

Paradise Party

by Steven Burton

EXT. OCEAN BEACH - DAY

A few people are on the sand and in the surf.

ALAN, a fifty year old, walks with a camera.

He takes a few shots of the ocean and then looks towards the beach when something catches his 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.

Back to the present.

Alan strolls closer to Jerry and then sits on the sand near him.

He aims the 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

What the hell! What's with the  
picture?

ALAN

No..

JERRY

I'm not stupid! You aimed it right at  
me! Look, I am out here minding my one  
business!

ALAN

Oh please I'm sorry. Don't take it that way. I was intrigued by your inspired typing and got carried away.

JERRY

Well, all you did was interrupt me!

ALAN

Again, I apologize.

JERRY

Ok, maybe I over reacted. I'm working on this play and a little obsessed about it.

ALAN

Oh, a playwright.

JERRY

Yes, if you'll let me.

ALAN

Look, go right back to it. Don't let me stop you!

JERRY

That's ok. I should take a break anyway. I'm also a student and this for an assignment with a deadline.

ALAN

Oh a student too. So am I.

JERRY

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. Do you live here?

ALAN

No, in New York.

JERRY

Oh, a long way. Are you visiting?

ALAN

Yes, with family, but I'm on my own today for some adventure. I'd like to show you something.

JERRY

What?

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

ALAN

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 use a break.

EXT. BEACH

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.

ALAN (OS)

Also, your look inspires me.

JERRY (OS)

Well, this seems ok. Besides, I've been wanting to get into photography.

ALAN (OS)

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

EXT. BEACH

Jerry and Alan continue to walk together as Jerry points things out.

Alan takes various pictures some of which include Jerry.

Alan pauses with a thought as he looks at Jerry.

FLASH on a younger Alan as he walks in enjoyment with a young boy.

ALAN

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

JERRY

Yes, but you don't have to treat.

ALAN

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

INT. SMALL RESTAURANT

Jerry and Alan sit with glasses of wine and menus.

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

The three sit with snacks and festivity!

EXT. LAWN

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

Alan and the two kids throw a large beach ball back and forth on the lawn.

EXT. LAWN

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

Back to the present.

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 am recovering from a serious blood clot and heart trouble, but am feeling better here. The blood pressure still needs to be lower and hopefully that will happen.

JERRY

Hopefully you will get better. Ok, let's paradise party here!

They toast with wine glasses.

EXT. WATERFRONT DOCK

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

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! 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. He died very young, but would be about your age now if still here. I see him in you with similar attitudes and personality. 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.

JERRY

Sure, so let's continue.

ALAN

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

EXT. VILLAGE STREET

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

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

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 or help with the 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

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.

Later, in the dark Alan still lays motionless on the sand.

EXT. OCEAN SUNRISE

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

EXT. BEACH

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