man who is dying to see you.

They stand up, move toward the door.

ALEXIS

I'm sure Johnny is ecstatic about the wedding.

CATHY

You will not believe what this boy and Lenny have been doing the past couple of months.

ALEXIS

What? Tell me.

CATHY

No, girl... we need a bottle of wine for this one.

ALEXIS

A bottle? It is that big?

CATHY

Yes, it is.

INT. THE ROOF - NIGHT - VALENTINE'S DAY / WEDDING NIGHT 93

The wedding is held on the roof of SKY TOWERS, decorated with lights and flowers. It is a small, intimate wedding for a handful of guests.

Cathy is at the edge of the roof, the view of the city and the Gateway Arch behind her. Four girls are waiting to catch her bouquet. She throws the bouquet and Alexis catches it.

CUT TO:

People are dancing, including Danny and Cathy.

Alexis is watching the couple, happy for them.

GEORGE (O.S.)

Would you like to dance?

Alexis turns and sees George, looking handsome in his black suit. George looks at her and smiles encouragingly. It takes her a second to react, but she nods. He takes her hand and leads her to the dance floor. It's a slow song.

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE

You look beautiful.

ALEXIS

Thank you.

GEORGE

I heard you moved into the building.

ALEXIS

There was an apartment available on the second floor, so I decided to take it. Trying to stay close with the family. You were right - for pushing me to fight for my family.

GEORGE

That is great. How are things for you these days?

ALEXIS

(not being mean)

I didn't think you cared.

GEORGE

Of course I do.

ALEXIS

It didn't look like that night.

(George doesn't say anything)

I'm getting better. Life is getting calmer. I'm going back to school. Johnny is officially going to live with Cathy, Danny, and Lenny. So, I'm kinda back to the single lifestyle. Well, kinda. How about you?

GEORGE

(seems really content)

Life is looking... brighter. I missed you.

ALEXIS

You did?

GEORGE

Yep.

(whispers into her ear)

I really did.

He pulls his head back and their eyes lock.

(CONTINUED)

ALEXIS

I missed you too.

(he kisses her for a second,
but she pulls back)

Let's take our time. I want to take
it slow.

GEORGE

Slow? I can do slow.

ALEXIS

You know... for a guy with few
words, you do say a lot.

GEORGE

Really?

ALEXIS

Really.

GEORGE

Now, shut up. So I can kiss these
beautiful, tantalizing lips.

ALEXIS

Just waiting for you...

He kisses her before she can finish her sentence.

Around the roof, people are watching them kiss, including
Cathy, Danny, Lenny, and Johnny.

LENNY

(to Johnny)

Are you thinking what I'm thinking?

Johnny leans to her with a conspiratorial look.

JOHNNY

I think so.

Cathy overhears this.

CATHY

(warns them)

No, I don't think so.

The children run off, laughing.

Danny and Cathy join the two couple dancing.

They all wish each other "Happy Valentine's Day".

THE END.