

Paradise Party

by Steven Burton

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EXT. OCEAN BEACH - DAY

With a few people on the sand and in the surf ALAN, a middle aged man, walks with a camera in hand. He takes a few shots of scenery out towards the ocean and then looks towards the beach when something catches his abrupt attention. JERRY, a handsome young man sits on a blanket intensely typing on a notebook computer.

FLASHBACK - INTERIOR ROOM

A younger Alan with his young wife bask in the glory of a new born baby.

End of FLASHBACK.

Back to the beach.

Alan continues to stroll while he moves closer to Jerry. Then, he sits on the sand near Jerry without notice from him as he continues to type. Alan aims his camera towards the beach for a shot, and then quickly aims it towards Jerry for another shot.

FLASH on a close up of Jerry.

Jerry continues to ponder and type as Alan settles nearby. Later, Jerry takes a break to look out around the beach.

ALAN

Nice day.

JERRY

Yes.

ALAN

This is my first time here.

JERRY

Welcome and enjoy.

ALAN

Thanks. Forgive me, but I was intrigued by your inspired typing. I don't want to bother you.

JERRY

Oh that's ok. I'm taking a break from a play.

ALAN

Oh a playwright.

JERRY

Yes, that is my intention and a student.

ALAN

So am I.

JERRY

Oh, what are you studying?

Alan

Life, and it will take a lifetime.

JERRY

Oh, I like that! May, I quote you?

ALAN

Yes, my name is Alan.

JERRY

Jerry. Where are you from?

ALAN

New York.

JERRY

Oh, a long way. Are you visiting?

ALAN (OS)

Yes, with family, but I'm on my own today for some adventure.

JERRY

I'm Jerry, nice to meet you.

ALAN (OS)

Yes, likewise. I'd like to show you something.

JERRY

What?

Alan moves closer to show Jerry the picture he took of him.

JERRY

Wow! Just a while ago and I didn't know.

ALAN

I'm sneaky. Your passion seems to be writing and mine is headshot and landscape photography. Interesting faces and nature turn me on such as yours.

JERRY

My nature or face?

ALAN

Maybe both. I'd like to take more of you if that's ok.

JERRY

Sure. I could also show you around the place here since you haven't been here before.

EXT. BEACH - FOLLOWING

Jerry walks with Alan as they speak in voice over.

ALAN (OS)

You might be at your prime physical shape. I have a theory that everyone has that prime period and should visually record it if possible. Because the physical look changes with time.

JERRY (OS)

Interesting. I have not thought about that before.

ALAN (OS)

Also, your look inspires me.

JERRY (OS)

Well, this seems ok. Besides, I've been wanting to get into photography. I could learn and get inspired from you.

ALAN (OS)

Yes, see there! A great thing for both of us.

EXT. BEACH - FOLLOWING

Jerry and Alan continue to walk together.

Jerry points things out as Alan looks around at the scenery. Alan takes various pictures some of which include Jerry with mutual enjoyment.

Alan pauses with a thought as he looks at Jerry.

FLASH on a younger Alan as he walks in enjoyment with a young man the same age as Jerry.

ALAN

I'm hungry. Please join me and it's my treat. Do you have any suggestions?

JERRY

Yes, but you've done too much already.

ALAN

Look, I'm on vacation and this fun. So it is my pleasure.

INT. SMALL RESTAURANT - FOLLOWING

Jerry and Alan sit with glasses of wine and menus.

ALAN

Get whatever you want.

JERRY

Thanks.

ALAN

Let's have a paradise party!

JERRY

What?

ALAN

Oh, my niece and nephew came up with that.

FLASHBACK - BACKYARD - DAY

OSCAR, a young boy, and CAROLINE, a young girl, guide Alan towards a TENT.

OSCAR

Come inside Uncle Alan we're going to have a paradise party inside!

CAROLINE

We have snacks and everything!

ALAN

Ok, let's go!

Alan crouches to go inside.

INT. TENT - FOLLOWING

The three sit with snacks and festivity!

EXT. LAWN - LATER

Oscar leads Alan and Caroline in a conga line kicking up in unison.

OSCAR

Come on! Everybody conga! It's paradise party time!

EXT. LAWN - LATER

Alan and the two kids throw a large beach ball back and forth on the lawn. Alan enjoys the play with youthful vigor.

EXT. LAWN - LATER

Alan with the two kids make soap bubbles and then pop them when they get larger.

End of FLASHBACK

Back to the restaurant.

JERRY

Sounds like a fun time.

ALAN

Yes, it's been wonderful with family. I plan to be here awhile longer to see them more. I haven't been feeling well lately. Not sure what it is, but the blood pressure is high. This might be a good place to take a break while I wait for the test results.

JERRY

Hopefully the results will be positive.

Ok, let's paradise party here!

They toast with wine glasses.

EXT. WATERFRONT DOCK - FOLLOWING

Alan takes a picture of Jerry and then Alan steps back with a compelling thought.

Alan shows the image from the camera to Jerry.

EXT. BENCH - FOLLOWING

Alan and Jerry sit.

ALAN

You remind me of someone.

JERRY

Who?



ALAN

Someone important from the past. He's been gone awhile.

JERRY

A lover?

ALAN

No, but why do you ask that?

JERRY

Just a vibe. You are very nice, but I don't go that way. I have a girlfriend.

ALAN

Look, I don't expect you to go anyway or anywhere. We are just looking at scenery and taking pictures of you without any expectation. Ok?

JERRY

Yes, how long has he been gone?

ALAN

My son Beau was killed in a car accident a few years ago. He was a victim of somebody else's mistake.

JERRY

I'm so sorry for jumping to conclusions. That's too bad. Sorry for your loss.

ALAN

Thank you.

JERRY

Was he my age?

ALAN

Yes, your attitude and personality are similar. He was also a good writer. We were very close with much love. I understand you being cautious about an older man being friendly. You are young, charming, talented, and handsome. Hopefully, you won't make the same mistakes as mine at your age. Like thinking that all I needed was my good looks to get by. They passed as does life.

JERRY

Again, I'm sorry.

ALAN

You don't have to be. No need to be afraid of this gay man.

JERRY

So you are...

ALAN

Yes, I am that among other things and your instinct was right. I got married to a woman, had a son who is gone, recognized my true self and then married a man, the love of my life who died a while ago.

JERRY

Well, you must have many stories to tell.

ALAN

Yes, but maybe enough for now. Later could be possible.

JERRY

Sure, so let's continue.

ALAN

That's fine with me. I'm not here to make you uncomfortable.

EXT. VILLAGE STREET - FOLLOWING

Alan and Jerry take in the sights with more pictures.

Alan takes a picture of Jerry. He offers the camera to Jerry, shows him how to use it, and then Jerry takes a picture of Alan.

EXT. BENCH - FOLLOWING

Jerry and Alan sit together to look at pictures from the camera.

Later, Jerry pulls out his notebook to read in voice over.

JERRY (OS)

"I'm flying. I'm just looking to touch some kind of spirit. Something which may last beyond. Touching and feeling filled with passion and sensation is never forgotten. That is clear, has been recorded and will happen again. Now, it's time to go forward, not to be better, but to embrace. Oh, what I have said is here for now, but why does eternity come to mind."

Back to the bench as Alan listens intently.

ALAN

That's beautiful and deep. You are searching, as if an older soul.

JERRY

Yes, I suppose.

ALAN

So am I. Probably until the day I die.

EXT. BOARDWALK - FOLLOWING

Jerry and Alan continue to take pictures at sunset.

Later they stop to face each other.

ALAN

Well, thank you for the tour. It was fun.

JERRY

Yes, thanks, for the pictures and the photography lessons.

ALAN

You are welcome. Please take this.

Alan takes the camera off his shoulder to give to Jerry.

JERRY

What?

ALAN

I want you to have it.

JERRY

But it's yours. It's what you do.

ALAN

I have others and this might open up some other doors for you or help compliment your writing.

JERRY

How about the pictures you took?

Alan reaches into his pocket to pull out a business card.

ALAN

Here's my information. Email them to me.

If not, I also took pictures here.

Alan points to his head and heart.

JERRY

Wow, this is great! I'll be sure to do that. Thanks again.

ALAN

My pleasure. This isn't goodbye unless you want it to be. Keep up the writing and take care.

JERRY

You too.

Alan extends his hand and then Jerry offers his. Jerry quickly wraps his arms around Alan in a warm hug. They part with mutual emotional surprise.

Alan walks to the end of the boardwalk where the beach sand begins.

EXT. BEACH - FOLLOWING

Alan walks onto the sand towards the ocean surf and then sits. He looks out over the ocean, lays back to look up at the sky, and then closes his eyes.

ALAN

Beau, my son, a paradise party.

EXT. OCEAN SUNRISE - MORNING

A vibrant sun rises in a clear sky across a beach.

EXT. BEACH - FOLLOWING

Alan leads in a long joyous Conga line with Caroline, Oscar, other kids, Beau, Jerry, and others as the sun continues to rise.