

SOMEBODY TO LOVE

by

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FADE IN:

INT. DAVIS KITCHEN - DAY

MIA DAVIS, late 20s, dark circles under her eyes and dressed in oversized stained clothes, cooks breakfast at the stove.

At the kitchen table, her kids RYAN, 6, and MEGAN, 4, play noisily with blocks.

RYAN
Mom, look. An airplane.

Mia glances over her shoulder to find a contraption that in no way resembles an airplane.

MIA
Good job.

She turns back around to find her scrambled eggs burning.

MIA
Damn it!

She dumps the steaming frying pan into the sink and runs water in it.

MEGAN
Damn it! Damn it!

MIA
Megan, what did I tell you about repeating the things adults say?

Mia fills two bowls with cereal and milk and sets them down in front of Ryan and Megan.

RYAN
Matthew Simpson said "damn it" in class the other day and Mrs. Easton sent him to the principle's office.

Ryan giggles and Megan joins in.

MIA
That's not funny, Ryan. You're not allowed to say it either.

RYAN

How come you can?

MIA

I'm an adult. And when you're an adult, you can say whatever you want, too. Now eat your breakfast. Grandma will be here soon.

RYAN

Can I have a spoon, or should I use my hands?

MIA

You know where they are.

Mia leaves the kitchen and walks down the hallway to the bathroom.

A loud CRASH O.S. is followed by

RYAN (O.S.)

Damn it!

Mia stops, takes a deep breath, then continues into the

BATHROOM

She stops in front of a large mirror above the sink. Stares at her worn-out appearance. She's not the woman she used to be.

She runs the shower, then undresses. She takes off her necklace, watch and tries to remove her wedding rings. They won't budge.

MIA

C'mon!

She struggles with them a bit before applying hand soap and finally prying them off.

She steps on the bathroom scale and waits impatiently for the reading. 135.

MIA

Shit.

She checks her reflection again. Pulls on her chin and cheeks. With a resigned sigh, she steps into the shower.

EXT. DAVIS HOME - DAY

Mia loads her children into a mini van parked in the driveway. Her mother, ANNE, 60s and aging gracefully, comes around from the driver's side.

MIA

Where are you off to?

ANNE

Just the park. Maybe some ice cream if they're good.

MIA

Thanks, mom.

ANNE

Enjoy your afternoon.

Anne caresses her daughter's cheek. Notices the dark circles under her eyes.

ANNE

No cleaning or laundry. Just relax.

Mia just smiles.

Anne gets into her van and reverses out.

Mia waves to the kids in the backseat as the van starts down the road.

EXT. QUIET NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

It's a beautiful day out. Sun is shining bright, not a cloud in the sky.

Mia walks down the sidewalk aimlessly. She appears lost in thought.

A DOG BARKS O.S. Gradually becomes louder until

A big white German Shepard leaps at Mia, throwing her to the ground.

She shields her face defensively as the dog bites and tugs at her shirt sleeve.

GABRIEL (O.S.)

Daisy! No! Down!

GABRIEL WARD, 30s, comes running toward them at full speed with half of a dog leash in his hand. He grabs the other half, still attached to the dog, and pries her away from Mia.

Still in shock, Mia lies on the ground for a moment, trying to catch her breath.

GABRIEL

Oh my God, I'm so sorry. She's never done that before. Well, in the whole thirty minutes I've known her.

Mia still looks shell shocked, stays where she is.

GABRIEL

(to dog)

Bad dog! Sit!

The dog stares at him a second before casually lying on the ground and rolling over, sunny side up.

GABRIEL

Are you okay?

Mia looks down at herself. She's still in one piece.

MIA

I think so.

GABRIEL

Let me help you up.

He puts out a hand and she accepts. He pulls her to her feet.

She gets a good look at him as they make eye contact. He is intimidatingly handsome, his dirty blond hair in a neat Cesar cut and his blue eyes alive with senserity.

She quickly brushes the dirt and debris off her clothes and hair. Glances up to find him still looking at her.

GABRIEL

Are you sure you're not hurt?

MIA

I'm fine.

Gabriel notices her torn sleeve.

GABRIEL

Looks like I owe you a new shirt,
at least.

MIA

I hate this shirt. It's laundry
day.

She pushes up the sleeve to reveal a few scrapes on her arm.

GABRIEL

You should clean those out.
There's a drug store on the corner
up there if you --

MIA

I'm okay. Really. You're off the
hook.

Gabriel looks relieved to hear that. Bends down to pick up
the dog leash.

GABRIEL

Okay, if you're sure. I better
get her home for some training.

MIA

Looks more like she's training
you.

Mia watches, amused, as Gabriel tries to get the dog up.

GABRIEL

Up. C'mon. Let's go. Stand up.

He pulls but the dog continues to lounge lazily at his feet.

GABRIEL

Stand up. Rise. Sit. Roll over.

He is so preoccupied with the dog that he doesn't notice Mia
walk away. When he looks up, she is almost out of earshot.

GABRIEL

(shouting)
Sorry again!

She waves over her shoulder as she turns the corner.

Gabriel stares down at his uncooperative dog. Gives the
leash a huge pull.

GABRIEL

Vamos!

The dog immediately leaps to her feet.

GABRIEL

Now I have to learn Spanish.

INT. DRUGSTORE - DAY

Mia browses through store, stopping to look at items along the way. She comes across some diet pills. Picks up a bottle and reads the back.

She puts it back and walks on, passing the diet milkshakes and energy bars.

DRUGSTORE WOMAN (O.S.)

I gained like ten pounds with my last pregnancy. I was such a whale. I thought I was never gonna lose it.

Mia wanders to the next aisle and finds two women conversing next to the home pregnancy tests. They are both stick thin.

She pretends to look at some hygiene products until they walk off. Then she goes to the pregnancy tests and picks up a box.

CHECKOUT COUNTER

Mia stands in line, the home pregnancy test discreetly tucked under her arm. She waits while the elderly woman ahead of her argues with the clerk about something on her receipt.

She picks up a fashion magazine. The headline: "Lose ten pounds in ten days" stares accusingly at her.

The elderly woman finally walks off, grumbling under her breath.

Mia puts the magazine back and steps forward, setting the pregnancy test box on the counter.

The young male CLERK picks it up and scans it.

CLERK

Eight fifty.

MIA
Is there more than one in there?

The clerk stares at the box, clueless.

CLERK
I think there's two. Wanna switch
it?

Mia looks over her shoulder at the long line behind her.
They all flash her a "don't you dare" look.

MIA
No, I'll just take it.

CLERK
Eight fifty.

She reaches into her purse but her wallet isn't there.

MIA
Damn it. I left my wallet at
home.

The man in line behind Mia sighs loudly.

MIA
(to herself)
It's not my day.

GABRIEL (O.S.)
Maybe I can help.

Mia turns to find Gabriel standing beside her. He hands the
cashier a ten dollar bill.

MIA
You following me?

He holds up a little plastic bag.

GABRIEL
I needed a new leash, remember.

The clerk puts the money in the register and makes change,
then hands it to Gabriel.

CLERK
Want a bag for this?

He holds up the box just in case Gabriel hadn't seen it yet.

MIA
Yes, please. Paper.

The clerk slides the box into a paper bag.

MIA
(to Gabriel)
Where's Killer?

GABRIEL
Daisy? I tied her up outside.

MIA
Is that a good idea, considering
her track record for escaping?

GABRIEL
Probably not. I better get back.

He hurries off as the clerk hands Mia the receipt and bag.

CLERK
Have a nice day.

EXT. DRUGSTORE - DAY

Mia exits the drugstore to find Gabriel putting the new leash on his dog. She tries to slip by unnoticed.

GABRIEL
So Daisy and I have been talking
and she feels really bad about
what she did. She wants to buy
you an apology lunch.

MIA
An apology lunch?

GABRIEL
Yeah. Totally her idea.

MIA
That's sweet, but I don't think
Daisy would appreciate being tied
up outside while we have lunch.

GABRIEL
Actually, there's a doggie
friendly diner a few blocks down.

Mia's resolve is melting. He can tell he almost has her.

GABRIEL

I'm a pet owner now. I have to know these things.

EXT. DINER - DAY

Mia and Gabriel sit in the shade of an umbrella patio table outside the diner.

Daisy stands at attention beside them.

GABRIEL

Sit. Sit down. Sit here. Please.

He turns to Mia who tries but fails at holding back a smile.

GABRIEL

Do you know any Spanish?

MIA

I took French in high school.
(to dog)
Daisy, écouter!

The dog promptly sits at Gabriel's feet.

GABRIEL

Great, she speaks everything but English.

He glances at Mia's arm and finds that her scratches look inflamed. He brushes her arm, causing her to pull away.

MIA

I'm gonna use the restroom. I'll be right back.

She slips the paper bag containing the pregnancy test into her purse.

INT. DINER RESTROOM - DAY

Mia sits in a stall staring at a test stick with only one blue line. Checks her watch. Tosses the stick in the trash.

EXT. DINER - DAY

Mia returns to the table to find Daisy chewing on a big bone. She slides into her seat.

GABRIEL

I told you it was doggie friendly.

She smiles, not having a reply.

GABRIEL

How'd it go in there?

She opens up her menu as a distraction.

MIA

It was moderately clean. Lots of
tp. No hand soap, though. And I
hate those tree-saving blowers.

GABRIEL

Okay, I was being nosy. Sorry.

MIA

Oh, you mean that. It was
negative.

She closes her menu. Looks around for a waiter.

MIA

Do you have to have fur to get
waited on around here?

GABRIEL

So, your boyfriend, is he gonna be
relieved or... ?

Mia looks at him, can hardly believe he's being so forward.

MIA

I don't have a boyfriend. I'm...

She glances at her left hand to find her rings missing.

GABRIEL

Say no more. It's none of my
business.

A waiter walks up to them, pen and order pad in hand.

GABRIEL

Here we go.

LATER

Mia and Gabriel sit in front of empty plates. Daisy naps at
their feet.

GABRIEL

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?

MIA

Greece. You?

GABRIEL

Egypt. I want to see the pyramids in person... and mummies. Why Greece?

MIA

Arcitecture. Food. The people.

GABRIEL

Okay, your turn.

MIA

Would you eat bugs for money?

GABRIEL

That's all you got?

MIA

(giggling)

Answer the question.

GABRIEL

It depends.

MIA

On?

GABRIEL

What kind of bugs? Are they dead or alive? How much money? Can I swallow them whole or do I have to chew? Do I have to keep them down or is regurgitating allowed?

Mia makes a nauseated face.

MIA

Forget I asked.

GABRIEL

I've got one. Are you ready?

(she nods)

Would you rather be with somebody who is madly in love with you whom you don't love in return or somebody you love deeply but the

(MORE)

GABRIEL (cont'd)
feeling isn't reciprocated?

MIA
That's not fair. You're cheating!

GABRIEL
How is that cheating?

MIA
I asked you about eating bugs and
you're asking me something
incredibly personal.

GABRIEL
Just answer.

Mia glances casually at her watch, alarmed by what she sees.
Jumps to her feet.

MIA
I didn't realize how late it was.
I have to go.

GABRIEL
Wait. You didn't answer my
question.

MIA
Somebody that loved me.

GABRIEL
Very selfless. What's the rush?

MIA
I have to get my kid --
(realization)
--ney... kidney beans and then
head home to start dinner.

She hurries off, making a face at her stupid response.

Gabriel quickly gets up and tries to follow, dragging Daisy
behind him.

GABRIEL
It's only one in the afternoon.

MIA
It's chili. It has to simmer a
really really long time.

She glances over her shoulder to find him following. Picks up her speed.

GABRIEL

I just realized I don't even know your name. How is it we talked about mummies and ingesting bugs but not our names?

MIA

It's Mia.

GABRIEL

Gabriel.

GABRIEL

Maybe we should exchange numbers.

Mia stops, turns to him, tries not to make eye contact.

MIA

I really shouldn't.

He is disappointed and it shows.

GABRIEL

Okay, no problem. It was nice meeting you, Mia.
(to dog)
C'mon, girl.

He drags Daisy off in the opposite direction.

Mia stands frozen in place. A million pros and cons going through her head.

Gabriel is almost out of hearing distance when she finally comes to a decision.

MIA

Maybe I should take your number.
Just so I can pay you back.

He smiles, walking back to her.

INT. DAVIS KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mia stirs the contents of a wok on the stove while Anne cuts vegetables on a chopping board.

ANNE

You never told me what you did today.

MIA

I didn't think you really wanted to know.

ANNE

I asked, didn't I?

MIA

I thought you were just making conversation.

Anne dumps the veggies into the wok. Mia continues to stir.

ANNE

Just tell me this. Did you have a good time?

Mia smiles, remembering.

MIA

Yeah. I did.

ANNE

Well, that's all that matters.

Anna rinses her hands and dries them on a dish towel.

ANNE

Are you okay with this? I have to get home to your father.

MIA

I got it. Thanks for your help.

Anne kisses her on the forehead, then walks out.

INT. MIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mia sits on the bed with the phone in one hand and Gabriel's number in the other.

Outside the door, her kids POUND and SCREAM.

RYAN (O.S.)

Mom, Megan spilled milk on my bed!

MEGAN (O.S.)

Mommy, Ryan slapped me!

Mia looks at the number one last time but the phone RINGS in her hand before she can dial.

MIA
Hello?

JAKE (V.O.)
Hey, it's me. I'm gonna be late.

She strains to hear him over the kids' yelling.

MIA
How late?

JAKE
Don't wait up. Gotta go.

The line goes dead.

The kids POUND more violently.

RYAN (O.S.)
Mooooooooom, I'm talking to you!

MIA
Go to bed.

MEGAN
But you didn't bathe me.

MIA
(under her breath)
Damn it!
(out loud)
I'll do it tomorrow before school.
Just go to bed!

After some muffled complaining, there is silence outside.

Mia lies back in bed and rolls over on her side. A single tear slips out.

INT. MIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Mia wakes up to find her husband, JAKE DAVIS, 30s, undressing. He is down to his unbuttoned long sleeved shirt and boxers.

MIA
Just getting in?

She checks the alarm clock. It's almost 6 a.m.

JAKE
Who's Gabriel?

MIA
(flustered)
What?

He holds up a piece of paper with the name and phone number.

JAKE
I found it on the bed. Who is it?

She takes it from him and looks it over for effect.

MIA
It's the plumber you wanted me to
call about the leaky pipes.

She takes a stack of numbers off the dresser and tosses them
at him one at a time.

MIA
And this is the gardener you
wanted me to call about the dead
tree out back. And this is the
electrician you wanted me to call
about the wiring in the garage.
And this is the carpenter you
wanted me to call about the
kitchen remodel. And this...

JAKE
Alright. Got it. Sorry I asked.

MIA
I've got an idea. Why don't you
call them since you're off today.

JAKE
I'm going to bed.

He removes his shirt and crawls into bed. Covers his head.

Mia picks up the one number she wants and walks out.

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - DAY

A black SUV pulls up to the curb and comes to a stop.

INT. MIA'S CAR - DAY

Mia turns in her seat to see Ryan and Megan unbuckling.

MIA
Okay, I'll see you guys later.

Megan gives Mia a kiss on the cheek while Ryan opens the door and jumps out.

MIA
Help your sister!

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - DAY

Ryan waits for Mia to drive off before shoving Megan.

RYAN
You stink.

Megan tries to shove him back but he barely moves.

MEGAN
You stink.

RYAN
At least I had a bath last night.

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

Mia and her best friend DANI, 30s, glamorously dressed with full make-up and styled hair, push shopping carts down an aisle. They pause intermitently to throw items in.

DANI
He's an obnoxious little snot. I'd put a "for sale" sign on him if I thought I could get anything. Hell at this point I'd give him away for free.

MIA
It's gotta be the age. I've been getting the same lip from Ryan.

DANI
Does it really start at six? I don't remember going through my "I hate my parents" stage until I was in high school.

MIA
At least Alex has an excuse. He's probably having daddy issues. But Ryan is just a brat.

Dani tosses an obscene amount of canned pasta into her cart.

MIA
Do you have any idea how much sodium that stuff has?

DANI
Speaking of sodium, we're out of ketchup. Watch my stuff.

Mia waits for Dani to walk off, then replaces all the canned pastas onto the shelf.

Dani comes back and tosses 5 bottles of ketchup into her cart.

LATER

The two women unload their groceries at adjacent check-out counters. They converse over the magazine and candy racks separating them.

MIA
Can I ask you a personal question?

DANI
(with a wink)
That's my favorite kind.

MIA
How did you know Keith was cheating on you?

DANI
Why would you ask that?
(realization, gasp)
Do you think Jake -- ?

MIA
No.

Dani gives her a look.

MIA
No. I was just --

Dani gives her a harder look.

MIA
Maybe a little.

DANI
Hmmm, where do I start? He came home late from work every night. Not just an hour or two, but five or six. He always had an excuse, though. Someone called in sick. Inventory, in the middle of the month. Late shipment. But the overtime never showed up in his pay checks. Let me see...

The CASHIER scanning Mia's groceries looks up.

CASHIER
He wasn't interested in sex.

Mia glances at her, shocked.

CASHIER
Sorry. But I've been there.

DANI
His clothes reeked of perfume. He either slept away his days off or had some important thing he had to do. He started paying the credit card bills so I couldn't see the statements. Want me to go on?

All the color has drained from Mia's cheeks.

MIA
No, that's enough. Thanks.

DANI
What's the verdict?

MIA
I'm just being paranoid.

The cashier gives her a knowing look, then continues scanning the groceries.

INT. MIA'S LAUNDRY ROOM - DAY

Dirty laundry is scattered all over the floor as Mia sorts through it, tossing various garments into the washing machine.

She comes across one of Jake's work shirts. On close inspection, she finds a bright red stain on the collar that resembles lipstick.

She sniffs the shirt. One little sniff leads to a rapid susession of sniffs. She looks like a police dog on the trail of a scent.

JAKE (O.S.)
What're you doing?

Mia is nearly startled out of her skin. She turns to her husband, as cool as a cucumber.

MIA
Trying to decide if this is clean
or dirty. What do you think?

She thrusts the shirt out, running it under his nose.

MIA
Smell anything?

JAKE
It's dirty. See the jelly stain?

He points it out to her, as if she hadn't already seen it.

MIA
Is that what that is? I thought
it was lipstick.

JAKE
Lipstick? You don't even wear
that color.

She tosses the shirt into the washer then goes back to sorting laundry.

JAKE
I'm sorry about this morning.

MIA
What about it?

JAKE
I guess it was no big deal if
you're over it already.

He starts to walk out. She turns to him.

MIA

Which part are you sorry for? The part where you got all paranoid about a phone number? The part where you went to sleep instead of carrying on a conversation with me? Or the fact that you come home late from work almost every night and never apologize for it. Meanwhile I'm left here at home taking care of your kids, this house and every single problem that arises along the way?

She takes a deep breath while Jake sighs loudly.

JAKE

I have to go out for a while. We'll talk about this later.

MIA

Leave the credit card bills on the table and I'll pay them when I'm done here.

JAKE

I already paid them online.

INT. MEGAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Megan is all tucked in bed in her entirely pink bedroom. The bed is pink, the walls are pink, the curtains are pink. Even the carpet is pink.

Mia sits beside her, reading her favorite book, Pinkalicious.

MIA

Just then Peter ran in and yelled...

MEGAN

Pink-a-boo!

Mia closes the book and places it back on the bookshelf.

MEGAN

One more time. Please.

MIA

You need to get your rest.

Mia kisses her on the cheek and starts out of the room.

MEGAN

I didn't kiss Daddy good night.

MIA

Daddy's not home. But I'll give him the message.

Mia exits the room, closing the door behind her. Once in the

HALLWAY

She peeks in on Ryan who is sound asleep.

Goes into the

MASTER BEDROOM

and locks the door behind her. Removes Gabriel's number from her pocket and dials the phone.

GABRIEL (V.O.)

Hello?

MIA

Hi. It's Mia. We met the other day.

GABRIEL (V.O.)

I remember. How are you?

MIA

Good. I have your money.

GABRIEL (V.O.)

Thank God. I was just sitting here wondering how I was gonna make rent this month.

Mia giggles nervously, like a school girl on her first call to a boy.

MIA

Should I mail it to you, or...

GABRIEL (V.O.)

Or... we could meet somewhere.

She bites her bottom lip, contemplating.

GABRIEL (V.O.)
Still there?

MIA
Yeah, I was just... checking my
schedule.

She makes a sour face. Not what she wanted to say.

GABRIEL (V.O.)
If you're too busy --

MIA
No, no, I'm not. How's about
tomorrow. Is that too soon?

GABRIEL (V.O.)
Too soon for what?

MIA
Nothing. Nevermind. What time?

GABRIEL (V.O.)
Does eight sound good?

MIA
Eight. I can't. I have to take
my... dry cleaning in.

GABRIEL (V.O.)
(chuckling)
Okay, then ten, at Roxy's.

MIA
Roxy's?

GABRIEL (V.O.)
You don't know it?

MIA
I do. I just... okay. Roxy's at
ten. I'll be there.

INT. ROXY'S RESTAURANT - DAY

Nice place, relatively busy. Around half of the tables are
occupied by suit wearing businessmen.

Mia sits alone at a table in the back corner. She checks
her watch, then looks around nervously.

A well-dressed WAITER approaches the table.

WAITER

Ready to order?

MIA

I'm actually waiting for someone.

WAITER

Okay, I'll check back with you in a bit.

MIA

Thank you.

She checks her watch again. He's late. Gets out her phone and dials.

A red rose appears in front of her. She looks up to find Gabriel standing there. She smiles, snaps her phone closed. Accepts his offering with a smile.

MIA

I thought you changed your mind.

He takes a seat across from her.

GABRIEL

It's one of my flaws. I'm always late. Forgive me?

She sniffs the rose to keep from answering.

GABRIEL

Have you ordered yet?

MIA

Not yet.

GABRIEL

Do you mind if I order for us?

Gabriel flags over the waiter before Mia can reply.

MIA

I'm a really picky...

Too late. He's ordering.

MIA

Oh-kay.

While Gabriel places their order, Mia surveys the room again. On edge.

As the waiter walks off, Gabriel returns his attention to Mia.

GABRIEL
So, what do you do for a living?

MIA
I... uh... work at home.

GABRIEL
Doing?

MIA
Why do you want to know?

GABRIEL
It's called getting to know you.
See, I ask questions, you answer
them. Then you ask questions and
I answer them. It's worked for
hundreds of years so we can't go
wrong.

Mia smiles nervously. Looks around the room again.

GABRIEL
Expecting someone?

MIA
No.

GABRIEL
You look, I dunno, nervous.

MIA
I'm just... I'm not used to this.

GABRIEL
Having brunch? Lemme guess,
you're strickly a breakfast lunch
and dinner kinda girl.

She can't help but smile.

MIA
Not that. Eating in a
restaurant... with company... a
man. I mean, I eat alone, my own
cooking, which isn't exactly a
pleasant culinary experience. This
is just... different.

GABRIEL

Do you want to go somewhere else?
We could go back to my place. Or
yours. You could cook me one of
your gourmet meals.

MIA

(urgently)

No!

(clears her throat)

I mean, no. This is fine.

GABRIEL

Okay.

MIA

What do you do for a living?

GABRIEL

I'm your average computer geek.
Kinda boring if you think about
it. But it pays the bills. Do
you IM?

She looks perplexed.

GABRIEL

Instant message?

MIA

Sometimes.

Gabriel motions over a waiter.

GABRIEL

Can I borrow your pen?

The waiter gladly hands over his pen and waits while Gabriel scribbles "Gabe_Real74" on a napkin and slides it to Mia. He hands the pen back and the waiter walks away.

GABRIEL

Maybe we can chat sometime.

MIA

What's the "74"?

GABRIEL

That's my age.

She gives him a smirk.

GABRIEL

I know, I don't look it. I get
that all the time.

MIA

Born in 74. So you're 35?

GABRIEL

Very good. And you?

MIA

29.

GABRIEL

Believe it or not, I've never
dated a younger woman before.

Mia's cheeks flush. Picks up her purse as a distraction.

MIA

Before I forget...

She takes some money out of her purse and hands it to him.

MIA

Eight dollars and...

She puts 2 quarters on top of the bills.

MIA

Fifty cents.

GABRIEL

I'm sure the homeless guy down the
street will appreciate this.

MIA

If you didn't want the money, why
did you come?

GABRIEL

To see you.

Mia blushes all over again. Rests her head in her hands to
try and conceal the fact.

GABRIEL

What? What did I say?

MIA

Nothing. I just --

GABRIEL

Isn't that why you came? Or was
that eight fifty burning a hole in
your wallet?

The waiter walks up with their food, rescuing Mia. He
places an identical dish in front of each of them.

Mia stares at her plate as if there is a dead rat on it.

MIA

(to waiter)

Thank you.

WAITER

Enjoy your meal.

Waiter walks away. Gabriel picks up on her look of disgust.

GABRIEL

What's the matter?

MIA

At the risk of sounding
ungrateful, I don't eat eggs.

GABRIEL

You'll like these eggs.

She shakes her head vehemently as Gabriel loads up his fork
with some of each food on his plate.

GABRIEL

Do you trust me?

MIA

I just met you.

GABRIEL

Do you trust me?

He delivers the fork to her mouth. She squeezes her eyes
shut and opens her mouth. He shovels the food in, then
watches her chew with uncertainty until a smile forms.

GABRIEL

Well?

MIA

(smirking)

It's edible.

RINGING comes from Mia's purse. She looks down at it, embarrassed.

MIA
Sorry.

GABRIEL
It's okay. Answer it.

She gets her phone out and glances at the caller I.D.

MIA
(concerned)
Hello?

SCHOOL SECRETARY (V.O.)
Is this Mrs. Davis? Megan's mom?

MIA
Yes. Is she okay?

SCHOOL SECRETARY (V.O.)
She was in a playground accident.

MIA
(panicked)
Where is she?

SCHOOL SECRETARY (V.O.)
She's at Lakeview General, but --

MIA
I'll be right there.

Mia snaps her phone closed and leaps to her feet.

MIA
I'm so sorry. I have to go.

She reaches into her wallet for money.

GABRIEL
I got this. Why should you pay for something you didn't get to eat? Everything okay?

MIA
It's just my... mom. She's stalled on the freeway and she doesn't even like to drive on the freeway and she's freaking out and my sister can't get off work and I'm the only one that can help.

Mia rushes off and Gabriel hurries to his feet.

GABRIEL

I have jumper cables in my trunk.
Just let me pay the bill and --

MIA

Thanks, but I can handle it.

Mia hurries out of the restaurant.

Gabriel watches through the large picture windows as she gets into her car and speeds off.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY

Mia rushes to the nurse's station and briefly speaks with one of the nurses. The nurse points to a curtained room and Mia hurries off.

She pulls back the indicated curtain to find Megan laying on an examination table and Jake on a stool beside her. Megan's foot is wrapped in an Ace bandage and elevated.

Mia throws her arms around Megan, relieved.

MIA

Mommy's so sorry you got hurt. Are you okay?

MEGAN

Yes, except you're choking me.

Mia releases Megan from her vice-like hug.

JAKE

What took you so long? We live ten minutes from here. I work an hour away.

MIA

I was running errands.

JAKE

On the other side of town?

MIA

I got here as fast as I could.

She shoots a dagger at Jake, then focuses back on Megan.

MIA
How's your foot, baby?

MEGAN
Sore.

JAKE
Let's talk outside.

MIA
I just got here. She needs me.

JAKE
She just sprained her ankle. She
didn't have open heart surgery.

Jake takes her by the arm and nearly drags her out of the
room. Pulls the curtain closed after them.

Mia rips her arm away.

MIA
If she's fine, why are you making
a big deal about me being late?

JAKE
What's going on with you?

MIA
Don't stand there and tell me I'm
not allowed to be upset when you
jumped all over me in front of our
daughter for no reason.

Despite their attempts to keep their voices down, they
attract the attention of several nurses and doctors.

JAKE
That's not what this is about.

MIA
Well enlighten me, then.

JAKE
I don't know what it is. But I'm
gonna find out.

He storms down the hall.

MIA
Where are you going?

JAKE
Back to work. Where else?

INT. MIA'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Mia and the kids sit at the table eating take-out pizza.

Megan has her wrapped ankle propped up on a chair.

The phone RINGS from the next room.

MIA
Ryan, get the phone. It's
probably Daddy.

Ryan races into the living room. Comes back with the phone.

RYAN
It's for you. It's a guy.

Mia takes the phone. Puts her hand over the receiver.

MIA
Watch your sister.

She wonders into the

LIVING ROOM

and lifts the phone to her ear.

MIA
Hello?

GABRIEL (V.O.)
Mia?

MIA
How did you get this number?

GABRIEL (V.O.)
Caller I.D.

MIA
It's blocked.

GABRIEL
Okay, I lied. A friend of mine
works for the DMV...

MIA
That's illegal.

GABRIEL
I know. But he owed me a big
favor. Huge, in fact.

Mia is silent, a combination of embarrassment and anger.

GABRIEL
You're angry. I'm sorry. I
shouldn't have done that.

MIA
I'm in the middle of dinner, so...

GABRIEL
Was that your son that answered?

Long pause.

MIA
Yes. Ryan.

GABRIEL
Sounds like a good kid.

MIA
Wait 'til you get to know him.

GABRIEL
I can't wait.

MIA
I have to go.

She promptly hangs up on him. Stares at the phone.

RYAN (O.S.)
Who was that?

She whips around, surprised to see him there.

MIA
The plumber.

RYAN
What's that?

MIA
He fixes pipes.

Mia walks past him and back into the

KITCHEN

He follows her in.

RYAN
What kind of pipes?

MIA
Just eat your dinner.

INT. MIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mia lies in bed watching TV. As usual, the spot next to her is empty. She flips through all the stations. Nothing on.

Gets her laptop out from under the bed and boots it up.

MIA
What am I doing?

She turns her instant message program on and locates a box labeled: "send message to". She types: "Gabe-Real74" in it.

A window pops up with the message: "This user is currently offline".

She shakes her head and snaps the laptop closed.

LATER

Mia watches something on TV, bawling her eyes out. We can't see what it is, but we can make out bits and pieces of dialogue.

CAMERAMAN (V.O.)
Can we get a kiss from the happy couple?

APPLAUSE is followed by

MIA (V.O.)
I love you so much.

JAKE (V.O.)
I love you, too.

ON SCREEN

Mia and Jake, younger and much happier, share a sweet kiss.

MIA
Thank you for making today the
happiest day of my life.

JAKE

How did I get so damn lucky? I
get to spend the rest of my life
with you.

CAMERAMAN (V.O.)

Aww, how sweet!

BACK TO SCENE

Mia bawls even louder. Grabs a kleenex. Blows her nose.

JAKE (V.O.)

Get that thing outta here!

FOOTSTEPS outside the door causes Mia to quickly switch off
the TV and dry her tears.

The door opens and Jake walks in, looking haggard.

MIA

You look tired.

He walks over to the bed, unbuttoning his shirt.

Mia smiles seductively. Crawls over to him.

MIA

Let me help you with that.

She unbuttons his shirt the rest of the way. Rubs his
chest. He brushes her hands away.

JAKE

I am. Long day. Gonna take a
quick shower and then bed.

He disappears into the bathroom.

INT. SCHOOL GYM - DAY

Two orderly lines are formed in front of a table with a
banner that reads: "Lakeview Elementary Fundraiser" above
it.

Mia and Dani man the table, handing out boxes to the people
next in line.

MIA

Why did I volunteer to do this? I
hate fundraisers.

DANI
But you love Ryan and it's easier
than having to sell the stuff.

Mia takes a ticket from a man in line. Searches for his
box.

Dani hands a box over to the middle-aged woman in her line.

DANI
How are things with you and Jake?

MIA
Great.

DANI
I know that "great". That's the
same great I use on my mom when
she asks how she looks in a pair
of pants so tight her ass cheeks
are screaming to be set free.

The woman in line gives Dani a hard look at her use of
profanity. She grabs the box and walks off in a huff.

MIA
He's been working a lot. Things
will be better when it slows down.
We'll get over it.

DANI
How hard was it for you to say
that without crying?

Mia takes another ticket and turns to retrieve the box. She
starts to cry, softly at first, then increasingly noisy.

DANI
Are you crying?

MIA
(sniffly)
No.

Dani moves around to look at her. She's a mess.

DANI
Oh my God. You are. Sweetie!

Dani flags down a couple volunteers that are standing
around.

DANI
We need a break.

The replacements step in and Dani leads a sobbing Mia off toward the restrooms in a less crowded area.

DANI
What's going on?

MIA
He's cheating on me. He's fucking
cheating on me!

A few people turn to stare at them.

DANI
(to onlookers)
What're you looking at? Go buy
some cookies.

The gawkers scatter. Dani turns back to Mia.

DANI
How do you know? Are you sure?

MIA
The jelly stain on his collar that
looks suspiciously like lipstick.
Hooker red lipstick, to be exact.
Coming home late. Not interested
in sex. Unexplained errands on
his days off. All the signs were
there. I can't believe it took me
so long to figure it out.

DANI
There could be a logical
explanation for all of that.

MIA
And what about this?

Mia takes a folded document out of her purse and hands it to Dani. Dani looks it over. It's a credit card statement. There are charges for a florist, jewelry shop and expensive restaurants.

DANI
(under her breath)
Oh shit.

Mia snatches the statement back and stuffs it into her purse.

DANI

What did he say when you
confronted him?

Mia gives her a look.

DANI

You haven't confronted him?

MIA

What am I supposed to say? Hey, I
know you're screwing around. Wanna
talk about it?

DANI

That's a good start. But throw in
some curse words so he knows how
angry you are.

MIA

This isn't a joke, Dani.

DANI

I agree. You need to do
something. And I know how damn
Catholic you are. So if you're
not gonna divorce him, you damn
well better make him miserable.
Spend all his money. Burn dinner.
Or the best revenge yet... give
him a taste of his own medicine.

Mia shakes her head. Tries to walk away.

DANI

Wait. Hear me out.

MIA

You've lost your mind. Are you
suggesting that an overweight,
almost 30-year-old mother of two,
go out and have an...
(like it's a dirty word)
affair?

DANI

Okay, first of all, you are not
overweight. But yes, that's
exactly what I'm suggesting. And
I think you should consider it.

MIA
I can't even get my husband to
sleep with me.

DANI
You're a beautiful woman, Mia. You
can have any guy you want. Having
said that, this is a revenge
thing. He doesn't have to be an
underwear model.

MIA
This conversation is officially
over.

Mia heads back to her position behind the table.

DANI
At least think about it.

LATER

Mia and Dani are handing out cookie boxes again. Mia takes
a ticket from COOKIE LADY. She looks at the name on the
ticket but can't make it out.

MIA
Last name?

COOKIE LADY
Roscolinni.

MIA
Can you spell it?

The woman sighs, irritated.

COOKIE LADY
R-O-S-

Mia searches and finds it before the woman finishes. Turns
to hand it to her. Sees Gabriel in her line.

COOKIE LADY
C-O-

MIA
Oh, my God!

She uses the box as a shield as Gabriel looks her way.

COOKIE LADY
Are those my cookies?

MIA
I'm sorry. I have to go.

Mia tries to slip away, hiding behind the cookie box.

COOKIE LADY
Not with my cookies!

The old lady grabs the box and they struggle over it.

People begin to stare at the tug-of-war.

Mia lets go. The cookie lady huffs loudly, then walks away.

GABRIEL
I have a few extra tickets, if you
need the cookies that bad.

Mia turns to find the entire room, including Gabriel,
staring at her. Without addressing Gabriel, she runs off.

Gabriel gives chase, pulling her to a stop.

GABRIEL
Why are you running?

MIA
Why are you here?

GABRIEL
My sister-in-law conned me into
buying an obscene amount of
chocolate chip cookies from my
neice. Now answer mine.

MIA
I need to pick up my son and
daughter from school, I need to
wash five loads of laundry, and I
need to have dinner ready before
my husband gets home from work.

Not the answer he was looking for. Gabriel stands in shock,
speechless, as Mia walks away.

INT. MIA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Mia folds laundry with the phone sandwiched between her
shoulder and ear.

Megan and Ryan watch cartoons on the sofa beside her.

INTERCUT - MIA'S LIVING ROOM / DANI'S KITCHEN

Dani tosses her keys and purse on the table.

DANI
So, who was the guy?

MIA
I can't talk about that now.

DANI
Why, is the adulterer there?

Mia rolls her eyes.

MIA
No.

DANI
Kids?

MIA
Uh huh.

Dani gets a can of spaghetti and meatballs out of the pantry and sticks it under the can opener.

DANI
Send them to their room. This is important.

Mia covers the receiver.

MIA
(to kids)
Go wash up for dinner, guys.

RYAN
After this is over.

MIA
Now!

Ryan grumbles under his breath while following Megan out.

RYAN (O.S.)
Last one there has to sit next to mom at dinner.

Mia takes her hand off the receiver.

MIA
He's just someone I met on a walk
the other day.

Dani dumps the spaghetti into a bowl. Puts it in the micro.

DANI
Okay, now tell me the truth.

MIA
I just did.

DANI
If that were true, you wouldn't
have accosted some old lady for
her cookie shield. Spill it!

No response.

DANI
You know you want to.

Mia sighs loudly. Stops folding laundry.

MIA
I had brunch with him.

Dani sinks into a chair at the table.

DANI
You bitch!

MIA
What?!

DANI
I can't believe you went out with
another guy and didn't tell me!

MIA
It was nothing. Not even worth
mentioning.

DANI
I've yet to determine that. Did
he pay or did you pay? Because if
you paid, it was just brunch. But
if he paid, it was a date.

MIA
It was not a date.

DANI

So he did pay. Jesus, it's like pulling teeth with you. What else aren't you telling me?

Mia hesitates to go on.

MIA

I may have led him to believe I was unattached.

DANI

How did you do that?

MIA

I wasn't wearing my rings and I guess he just assumed --

DANI

And you went out with him knowing he thought you weren't married. You slut! I'm so proud of you!

MIA

And that's why I didn't want to tell you about it.

Mia picks up her laundry basket, walks out of the room.

DANI

Based on your recent discovery, I'm completely on your side.

Mia unloads the towels into a hallway linen closet.

MIA

The two are unrelated. I wasn't trying to get back at Jake.

DANI

So what are you gonna do?

MIA

You tell me.

DANI

Well, it depends.

MIA

On?

Dani takes the spaghetti out of the micro and dishes it out into two smaller bowls.

DANI

A hundred different things. Are you in love with this guy? Are you still in love with Jake? Are you gonna divorce Jake? Does this guy know you have kids? Is he okay with that? How is he gonna react when he finds out you're married? What's he gonna do if you get divorced? What's he gonna do if you don't? Is this guy -- ?

MIA

Stop calling him "this guy". His name is Gabriel.

She can't help but smirk as his name leaves her lips.

DANI

Are you in love with Gabriel?

Mia puts the last towel in the closet and closes the door. Tosses the basket into the laundry room and goes back down the hallway.

MIA

No, of course not. We just met. How could I possibly -- ? No!

DANI

I know that "no". That's the same no I use on my personal trainer when he asks me if I've deviated from my diet in the last week.

Mia rolls her eyes as she enters the

KITCHEN

and starts to set the table for dinner.

MIA

I have to go. Dinner is burning.

DANI

You're lying.

MIA

I'm going.

DANI

Find the answers to my questions.

MIA

Bye.

BACK TO SCENE

Mia hangs up, turns to find Ryan standing in the doorway.

MIA

Ready for dinner?

RYAN

Who's Gabriel?

MIA

I told you, he's the plumber.

RYAN

Why were you and Aunt Dani talking
about the -- ?

Mia shoves a dinner roll into his open mouth, silencing him.

EXT. MIA BACKYARD - DAY

Ryan and Megan play in the backyard with Dani's kids, ALEX,
6, and MARYBETH, 3.

Mia and Dani sit at the patio table, sipping cold drinks.

DANI

Any weekend plans?

MIA

They want to see that new kiddie
movie. You?

DANI

Oh, I dunno. Nothing special, I
suppose. I'll probably have a ton
of paperwork to catch up with.

A long, uncomfortable silence stretches on for what seems
like an eternity.

Mia finally picks up on the mischievous grin on Dani's face.

MIA

What?

DANI

Nothing.

MIA

What?

DANI

Well, since you asked...
(whispering)
Have you thought any more about
what we discussed?

Mia glances at the kids playing a few yards away.

MIA

Ryan heard us on the phone and
he's been asking questions.

DANI

That's what six year olds do. He
doesn't know anything. Relax.

MIA

I don't know why we're discussing
this. I told him the truth...
about Jake and the kids.

DANI

What did he say?

MIA

I didn't let him respond.

DANI

So how do you know it's over?

MIA

It can't be "over" if it never
began. There was nothing going on
between us.

DANI

Just keep telling yourself that.

MIA

What is that supposed to mean?

Dani takes a long sip of her drink. Makes Mia wait.

DANI

You two may not have done the
deed, but if he's on your mind
twenty-four seven, like I'm
guessing he is, you need to do
something about it. Either get
over it or meet him somewhere and

(MORE)

DANI (cont'd)
have hot, raunchy sex.

MIA
You really are insane. You were
cheated on. You know how much it
hurts. And now you want me to do
that to my husband?

DANI
He cheated on you first, Mia. This
is payback. Anyone in your
position would do the same thing
if given the opportunity.

Mia doesn't look convinced.

DANI
Wasn't there an angel named
Gabriel? Maybe he was sent from
above... to even the score.

MIA
Do you have any idea how
blasphemous that statement is?

Dani stands up.

DANI
Be right back. I need to use your
little girl's room.

INT. MIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Dani creeps into the room, locking the door behind her.
Searches through Mia's things.

She looks in the closet, jewelry box and dresser drawers.

DANI
If I was a special phone number,
where would I be?

A KNOCK on the door startles her.

MIA (O.S.)
What're you doing in my bedroom?

DANI
The other bathroom was out of
toilet paper.

MIA (O.S.)
Are you almost done? Lunch is on.

Dani finds the instant message username buried in a trinket box in the bottom drawer. Smiles satisfactorily.

DANI
Keep your panties on. I'm coming.

She sticks the paper in her bra, walks out.

DANI
I'm starved. Let's eat.

EXT. MIA'S BACKYARD - DAY

Mia, Dani and the kids sit around the table eating.

DANI
I was thinking if you don't mind,
maybe the kids and I will tag
along to that movie. Mine have
been bugging me to see it, too.

MIA
Sure.

DANI
I'll even spring for lunch after.

INT. DANI'S BEDROOM - DAY

Dani lies in bed with her laptop in front of her. Logs into an instant messaging service, types in: "Mia_D_2008" as the username. Stops when she gets to the password prompt. Then types something. It works.

DANI
Too freaking predictable!

ON COMPUTER SCREEN

Mia_D_2008: Are you there?

BACK TO SCENE

She waits impatiently, drumming her fingers on the keyboard.

DANI
C'mon!

ON COMPUTER SCREEN

Gabe-Real74: My body is. My mind went to sleep hours ago.

BACK TO SCENE

DANI

Hot and witty. I like this guy.

She begins typing, narrating out loud.

DANI

We need to talk. Meet me outside
the Walsh street theaters at two
p.m. tomorrow.

She waits anxiously, a smile spreading across her face.

ON COMPUTER SCREEN

Gabe_Real74: I'll be there.

BACK TO SCENE

Dani snaps the computer closed, proud of herself.

INT. MOVIE THEATER - DAY

Dani, Mia, Megan and Marybeth sit in the last row while the boys sit a few rows ahead.

MIA

What's so bad about sitting with
us?

DANI

We're not cool enough.

MIA

That's absurd. What do six year
olds know about being cool?

DANI

Imagine the humiliation during
home room on Monday if they were
spotted sitting with their moms in
a G-rated movie.

Dani laughs and hands Mia a chocolate bar.

DANI

Here, take this. It helps.

EXT. MOVIE THEATER - DAY

A steady stream of people exit the theater. Dani, Mia and the kids are among them.

Dani scans the faces of every 30ish male that passes them. Spots Gabriel seconds before he walks up to them.

Mia looks mortified and confused.

GABRIEL
You wanted to talk.

She looks at him, then instinctively turns to Dani.

Dani takes Megan's hand.

DANI
The kids and I'll get a table.
Take your time.

Dani leads the kids across the street and into a restaurant while Mia watches from the other side.

She finally turns to Gabriel who looks just as confused.

GABRIEL
You IM'ed me?

MIA
I think you were talking to my
friend, Dani. She meddles. A lot.

Gabriel nods, finally understanding.

MIA
I'm sorry she bothered you.

GABRIEL
It's no bother.

He takes her hand. She starts to pull away, but stops herself. Their hands linger together.

MIA
I'm sorry I lied to you.

GABRIEL
You didn't lie. I never asked.

MIA
I should have told you.

GABRIEL

No harm, no foul. We're just two people that met under unusual circumstances and had a meal together... and that's it.

She becomes solemn. Swallows the lump in her throat. Pulls her hand away.

MIA

Right. I have to get back.

She heads toward the restaurant. About to cross the street.

GABRIEL

I just have one question for you.

She turns to him.

GABRIEL

Why did you go out with me?

MIA

Why did you ask me out?

GABRIEL

I wanted to know why someone so beautiful and intelligent and funny could be so unhappy.

MIA

I'm not unhappy.

GABRIEL

Says your lips. But your eyes disagree.

MIA

I have to go.

GABRIEL

What happens now?

Mia's eyes become glassy.

MIA

You go back home to your dog, I go back home to my family and we forget we ever met.

GABRIEL

That's what you want?

MIA
That's the way it has to be. It
doesn't matter what I want.

GABRIEL
It matters to me.

She shakes her head at him, starts to cross the street.
Gabriel grabs her arm and pulls her back.

MIA
Dont --

He puts a folded piece of paper into her hand.

GABRIEL
I'm not telling you to use it.
Just know I'll be there if you
ever need me.

Mia glances down to find an address written on the paper.
When she looks back up, Gabriel is already walking away.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Dani sits at a window booth with the kids, her nose pressed
against the glass. She watches Mia cross the street and
head toward the restaurant. Quickly turns around.

MIA
Okay, she's coming. Act natural.

ALEX
Who was that guy?

RYAN
That must be the plumber.

ALEX
Who's the plumber?

DANI
Nevermind.

EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Mia stops at the door to dry her eyes and take a deep
breath.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Mia walks in and straight up to the booth.

MIA
(to Dani)
Can I speak to you for a second?

DANI
(to kids)
Stay here. We'll be right back.
Alex, you're in charge.

RYAN
How come he gets to be in charge?
I wanna be in charge!

DANI
Okay, you're both in charge.

RYAN
Yesss!

The boys high-five across the table, knocking over a drink.

DANI & MIA
Clean that up!

Dani and Mia walk off together.

DANI
Am I in trouble?

MIA
You have no idea.

DANI
Okay, but before you say anything,
just know that I love you and I
had your best interests in mind.

MIA
How dare you?! Do you have any
idea how humiliating that was? How
did you get his username? Did you
go through my stuff?

DANI
Yes, I did. But once again, all
in the name of love.

MIA
Stop meddling.

DANI

I just don't want you to spend the rest of your life wondering what could have been.

A CRASH comes from the kids table followed by a SCREAM.

RYAN

Mom, Megan broke the salt shaker.

Mia shoots Dani one last dagger before heading back.

INT. MIA'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Dirty dishes are stacked high in the sink. There are blocks, crayons and toys all over the floor.

Mia sits at the table in front of an untouched plate of food. Another full plate sits across from her.

Jake walks in, loosening his tie.

MIA

Thanks for making it home for dinner.

JAKE

Something came up.

MIA

Did it involve the phone lines being cut and your cell phone getting lost?

JAKE

I shouldn't called.

MIA

Yeah. You should have.

She gets up and throws her plate into the sink.

Jake investigates the contents of the plate meant for him.

JAKE

It looks good.

He sits down and picks up his fork.

Mia takes the plate and tosses it in the sink.

MIA
It's cold and greasy. Make
yourself a sandwich.

She walks into the

LIVING ROOM

Jake follows.

JAKE
What's wrong with you?

Mia picks up the toys on the floor.

MIA
Have I gained a few pounds? Am I
not as appealing as I was when we
got married? Cause I gotta tell
you, you haven't exactly stayed
the same either.

JAKE
Where the hell did that come from?

MIA
When's the last time we went to a
movie or dinner? When's the last
time you paid me a compliment?
When's the last time we had a
conversation that wasn't about the
kids?

JAKE
I'm sorry, Mia. Is that what you
want to hear? I'm sorry I'm not
making you happy.

She stops picking up to stare coldly at him.

MIA
That's not it. You've stopped
trying all together.

She grabs her coat and purse and heads for the door.

JAKE
Where are you going?

MIA
Out. Watch the kids.

She storms out, slamming the door behind her.

EXT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Mia walks up to an old brick building. Matches the address on the building to the one on the paper. Heads up the stairs and finds Gabriel's name on the resident list.

She BUZZES him. Waits. No response. She BUZZES again. Still nothing.

She sinks to the top step and rests her head in her hands.

LATER

Mia is still waiting. She checks her watch. 10:30 p.m.

A happy couple walks by, holding hands and enjoying each other's company.

Mia watches them, longingly.

LATER

Still waiting. She checks her watch. 10:55 p.m. She stands up to leave. Sees Gabriel and a WOMAN walking her way.

MIA

Shit.

She looks frantically for a place to hide. Finding none, she hurries down the stairs and tries to slink down the street in the opposite direction.

GABRIEL (O.S.)

Mia?

She turns as if just noticing him.

MIA

Oh, hi. I should have called first. You're busy.

GABRIEL

Wait a minute.

Gabriel hugs the woman, then gives her a kiss on the cheek.

GABRIEL

You gonna be okay?

WOMAN

I'm fine. Thanks for the talk.

GABRIEL
Give Justine a kiss for me.

WOMAN
I will.

The woman walks off, passes Mia.

WOMAN
Night.

MIA
Night.

Once she is far enough down the sidewalk, Gabriel joins Mia.

MIA
I'm sorry.

GABRIEL
For what? She's just down the
street. See.

They both turn to watch the woman enter a neighboring
building. Lightbulb moment for Gabriel.

GABRIEL
Oh, you thought... That was my
sister-in-law. She needed a
shoulder and I've got two.

Mia smiles with relief.

GABRIEL
Wanna come in?

INT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Total bachelor pad. Big screen TV, oversized leather sofa,
coffee table and little else.

Mia and Gabriel sit on the sofa. Daisy sleeps at their
feet.

GABRIEL
What happened?

MIA
Nothing.

Gabriel gives her a look of disbelief.

MIA
Everything.

She breaks down.

MIA
I'm sorry. I'm a crier. I cry. A
lot. My shrink and I are working
on it.

To say Gabriel is caught off guard is an understatement. He
doesn't know whether to hug her or run.

MIA
(still weeping)
I'm kidding. That was a joke.
(long pause)
I don't cry that often.

Gabriel smiles, finally getting the punchline.

Mia composes herself.

MIA
I didn't come here to whine about
my problems.

GABRIEL
Okay, why did you come?

MIA
I needed to get away. I didn't
have any place else to go. How
sad is that? The only person I
have to confide in is someone I
just met.

GABRIEL
Believe it or not, I know what
you're going through. When you
get married everything is all hugs
and kisses and sweet smelling
roses. Then one day you wake up
and realize it's all gone to hell.
But you don't really know when it
happened or how to fix it.

MIA
So you've been married?

GABRIEL
Two years, but it was over long
before that. We were just going
through the motions. I was in
(MORE)

GABRIEL (cont'd)
love with her and she was in love
with her career. Eventually her
career won her heart.

MIA
Did you have any kids?

GABRIEL
We were never in the same room
long enough to procreate.

Mia sniffs, looking around for some tissue.

MIA
Do you have a tissue?

Gabriel slides over to her, puts his arms out.

GABRIEL
No, but I have a shirt.

Mia eases into his embrace, holds him tight. Wipes her nose
on his shirt. Pulls away.

MIA
Thank you.
(long pause)
I feel trapped. And alone.

Tears start to fall again.

GABRIEL
You're not alone.

MIA
(threw tears)
Can I use your shirt again?

GABRIEL
Come here.

He moves even closer and pulls her against him. Holding
her. Their lips move closer, nearly touching. Linger.

MIA
I better go.

GABRIEL
Okay.

But neither make a move. Their lips touch briefly.

MIA
It's late. I have --

GABRIEL
To go? That's what you said. But
you're still here.

MIA
Your sister-in-law is lucky to
have you. You're a good listener.

GABRIEL
I don't listen this well with her.

She gets off the sofa first and he follows. Walks with her
to the door.

GABRIEL
I'll walk you downstairs.

EXT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Mia and Gabriel walk down the stairs. He stops at the
bottom.

GABRIEL
How are you getting home?

MIA
(pointing)
I drove. My car's over there.
(long pause)
Bye.

GABRIEL
Bye for now or bye forever?

No response.

GABRIEL
Just want to know what to expect.

MIA
I wish I knew.

Gabriel watches as she walks down the street, gets into her
car and drives away.

INT. MIA'S HOME - NIGHT

Mia walks up the stairs, in the dark. Sees a light in one of the rooms. Stops outside

MEGAN'S BEDROOM

where Jake is on the bed with Megan, holding her foot.

JAKE

And this little piggy cried wee
wee wee all the way home.

Megan giggles wildly.

Jake puts her foot down and she eagerly hands him the other.

MEGAN

What about these piggies?

JAKE

This little piggy went to market.
This little piggy stayed home.
this little piggy had roast
beef...

HALLWAY

Mia smiles half-heartedly and walks into the

MASTER BEDROOM

and disrobes.

Jake enters as she slips into a nightgown.

JAKE

Megan had a nightmare.

MIA

Thank you for watching them.

JAKE

You don't have to thank me for
watching my own kids.

Mia takes her hair out of the ponytail holder and brushes it.

JAKE

Where'd you go?

MIA
For a drive. I needed to think.

JAKE
Did it work?

She puts the brush down and turns her attention to him.

MIA
Can I ask you something?

JAKE
Okay.

MIA
Are you happy?

JAKE
I'm... content.

MIA
So this is what you expected when
we got married?

JAKE
I never promised you a glamorous
life, Mia. I promised I would
love you and I have... I do.

Not the answer she wanted. She climbs into bed and turns
out the light, leaving Jake in the dark.

INT. HEALTH CLUB - DAY

Dani works out on a treadmill, running at a fast pace.
Hardly breaking a sweat. She is surrounded by other
physically fit men and woman who also run at a steady pace.

DANI
So what's with your sudden
interest in fitness?

MIA (O.S.)
I needed... to get away... from
the kids.

Dani makes a sound like a buzzer.

DANI
Eeh! Wrong answer. Try again.

Mia is on an adjacent treadmill, at a slow pace, barely keeping up. She holds onto the handle bars for dear life, slouched over, huffing and puffing.

MIA
I've gained ten pounds in the last month, if you must know.

DANI
Jake's not complaining, is he?

MIA
I doubt he's even noticed.

Dani pushes a button on the treadmill, increasing her speed.

DANI
Then what's the problem? Unless...

An all-knowing smirk spreads across Dani's face.

Mia can't take anymore. She pushes button after button, but instead of turning off, her treadmill goes faster.

MIA
Get me off this thing!

Dani turns Mia's off then her own.

DANI
I know what you need. Follow me.

Dani walks off while Mia wipes her sweaty forehead with her shirt.

LATER

Mia and Dani lounge in the hot tub. Mia tries to carry on a conversation while Dani's attention is trained on one of the two buff guys swimming laps in the nearby pool.

MIA
This is more like it.

DANI
Uh huh.

MIA
So Ryan got the lead in the school play.

DANI
Uh huh.

The object of Dani's interest, BLOND GUY, finally notices her staring at smiles back flirtatiously. Brushes his wet hair out of his face.

MIA
Did Alex get a part?

DANI
Uh huh.

MIA
Which part?

Blond guy subtly motions to his friend, MUSCLE GUY, and he looks over at the women, returning Dani's coy smile.

Mia turns to look in Dani's line of vision and spots the two guys. Looks back at Dani.

MIA
Are you flirting with those guys?

DANI
Uh huh.

MIA
Stop it before they come over.

Dani motions them over and they start for the hot tub.

DANI
Too late.

Mia glances over and sees them headed their way.

MIA
Oh my God. What'd you do?

DANI
Chill out. You're practically divorced. It won't kill you to flirt a little.

Blond guy and muscle guy stop beside the hot tub.

BLOND GUY
Mind if we join you?

DANI
Not at all.

Dani slides over to allow Blond guy to slip in next to her and muscle guy next to Mia.

Mia nervously scoots a few inches away from muscle guy while Dani moves in closer to blond guy.

DANI
I'm Dani. This is my friend, Mia.

Dani puts her hand out for a shake, but blond guy kisses it instead. Mia just smiles curtly.

BLOND GUY
I'm Donnie and this is Ben.

DANI
I couldn't help but notice what a nice backside... er, I mean backstroke you have.

Mia rolls her eyes, moving a little further away from muscle guy as she moves in uncomfortably close.

BLOND GUY
Yours isn't bad either.

MIA
But I wasn't swimming.

MUSCLE GUY
Is it hot in here, or is it just the two of you?

MIA
It's a hot tub.

BLOND GUY
So, what are you lovely ladies talking about over here?

DANI
Actually, I was just telling Mia that --

MIA
We were talking about how our six year old sons are in the same school play.

Blond guy and muscle guy look like someone just took a crap in the water. They can't get out quickly enough.

BLOND GUY
It is hot in here. I need another swim.

They both hurry away, whispering amongst themselves.

Dani gives Mia a dirty look.

DANI

You couldn't help yourself, could you? You had to go all "mommy" on them.

MIA

Please, they were jerks.

DANI

You wanna mess with your own sex life, that's fine. But stay away from mine.

MIA

I wouldn't touch your love sex life with a ten foot pole.

DANI

Do yourself a favor, next time you see Gabriel, jump on him and get it over with. You need to get laid in the worst way.

Dani gets out of the hot tub, splashing Mia.

INT. MIA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Mia sits at her sewing machine, sewing a costume.

Sounds of childish yelling filters in from the next room.

RYAN (O.S.)

Mooooom, Megan stole my marker!

Without looking up from what she's doing...

MIA

(monotone)

Megan, give Ryan back his marker.

MEGAN (O.S.)

But he took my crayons.

MIA

(monotone)

Ryan, give Megan back her crayons.

More yelling in the background.

Mia sews her last stitch, holds the costume up for inspection.

MIA
Ryan, get in here and try on your costume.

Ryan wanders in a moment later. Mia helps him into his costume. It fits like a glove. She smiles proudly.

MIA
You look so handsome.

RYAN
I look like a big green dork.

MIA
No, you look like Peter Pan. He's not a dork.

Jake walks in from the next room. Does a double take on Ryan.

MIA
You like it?

JAKE
He looks like a dork.

RYAN
See! I'm not going.

Ryan peels off the costume and races out of the room. Mia picks it up, scowling at Jake.

MIA
Thanks for your support.

Jake picks up the newspaper and sits in his recliner.

JAKE
Is it Halloween already?

MIA
It's for a school play. Are you gonna make it this time?

He doesn't bother to look up from his paper.

JAKE
When is it?

MIA
Tomorrow.

JAKE
Can't. I'm working.

MIA
You don't even know what time.

JAKE
I'm working all day.

INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Mia sits in the audience with Megan beside her. The room is packed to near capacity with the exception of the two empty seats beside Mia and a few scattered elsewhere.

MEGAN
When's it gonna start?

MIA
Soon.

MEGAN
How soon?

MIA
Very soon.

Dani and Marybeth squeeze their way to the seats beside Mia.

MIA
That was cutting it close.

DANI
You have no idea how hard it is to get out of the house with two kids.

MIA
You're right. I have no idea.

Dani realizes what she just said. Smiles sheepishly.

DANI
I'm not a supermom like you.

The lights dim as the play is about to start. A small child with a whiny voice comes out on the stage. Her monologue goes on in the background.

DANI
Is he gonna show?

MIA
He had to work.

DANI
I wasn't talking about Jake.

Dani nudges her. Mia tries hard not to smile.

MIA
How do you know I even invited
him?

DANI
Oh, you invited him, alright. The
question is, will he show?

Mia tries to subtly look around the auditorium, but Dani catches her in the act.

DANI
Told you.

LATER

Ryan, in full Peter Pan costume, steps front and center, ready for his big premiere.

Mia smiles proudly.

A hand on her shoulder catches her attention. She turns to find Gabriel sitting behind her.

GABRIEL
Sorry I'm late. I warned you.

MIA
Thanks for coming.

GABRIEL
He's really good.

Mia alternates glances at Ryan and Gabriel.

MIA
We ran lines like fifty times last
night. I think I was a bit of a
drill sergeant.

GABRIEL
Oh, here. For Ryan.

Gabriel hands her a small bunch of flowers.

MIA
Flowers?

GABRIEL
Does seem like a strange thing to
get a six year old boy, now that I
think of it.

MIA
No, it's sweet. Thank you.

Gabriel eases back in his seat to enjoy the rest of the
performance.

EXT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Mia, Dani, Megan and Marybeth stand amongst the crowd of
people outside the exit. Dani leans in to whisper to Mia.

DANI
Where is he?

MIA
He's standing over by the stop
sign. Don't look.

Dani turns and looks. Sees Gabriel standing just where Mia
said he would be. Trying to look like he's not waiting.

MIA
I said don't look!

DANI
He's waiting for you. Go talk to
him.

MIA
I can't.

DANI
I'll wait for Ryan. I'll even
take them to my place if you want
some... extra time.

Dani makes her eyebrows dance up and down. Mia elbows her.

MIA
No, I mean, I don't know what to
say.

DANI

You'll figure it out when you get there.

Dani takes Megan's hand from Mia and then gives her friend a gentle nudge.

Mia looks around to see who's looking before walking over to Gabriel.

MIA

What're you doing way over here?

GABRIEL

I didn't know if I should come over. The kids... and your friend.

MIA

Right.

Mia glances back to find Dani watching them. She becomes even more nervous, fidgety.

GABRIEL

Your son has definite potential. I'll be looking for him on the big screen in the near future.

MIA

Thanks for coming.

GABRIEL

You're welcome.

Uncomfortable silence.

Mia glances back to find Ryan exiting the auditorium. He runs to Dani, then looks around for Mia. Dani does her best to try and distract him.

GABRIEL

He's looking for you. You better get back.

MIA

Yeah, I better. I'll... see you around?

GABRIEL

I hope so.

MIA

Okay. Bye.

GABRIEL

Bye.

Mia pauses, not knowing whether to hug him, kiss him or just walk away. Gabriel ends the uncomfortable situation by waving and walking off.

Mia scoffs at herself, then turns and walks back to Dani and the kids.

RYAN

Did you see me?

MIA

Yes, I did. You remembered all your lines. I'm so proud of you.

She tries to hug him, but he steps back.

RYAN

Mom! Not in front of my friends.

DANI

Who wants to go for some ice cream?

The kids all shout in unison.

DANI

Okay, my treat. Let's go.

Dani leads the kids away while Mia hangs back. Turns to check on Gabriel's progress.

He walks in the other direction. Turns to look back at her.

INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH - DAY

Dressed in their Sunday best, Mia, Megan and Ryan sit in the last pew. Mia's mom, Anne, slips in beside her just as the service begins.

PRIEST

All rise.

The congregation rises in unison.

Anne leans over to whisper in Mia's ear, replacing the PRIEST's muffled sermon in the background.

ANNE

Where's Jake?

MIA

Working.

ANNE

On Sunday?

MIA

He's a hard worker.

ANNE

So was God and even He took Sunday off.

MIA

We need the money.

The congregation sits.

Anne leans over again.

ANNE

Are you two having problems?
Because if you are, I'm sure
Father O'Mally wouldn't mind --

MIA

I don't know about you. But I
came to pray... not gossip.

INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH - CONFESSIONAL - DAY

Mia sits on one side of the confessional screen and the priest sits on the other.

MIA

Bless me Father, for I have
sinned. It's been one week since
my last confession.

PRIEST

Go ahead, my child.

MIA

I sent my husband to work with a
dirty shirt. He asked me to wash
his gray pinstriped shirt and I
forgot so when he asked me for it,
I sprayed it with air freshener
and gave it a quick ironing.

PRIEST

Go on.

MIA

On Tuesday I allowed my children to have high fructose corn syrup. On Wednesday I told them I was taking a shower but in actuality I sat on the toilet and read a book for ten minutes. On Thursday I forgot to run the dishwasher but I didn't want to admit it to my husband when he asked if those were clean dishes, so I let him drink out of a dirty glass.

(pause)

And I'm having an affair.

PRIEST

An affair?

MIA

I guess technically it's not an affair if we haven't slept together. I mean, we haven't even kissed or anything. Well, we sorta kissed. But mostly we just... talk.

PRIEST

Do you love your husband?

MIA

Yes. No. Yes.

(pause)

I'm not sure.

PRIEST

Three Hail Marys, five Our Fathers... and find out the answer to that question. Sometimes we find our answers in the most unexpected places.

MONTAGE - MIA'S TRANSFORMATION

-- Gabriel and Mia walk through a quiet park. He challenges her to a race. She tries hard to keep up, but ultimately he leaves her in his dust.

-- Mia runs on a treadmill. She sweats profusely, barely able to keep up.

-- Gabriel and Mia watch a movie together. He reaches over and takes her hand, interlocking their fingers.

-- Mia works out again, this time with a personal trainer. She shows significant improvement.

-- Gabriel and Mia walk hand in hand through a recreation center. Kids play in an olympic sized pool. Gabriel picks her up and walks her to the pool while she shakes her head vehemently. He throws her in, then gets a running start and cannon calls in after her.

-- Mia runs on a treadmill. She's a pro now, barely breaking a sweat.

-- Gabriel and Mia walk through a playground. The swings are all occupied by elementary aged children. He slips one of the kids a five dollar bill and watches as he runs off. He motions Mia to get on the swing, then pushes her higher than all the other swing riders.

-- Mia steps on a scale with her personal trainer by her side. 125. She smiles proudly, then turns to accept his high five.

-- Gabriel and Mia race again. This time she leaves him in her dust. He stops, hands on his knees, huffing and puffing.

END MONTAGE

INT. MIA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mia sits on the bed brushing her damp hair after a shower. Jake comes out of the bathroom and gets in bed with her.

JAKE

Wanna have lunch tomorrow?

MIA

What?

JAKE

I could take a long break and we could get some lunch together.

MIA

I can't. I promised the kids I would take them to the park.

JAKE

I don't think the kids would mind.

Jake tries to kiss her on her neck. She quickly gets under the covers, turning away from him.

MIA

I promised.

JAKE

Then don't complain I never take you anywhere.

He gets under the covers as well, his back to her.

INT. PARK - DAY

Ryan and Megan play among the other kids on the playground.

Mia sits on a park bench talking on her cell.

INTERCUT - PARK / DANI'S OFFICE

Dani sits in her cubicle, hard at work on her computer while talking to Mia through a hands free headset.

DANI

So you lied?

MIA

I didn't lie. I am, in fact, at the park. And I did, in fact, promise the kids I would take them.

DANI

And you are, in fact, meeting your boy toy.

Her tone catches Mia off guard. She waits for Dani to laugh and announce that she's kidding. But she doesn't.

MIA

What's with the tone?

DANI

I'm sorry. I'm just swamped at work and it's just been one of those days. One of those days where I am forced to question every single decision I've made in my life thus far.

MIA

And have you come to any revelations?

DANI

Just one. But it's not about me. And you probably don't want to hear it.

MIA

I asked, didn't I?

Dani stops what she's doing to lift up the receiver and pull off her headset. She's going into serious mode.

DANI

You know how much I hate being the voice of reason, but maybe your life with Jake isn't that bad. I mean, he's got a great job. You haven't had to work a single day since you married him. He takes care of you and the kids.

MIA

So what's a little extra-marital affair?

DANI

I'm not excusing that. But if you leave him for Gabriel --

MIA

I'm not --

DANI

IF you leave him for Gabriel, what's gonna happen to you and the kids? Yeah, you guys have fun together, but he doesn't seem stable at all. What if he's just out for a good time?

MIA

He's not.

DANI

How do you know? Have you slept with him?

Mia looks at the playground to check on the kids.

MIA

That's none of your business.

DANI

So you have?

MIA

I'm still married, Dani.

DANI

So you haven't. Shit, woman, I've gotten clearer answers from a magic eight ball.

Mia sighs loudly. Looks around as if hoping someone will rescue her from the torture of Dani's lecture.

DANI

I just want you to be prepared for him to walk out on you after he's gotten what he's looking for.

MIA

Where is this coming from? This was your idea, remember?

DANI

I told you to sleep with him, not fall in love with him. You're scaring me, Mia. You're not like the rest of us. You don't bounce, you break.

MIA

I know what I'm doing.

DANI

All I'm saying is days like today make me regret divorcing Keith. I bust my ass here at work all day long and when I get home I'm too tired to enjoy my kids or the house I work so hard to afford. Think long and hard before you do anything permanent.

Out of the corner of her eye, Mia sees Gabriel in the distance flagging her down.

MIA

Gotta go.

Mia tosses her phone into her purse and checks on the kids before jogging off to meet Gabriel.

He takes her by the arm and pulls her behind a tree. Embraces her. But this hug seems different.

MIA

I can't stay long. We've already been here an hour.

GABRIEL

I can't stay long either. I'm packing.

Mia's face grows pale. Smile quickly fades.

MIA

Business trip?

GABRIEL

It's a little more permanent.

MIA

I thought you could be a computer geek anywhere.

GABRIEL

Not when you're being promoted to senior computer geek.

Mia can tell by the look on his face that he's excited. Tries her best to be excited for him.

MIA

That's great. Congratulations!

But that's all the happiness she can muster. She turns to leave. He takes her hand and pulls her back.

GABRIEL

They're putting me up in this great house. Four bedrooms, safe neighborhood... top-rated schools.

MIA

I can't.

GABRIEL

Maybe I'm wrong, but I thought we were more than two people that hang out occasionally.

MIA

We are. But I'm married.

GABRIEL

I know. And I'm not telling you to choose me, but you have to decide. Do you want to spend the rest of your life feeling trapped and alone? Or do you want to spend it with someone that wants to make you happy every day for the rest of your life?

MIA

My happiness is secondary to my childrens'.

GABRIEL

I love kids. I can be a good father.

MIA

They already have a father.

GABRIEL

That's not what I meant.

MIA

I know what you mean. But I don't think you understand what I mean. Their father is here. I can't take them away from him.

GABRIEL

We'll work it out. People do it all the time.

Mia gently takes his hand off hers and walks away.

Gabriel watches as she walks across the park, picks up her kids and walks into the distance, never looking back.

INT. MIA'S BATHROOM - DAY

Mia takes a shower, using the noise of the running water to disguise her heavy sobs.

A KNOCK on the door interrupts.

JAKE (O.S.)
Almost done in there?

MIA
Almost.

JAKE (O.S.)
Hurry up. The kids have a
surprise for you.

INT. MIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Mia exits the bathroom to find Jake and the kids waiting with a breakfast tray.

MIA
What's this?

ALL
Happy Birthday!

MIA
Thank you.

Mia takes a seat in front of the tray and Jake moves it across her lap.

An offering of burnt toast, an over-ripe banana and orange juice awaits her.

MEGAN
I made the toast.

MIA
It looks yummy.

RYAN
Eat it quick. We're gonna be late
for school.

JAKE
Let mommy enjoy her breakfast. I'm
dropping you guys off today.

He bends over to place a kiss on her lips.

JAKE
Go get your backpacks.

RYAN
Bye, mom.

MEGAN
Bye, mommy.

Ryan runs out of the room while Megan kisses and hugs Mia, then joins him.

JAKE
I asked your mom to pick up the kids tonight. I'm taking you out to dinner.

INT. MIA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

All dressed up and no where to go. Mia sits on the sofa in a sexy black dress, fancy updo and full make-up. This is the most put together we've seen her.

She checks her watch. 8:30 p.m. He's late.

MIA
(to herself)
Where are you?

She gets out her cell phone and dials.

SECRETARY (V.O.)
Jacob Davis' office, Bonnie speaking. How may I help you?

MIA
Hi, Bonnie. This is Mia. Is my husband there?

SECRETARY (V.O.)
I'm sorry, Mrs. Davis. He left for the evening. Can I take a message?

MIA
How long ago did he leave?

SECRETARY (V.O.)
A while ago, actually. Did you try his cell?

MIA
I did. He left it here this
morning. Thank you.

She hangs up, visibly upset. Grabs her purse and storms out
the front door.

As soon as she leaves, the phone starts to RING.

INT. DANI'S CAR - NIGHT

Dani drives with her phone pressed to her ear.

DANI
C'mon, Mia. Answer your damn
phone!

She hangs up and tries again. More RINGING.

DANI
Where are you? Pick up!

INT. SLEAZY BAR - NIGHT

The place crawls with creepy looking guys and questionable
looking women. Smoke so thick you can barely make out the
faces in the crowd.

Mia sits at the bar, three filled shot glasses in front of
her. She appears to have already had a few.

Her cell phone RINGS in the background.

MIA
This one's for you, Jake. The
worst husband a girl could ask
for.

She downs the first Tequila shot. Picks up the second.

MIA
And this is for the bimbo you're
screwing. May she die a slow,
painful death.

She takes the shot. Picks up the last one.

MIA
And this one's for me. Happy
fucking Birthday!

She throws back the last shot. BANGS on the bar with the empty glass.

MIA
Bartender. Fill 'er up, please.

The BARTENDER, a heavily tattooed and numerously pierced guy, pours her another drink.

BARTENDER
You gonna get that?

MIA
Sure, why not.

She fishes her phone out of her purse and answers.

MIA
I don't want to hear your lame ass
excuses, Jake.

DANI (V.O.)
It's not Jake.

MIA
Dani! Hi, sweetie! What's up?
How are you? You sound so pretty.

DANI
(mocking Mia's
enthusiasm)
And you sound so drunk! Where are
you?

Mia downs her drink. A stream of Tequila runs down her chin.

MIA
If I told you that then you'd know
everything.

DANI
What does that mean?

MIA
You tell me.

DANI
Tell me where you are. I'm coming
to get you.

MIA

No, sorry. I have to go. But we should have brunch tomorrow. Have you ever had brunch before? Brunch is so fun!

DANI

Mia, no, wait. There's something you should --

MIA

Bye now.

Mia snaps the phone closed and sets it on the bar. It immediately RINGS again.

BARTENDER

Everything okay?

MIA

Would you excuse me for a minute?

Bartender watches curiously as Mia teeters into the

RESTROOM

Goes to the first stall, drops her phone into the toilet and flushes.

Stumbles back out to the

BAR

and plops down on her stool. Finds a new drink waiting. Drinks it sloppily, spilling about half.

MIA

You're an awesome bartender, you know that? In case anyone hasn't told you today, I really appreciate you.

Bartender looks up from mixing a drink.

BARTENDER

Thanks.

MIA

I mean, is that so hard? Would it kill people to show a little gratitude every now and again? Not ever day, God forbid. But once a month, maybe. Hell, once a year

(MORE)

MIA (cont'd)
even.

BARTENDER
I'm cutting you off.

MIA
That's okay. I was done talking.
Can you get me another shot when
get the chance?

BARTENDER
I'm cutting off the liquor.

MIA
What? No! Why? It's my
birthday!

BARTENDER
Happy Birthday. But I'm not
serving you anything else.

MIA
You're such a party pooper. You
act like I'm drunk or something.

BARTENDER
You are.

MIA
Am not!

BARTENDER
Are too.

MIA
Am --

Mia passes out face down onto the bar.

BARTENDER
Aww, c'mon, lady. Don't do that!

He tries shaking her, but she's out cold.

He picks up her purse and takes out her wallet. Searches
around until finding what he's looking for. Dials the
phone.

BARTENDER
Yeah, you wanna come pick up your
old lady. She's one Tequila short
of a coma.

INT. SLEAZY BAR - NIGHT

Gabriel walks in, looks around, immediately spots Mia slumped over the bar. She appears to be asleep, but as he gets closer, he can hear her quietly singing.

MIA

It's my birthday and I'll drink if
I want to. Drink if I want to.
Drink if I want to. You would
drink too if he was cheating on
you.

He approaches her unnoticed and whispers in her ear.

GABRIEL

You about done?

She bolts up, grabbing her head in pain. But her inebriated smile quickly returns.

MIA

My first guest! Welcome to my
party! Want a drink?

GABRIEL

You've had enough for both of us.
Party's over.

MIA

Another party pooper! I need
better friends.

He puts her arm around his neck and tries to lift her off the stool. She holds onto the bar with her remaining hand with all her might, which isn't much.

MIA

What're you gonna do, drive me
home. Hand me to my husband?
That's kinda gonna blow my whole
"you're fucking around on me"
excuse right out the window.

GABRIEL

So your husband is cheating on
you? That's what this is all
about?

MIA

No, that's not what this is about.
I'm drinking because I want to.
Because it's who I am. And it's
time I stop letting people tell me
(MORE)

MIA (cont'd)
what to behave and how to think.
I'm officially taking my life
back.

Mia pops out of her seat in a victorious gesture. Her knees buckle and she heads straight for the floor. Gabriel catches her just in time. Their lips inches apart.

MIA
You're really hot, you know that?

GABRIEL
So are you. Even when you're
sloppy drunk.

MIA
I'm not drunk. I'm... happy. You
said you wanted me to be happy...
and now I am.

GABRIEL
Even the grumpy dwarf could be
happy after all the Tequila you've
had. C'mon, you can sleep it off
in my car.

He tries to lead her out but again she stops him.

MIA
I have a better idea. We should
have sex. Hot, raunchy sex.

Gabriel chuckles, looking around. They have the attention of every bar patron.

GABRIEL
I don't think that's such a great
idea.

MIA
Why not? You're going away. It'll
be like my little goodbye present.
You know my friend Dani, the
meddling one? She said you were
only after one thing and you would
leave when you got it. The least
I can do is prove her right. She
loves to be right.

GABRIEL

Why don't we go with my plan and, although appealing, I'll take a rain check on yours.

MIA

Excuse me, bartender. Is there an office or something back there? We need a little privacy.

BARTENDER

(pointing)

Down that hall to the left.

GABRIEL

We don't need privacy. Thanks.

MIA

Great. You don't want me either. Bartender!

She holds up an arm as if calling over a cab. Gabriel puts her arm down and pulls her over to a less public corner.

GABRIEL

I want you, Mia. God, I can't tell you how badly I want you. But not like this. Not when you're so drunk you won't even remember it tomorrow. When... if we have hot, raunchy sex... I want it to be memorable. I want it to be in bed, with preferably less people watching. And I want to wake up with you the next morning and cook breakfast for you. But most of all, I want you to be sober so that you know you're doing it because you want to and not because your feelings are hurt or you've had a bad day. Do you understand?

She stares at him, dazed. He runs a hand in front of her face.

MIA

That was beautiful. Did you get that off a Hallmark card?

GABRIEL

How many shots have you had?

MIA
A couple. Will you hold me?

GABRIEL
That I can do.

He takes her in his arms. Feels her go limp. She's out cold.

EXT. SLEAZY BAR - NIGHT

Mia sits on the hood of her car sipping coffee. She wears Gabriel's jacket around her shoulders.

Gabriel stands in front of her.

MIA
I feel like a giant ass. I'm so sorry.

GABRIEL
You're not an ass.

MIA
No, seriously. Those things I said... and did...

GABRIEL
You remember that? You're a better drunk than me. I always get to hear the fun details the next morning.

MIA
I don't know what came over me. I don't drink like that. I don't think I've ever been drunk before.

GABRIEL
No explanation necessary.

MIA
But I want to. What I said about Dani --

GABRIEL
Finish your coffee.

She takes a sip.

MIA

I'm sorry you had to come all this way. You should be packing.

GABRIEL

It's two in the morning. The only thing I should be doing is sleeping, and I do too much of that as it is.

MIA

Sleep. I vaguely remember what that's like.

Mia slides off the hood, gets dizzy, reaches for Gabriel.

MIA

Is everything spinning or is it just me?

GABRIEL

A couple more of those and I might let you drive home.

She slides to the asphalt below. Gabriel sits next to her, their heads rested against each others.

He lets out a fake snore. She elbows him.

MIA

Don't you dare.

GABRIEL

This should sober you up. I love you.

MIA

You're right. I think I can drive.

She quickly gets to her feet. Digs in her purse for her keys. She unlocks her car but hesitates to get in. Turns to find Gabriel right behind her. She throws her arms around him.

MIA

I wish I wasn't married.

GABRIEL

I wish you weren't married, too.

MIA

We could have been good together.

Gabriel is the first to pull away.

GABRIEL

It wouldn't have worked out. I...
 (like it's a big confession)
 snore. Really loud. You would
 never get any sleep. And I can't
 cook, I leave the toilet seat up,
 I watch a lot of sports, and I
 yell at the TV. I would drive you
 nuts.

Mia pulls him in for a kiss. He turns his head at the last minute, taking it on the cheek.

She gets into her car. He signals her to roll down the window.

GABRIEL

Sure you can drive?

MIA

Yes, officer.

GABRIEL

Take care of yourself.

MIA

I will. You, too.

Before she can buckle up, she removes Gabriel's jacket and hands it back to him. Buckles up, puts the car in reverse and drives away.

INT. MIA'S HOME - NIGHT

Mia walks in the front door to find the living room completely dark. She kicks off her shoes and proceeds in.

JAKE (O.S.)

Did you enjoy your birthday?

She starts, then turns to find Jake's silhouette on the sofa.

MIA

Are the kids back?

JAKE

Your mom decided to keep them.
 Apparently she doesn't trust me
 with them either.

MIA

Why are you sitting in the dark?

She flips on the light to find the living room decorated with balloons, streamers and flowers. A "Happy 30th Birthday" banner hangs over the fireplace. A four course meal is spread out across the coffee table.

JAKE

Surprise.

Mia stares in shock, speechless.

JAKE

The plan was to get you out of the house just long enough for me to set up. Had I known it would take you seven hours to get back, I would've kept the food on warm.

She heads up the stairs.

MIA

I'm gonna take a shower.

JAKE

Who is he? Anyone I know?

Mia stops dead in her tracks. The flood gates open. Tears flow. She turns to face him.

MIA

I screwed up.

JAKE

Thank you for not denying it.

MIA

I didn't sleep with him.

She waits for a response, then goes on.

MIA

At first it was just for the company. But I think a small part of me wanted to hurt you as badly as I was hurting.

JAKE

I would never cheat on you. You should have known that.

MIA
What was I supposed to think?

JAKE
You should have asked me.

MIA
When? You're never around.

JAKE
I'm here now. Talk to me.

Mia considers, then continues up the stairs.

LATER

Jake sits in the same spot when Mia comes down the stairs carrying an overnight bag.

JAKE
Where're you going?

MIA
I don't want to fight anymore.

JAKE
Fight? We barely speak. How can we fight?

MIA
We'll be at my mom's. If you want to see the kids.

With that, she walks out of the house.

INT. ANNE'S HOME - NIGHT

Mia stands outside the guest room, looking in at Ryan and Megan, asleep in the full sized bed. Turns to find Anne staring accusingly at her.

MIA
Don't look at me like that.

She pushes past Anne and walks down the stairs. Anne follows.

ANNE
Going back out?

MIA
Thank you for watching them.

ANNE

Am I allowed to say anything?

MIA

No.

ANNE

Well, I'm going to anyway. You're making a big mistake.

MIA

It's my life. Let me make it.

LIVING ROOM

Mia gathers her belongings and heads for the door.

ANNE

It's not just your life. It's Jake's and the kids', too.

Mia opens the door. Anne slams it shut.

ANNE

What are you looking for, Mia. You have a husband that loves you and your kids. He may not be perfect, but neither are you. No one is. Your marriage is going to continue to suffer until you realize that.

MIA

What marriage, mom? We're more roommates than husband and wife.

Anne takes her by the shoulders and turns her around.

ANNE

Can I share something my mother told me on my wedding night?

MIA

Can I stop you?

ANNE

She told me that a marriage is a lot like a gas stove. Every now and again the pilot light may go out. But why throw out the whole stove when you can just re-light it?

MIA

That's the worst advice I've ever heard. No one uses gas stoves anymore.

ANNE

You're not listening.

MIA

I heard you, mom. But what if it's not just the pilot light? What if the freaking thing is broken?

ANNE

Then you have to care enough to fix it.

EXT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Gabriel carefully transfers large boxes from his apartment to the back of a moving van.

INT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT - DAY

Gabriel stands in the nearly empty kitchen wrapping glasses in newspaper and packing it into boxes.

The doorbell RINGS.

GABRIEL

Coming.

He jogs over to the door as the doorbell RINGS again.

GABRIEL

Almost done. Just a few more...

He opens the door mid-sentence.

GABRIEL

... boxes.

He is pleasantly surprised to see Mia standing there.

GABRIEL

Hi.

MIA

Hi.

GABRIEL

What are you -- ?

MIA

If I promise to help you pack,
could we talk?

GABRIEL

Sure. Come in.

He ushers her into the barren living room. Nothing remains but a few boxes.

GABRIEL

I'm actually almost done. I just
have a few dishes in the kitchen.

He walks off in that direction but she doesn't follow.

MIA

Do you have anything that needs
packing in the bedroom?

GABRIEL

Possibly.

With a smile, he takes her by the hand and leads her down the hall. Once inside the

BEDROOM

Gabriel strokes her face gingerly.

GABRIEL

What happened when you went home?

MIA

Did I say I wanted to talk? I
meant I wanted hot, raunchy sex.

They go at it, kissing and tearing off each other's clothes.
They back up toward the bed, then realize there isn't one.

MIA

Where's your bed?

GABRIEL

In the moving van.

MIA

It's probably really hot in there.

GABRIEL
And crowded. I vote for right
here on the floor.

He tries to take her down to the floor, but she resists.

MIA
I'm not feelin' it.

GABRIEL
Okay, I have an idea. Stay right
there.

He peels his lips away and races out of the room

Down the hallway.

And out the front door.

EXT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Gabriel climbs into the back of the moving van and rummages
through his boxes.

MOVER (O.S.)
What're you doing?

Gabriel looks up to find a intimidatingly burly MOVER
standing outside the van looking peeved.

GABRIEL
Just looking for something.

MOVER
You're supposed to be packing, not
un-packing.

Gabriel goes into his pocket and pulls out his wallet.
Stuffs a fistful of money in the mover's hand.

GABRIEL
Come back in a few hours.

Mover looks at the money, then back at Gabriel.

MOVER
I'm already behind schedule and
I'm supposed to move two other
people today.

Gabriel gets out more money and hands it to him.

MOVER

I could reschedule. Take your time.

Gabriel finally finds the right box, pulls out a comforter and some pillows. Races back into the building.

INT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Gabriel bursts into the room with the comforter, pillows and a bottle of wine with two glasses.

GABRIEL

Almost ready.

He quickly sets down the wine and glasses and spreads out the comforter and pillows. Goes to get Mia, notices the bewildered look in her eyes.

GABRIEL

I took too long. You changed your mind.

MIA

I was thinking about what you said last night. About the bed and breakfast.

GABRIEL

Mia, that was a metaphor.

MIA

I just don't want to ruin this, y'know.

GABRIEL

I know. And we won't. Come here.

He pulls her against him, into a tight embrace. They lock lips. He lifts her off her feet and lays her on the make-shift bed. They undress each other, their lips never parting.

LATER

Gabriel and Mia lay in each other's arms, wrapped in the comforter.

GABRIEL

Where're the kids?

MIA
With my mom.

GABRIEL
How much does she know?

MIA
Everything. And she'd be really
pissed if she knew I went out and
bought a new stove.

GABRIEL
What?

MIA
Nothing. Nevermind.

GABRIEL
Wanna get a little sleep?

MIA
Don't you have to be out of here?

GABRIEL
Don't worry. I bought us a little
time.

He kisses her on the neck, then wraps his arms around her
even tighter.

LATER

Mia awakens to find herself alone. She hurriedly gets
dressed and rushes out of the room.

She checks every door down the hall, but Gabriel is no where
to be found.

EXT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Mia bursts out through the front entrance, alarmed to see
that the moving van is gone.

EXT. DANI'S BACKYARD - DAY

Dani waters her rose bushes as Alex and Marybeth play in
their kiddie pool.

The phone RINGS in the background.

She throws down the hose and heads for the house.

DANI
 Alex, watch your sister. I'll be
 right back.

She reaches her hand into the kitchen and pulls out the
 cordless phone.

DANI
 Hello? Mia?

INTERCUT - GAS STATION / DANI'S BACKYARD

Mia stands at a payphone outside of a gas station mini-mart.

MIA
 You were right.

DANI
 Oh my God. I've been so worried
 about you. I called the house but
 it just rang off the hook.

MIA
 I'm not at home. And Jake is
 probably screening.

DANI
 What happened?

MIA
 Exactly what you said would
 happen.

DANI
 Aww, Mia.

Dani observes the kids roughhousing in the pool.

DANI
 Hold on.
 (covering receiver)
 Alex, stop trying to drown your
 sister!
 (on phone)
 I'm so sorry.

MIA
 Go ahead. Say it. I know you're
 dying to.

DANI
 I do not want to say "I told you
 so". And even if I did, I would
 have the decency to wait for a
 (MORE)

DANI (cont'd)
less tacky moment to say it. Where
are you? I wanna hug you. Come
over. Bring the kids. Alex and
Marybeth are in the pool.

MIA
I wouldn't be very good company.

DANI
Okay, then give me like an hour to
find a babysitter and I'll come to
you.

MIA
I need a favor.

DANI
Anything. Name it. Do you need a
place to stay? I could put the
kids in with me and you guys can
have their room. I'm not the
domestic goddess that you are, but
I can warm up canned goods like
nobody's business.

MIA
I need the name of your lawyer.

DANI
Mia, no. No! That is not the
kind of decision you want to make
with a broken heart and three
hours of sleep.

MIA
Trust me, I've thought about it.
It's all I've thought about for
the last couple of months. I'm
sure.

INT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT - DAY

Gabriel walks in with a tray of coffee and a fast food bag.
He goes into the

KITCHEN

and unloads the meal onto the table.

GABRIEL

(shouting)

Mia, you up yet? So I know I promised a home-cooked breakfast, but I have nothing to cook with and the moving guy already left with my stuff. So I had to improvise.

When he receives no answer, he goes down the hall to check the bedroom. His smile slowly fades when he sees the empty spot where Mia should be.

INT. ANNE'S HOME - NIGHT

Anne tucks Ryan and Megan into bed, then tiptoes toward the door.

MEGAN

Is mommy coming back?

Anne turns to her, surprised to see her awake.

ANNE

I thought you were asleep.

MEGAN

I was faking.

Anne walks back to her, tucks her in tighter.

ANNE

Of course she is. As soon as she and daddy work some things out.

RYAN

Tommy M's mom and dad live in two different houses. Tommy said his mom hates his dad.

ANNE

Hey, your mom does not hate your dad. And I don't like that language, young man.

RYAN

Sorry.

ANNE

Your mom and dad love the two of you very much. And that's all that matters. Good night.
(heads for door)

(MORE)

ANNE (cont'd)
For real this time.

She heads out of the room and closes the door silently behind her. Almost runs into Mia who stands in the hallway.

MIA
Did you mean that? Is it enough
that we both love them?

Anne walks off down the hallway.

DANI
Come with me.

Mia follows quietly as her mom leads her into the

LAUNDRY ROOM

and closes the door behind her.

MIA
We're gonna wash clothes right
now?

Anne moves some cleaning supplies. Pulls out a cigar box.

ANNE
If you ever want to hide something
from a man, hide it behind
cleaning supplies.

Anne goes into the box and pulls out a photo, the edges tattered and worn. It has to be at least 30 years old. It depicts a handsome young man in Navy attire.

ANNE
His name was Asher.

MIA
Who was he?

ANNE
I met him in a coffee shop one
weekend while your dad was away on
business.

Mia's eyes bug out.

MIA
You mean you and he --

ANNE

He was in the Navy and after a few months got stationed overseas. Your father traveled all the time and I was always alone. And even when he was there, he wasn't really there.

MIA

So what happened?

ANNE

I loved your father, but I couldn't imagine my life without Asher. So I took suitcase, packed up what I could and hopped on the next bus to meet him.

MIA

But you couldn't have met him? Then you wouldn't have --

ANNE

Would you let me finish? On the bus I started to feel dizzy and faint. The last thing I remember was asking the person next to me for help and the next thing I know I was waking up in the hospital with your dad next to me. He was mumbling something about how happy he was and how he hoped it was a girl.

Mia gasps loudly.

MIA

You were pregnant?! You waited thirty years to tell me that my dad isn't really my dad?

ANNE

No, of course not. I never slept with Asher. And I never breathed a word of him to your father.

MIA

What happened to him? Did you ever see him again?

ANNE

He wrote to me every week at first. Then every month. Then a couple times a year. Then the

(MORE)

ANNE (cont'd)
letters just stopped.

MIA
What did they say?

Anne pulls out a handful of letters from the box. Hands them to Mia. She turns them over, realizes they aren't open.

ANNE
I couldn't read them. It was too hard.

MIA
This is supposed to cheer me up?
That's the most depressing thing
I've ever heard.

ANNE
It's the past. Everyone has an
Asher somewhere in their past. You
just have to know when to let it
go.

While Mia digests that pear of wisdom, Anne packs her letters back in the box and places the box back behind the cleaners. Heads out of the room.

MIA
Mom?

Anne glances at Mia over her shoulder.

MIA
Read the letters.

INT. ANNE'S HOME - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Mia places a kiss on Ryan's and Megan's cheeks. Stares down at them adoringly.

EXT. MIA'S HOME - NIGHT

Jake sits on the front porch smoking a cigarette. A car pulls into the driveway and Mia gets out. She walks up to him.

MIA
I thought you quit.

JAKE
Just in front of you. Since we're
being honest with each other now.

MIA
I'm sorry.

JAKE
How are the kids?

MIA
Good. They're sleeping.

JAKE
I promised Ryan we could play
catch tomorrow, so...

MIA
Jake --

JAKE
I'd like to have the first and
third weekends, if that's okay.

MIA
Jake, don't --

JAKE
Halloween would be nice, and maybe
New Year's Eve. I know how much
Christmas means to you, so you can
have both of those. We can always
exchange presents before or after.

MIA
I want to come back.

He takes a long drag off his cigarette, stomps it out,
exhales noisily.

JAKE
Your mother wants you to come
back. The kids want you to come
back. But you... you're in love
with someone else.

He gets up and goes into the house. Mia is right behind
him.

INT. MIA'S HOME - NIGHT

The foyer is cluttered with numerous suitcases. Mia looks them over, tearing up.

MIA
You packed my things?

JAKE
No, I packed mine. You have the kids. You need the house.

MIA
Don't do this. Please don't punish me for making a mistake.

JAKE
I'm not punishing you, Mia. I'm letting you go.

He kisses her on the forehead. She weeps, trying to hold on to him. He grabs a couple of suitcases and walks out the door.

INT. ANNE'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Anne sits in front of the fireplace, reading her letters. When she's done, she tosses them and the picture into the fire. Watches her memories burn.

INT. MIA'S KITCHEN - DAY

Mia opens some canned pasta and dumps it into a glass bowl, pops it in the microwave.

MIA
(shouting)
Ryan, Megan, wash up for lunch!

Giggling can be heard from the next room. She goes into the

LIVING ROOM

to investigate. Jake rolls around on the floor with Ryan and Megan, tickling them mercilessly.

MIA
You guys need to call a truce...
at least long enough to eat.

Jake immediately ceases the tickle assault.

JAKE

You heard your mom. Wash up.

Two kids hop to their feet and race down the hall. No lip.

JAKE

(stands up)

I should get going.

MIA

Can you hang around? I need to get some work done.

JAKE

Okay, I'll take them outside after lunch so you can have some quiet.

MIA

Actually, I was gonna walk to the internet cafe. I could use the exercise and fresh air.

JAKE

Whatever you want.

The kids rush past them and into the kitchen.

EXT. QUIET NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Mia walks on the sidewalk, laptop cradled to her chest.

A dog BARKS in the distance, getting increasingly louder.

She turns to see a JOGGER with a huge white dog heading her way. She steps aside to allow them to pass, but instead the dog leaps at her. Something about the dog is very familiar.

She pets the dog with her free hand as the jogger catches up.

JOGGER (O.S.)

I'm so sorry. Are you okay?

MIA

Daisy, sit!

JOGGER (O.S.)

Her name is Tawny. And she never sits. How did you do that?

Mia finally looks up at the jogger. Same blond hair. Same blue eyes. But he's not Gabriel. Not even close.

MIA
I dunno. Luck, I guess.

JOGGER
You're okay, right? She didn't hurt you?

Mia shakes her head.

JOGGER
Okay then. Have a good day.
C'mon, girl!

He tugs a few times before the dog gets up and runs after him.

INT. INTERNET CAFE - DAY

Mia sits at a small table alone, sipping coffee and typing on her laptop. Converses with the help of a wireless headset.

ON COMPUTER SCREEN

Mia clicks on the send button, delivering an email.

BACK TO SCENE

MIA
I just sent you the latest draft.
Let me know what you think of it.

ON COMPUTER SCREEN

She closes her email program as an instant message pops up.

Gabe_Real74: Remember me?

BACK TO SCENE

She bolts upright, eyes alight with new-found hope.

MIA
Reena, I'll call you back.

She rips the headset off. Types a message of her own.

ON COMPUTER SCREEN

Mia_D_2008: Of course. How are you?
Gabe_Real74: Good, you?
Mia_D_2008: Great.
Gabe_Real74: What have you been up to?
Mia_D_2008: Writing.
Gabe_Real74: Really? Anything I've heard of?
Mia_D_2008: Nothing you'd like. Romance.
Gabe_Real74: I have a good plot for you. Maybe it can be your next novel. R U ready?
Mia_D_2008: Shoot.

BACK TO SCENE

Mia sits back and waits, but no other messages are delivered.

GABRIEL (O.S.)

A guy and a girl meet completely
by chance.

Pleasantly surprised, Mia quickly turns to find Gabriel standing behind her.

MIA

I hate it already. Nothing
happens by chance. Tell me it was
fate and you have a good start.

GABRIEL

A guy and a girl meet by fate.
They have brunch, but the girl
runs out on him. They meet again,
completely by fate, but the guy
finds out the girl has kids and a
husband. Despite the predicament,
they continue to see each other.
Until the guy finds out he has to
go to New York City for work. The
guy really wants the girl to go
with him, but she can't separate
her kids from their father and the
guy doesn't understand what an
asshole he's being by making her
choose between her own happiness
and her childrens'. So he goes
without her. In New York City,
the guy realizes that he's
miserable, so he comes back.

MIA

Why didn't he call her?

GABRIEL

He was afraid she was still with
her husband.

MIA

How does it end?

GABRIEL

You're the writer. You tell me.

MIA

I think the guy should ask her out
on a date. Maybe brunch.

GABRIEL

He would love that. I would love
that.

The charade over, Mia jumps into his arms. They kiss.

MIA

Where should we go?

GABRIEL

I know this great place down the
street.

MIA

The doggie friendly one. I love
that place.

Mia picks up her laptop. They head out the door, hand in
hand.

FADE OUT.