Death of a Saleswoman

By

Todd Martin

Copyright (c) 2012 This screenplaymay not be used or reproduced without the express written permission of the author

EXT. AN APARTMENT COMPLEX -- DAY

We see a scuzzy-looking apartment complex. A red Mustang pulls into the parking lot and parks beside a beat-up pickup truck with a rebel flag sticker on the back window that looks like its bumper may fall off at any given moment.

INT. THE MUSTANG -- DAY

We see a slim woman with brown hair and glasses sitting on the driver's side. This is MEL and something about her lets us know that she is very chipper and outgoing. Sitting in the passenger seat looking like she would rather be anywhere else is an attractive red head with a curvy body. This is ALEX.

MEL

Here we are!

ALEX

(Looking out of the window)

This was the place you were talking about?

MEL

Yep!

ALEX

This is the place where you made a shitload of money? Are you serious?

MEL

I sure am.

ALEX

What did you do, whore yourself out to the tenants?

MEL

How did you know? Come on Alex, grab your kit and let's go!

Mel grabs a briefcase out of the back seat and gets out of the car. Alex just sits there for a moment shaking her head in disbelief.

ALEX

Maybe I should have just taken that job at the strip club.

EVA

(O.S.)

It was on this day that things changed forever for Alex...

Alex grabs her briefcase and reluctantly gets out of the car. She walks up beside Mel who is standing in the parking lot looking toward the apartments with a huge smile on her face.

ALEX

You really sold as many subscriptions here as you claim?

MEL

Swear to God. I took home like $500 in commission that day.

ALEX

That's cool, but...

MEL

But what?

ALEX

I don't know, I just find it hard to believe that anyone that lived here would want to buy magazines. You would think after they wouldn't have any money left over for magazines after buying their drugs for the week.

MEL

Alex!

ALEX

I'm serious! I mean, can anyone that lives here even read?

MEL

Don't be rude!

ALEX

Sorry, I'm just saying. The place looks like a crack house or something.

MEL

You'll be singing a different tune after you take home your huge commission check.

ALEX

Whatever you say, but I'll believe it when I see it.

MEL

You start with these apartments up front and I'll go around to the one on the other side.

ALEX

Which apartment does that one guy live in?

MEL

You mean Ernest?

ALEX

I don't know! The guy that bought like 8 subscriptions from you last time.

MEL

That's Ernest. He lives in apartment 205. He's very nice, you'll like him.

ALEX

Wait, you're letting me talk to him this time?

MEL

Of course. Why, is that a problem?

ALEX

No, but why would you want me to get a big sale instead of you?

MEL

Hey, excuse me for doing something nice. Your sales are in the shitter and Mr. Tucker is on your ass, right?

ALEX

Right.

MEL

You wanted me to help you out, so I'm letting you take this one. If you don't want my help I'd be glad to talk to him myself.

ALEX

No...that's OK. Thank you.

MEL

(Smiling)

You're welcome. Besides that I like you. I don't mind helping out people that I like.

Mel puts her hand on Alex's arm and she smiles back at her awkwardly for a moment before she pulls away, obviously feeling uncomfortable.

ALEX

Well I guess we better get to work, huh?

MEL

Sure. I'll meet you back at the car in an hour. Good luck.

ALEX

See you then. Thanks again!

MEL

Don't mention it.

Mel walks away and Alex reluctantly makes her way toward some of the apartments. She walks up to one and knocks softly on the front door a few times. No one comes to the door so she turns to walk away and the door opens a bit.

We see a white trash woman in her mid-forties standing there with a very unfriendly look on her face. This is HELEN and she is skinny and very haggard-looking. She has bad teeth, ratty bleach blonde hair with curlers in it and is wearing a stained nightgown. She has a cigarette in her hand and after she takes a drag off of it she starts coughing loudly, suggesting that she probably smokes around four packs a day. When Alex turns around and sees her she forces herself to smile at her.

HELEN

(In a deep, raspy voice)

Who the hell are you?

ALEX

Hello, my name is Alex and I...

HELEN

What do you want?

ALEX

(Gritting her teeth)

Hi, my name is Alex and I'm with...

HELEN

Whatever shit you're selling I ain't buying so you can just go...

MAN

(OS from behind Helen)

Who the fuck are you talking to, woman?

HELEN

Nobody hon, just some stupid bitch selling vacuums or something.

MAN

(OS)

Well get rid of her and get your ass back in here, I need some lovin'!

HELEN

You heard him, now scram, bitch!

ALEX

But if I could just...

HELEN

What's wrong with you, you retarded or something? I done told you we ain't interested!

Helen blows smoke in Alex's face and then slams the door. Alex just stands there for a few seconds with an angry expression on her face.

ALEX

Just count to ten, Alex. Don't let her get to you, she's just some skank, she isn't worth it.

She starts to walk away and then turns back toward the door and flips it off.

ALEX

Fuck you!

She walks over to the apartment next door and knocks. A few seconds later a kind-looking Hispanic man in his fifties who is wearing a dirty wife beater opens the door and stands there smiling at her.

HISPANIC MAN

Hello, can I help you?

ALEX

Hi! I'm Alex and I'm with...

HISPANIC MAN

(His smile disappearing)

No speak the English! No speak the English!

He slams the door in her face and she stands there with a defeated look on her face.

ALEX

I take it that you're not interested then?

She walks down the sidewalk to another apartment and knocks on the door. Almost immediately the door opens and we see a tall, heavy-set man in his late twenties standing there with a beer in his hand and a huge smile on his face. This is TOMMY and he has blonde hair, a goatee, and has several tattoos on his arms and legs. He stands at the door looking Alex over and is obviously happy with what he sees.

TOMMY

Wow, look at you!

ALEX

(Uncomfortable)

Hi, I'm Alex and I'm with...

TOMMY

I know who you're with.

ALEX

You do?

TOMMY

Oh yeah. Don't be shy, come on in.

He holds the door open for her and she reluctantly walks inside as he stares at her with a huge smile on his face.

INT. TOMMY'S APARTMENT -- DAY

Tommy and Alex walk into the den, which is very messy and dirty. There are pictures of naked women all over the walls as well as several empty pizza boxes and beer bottles. Tommy gestures toward the couch which is ripped and faded and smiles at Alex.

TOMMY

Have a seat, I'll be with you in a second.

Tommy leaves the room and Alex reluctantly sits down on the couch and fidgets with her briefcase nervously as she looks around the room. She spots a pair of dirty underwear on the floor and frowns.

ALEX

(Softly)

Nice.

Tommy comes back in the room holding two bottles of beer and plops down on the couch beside her, nearly launching her off of it due to his large girth. He is sitting too close to her so she casually moves away from him.

TOMMY

(Handing her a beer)

I needed another beer so I went ahead and grabbed you one too.

ALEX

Oh, no thanks. We're not supposed to drink while we're on the clock.

TOMMY

Really? Must be a new rule, all the other chicks they sent over always had a couple of drinks with me. Oh well, more for me I guess.

He turns up one of the beers and drains it in several gulps and then starts drinking the other one as Alex looks on.

TOMMY

Wow, take a look at you, huh? You look ten times better than that last one that came over.

ALEX

Ummm...thanks, I guess.

TOMMY

So I guess you're pretty new at this, huh? You seem a little nervous.

ALEX

This is actually just my third week, I haven't really gotten the hang of it yet.

TOMMY

Just relax, you're doing fine, baby.

ALEX

So...do you want to get down to business then?

TOMMY

Damn, you move fast, I like that!

Alex puts her briefcase on the coffee table and opens it. She takes out a catalog and starts thumbing through it as Tommy looks on in confusion.

ALEX

So what kind of stuff are you into? We've got a little something for everyone.

TOMMY

Whoa, you guys actually have a catalog now? That's pretty kick ass!

ALEX

Of course we have a catalog. Was there anything you wanted in particular or did you want to look over our selection? I'd be happy to answer any questions you had.

TOMMY

Nahh, I don't need to look at the catalog, I know what I want. You guys haven't started charging extra for a blow job before hand have you?

ALEX

(Shocked)

Excuse me?

TOMMY

You know, I usually get a nice blow job before the main event. I can still get one for no extra charge, right?

ALEX

(Jumping up)

You're disgusting!

TOMMY

(Standing up)

Wait, where the fuck are you going?

ALEX

Where do you think I'm going? I'm getting the hell out of here!

TOMMY

Man, I don't know what your problem is. You're the most uptight chick Ronnie has ever sent over to me. I hope you don't treat all of your customers like this!

ALEX

Ronnie? Who the fuck is Ronnie?

TOMMY

You must be really new. Ronnie is the dude that runs the escort service.

ALEX

What escort service? What are you talking about?

TOMMY

The one that you work for, duh! Damn, are you on drugs or are you just that stupid?

ALEX

I have no idea what you're talking about! I don't know anyone named Ronnie as I sure as hell don't work for an escort service!

TOMMY

Then who the fuck are you, lady?

ALEX

I work for Tucker Magazine Services! I sell magazine subscriptions!

TOMMY

(Embarrased)

Oh man, I'm sorry, I'm sorry! I just thought...well, Ronnie was sending this chick over today and I just thought...Oh man, I am so sorry.

ALEX

It's ok, don't worry about it. It was just a misunderstanding, no big deal.

TOMMY

Wow, and I thought that shit like this just happened on that old show "Three's Company!" Man I am so sorry!

ALEX

It's OK, really!

TOMMY

I feel awful, is there anything I could do to make it up to you?

ALEX

Well...you wouldn't be interested in buying a few magazine subscriptions from me would you?

TOMMY

You got any porno mags?

ALEX

Ummm...no, I'm afraid not.

TOMMY

Then no thanks.

ALEX

I'll just see myself out. Good luck with your...ummm...date.

Alex walks out of the room and leaves Tommy's apartment. She shuts the door behind her and then walks up a set of stairs that lead to the apartments on the upper level.

ALEX

Why the hell am I even bothering?

She makes her way to apartment 205 and knocks on the door a few times. There is no answer so she knocks again with the same results.

ALEX

It figures.

She turns to walk away when we hear the door open behind her.

ERNEST

(O.S.)

May I help you with something?

She turns around and sees a meek-looking man in his fifties standing there looking at her. This is ERNEST and he is tall and slim and is wearing a pair of thick glasses.

ALEX

Hi, I'm Alex with Tucker Magazine Services. Could I speak to the least violent person in your home?

ERNEST

I suppose that would be me since I'm the only one here. My name is Ernest.

ALEX

It's nice to meet you, Ernest. Would it be OK if I spoke to you for a moment about some of our magazines?

ERNEST

That would be fine, come on in.

Alex walks inside and he looks around nervously to make sure that no one is watching before he shuts the door.

INT. ERNEST'S DEN -- DAY

They walk into the den and he motions for her to sit down on the couch. His apartment is the total opposites of Tommy's as it is very neat and clean. There is a huge bookshelf full of books against the wall and we can see several paintings on the wall.

ERNEST

Would you like something to drink?

ALEX

No thanks.

ERNEST

Are you sure? It's scorching out there. Surely you're thirsty.

ALEX

Well maybe a little.

ERNEST

I'll get you a glass of iced tea.

He leave the room and Alex sits on the couch looking around. He returns a few moments later and hands her a glass of tea.

ALEX

Thank you.

ERNEST

You're welcome.

She takes a long drink of her tea and smiles at him.

ALEX

Mmmm, that's the best tea I've had in a long time.

ERNEST

I'm glad you like it. So, what kind of magazines are you selling today?

ALEX

We have a huge selection, what are you interested in?

ERNEST

I like a little bit of everything. Technology, health, entertainment, you name it. Reading is one of my favorite past times.

ALEX

(Taking the catalog out of the briefcase)

Mine too. Unfortunately I'm so busy I don't get to read as much as I would like to.

ERNEST

That's a shame. Do you have any new titles? I just bought several subscriptions from a companion of your's not that long ago.

ALEX

(Thumbing through the catalog)

We just added "New World Tech" last week and it's already become one of our best-selling technological titles.

ERNEST

I've skimmed through a few issues of that at the bookstore and it looked very interesting. Sign me up for that one.

ALEX

Wonderful. We also just started carrying "Hollywood Nights" and "Healthy Men's Weekly." would you be interested in those as well?

ERNEST

I don't care for "Healthy Men's Weekly" but I wouldn't mind getting "Hollywood Nights."

ALEX

Great. What else can I get you?

ERNEST

To tell you the truth I think I'm pretty well set for now.

Alex looks nervous and takes another drink of tea.

ALEX

(Nervous)

Well...we do have other new titles as well, we also have a literary magazine that is quite...

ERNEST

No thank you, I'm already currently receiving several literary magazines, I don't think I need anymore.

Alex sips her tea nervously and looks as if she may break into tears.

ALEX

(Nervous)

Do you have a special lady in your life? We have a wide selection of all the top women's magazines as well.

ERNEST

Oh no, I'm not married. I'm a life-long bachelor I'm afraid.

ALEX

(Nervous)

Well...you see...we also offer a special program where we can donate magazines to children's hospitals in your name. It's tax deductible and makes a wonderful...

She stops in mid-sentence and grabs her head.

ERNEST

(Looking concerned)

Are you OK?

ALEX

I'm fine...I just felt a little dizzy there for a second.

ERNEST

Perhaps you need some air?

ALEX

(Holding her head)

No, it's OK, I'm fine, really.

ERNEST

Are you sure? You don't look fine to me.

ALEX

I feel weird, maybe I got too hot or something. It's scorching out there.

ERNEST

Actually it's the effects of the drugs that I put in your tea kicking in.

ALEX

What? What are you talking about? What did you give me?

She tries to stand up but slumps back down on the couch.

ERNEST

(Standing up)

Don't worry, it won't kill you. It'll just make you go to sleep.

ALEX

(Groggy)

But why would you...

She tries to get up but once again slumps back down and then lays on her side on the couch.

ALEX

I don't understand what's...

ERNEST

(Leaning down beside her)

Shhh, just go with it, don't fight it. It's very strong and you'd only be fighting a losing battle. Just close your eyes and go to sleep.

She tries to lift her head but can't so she lays it back down on the couch and closes her eyes as Ernest looks on, wringing his hands together and smiling at her.

INT. ERNEST'S BEDROOM -- DAY

We see a close up of Alex's face. She has her eyes closed and sleeping peacefully. She starts to moan as if she is having a bad dream and her eyes open. The camera pans back and we can see that she has duct tape on her mouth. She tries to scream but it is muffled by the tape.

The camera pans back more and we see that she is strapped to the bed with leather straps. She looks over and sees Ernest sitting in a chair beside the bed reading a magazine and he smiles at her. She starts thrashing around trying to free herself but has no luck.

ERNEST

(Not looking up from his magazine)

Knock it off, you're not going to get loose. Trust me, many have tried before you and none of them succeeded.

She ignores him and continues to thrash around.

ERNEST

Suit yourself, don't listen to me.

She continues to try to free herself and he calmly closes the magazine he is reading and places it on the nightstand beside the bed. He takes his pocketknife out of his pocket and approaches her, making her thrash around even harder.

ERNEST

(Holding the blade of his knife against her throat)

I said knock that shit off, it's getting annoying!

She stops thrashing about and just lays there staring at him with a terrified look on her face.

ERNEST

Thank you.

He takes the knife away from her throat and puts it back in his pocket. He walks over to the closet and picks up a large tool case that is on a shelf. He walks back over with it and sits down on the bed beside Alex. He places the tool case in the floor without opening it and turns to face her with a smile on his face.

ERNEST

I'd take the tape off of your mouth but I just don't think I can trust you not to scream. You'll be doing plenty of it later, I promise, but right now it isn't appropriate.

He reaches over and starts rubbing her leg, making her whimper.

ERNEST

Besides that you strike me as one of those who would ask a million questions. I hate it when they start asking me questions!

He gets off the bed and starts pacing like a caged animal.

ERNEST

(In a mocking tone)

Why me? Why are you doing this? What did I ever do to you?

He continues pacing and starts pulling at his hair.

ERNEST

It drives me crazy when they can't just keep their mouths shut! I hate it when they bombard me with idiotic questions!

He kicks the wall angrily and Alex tries to free her hands without him seeing her.

ERNEST

It's just as bad as when they plead and beg for me to let them go! There was even one that said that she'd pay me if I let her go! Stupid bitch! I don't need money!

He paces around in silence for a few more minutes and after he regains his composure he sits back down on the bed beside Alex. He runs his hands through his hair and looks at her with a concerned expression on his face.

ERNEST

Are you uncomfortable? I could loosen the straps a bit, they look a little tight to me.

He turns his back to her and starts to unloosen the straps on her legs when he stops and starts laughing loudly.

ERNEST

I'm sorry, but I can't help but find it quite amusing. Here I am asking if you are comfortable when I'm going to be killing you shortly anyway! I guess you being comfortable is a moot point anyway, isn't it?

She tries to say something but we can't understand what it is due to the tape over her mouth. Ernest turns back around to face her and starts running his hand through her hair.

ERNEST

Shhh...don't try to talk. Nothing you can say can change my mind, weren't you listening earlier?

We see Mel standing in the doorway behind him with a large kitchen knife in her hand. Alex sees her and starts thrashing around again in an attempt to distract him.

ERNEST

Now we're back to this again. Please stop, at least let your last few moments alive be dignified.

Alex continues to thrash around as Mel creeps up behind him.

ERNEST

Stop that! We've already been through this! I was trying to be nice by loosening your bonds and this is how you repay me?

Alex ignores him so he reaches down and slaps her a few times but she refuses to stop.

ERNEST

(Screaming)

I told you to stop you stupid bitch, you aren't helping your situation!

He starts punching her over and over but she continues to thrash around as Mel gets closer to him. Once he realizes that punching her isn't going to make her stop he wraps his hands around her throat and starts strangling her.

ERNEST

You stupid, stupid bitch! Didn't I tell you to stop? See what you made me do?

He continues to strangle her as she gasps for breath and Mel walks right up behind him and stands there looking on.

MEL

What are you doing, Ernest? Here, use this, it'll cut her up pretty good.

She holds out the knife to him but he doesn't bother to turn around to face her.

ERNEST

Oh Mel, what tiresome implement have you and your Mr. Tucker brought me this time?

He lets go of Alex's throat and turns around to face Mel. Alex just lays there trying to catch her breath.

MEL

(Admiring the knife)

It's one of those knives they show on TV. The ones that can slice through anything. Try it out, I'm sure you'll like it!

ERNEST

(Waving the knife away)

Mel, Mel, Mel, while I appreciate the free gift that comes with my order I'm afraid I'm going to have to decline.

MEL

What? Why? This thing is awesome! It can cut through bone! It can...

ERNEST

It's extremely boring and clichÈ. It would be insulting to this poor girl to take her life away by such an unoriginal means. She deserves better.

MEL

You beat the shit out of her and were strangling her to death when I came in, how is that any different?

ERNEST

I lost my temper with her. Ordinarily I would never conduct myself is such a barbaric manner.

MEL

Sure, whatever you say. So where's my money?

ERNEST

Of course. I'll have to get my check book from the other room. I trust it's still the same price as last time?

Alex looks on as they talk and carefully attempts to free one of her hands without them noticing.

MEL

Yeah, it's the same as last time. Mr. Tucker said that he might raise his prices next month though.

ERNEST

I'd expect nothing different from such a money-hungry miscreant.

MEL

Hey, times are hard for everybody right now.

ERNEST

Please, don't try to use the horrible state of the economy as an excuse for Tucker raising his prices. You work for the greediest man in the world and you know it.

MEL

That's why he's such a successful businessman.

ERNEST

Whatever. Can you keep an eye on her for a moment while I get your payment?

MEL

Sure, but I really don't think she's going anywhere.

Ernest leaves the room and Mel sits down on the bed beside Alex.

MEL

Poor Alex. Quite a predicament you're in, huh?

She reaches down and starts running her fingers through Alex's hair. Alex mumbles something and tries to pull away and an angry look crosses Mel's face. She grabs a handful of Alex's hair and tugs on it, making her whimper in pain.

MEL

Don't you dare pull away from me you bitch!

She lets go of her hair and sits there for a moment before she starts caressing Alex's leg.

MEL

I felt guilty about what I was doing after the first couple of times, but not anymore.

She sits there beside Alex caressing the knife with a crazed look on her face.

MEL

The money I'm making keeps me from feeling too bad about what I do.

She glares at Alex with an angry look on her face.

MEL

Don't look at me like that! You'd do the same thing if you were me!

She presses the blade of the knife up against Alex's face, cutting her and making her flinch back in pain. A smile crosses her face as Alex whimpers in pain and then she raises up the knife and licks the blood off of the blade.

MEL

I've been saving up to buy a victim for myself. I was hoping it was going to be you but I didn't have enough money. You'd think Mr. Tucker would offer some kind of employee discount but you know how he is.

She reaches over and slashes Alex across the cheek with the blade of the knife. A muffled scream escapes from Alex and tears begin to stream down her cheeks.

MEL

At least I can have a little fun with you before Ernest comes back in here. What do you say? You game?

She slashes Alex's other cheek, making her moan in pain.

MEL

I have to be careful though, Ernest is our best customer. I don't want to cut you up too much and upset him.

She slashes Alex across the cheek once again.

MEL

If it wasn't for that I'd cut out both of your eyes and cram them down your throat!

She prepares to slash Alex's cheek again when Ernest comes back into the room. He sees what Mel is doing and an angry look crosses his face.

ERNEST

Mel! What are you doing?

MEL

I was just having a little fun with her, it's no big deal. I didn't hurt her that bad, there's plenty left for you!

ERNEST

Go buy one of your own to have fun with! This one's mine! I'm tempted to give Mr. Tucker a call and have a word with him about this!

MEL

Please don't do that, it won't happen again, I promise!

Mel turns to face him with a worried look on her face.

MEL

It was wrong of me, I'm sorry! I swear on my grandmother's grave that it won't happen...

ERNEST

Stop your sniveling, you're embarrassing yourself!

He rips a check out of his check book and hands it to Mel.

ERNEST

Here, your usual tip is included on there as usual. You're lucky I gave it to you this time considering what you just pulled.

MEL

Thank you Ernest, you're very generous. Are you sure you don't want the knife? There's no charge for it of course.

ERNEST

I don't care, I don't want it.

MEL

(Placing the knife on the nightstand)

I'll just leave it here in case you change you mind.

ERNEST

I won't. I've got something special in mind for this one.

MEL

(Getting up)

I'm afraid to ask. I'll get out of here and let you get to work. I'll be back with another one for you next week.

ERNEST

Very well then. I'd show you out but...

MEL

You're eager to get started. I understand. Have fun!

ERNEST

We will. Well, I will anyway.

Mel leaves the room and Ernest stands in the doorway watching to make sure that she has left the apartment before he hurries over to the bed and plops back down beside Alex. He licks his finger and wipes away the blood from her wounds with a concerned look on his face.

ERNEST

I don't know about you, but I think it's time we got started, don't you think?

He gets off the bed and reaches down to grab the tool case that is in the floor.

ERNEST

The nerve of that woman suggesting that I stab you to death! What I've got in store for you is so much better!

He has his back to her as he opens the case and she carefully tries to free herself without him seeing her. She manages to actually get one of her hands loose. She sees the knife on the night stand and quickly grabs it before he turns back around. She hides if under her pillow seconds before he takes a huge portable drill out of the case and turns around to face her, a huge smile on his face. He is so preoccupied with turning the drill on and off to intimidate her as he approaches her that he doesn't even notice that one of her hands is free.

ERNEST

What do you think? Much more creative than just using the knife don't you agree?

He gets on the bed and starts slithering toward her with the drill. He keeps turning it on and off and is so excited that he actually starts to drool.

ERNEST

Where should I put it? Your eye? Your mouth? Perhaps somewhere a bit more intimate?

He straddles her and begins to tease sticking the drill in her eye and then her forehead. It is obvious that he is almost sexually excited by what he is doing and he reaches down and rips the tape off of her mouth, making her cry out in pain.

ERNEST

There you go, now you can scream if you like!

ALEX

So can you!

She pulls the knife out from under the pillow and before he can react she stabs him in the crotch with it. He sits there for a moment with a confused look on his face before he drops the drill to the floor and grabs his crotch. He howls in pain and slumps over as blood starts to pour from his wound.

Alex uses the knife to cut the rest of her bonds as he rolls around on the bed screaming. She jumps off the bed and makes a mad dash toward the door but he manages to grab her wrist before she can get away.

ERNEST

Get back here! You're not going anywhere!

She tries to get away from him but he refuses to let go and tries to pull her back on the bed. She looks down and sees the drill on the floor and picks it up with her free hand. Before he can react she turns it on and buries the bit right between his eyes, spraying her with blood. He lets her go and falls back on the bed where he spasms for a few moments.

She stands there holding the drill for a moment, waiting to use it again if he gets back up. Once she realizes that he is dead she drops it and then slumps to the floor crying. He slowly makes her way back up to her feet and starts to walk away when we hear the front door open and she freezes.

MEL

(O.S.)

Ernest? I'm sorry to bother you but you forgot to sign the check.

When Alex hears that it is Mel a sick smile crosses her face and she reaches over and picks up the knife off of the bed. She stands against the wall beside the door with the knife in her hand and waits for Mel to come into the room.

MEL

(Walking in the room)

I know that you're busy but it'll only take a...

She sees Ernest's body and she doesn't finish the sentence. Her jaw literally drops and she stands there for a moment in silence staring at his body. Alex walks up behind her and stands there with a smile on her face.

ALEX

Hello, Mel.

Mel slowly turns around and is immediately stabbed in the stomach with the knife. Alex shoves it in to the hilt and then gives it a little twist, making Mel spit blood all over the wall.

ALEX

(Continuing to twist the knife)

How does that feel, you bitch?

She pulls the knife out and Mel falls back on the floor. She starts to scoot away as Alex approaches her with the knife raised high in the air.

MEL

Alex...wait! I didn't mean it! Don't do this, please! I was all Mr. Tucker! I was just doing my job! Please!

Alex stabs her over and over as Mel screams and unsuccessfully tries to defend herself. Blood sprays all over Alex and the wall but she continues to stab her continuously even though it is obvious that Mel is dead. She stabs her a few more times before she drops the knife and slumps to the floor again. She sits there and takes a moment to catch her breath before she takes her cell phone out of her pocket and calmly dials it. It rings a few times and a man answers on the other end.

MR. TUCKER

(O.S.)

Hello?

ALEX

Hello Mr. Tucker, it's Alex.

MR. TUCKER

(O.S.)

Alex?!? Where are you? You and Mel are supposed to be over at Cedar Ridge apartments aren't you?

ALEX

We are. Well, I am anyway. I'm afraid I've got some bad news for you.

MR. TUCKER

(O.S.)

What bad news? What the hell are you talking about?

ALEX

Not only have you just lost your best customer, but also your top salesperson as well.

MR. TUCKER

(O.S.)

Was there an accident? Is that what you're trying to tell me?

ALEX

You can drop the act, I know about everything.

Tucker doesn't respond for several minutes and we can hear him breathing heavily on the other end as he tries to think of what to say next.

MR. TUCKER

(O.S.)

So what are we going to do about this then?

ALEX

I guess Mel's position is open now, is that correct? Maybe if I could take her place I'll keep my mouth shut about everything.

MR. TUCKER

(O.S.)

Fine. The job's your's then.

ALEX

I want triple what she was making plus benefits and unlimited paid vacation days.

MR. TUCKER

(O.S.)

You're fucking crazy. There's no way I'm giving you all that.

ALEX

Then I guess I'll let you go. I need to call the proper authorities and make them aware of the little side operation you've got going on here. I'm sure you wouldn't get the death penalty but what do I know? I'm no lawyer.

There is another long pause from Mr. Tucker and we can hear his loud nervous breathing on the other end.

MR. TUCKER

(O.S.)

OK, since you put it that way I think your terms are pretty fair. You can start on Monday.

ALEX

Thank you, Mr. Tucker, I can't wait. See you then.

MR. TUCKER

(O.S.)

Let's just get one thing straight first, you can't just...

Alex hangs up on him and puts the cell phone back in her pocket.

ALEX

It'll be nice to finally have a great-paying job that I enjoy! And to think, I was actually considering going back to school!

She gets up and walks into the bathroom where she washes the blood off of her face in the sink before she grabs her briefcase and leaves Ernest's apartment.

She passes a few apartments on her way back to the car with a smile on her face. There is an older couple standing in front of one of the apartments arguing.

OLD WOMAN

I've looked everywhere and no one wants to hire someone who's as old as I am!

OLD MAN

Well you've got to find something, we've barely got enough money to survive as it is!

Alex walks up to them and stands there with a big smile on her face. They look on in shock when they see her and both of them take a few steps back as she still has some blood on her face from where Mel cut her and she looks quite insane.

ALEX

(Handing the woman a business card)

If I may, Tucker Magazine Services is currently hiring and we don't certainly don't discriminate due to age.

The woman just stands there gaping at Alex for a moment and the man nudges her. She reaches out with a shaky hand and takes the card from Alex without saying a word.

ALEX

I'd be happy to put in a good word for you if you were interested, we're always looking for a few new victims...I mean hard-working people like yourself.

Alex walks away whistling and the old couple just stand there in silence looking at her.

The End