

ALEX

A full-length play by Jeremy Johnson

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Act 1

Scene 1- The fond household

ALEX, a high school boy, plays on the living room floor with a puzzle. There's a cabinet in the corner to the room, a couch front-center, a folding chair, and a curb-side-found coffee table. DANA stands at the open front door, looking outside. She shuts the door, pulls the gun out of the back of her waistband, takes the bullets out, and locks the gun in the cabinet across the room. DANA breathes to calm herself down, pocketing the bullets. She looks out the window before exiting across the room, stage right, into the kitchen. DANA reenters shortly thereafter with a nipples bottle of red fluid. DANA sits on the couch.

DANA

Alex. Do you wanna come be mama's baby?

ALEX

No.

DANA

Aren't you thirsty?

ALEX

Thirsty Okay. Too, though, I want a cookie too.

DANA

Come be mama's baby.

ALEX crawls up onto the couch and lays his head in DANA's lap. DANA feeds ALEX the bottle.

DANA

There we go. Who's mama's baby goat? Yeah? Are you mama's baby goat?

DANA hums a song as She feeds ALEX.  
NEBULA enters through the front door.  
She stumbles over to a cup of water  
left on the coffee table. She slumps  
down on the floor and chugs it.

DANA

Where were you?

NEBULA

You don't wanna know.

DANA

Are you okay?

NEBULA

I'll be okay, thanks. You know that's not good for  
either of you right?

DANA

Why don't you sober up before you open your mouth to  
talk to me- or for any other reason for that matter.  
If I need parenting advice from my daughter, I'll  
ask for it.

NEBULA

No you won't. You never ask for help. You don't even  
know when you need help.

DANA

Oh speak for yourself, hypocrite. You stumble in  
here reeking of shit weed and piss water beer with a  
ripped sleeve saying, "I'll be okay," But you know,  
Nebula, I'm not so sure.

NEBULA

I handled it mom, Jesus. It's like don't even trust  
me.

Dana

I trust you, I don't trust the fucking parasites you  
hang out with. You handled it? What do you do if  
someone calls the cops on one of your stupid

parties? You ever think of that? How you handle that? You can't... do you know how hard it is to get a job with a criminal record... to even... society won't even...

NEBULA

Mom! I handled it.

DANA

Whatever. Just go to sleep.

NEBULA

Why?

DANA

Because you want to.

NEBULA

Because you can't stand me.

DaNA

Because you're so high you can't stand up straight and now I'm bitching at you.

NEBULA

Fine. Good night.

NEBULA stands to exit to her room.

DANA

Nebula. I love you, But... you scare the shit out of me.

NEBULA

*I* scare the shit out of you? You're feeding blood to a monster on your lap.

DANA

Monster?

ALEX

(With blood dripping from his mouth) I'm not a monster.

NEBULA

Fuck! I'm sorry, I just... you have bigger problems than me, mom? Okay? So don't fucking project... Whatever. I'm done.

ALEX

Good night.

NEBULA

Good night, buddy.

DaNA

I'm going to need you to stay clean for the next couple of weeks. Rory didn't show up this week.

NEBULA

Are you serious right now?

DANA

I'm sorry, he won't answer his phone. The hospital's probably onto him.

NEBULA crosses to exit back through the front door.

DANA

Where are you going?

NEbULA

You don't wanna know.

DANA

Goddammit, Nebula, did you hear me just now?

NEBULA

Yeah, Mom, that's why I'm going to get fucked up now. If I'm going straight for the next fourteen days, I'm going to drain tonight fucking dry.

DANA

No! You go to your room and go to sleep! You can't go anywhere right now, you're already fucked up.

NeBULA

This? This is buzzed, Mom.

DANA

Who's driving you?

NEBULA

Does it matter?

DANA

Nebula. Please just go to bed?

ALEX

Is sister sleepy?

DANA

Yes, baby goat, But she's too stupid to realize it.

Whenever ALEX is done with his  
bottle, He sits back down on the  
floor to work on his puzzle.

NEBULA

Bye.

DaNA

Nebula, wait! Nebula!

NEBULA

Jesus, Mom, you might want to try cutting the cord  
before one of us strangles you with it.

DANA

He was here. Just now before you came home. He was  
here.

NEBULA

Shit. Dak? Dak was here?

DANA nods.

NEBULA

What the hell did he want?

DANA

I don't know, I just told him to get the hell away  
from me. He took one look at Alex and left. Next  
time He knocks on that door, I'm going to put a  
bullet right through his fucking eye... Just stay  
home tonight. Please? We'll do whatever you want,  
just please stay.

NEBULA

I'm going to bed.

NEBULA exits to her room.

DANA

I guess it's just you and me tonight, buddy.

ALEX

You maybe forgot that I wanted a cookie. I was thirsty, but now I'm not thirsty, but I need a cookie.

DANA

How do you ask?

ALEX

I ask please.

DANA exits and comes back with a cookie. She gives it to ALEX. ALEX is elated, but he does not eat the cookie. He holds it like a prize, holding it out in front of him, then holding it to his chest, reenacting the moment when his mom gave him the cookie.

DANA

You want to watch a movie?

ALEX

No.

DANA

I don't know what to do, Alex.

ALEX

I'm doing puzzles.

DANA

I know, baby, I was talking about...

Beat.

ALEX

Okay, it's okay, Mama. Thank you.

DANA

Sure, baby.

ALEX takes a bite of the cookie. He sniffs the air.

ALEX

Mom, your pants need washed.

DANA

What?

ALEX

Your pants smell yucky like they need washed.

DANA

Oh! It's... it's just something I have in my pocket. I'll put them away.

DANA rises to put the bullets under the chair cushion.

DANA

There, now can you smell them?

ALEX

Yeah, okay. Are those for the gun?

DANA sits on the floor across from ALEX and helps him with the puzzle.

DANA

Yes, which means they're just for Mama to touch. Not Alex. Not Nebula. Not anybody except Mama. Do you understand?

ALEX

Why do we have a gun if it's not for family? I thought you said because you said that we share everything because families share, so why do you have that, and I don't, and Nebula can't touch?

DANA

The gun is the one exception. The only thing guns are good for is hurting people. I just don't want either of you getting hurt. Don't touch guns.

ALEX

Don't touch guns. I don't want anyone getting hurt. We should throw it away. And the yucky things in the chair.

DaNA

Well. The thing is, not everyone's as sweet as you, baby. Wish they were though.

Scene 2- outside school

RAY, a high school student wearing a backpack, waits for NEBULA to arrive. NEBULA enters with ALEX.

NEBULA

Alex, go to your homeroom, I'm going to talk to Ray.

ALEX waits by the entrance of the school.

NEBULA

Alex! Whatever.

Ray

You fucked off kind of early last night.

NeBULA

Yeah that creep just put me out.

RAY

Who, Perry? That dude's hilarious. He's old, but He can be chill. He was just on a bad mix last night, told me to tell you he was sorry.

NEBULA

Fuck that guy, that psychopath ripped my damned shirt. Like, he's too fucking old to be hanging out us anyway.

RaY

Yeah, so why'd you give him your number?

NeBULA

Because he's hot. You don't think he's hot?

RAY

Everyone at the parlor thinks so. I'm apprenticing him a bit, and he seemed like he knew how to party, you know, so I jut thought whatever. Do you like, just go around giving thirty-year-old dudes your number. Or just hot ones?

NEBULA

Ray, you're being really gross right now, like jealous gross. You're the one who wanted to be all slow and careful. I don't have time for that shit, so please be my friend. Meanwhile, I'm going to fuck around a bit. Plus Perry's like 26 tops.

RAY

Well, that's just it, I want a slutty phase too, you know. I didn't want to wait around. Sometime you gotta...

NEBULA

Shit or get off the horse.

RAY

Why the fuck are you shitting on horses?

NEBULA

It's just a weird phrase people say. Anyway, you shouldn't get too whatever about Perry. I mean he's a middle aged fucking man who hangs out with high school kids, which means he's got some chronic identity issues or some gross addictions. So that makes him a creeper. I don't get down with creepers. But being a creeper doesn't make him not hot. UGH! Life is confusing, Ray!

RAY

No shit. You wanna fuck around later?

NEBULA

Jesus, Ray, could you not in front of my brother?

RAY

No, I was thinking in my car.

NEBULA

No. Just No. Alex, go to homeroom, you're going to be late!

ALEX waves, but does not move. He's acting nervous.

NEBULA

Goddammit. ...Do you know anybody who's fucked him?

RAY

Alex?

NEBULA

Perry, idiot.

RAY

Ha! You're the only one who hasn't. Alex, come here!

ALEX approaches.

ALEX

Ray, hi, Ray, hi, Ray, hi-

RAY

You don't have to be nervous. I got something for you, dude.

NEBULA

What are you doing?

RAY

It's in my bag. Unzip it for me.

ALEX

I already have a math book.

RAY

In between the books, man, it's a piece of paper, pull it out.

ALEX pulls out a piece of paper with an ornate design inked on it.

ALEX

Oh, it's a picture!

RAY

It's the Israeli word for courage. Do you like it?

ALEX

Oh-kay! Are Israelis Jews?

NEBULA

Ray, what the fuck?

RAY

I'm thinking right here.

RAY runs his finger down ALEX's  
forearm.

RAY

Free of charge, what do you think? You want some ink  
done brother?

NEBULA

No! Ray, goddammit!

NEBULA grabs the design and shoves it  
into Ray's chest.

NEBULA

You have really been pissing me off lately.

RaY

Oh, come on! It would look fucking sinister! And it  
would help me out a lot. There's a client who wants  
it done, and I could use... you know.

NEBULA

What, practice???

ALEX

Courage.

RaY

Yeah! Yeah, courage, see, Neb, he's into it! Let's  
set it up! You can come chill with us, we'll get a  
little loose, plug in, do some ink-

NEBULA

Hell, No! No, Alex, it hurts. He's talking about a  
tattoo. Tattoos hurt. And what would hurt worse is  
when Mom kills us if she sees.

RAY

Oh, bullshit, your mom's got like a hundred tats.

NEBULA

And did you think of this, you think of what Alex would do? How he would react, you know?

RAY

He'd be fine. Come on, Neb, he doesn't need to be babied by everyone in his fucking life.

NEBULA

... No. Period. Just fuck off for bit, Ray. You're annoying the shit out of me. Come on Alex.

RAY gives ALEX the design again  
before they exit into the school.

### SCENE 3- THE FOND HOUSEHOLD- KITCHEN

DANA is clipping coupons at a small table in the kitchen. There's a mug of coffee on the table amidst a collage of ads and bargains. DANA stops clipping and looks around her kitchen nervously. She's shaky, on edge. Finally, DANA rises and crosses to a cupboard.

She gets out a bottle of olive oil, smells it, puts it back. She gets out another bottle smells it. She smells it again, more deeply, savoring. DANA places the bottle on the table, then finds a glass to set down next to it. She sits across from the bottle and glass.

DANA picks the scissors back up and doesn't make two cuts before dropping the scissors and pouring two fingers of the golden liquid into the glass, but DANA does not drink it. She picks the scissors back up.

DANA cuts out a coupon and rises again. She crosses to another cupboard and riffles through it. She finds a box of cigarettes, there's one left. DANA puts the cigarette in her mouth and continues to riffle through the cupboard. She can't find

a lighter. She tries a drawer. Nothing. DANA eyes the glass of booze on the table and exits. After a couple beats, DANA reenters slowly, holding a lighter up to the cigarette with one hand and a pregnancy test at her side in the other hand. She lights the cigarette and sets the lighter on the table. DANA takes a long drag and slowly raises the test to look at the result. She sets the test next to the lighter and crosses to the bottle and the glass. DANA reaches for the glass with her hand shaking and stops. Then She scoops up the bottle and begins to chug. DANA sinks down to the floor with the bottle and the cigarette. She lowers the bottle from her lips, screams, then takes another drag. DANA walks back over to her seat at the kitchen table and resumes to slowly clip coupons.

SCENE 4- SCHOOL NURSE'S OFFICE

ALEX is sitting next to another kid, BALTIMORE. ALEX is drinking a bottle of blood, BALTIMORE has juice.

BALTIMORE

Is that blood?

ALEX

Okay, Yeah.

BALTIMORE

Why? Like why do you gotta drink blood?

ALEX

Because I don't like, because I have to, because I don't like anything else for my body. Is that, what you have, juice?

BALTIMORE

Yeah. Cranberry. What kind of blood is that?

ALEX

I don't like to know. Do you only like juice for your body?

BALTIMORE

No. Sometimes I get low blood sugar so I have to drink juice so... like my blood works. Otherwise I get sleepy and basically start falling apart.

ALEX

Okay, Yeah.

BALTIMORE

Can I see your teeth?

ALEX

Okay.

ALEX smiles widely at TRAVIS,  
revealing his fangs.

BALTIMORE

Jesus. Have you ever bitten your tongue?

ALEX

What? No. What? Why would I bite my tongue?

BALTIMORE

Like on accident. You know How people bite their tongues sometimes on accident?

ALEX

People bite their tongues on accident?

BALTIMORE

Yeah. I guess if you did you'd lose it.

BALTIMORE makes a sound effect and simply gestures his tongue getting bitten of and flopping down onto his leg.

ALEX is visibly paranoid of the phenomenon.

BALTIMORE

Don't worry. If you haven't by now, I don't think you will. What's your name?

ALEX

My name is Alex, my mom is Dana, and my sister is Nebula.

BALTIMORE

I'm Baltimore.

ALEX

Baltimore. Baltimore. (Whispering) Baltimore.

BALTIMORE

So ere you adopted?

Beat

BALTIMORE

I mean if Nebula's your sisterÉ you guysÉ you don't look alike, you know?

ALEX

She's a girl!

BALTIMORE

Right, butÉ Okay. Have you ever had human blood?

The bell rings.

BALTIMORE

Later.

ALEX remains seated for a beat, softly biting his tongue. Then a little harder. Then harder.

SCENE 5- THE FOND  
HOUSEHOLD- KITCHEN

DANA is a mess, trying to clean a heap of partially burnt coupons off of the table. They are damp, and there's a red burn mark on DANA's face. The front door opens and shuts.

NEBULA

Mom? Mom! What's that smell? Is everything okay?

DANA

Shhhit. Yeah, Honey, everything's fine, I took care of it. I just had an accident in here. I wasÉ

NEBULA and ALEX enter.

DANA

I was clipping coupons and-

NEBULA

Is that my lighter?

DANA

What?

NEBULA

That's my lighter.

DANA

Well, maybe you should get used to sharing your things.

NEBULA

Alex, go to your room.

ALEX

No fire?

NEBULA

Not yet. Go to your room.

ALEX exits.

NEBULA

Hitting the olive oil kind of hard again, aren't you Mom?

DANA

When were you going to tell me.

NEBULA

I'm getting it aborted.

DANA

How could you do this?

NEBULA

Oh, a lecture? Is that going to solve this? Do lectures kill babies? Or maybe like if I had a lecture I wouldn't like fucking so much?

DANA

Look at me, Nebula! LOOK! Is this what you want to be? Is this what you want? Finding your daughter's positive pregnancy test, getting drunk on some bottom shelf brandy you hide in an olive oil bottle, like you're fucking fooling anybody? Then burning your face on a fucking coupon fire you set with your cigarette when you passed out? Is this what you want? Because this right here? This is the highlight, darling. Getting an abortion at 17? That was me. And oh, I didn't give a red hot fuck about it either. But you don't have to get here. You don't have to get to this point, Nebula. All I can do is look back and hate who I was and the shit I did to myself, the shit I let everyone do to me. But you don't have to look back and hate yourself. I'm right here. Hate me if it'll get you to stop. I will make you hate me, if it'll get you to stop this.

NEBULA

Do you hate me then? Is that what this is? You see me repeating all the gross shit you did, and all you see is a reflection? You think this shit is YOUR fault?

DANA

No! I told you! I told you over and over, I hid nothing from you! I told you all the sickening shit that I did, so I can save you from it, but that's right where you're headed-

NEBULA

You're wrong! No, you're wrong, I'm smarter than you were, Mom. You might know what would've been best for you back in your fuck-up days, but it's not what's better or me. What did you pass onto me? How to appease your pimp and make weapons out of anything within reach? This has nothing to do with your shit parenting.

DANA

What did you say?

NEBULA

I'm my own fucking person! I have my own identity, I'm making my own choices because this is who I am! I'm not some shit replicate of your body, reliving your life, and I am no longer, like impressionable or whatever, for you. Do you know what that means? No matter How hard you try, Mom, I'm nothing like you!

DANA holds up the pregnancy test.

DANA

Bullshit you're not.

NEBULA

Fuck you!

DANA

I've given everything to you!

NEBULA

Yup, here this is.

DANA

All I have, all I am, you shit on it and throw it back in my face!

NEBULA

Get it through your retarded head! This has nothing to do with you! I would be getting the same abortion next week in the same clinic with or without you as my mother. You dropped me out of your tattered rash of a vagina, and ever since then, I have been completely my own person.

DANA

How could you say that? I fucking raised you! Nebula, how can you fucking say that when IÉIÉ

NEBULA

Ugh, fuck it, turn it into your thing, it's what you do. Christ, you're selfish.

DANA

Listen to me! Fine! You're your own person! You're a worthless, loveless, stupid fuck-up slut, and that has nothing to do with me! YOU fucked up your own

life! YOU are fucking up my life! And I thank God you're killing that little cock roach before he can endure the inhumane, hellish torture of having you as a mother!

NEBULA

It's the least I can do. I wish you would have done the same for me or, God, at least for Alex.

DANA and NEBULA reel emotionally for a beat.

DANA

I want you gone by the weekend.

NEBULA

I'm going NOW. Put some ice on your face, you look like a crack whore.

DANA

What about Alex? Your blood?

NEBULA

Yeah, I'd lay off the olive oil if I were you.

DANA

Nebula.

NEBULA turns to exit forever.

DANA

Nebula!

NEBULA

Stop saying my name!

NEBULA exits.

DANA

Wait! Please Nebula! NEBULA!

Lights go down on DANA as she's pleading. She exits as the set for NEBULA'S bedroom is set up.

SCENE 6- NEBULA'S BEDROOM

Over dark, we hear PERRY and RAY.

PERRY

(Giggling) So at the end he's fucking her, and she's totally passed out right. And he's saying, "Hey, it's me. Casper! It's Casper!" Just fucking away!

RAY

And he has AIDS right?

PERRY

Yeah! He totally has AIDS you have to watch it!

RAY

Okay. So is that the most fucked up movie you've seen?

PERRY

Oh, nowhere close. If you want to talk fucked up, it's documentaries. You know, because it's real shit.

RAY

Like human trafficking, that kind of shit?

PERRY

I mean, yeah, sure, trafficking or mass murderers like Iceman or Dear Zachary fucked me up for a bit, but you know what gets to me dude? You're going to think I'm a complete fag.

RAY

Unicorn poaching?

PERRY

Close! Dolphins, man. You give me a doc like Blackfish or The Cove? Shit, I gotta call into work for a week.

RAY

So Serbian Film or Cannibal Holocaust.

PERRY

Eh, I'll put one of those one if I'm baking or cleaning or something, but, like I said, for a good sad buzz, it's documentaries, all the way.

RAY  
Especially dolphin ones?

PERRY  
Fuckin' ay.

RAY  
Okay we're here.

We hear two car doors open and close.  
A key goes into a lock and opens a  
door.

RAY  
Hello? Ms. Fond?

PERRY  
Oh shit.

RAY  
What?

PERRY  
There's no way I'm this high right now.

RAY  
Yeah, well try not to fuck around too much, we have  
an agenda.

PERRY  
Agenda's such a bitch word.

PERRY and RAY enter NEBULA'S bedroom.  
They're each carrying an empty  
garbage bag, still folded into two  
dimensional rectangles. RAY is  
holding a list on a piece of paper.

RAY  
If we can actually do this and get done before  
Nebula's mom gets here, that would be awesome, so  
let's get fucking moving. I'll get the clothes, you  
can get the make-up shit. Perry?

PERRY is trying to open his garbage  
bag, but it's going poorly.

PERRY

(Giggling) I can't fucking open it, I can'tÉ  
GoddammitÉ

RAY opens his bag for him.

RAY

Just hold the bag open.

RAY begins gathering things from the list and putting them in the garbage bag. PERRY becomes disinterested quickly and begins rummaging around NEBULA's bed.

RAY

Looking for something in particular?

PERRY

I certainly am. Hizzah!

PERRY holds a dildo high in the air.

RAY

That's not on the list.

PERRY

Well, no, it wouldn't be. She knows I'll be in her pants by tomorrow morning.

PERRY takes a long sniff of the dildo.

RAY

Dude.

DANA is sneaking around the doorway wielding a taser.

PERRY

How many letters do I have to write Ben and Jerry's before they make a clit flavored ice cream?

DANA pounces into the room and electrocutes PERRY. PERRY collapses. She spins toward RAY.

RAY

Holy shit! Whoa! Ms. Fond, you know me! It's Ray, we're just getting Nebula's stuff.

DANA

I can see that, why the hell isn't she getting her shit herself?

RAY

She doesn't want to talk to you, I'm sorry! Look, here's her list, it's in her handwriting.

DANA takes the list and reads it briefly.

DANA

(Pointing to the dildo) That is not on the list.

RAY

No. He's a douche, and he's high, I'm sorry. Look, Ms. Fond, I don't want to be involved in this more than necessary.

DANA

Me neither.

RAY

Okay. So just, like, let me get the stuff on the list and we'll leave.

PERRY

(Groaning) Shhhit. Oh my God.

DANA

Is he the father?

RAY

No, No, No, I don'tÉ I said I don't want to be involved, please don't.

DANA

Is he?

RAY

I don't know.

DANA

Are *you*?

RAY

NnÉ IÉ No. No.

DANA takes the taser to PERRY's balls. PERRY screams and seizures in pain. DANA takes the dildo and puts it in the trash bag. She approaches RAY, who backs away, stricken with fear.

DANA

I'll go get her medications.

RAY

Thank you.

RAY continues to pack.

PERRY

Ohh my Jesus. Oh sweet Lion of Juda, my balls. That psychotic bitch.

RAY

You should wait in the car.

PERRY

Dear Christ of Nazareth, I think I shat myself.

RAY

Perry! Wait in the fuckng car!

PERRY

I can't walk, Ray! My that cunt turned my junk into a burnt marshmallow!

RAY

At least she missed your arm. That new tat is looking pretty sick.

PERRY

Yeah, not bad. Hey you get a test subject for that Jew one?

RAY

Israeli, yeah I think so. We'll see how it shakes out.

PERRY

Who? High school prick?

RAY

Yeah, he's in high school. I'll tell you more in the car, which is where you should go wait.

PERRY

I'm working on this new tattoo for my back. It's Winnie the Pooh with a huge boner, spanking Piglet, but I can't decide if I want them in S&M gear or not. Probably. Right?

RAY

How about they're both dressed as Tigger?

PERRY

Now, that's fucked up.

DANA enters with an armful of pill bottles and a bag of ice. PERRY sits upright with his legs apart, giving his injured genitals room, avoiding any friction.

DANA

Here are Nebula's pills and a schedule with the dosages. How long do you think she'll be gone?

RAY

She's pretty mad.

DANA

Where is she staying?

PERRY

She's fine, Ms. F. She's well taken care of, going to school still, getting fed, she's fine.

DANA

I got you some ice.

DANA drops the ice on PERRY's lap. He screams.

Scene 7- DAK'S PAD

During the set up of the DAK'S PAD set, this phone call plays over black.

ring. ring  
dak

Pick up, bitch.

dana

(Answering) Look, asshole, I don't know what else you could want from me. I gave you everything back and now she's pregnant, so don't even bother threatening me. I have nothing you want.

dak

Easy, easy. Calm down, Dana. I know she is. I'm not calling to threaten you. You were my best girl at one point, I won't forget that.

dana

I wish I could. Why won't you leave us alone? I don't have anymore money, I gave it all back to you.

dak

Yeah, that deal of ours kind of fell apart didn't it? You were supposed to raise the kid until she was ripe under my dollar, then you were to turn her over to me to take your place. Now, this contract in my hand still holds up, emotions aside, so I wanted you to know that I intend on paying for her abortion so we can continue the course. She's almost ready-

dana

No, Dak, I told you. The deal is off, I'll go back out again if you need me to, but don't you fucking touch her.

dak

Ha! You're hilarious, Dana, you truly are. Angel, you are the last thing anybody wants. I want Nebula.

dana

Go fuck yourself.

dak

I know where she is. Do you?

dana

What?

dak

I know where your daughter is. So I guess I'm saying you don't have a choice. I'm sorry things couldn't work out for you. But listen, if you kick up any fuss, like if send your little goblin after me, you're going to start finding body parts in your mailbox. You understand me, Dana doll?

dana

Where is she?

dak

Alright, Dana.

dana

Where is she goddammit!?

Click. Dial tone.

Lights rise on DAK'S PAD, a studio apartment. A shot glass and a bottle of whiskey sit on a coffee table center stage, along with a mess of burner phones, a beer bottle, a lighter, and a handgun. A can of bug spray sits by the recliner.

RYAN, a young prostitute, stands by the door. Mascara runs down her cheeks. DAK sits in a recliner. He hangs up a cell phone, takes out the battery, and throws it away. RYAN swats a fly away from her face.

DAK

Ryan, come in, come in.

RYAN comes into the center of the room. DAK points at a folding chair against the wall. RYAN unfolds the chair and sits. She swats at another fly.

DAK

They like you.

RYAN

My take-home would argue otherwise.

DAK

Hm? Oh, No, the flies. The flies like you. They always get thick in the summer.

RYAN

Look, I'm sorry. I just, I'd never doneÉ

DAK

I know. That's what the client asked for. He asked for someone he could train. Someone who would cry.

RYAN

It was fine, butÉ he just started bleeding, and I thought I'd hit him too hard.

DAK

Did He tell you to stop?

RYAN

No.

DAK

No. Did he asked you to go easier?

RYAN

No.

DAK

No.

RYAN

He told me to hit him harder.

DAK

This man had whipped you?

RYAN

Yeah.

DAK

Flogged you right? Like with the leather andÉ

RYAN

Yeah.

DAK

He ripped that shirt to shreds. Did you bleed? Does it hurt?

RYAN

É Yeah.

DAK

Then why the fuck wouldn't you hit him harder?

RYAN

I couldn't. I don't know. I couldn't. I'm sorry.

DAK

Did your mama teach you not to hit? Is that it? É No that can't be it. You know I counted on you sustaining some visible wounds from this job. But it was to be lucrative. So I thought after the job, you bring home the bacon, and then you can spend the next two or three weeks on vacation, healing up. Like a thank you. But now, you're all gashed up, out of commission for God knows How long, AND you didn't bring me a third of what the job was supposed to bring in.

RYAN

Dak, I'm sorry. I can't hurt people. I told you that.

DAK

I know what you told me.

DAK lights a cigarette. RYAN swats at a fly.

DAK

Did He fuck up your tattoos?

RYAN

I don't think so.

DAK

Good.

DAK rises and exits into another room.

DAK (OS)

A lot of dudes out there like that woodsy demon chick shit. Primal you know? Hedonistic. I'll bet you do a lot of laying at the alter shit. Candles, pentagrams.

DAK enters with some wet towels. He wraps them around RYAN's back. She cringes slightly.

DAK

Am I right?

RYAN

You're not wrong.

DAK

Ha! That's what's up. You're bleeding all over my chair, dude.

RyAN

Sorry.

DAK sits. He swats at a fly, then sees the fly on the lip of the beer bottle. He begins to circle the fly with his cigarette, like he's tracing a spiral in the air, starting with wide circles growing tighter.

DAK

You ever see the movie Hocus Pocus, back in 90 something? Hell, you probably weren't even born then, but it was a Halloween staple for my generation.

RYAN

I didn't watch a lot of movies as a kid.

DAK

There was this witch in it, the blonde one. She does this hypnotic, suggestive uhÉ broom dance, like in the sky, that lures all the little kids toÉ something, I lost interest after that part. But I

came the first time in my life watching that scene.  
So I get it.

DAK continues to spiral over the fly,  
making the circles tighter and  
tighter.

DAK

You're a witch, right?

RYAN

I uhÉ I do some wiccan practices sometimes.

DAK

Wiccan?

RYAN

Yeah just like aÉ reverence for the earth or  
whatever. What are you doing?

DAK

You've never done this? Oh, I guess you wouldn't  
have, with a reverence for the earth and everything.  
I'm killing this fly. It doesn't even know it's  
dying. It's watching my cigarette with all of its  
lenses circle and circle, round and round. Getting  
closer and closer. Like a slow tornado. It's  
breathing in the smoke, making it's little brain  
cloudy. It's too dizzy to fly away. The time to fly  
away has long passed. People think the secret to  
killing flies is speed. You beat its reflexes or  
anticipate its patterns. But it's not the best way.  
The secret is patience.

DAK circles down upon the fly and  
pushes his cigarette into it, killing  
the fly.

RYAN

I can make this up to you. I'll go bareback-

DAK

Ryan, you know none of my merch goes bareback, you  
crazy? You sure you don't wanna run away?

DAK lights another cigarette and crosses over to RYAN, who remains seated.

RYAN

I have nowhere to go.

DAK

You don't miss your mama?

RYAN

I don't know.

DAK goes around RYAN's back and begins to adjust the towels.

DAK

You don't know. Well, you're sure as shit not just taking off work just because you got hurt. On the other hand, you're not Really worth anything to me until your back heals. I guess you can do some mouth work maybe. Some glory hole stuff. You know what that is?

RYAN

Yeah, I can do that.

DAK

You could. What do your tattoos mean?

RYAN

This one's a constellation.

DAK

Cancer, I see that. Is that you?

RYAN

It's my little brother.

DAK

Do you miss him?

RYAN

I don't know.

DAK

Why did you kill him?

RYAN

You promised never to ask me that.

DAK

I know. And you promised to always do as you're fucking told. So now, I'm asking you please to tell me this one thing.

RyAN

No.

Dak

I don't have to ask please you know.

RYAN

ÉHe killed my dog.

DAK

Your dog?

RYAN

My puppy. With a snowblower.

Dak

Then how did you kill your brother? Not with a snowblower.

RyAN

No. Jesus.

RYAN squeezes her hands shut and opens them.

Dak

You hit him didn't you?

RYAN nods.

Dak

Over and over.

RYAN

I broke both my wrists and some fingers.

DAK

But you didn't stop there. As your hands clinched as best they could with your crooked fingers, flopping

around, your arms just couldn't stop swinging. With every hit a jolt of pain would explode through your arm. After it started to hurt, you wanted it to keep hurting. Right? It could never hurt bad enough for what you did. So you got a tattoo. You should get a tattoo for your dog too.

RYAN

I didn't kill my dog.

DAK

Even so. What was his name?

RYAN

My brother?

DAK

Your dog.

DAK unscrews the cap off of a half-empty bottle of whiskey.

RYAN

Wolf.

DAK

(Handing her the bottle) Do you miss Wolf?

RYAN

Yes.

RYAN drinks and hands the bottle back.

DAK

Do you feel like your brother deserves to be dead?

RYAN

Yes.

DAK

Do you think you deserve to be here?

RYAN

É Yes.

DAK

Good.

DAK hands RYAN a wet washcloth. She puts it in her mouth.

DAK

You do.

DAK pours the bottle of whiskey over RYAN's wounds. She screams in pain.

DAK

You can make it up to me, Ryan. You're going to help me catch a fly, a fly I've been waiting seventeen years to catch.

Lights go down. PERRY and RAY have this conversation as the INK TANK is set up.

PERRY

In middle school I was in love with this girl. My friends and I called her the girl with the magnetic house. She was this high school chick, we didn't know her name. Her house had aluminum siding, or whatever it was, some metal that we could stick magnets to. We had a theory that everything in the world was slowly being pulled into that one house until we realized that was retarded, but anyway. One day, I was walking by her house with this other kid, who always gave me shit about my dick size or ball size, not that he'd seen either. This is just how he talked to people. I think he turned out to be gay, for real. Anyway, he tells me to just knock on this girl's door and ask her out. Called me Baby-balls. Drove me fucking crazy, Baby-balls. I can still hear is fucking voice. So I said fuck it, I walked up the steps to her door and knocked. I was wearing these new high-tops, I remember. I'd been getting compliments on them all day, so my confidence was at an all-time high. Like, this moment was just meant to be. So this girl answers, and she's gorgeous, right? Blonde hair, green eyes, she was holding an instrument. A violin maybe. I said what's your name. She said Kerry. I said I'm Perry. I guess our names rhyme. She says so. I say so we should go out sometime. She smiles, God she was so pretty, not

like in a pervy way, like just in a perfect, like beautiful kind of awkward way. She looks at my high-tops, dude, and she says, and I'll never fucking forget this, she says nice shoes. You should wear those tonight when you take me out for ice cream. Oh my God! It was the happiest moment of my life before or since, I shit you not. We arrange a time, and I'm feeling rad as fuck, so when we say bye, I go to jump the rail to her steps. My fucking shoelace gets snagged on the bottom and I just rack myself on the rail. A ball on either side, dick right on top, everything just crushed under my ass. I vomit immediately, right, and I'm just hanging there by my fucking shoelace, draped over the side of the rail, gasping for air, crying, choking. I try to shake my shoe free, but I can't, and I'm freaking the fuck out. Kerry says oh my God are you alright and she starts working on my shoelace, and I'm just flailing, and as soon as she gets me free, I accidentally kick her in the face and fall right on my fucking head. I just hear the door slam. We had to cancel because I had to go to the hospital. So instead of having this memory about getting ice cream with the girl in the magnetic house, instead of that, I know all about scrotal torsion. My friend thought it was the funniest shit he'd ever seen. That was the worst my balls had ever felt until today.

RAY

Damn. I racked myself skating once. Other than that... we're home.

SCENE 8- THE INK TANK

Lights come up on the INK TANK. Examples of tattoo are on the walls, there's a chair center stage and a needle gun on a counter adjacent. Blood stained paper towels are on the floor around the chair. Empty beer cans and bottles are scattered. RAY and PERRY enter with the bags of Nebula's stuff. PERRY is limping.

perry

I gotta sober up fast, I got an appointment in a few minutes.

ray

I'll put these downstairs.

RAY exits with the bags. PERRY goes to the counter where the needle gun is plugged in. He faces upstage as He drops his pants down slightly to assess the damage.

perry

Ugh. Fuck.

PERRY opens an alcohol wipe and weeps as he cleans his charred junk sack. He unwraps a bandage and puts it in place.  
RAY reenters.

perry

Please disregard the man bandaging his genitals by the tattoo chair.

ray

Did you just put a band-aid on it?

PERRY pulls up his pants and faces RAY.

perry

Yeah, should be good to go.

ray

How are you going to take it off?

perry

É Rats.

ray

Whatever, come on, let's clean up. Who's your appointment.

perry

Oh. She's this meth head wicca chick. Blake or Ryan some dude name. Pretty hot if you're into that earthy, pointed fingernail shit. But off limits, okay?

ray  
Why? I mean, that's fine, but why?

perry  
She's merch.

ray  
Oh.

Perry  
But maybe She'll give you a freebee, who knows with these. She wants a wolf tattoo- where did I put that?

RYAN enters.

ray  
Hey, do you have an appointment?

ryan  
Yup. I'm Ryan.

ray  
Ray. Perry's looking for your design. The wolf right?

ryan  
Yessir.

ray  
Is that your spirit animal or something?

ryan  
Something like that. I'm a biter.

ray  
Cool. I only bite food.

perry  
Just give me a second, Ryan. Oh, I think I put it up in my room. Back in a second.

PERRY exits downstairs. RAY begins to sanitize the chair and tools.

ryan  
Hey can you help me out with something?

ray

What? I'm looking for a lady. You know a girl named Nebula.

ray

Yeah! She's at school. I'm actually going to go pick her up in a minute here. Her and her brother. How do you know her?

ryan

Friend of a friend.

PERRY reenters with the wolf design.

perry

Got it!

ryan

Whoa, wait. That's it?

perry

Yeah, it's bad-ass.

ryan

That looks like it belongs on a little boy's T-shirt.

perry

What?

ryan

It looks like a dad took his son camping and they got that on a shirt from the gift shop. It should say fucking Wyoming across the top.

perry

It's a wolf, what the fuck are you talking about? You wanted a wolf!

ryan

Dammit. (To Ray) are you coming right back here?

ray

Yeah. (To Perry) I gotta go pick up Nebula and Alex.

perry

We got this. Take a seat, darling.

ryan  
Just go slow. And make it tiny, would you?

perry  
Fo' sho', no worries.

RYAN rolls her eyes and exposes a  
back shoulder blade.  
Lights dim as RAY crosses to stage  
right, where ALEX and NEBULA enter.

ray  
Ready to go?

nebula  
Yeah, you get my stuff?

ray  
Sure. Perry lost his testicles in the process, but  
we got everything on the list. And then some.

nebula  
What do you mean Perry lost his testicles? My mom?

alex  
I'm thirsty.

nebula  
I know, shut up.

ray  
Yeah, your mom took a taser to his taint.

nebula  
She fucking what?! That psycho!

ray  
Yeah, it was ugly. Alright everybody in, you too  
Alex.

nebula  
No, I don't thinkÉ come on, Ray, you really want to  
tattoo him?

ray  
He's easy, he's free, he won't complain if I fuck  
up, and it'll piss your mom of like none other.

nebula

Okay, let's go.

RAY, NEBULA, and ALEX cross back over to the INK TANK.

RYAN leaps off the table, mid-stensil. She gets out her cell phone.

ryan

Break time.

perry

Okay, whatever. Nebula, I got something for you.

ray

He brought your dildo.

nebula

Really?

perry

No, not that, I mean, I did, but I got something else.

PERRY exits around a corner.

ray

Hey, so remember last year when you said that when you moved out, we couldÉ you know, be for real?

nebula

Um, yeah, butÉ I wasn't talking aboutÉ like this.

ray

But you said-

nebula

No Ray.

RAY

But that's what you said, I thought that's why-

PERRY returns with an envelope. He hands it to NEBULA.

perry

I know it's not mine or whatever, but I don't know. I know you don't have the money, and you can't get a job because you're going to school and shit. So

nebula

What is this?

perry

It's for your operation thing. You know? If you're still planning on

RAY

An abortion?

alex

I'm thirty.

nebula

Relax, Alex. Perry, I can't, that's ridiculous.

perry

No, fucking take it, you need it, I don't. Just take it. Consider it an apology for ripping your shirt the other night. I was too wild. My bad.

nebula

I loved that shirt thanks, Perry.

They hug. RAY is visibly upset.

PERRY

Sure, plus it's more room for me.

PERRY begins to get tattoo supplies out for the counter. NEBULA is confused by the comment... then gets it.

NEBULA

Oh, Jesus, fuck you.

ray

Seriously?

nebula

What?

ray

Nothing. Okay, Alex. Saddle up, buddy. You still have that design?

ALEX takes out the folded paper from his pants and hands it to Ray.

ray

That's the one! Take a seat!

nebula

Alex, you don't have to do this. It's going to hurt, so if it's too much, just tell him to stop and he'll stop.

PERRY goes to sanitize the utensils and prep the table. RYAN tries to wash the wolf stencil off of her shoulder, taking breaks to text.

alex

Can I have a drink first?

nebula

Didn't you have any at school?

alex

No, none at school, not today. Mom didn't send any today. Baltimore gave me some juice, but it wasn't good for my body.

nebula

Selfish bitch, why doesn't she just feed you her own blood if she loves you so much?

alex

Mama's blood is yucky, it's a yucky drink. Bleck! (Suddenly looking at Ryan) I don't like her.

nebula

Alex, that's rude.

ryan

It's fine. He just hasn't gotten to know me.

RAY starts to draw the lettering on ALEX'S arm.

nebula

Going a little aggressive, Ray. Ease up a bit.

perry

Yeah, dude, smooth strokes.

ray

You said that when you moved out we could be together.

nebula

Fucking really, Ray? Those were slightly different circumstances, don't you think?

ray

Not Really. You moved out. I just don't understand your hesitation all of the sudden. It's fucking lame.

nebula

I was kicked out, Ray! Jesus! Why are you being a prick?

ray

Look, I feel like you're dangling carrots in front of me. I just need to know what the fuck it is you want.

ALEX continues to stare at RYAN.

nebula

I want to get an abortion and get on with my life, sorry if I've been a little fucking distracted recently. Have I not been catering to your emotional needs?

ray

No, actually, you've been really insensitive. Look, obviously it's your body, and it would be fucking cruel to bring a kid into this world under these circumstances, but you never even talked to me about it. Am I not entitled to that?

PERRY

Fuck dude, I didn't know.

nebula

I was afraid you'd want to keep it. Oh God, do you?

ray

Okay, Alex, it's all drawn out. How does it look?

perry

Hasty work, dude, But that's legitimate. Listen, Ray, I didn't know, man...

RYAN looks up to see ALEX staring at her. She lowers her phone and starts inching toward him, zombie-like.

NEBULA

Okay, satisfied with your practice? Perry, can you take Alex home?

Ray

I have to ink it.

NEBULA

Ray, that's enough.

RAY

I gotta ink it.

PERRY

You sure he'll be good with it, man?

RAY

Look at him, he's fine, he's solid.

NEBULA

No, I'm pulling the plug, dude, this is fucking... not right.

RAY

Shut the fuck up.

RAY clicks on the needle. It buzzes.  
RYAN is nearer to ALEX.

RAY

If you touch me, it'll hurt him. So don't. Perry, make sure he doesn't twitch.

PERRY

I don't know man.

RAY

I don't want to hurt him.

PERRY puts his hands on ALEX'S shoulder. RAY puts his knee on ALEX'S hand. The needle makes contact with his skin. ALEX grits his teeth, but doesn't break eye contact with RYAN.

NeBULA

What the fuck is wrong with you!? Get off of him!

PERRY

Nebula, don't, you'll hurt him!

NEBULA

He's already hurting him, dammit!

PERRY

Yeah fuck this, pull the plug!

NEBULA pulls the plug.  
PERRY and RAY release ALEX, ALEX grabs RAY by the throat.  
RYAN stands docilely by the chair.  
PERRY tries to get ALEX to release RAY'S throat, but his grip is unbreakable.

NEBULA

Alex! Alex it's okay, calm down.

ALEX

I'm thirsty.

NeBULA

I know, but you don't have to hurt anyone. You're hurting him, Alex. We're going home, okay? You can have some of my blood until we can get some in, it's okay.

NEBULA gently touches ALEX'S hand.  
ALEX releases RAY. RAY coughs.

ALEX

No, but because I'm thirsty now. Now, now, NOW!

RAY

Don't ever fucking do that again.

NEBULA

You asshole! What did you think would happen?

RAY

He signed up for it! He's been holding onto the design like it's a fucking treasure map. I thought he'd be into it!

PERRY

Not cool, Ray.

RAY

What? Oh my God. Did you guys not notice that that freak just tried to fucking murder me?

NEBULA

You're an asshole. Alex, is she gone? Is Ryan gone?

ALEX

No.

NEBULA

Can you bring her back please?

PERRY

What the hell does that mean?

NEBULA

Please? We'll tell her to go, okay, but you have to bring her back.

ALEX

I don't like her. She makes me thirsty.

NEBULA

Alex.

ALEX reluctantly looks into RYAN'S eyes. RYAN blinks out of the trance and breathes heavily.

Ryan

What the fuck happened? What...

PERRY

Be easy, Ryan.

RyAN

Was I drugged?

PERRY

No no no, you just uh...

RYAN

It was him (To ALEX). What the hell did you do to me?

PERRY

Nebula?

NEBULA

Nothing, it's fine. You're fine. But you need to go.

RyAN

Fuck that, no, what happened?

PERRY

Ryan, it's cool, we'll finish up later this week or something.

RyAN

Seriously?

PERRY

I'll comp it, whatever you want. I'll throw in a free one if you want, but you need to fucking bounce.

RyAN

Whatever.

RYAN exits.

RAY

We need to get the freak-show home.

NEBULA

Yeah. I need to feed him first or he's going to go ape shit. It won't take long. Come on, Alex, I'll show you where I'm staying.

NEBULA and ALEX head toward the other exit into NEBULA'S room. ALEX hesitates and turns around.

ALEX

I like the tattoo. I'm sorry if I hurt you.

RAY flips him off. ALEX exits.

PERRY

So you neglected to mention the subject would be retarded. That's an issue.

RAY

He's not... I thought it would be perfect. If I fucked it up, he wouldn't care.

PERRY

Are you into her?

RAY

Who? Nebula?

PERRY

Yeah, are you into her? Just tell me.

RAY

It doesn't matter.

PERRY

I didn't know dude.

RAY

It doesn't matter.

PERRY

It does though, I'm not... I try not to be a dick sometimes. So if you're into her, I'll back off, just let me know, but you gotta let me know.

RAY

She was supposed to... She said she was going to move in with me. I mean, before I knocked her up, so

I just assumed... like I just thought that would be an obvious exit. Like, I didn't mean to, obviously. But it's whatever. Fuck it.

PERRY

It's not whatever. You tried to take off her brother's arm with a needle gun.

RAY

I'm just fucked up right now, okay? I got pissed off and yeah, just drop it okay?

PERRY

I mean... she doesn't have anywhere to go. You know? I didn't know... I'll back off. Nebula's got bigger shit to deal with anyway. It's not a good look, this tug and pull shit. So I'm done. I'll just be done with it. Okay? Drop it like you said.

RAY

Okay, like I said, it's whatever.

PERRY

For real though. Did you wanna keep it?

RAY

I don't know. But I wanted to be asked.

PERRY

Well, I'm fucking asking you.

RAY

Ugh, it doesn't matter. Fuck!

PERRY

If she wanted to keep it, just hypothetical or whatever, would you help her out?

RAY

Yeah. I'd be there. I'd be solid. But I don't want to even think about it if she doesn't want to... you know? I just don't want to think about it.

PERRY

Yeah. But maybe if Nebula knew that you thought that, like if she knew that's what you thought... I

don't know, you might look like more of a serious dude in her mind. Like maybe you tell her that.

RAY

Maybe.

PERRY

You gotta be serious about it though. You bring a kid into a world like this... you gotta be able absorb a serious amount of shit. You gotta be like a body shield for them you know? You gotta be so hard, facing out. Then turn right around and be hella soft.

RAY

You got a kid?

PERRY

I had one yeah.

RAY

Who's the mom?

PERRY

The fucking state of Massachusetts.

PERRY laughs. ALEX and NEBULA reenter. NEBULA has her arm wrapped in a bloody shirt.

RAY

Sheezus.

NEBULA

It's fine. Perry, I borrowed your Coldplay shirt.

PERRY

That's cool. I don't really like them.

RAY

You need some water or something? Here, sit down.

NEBULA

Thanks. We gotta get Alex home.

PERRY

I'll take him. You ready to roll, player?

ALEX

Yes, okay.

RAY

Alex. I'm sorry for... this.

ALEX

For what? I like it. I said I like it and you gave me the middle finger.

RAY

Yeah, but, I kind of manipulated you into letting me uh... fff- look, I'm just sorry. Okay, are we cool?

ALEX

Okay.

NEBULA

Alex, you tell Mama that if she doesn't feed you, you're going to hurt somebody. Can you say that to her?

ALEX

If she doesn't feed me, I'll hurt somebody.

NEBULA

Exactly, and you don't want to hurt anybody, do you?

ALEX is silent.

NEBULA

Alex, do you?

ALEX shakes his head.

NEBULA

Okay. I'll see you later, buddy.

ALEX

Okay, yeah, bye.

PERRY and ALEX exit. RAY gets NEBULA a water and a package of cookies.

RAY

You know, I meant that. What I said to Alex. I was... that was really shitty.

NEBULA

Whatever.

RAY

So look. I just want you to know that...

NEBULA

Ugh, fucking really, Ray?

RAY

Fucking really what?

NEBULA

You don't have to do whatever you're about to do.

RAY

What am I about to do?

NEBULA

Just don't.

RAY

Well, I'm fucking going to. You owe me this much, to let me say this one thing to you.

NEBULA

I owe you nothing, asshole. Jesus Christ, you don't let up.

RAY

I'm just going to say it then. I get that you're pissed off, like extremely pissed off, like fucking livid, that I made you pregnant. I should have... fuck it. But I just want to let you know that, even though I want you to do whatever you want, I want to... I want to say...

NEBULA

*I want to say, I want to let you know just fucking say what you're trying to say please.*

RAY

I'm trying, goddammit! If you for some reason wanted to keep this fucking kid, I would be there for you. I would make you my life. Lame as it is, okay?

NEBULA

What?

RAY

I mean... like... I love you. So, I would be solid. I would be. I'm just saying I would be.

NEBULA

You would be?

RAY

I would.

NEBULA

You love me?

RAY

Yeah, like... yeah.

NEBULA

I should've told you. I mean, I should've asked you what you thought. I'm just trying to... Look are you serious about all that or are you just saying that shit?

RAY

There'd be no point in me just saying it if I wasn't serious, Neb. I've imagined you as a mom even before this. An older mom, like a mom-aged mom, but still. Like, okay, I've fucked around a lot, but after I do, I don't imagine those girls as moms, shit, I don't even want to be friends with like half of them. But you linger, I mean in my head and stuff. There's a lot to who you are, a what- a *density*, and I think about it a lot. I like to think about it. About you. About how you are to people. I mean even just now, the way you took care of your brother.

NEBULA

I just didn't want him to hurt anybody.

RAY

That's exactly how you look at it, but there's so more to it than that. You do what needs to be done to protect the people you love without even questioning your own wellbeing. And you know what's right, more than I do. So I would be solid, so solid, right behind you with everything. I swear to

God I would be. I don't know if all that matters,  
but I feel like you should know.

NEBULA

Then will you be?

RAY

I what?

NEBULA

Solid, will you be solid? I kind of... Ray, I want  
to have it. I just thought it would fuck up your  
life too much.

RAY

My life?! That kid would be a boot to my ass,  
Nebula. It would be a reason to go find something  
legit, and drop this tattoo bullshit. I would get my  
life together for that little fucker. I'm talking,  
3.5 GPA's, computer graphics classes, working shitty  
part-time gigs... my life? No, I'd be fine. You  
gotta think of what it would do to you! Motherhood  
ruins lives, Nebula. Always.

NEBULA

I don't think that's true. When my mom got pregnant  
with me, that's the only thing that got her out of  
the game. But I think if you treat your kid like  
your exit, like your new identity, I think that's  
what fucks you up. But I'm not my mother.

RAY

Thank Christ.

NEBULA

You know I was five when... that's when she told me  
about all the shit she did. She sat me down and told  
me where she'd come from, getting fucked raw every  
day and every night. It messed me up.

RAY

You don't say. That's not some shit you tell a kid.

NEBULA

It was her way of loving me. It was the only way she  
knew how. Out of fear. Like she wanted me to feel  
fear, so I could learn to protect myself from... all

the shit. I never had a chance to feel... strong, you know? Like part of it was her saying, this is what you saved me from, but she didn't seem grateful. Just afraid. I think if you have a kid, you just love them. Right? Like they'll find out about all the shit on their own.

RAY

Exactly. The world doesn't hide shit from you. It's a fucking display, you know? Kids are going to find out what pain is, no matter what. I think a parent's job-(starts laughing)-

NEBULA

(Also laughing) Fucking listen to you, "A parent's job..."

RAY

Fuck you! I know! But seriously, if you're going to be introduced to pain, and deception and shit, it shouldn't be from the one or two people who you can depend on for love. Right? You know how my mom taught me gratefulness?

NEBULA

How?

RAY

"I gave up my career for you, you little asshole! I used to have a body that could stop traffic! Gone! I used to be able to laugh at anything! Gone! I used to sleep at night and drink for fun! Gone! And this is how you repay me? By not eating your carrots!? You mother-fucker!"

NEBULA laughs.

RAY

You know. We could do this, like all of this, later.

NEBULA

Or we can do it now.

RAY

... So for real? Are we really doing this?

NEBULA shrugs.

NEBULA

I'm scared.

RAY

I'm fucking terrified. I gotta figure out what a resume is.

NEBULA

Kiss me, asshole.

They kiss.

DAK and RYAN appear in the doorway.  
DAK is holding a gun.

SCENE 9- SCHOOL NURSE'S OFFICE

ALEX and BALTIMORE are sitting next to each other in the Nurse's office. BALTIMORE is sipping his juice. ALEX has ripped open a plastic bottle. He's trying to scrape the dry blood from the insides.

Baltimore

You don't have any new blood?

ALEX

No. Mama says she's too busy because she has to sleep because she has to catch the bad man who's trying to catch Nebula.

BALTIMORE

Whoa. That's pretty intense. Who's after your sister?

ALEX

A man. Mama said she was too sleepy last night, but tonight for sure, we're going to go get the man. Then she says I'll get some blood because I'm very, very thirsty.

BALTIMORE

Okay. Good luck to you.

ALEX

Mama was mad at me last night because I got this tattoo.

BALTIMORE

Wow, did that hurt?

ALEX

It's Jew for courage.

BALTIMORE

What?

ALEX

Jew for courage.

BALTIMORE

Oh, Hebrew?

ALEX

She saw the tattoo and then she knew where sister was, where she's living. That's where we're going tonight. Mama said she has to rest today. So I'm thirsty again today. I'm very thirsty. I told her I was going to hurt somebody. But I don't want to, but I told her I was going to. I was... I might hurt somebody.

BALTIMORE

I'd give you some of my blood if I could, Alex. For whatever it's worth. I'm sure a lot of people would if it wasn't... You know. So weird. Anyway you might get diabetes from my blood. I don't know how that sort of thing works with you. I'm high today though. My blood would probably taste like cherry syrup. Do you know Stephanie Bankfeldt?

ALEX

(Whispering, writhing in his chair) Baltimore. Baltimore. Baltimore...

BALTIMORE

You'd know her if I pointed her out to you. Band chick. I think I might ask her out today. I don't really know her, but we have this thing where we fake head-butt each other in the hallway. A couple of months ago, I was on my way here for some insulin. I was the only one in the hallway, then she

comes around the corner. I'd seen her before and thought she was pretty, but seeing her coming right at me like that. Damn. So I did that awkward trying to get out of the way shuffle. I juke right, go left, she mirrors me. It's utter chaos and we're about to run into each other, then she grabs me by the shoulders. She looks in my eyes, then goes BSHH! Throwing her head forward, pretending to head-butt me, you know? I smelled her hair for half a second. Then she just smiled and blew right by me. It was hilarious. I remember thinking right then, yeah. I would die for her.

ALEX grips the underside of his chair, rocking back and forth, biting down on his tongue harder and harder.

#### BALTIMORE

That's a thing people say. I'd die for so and so, take a bullet for them or whatever. It's supposed to measure a quantity of love, converted into terms of life-worth. But just because you would die for someone, that doesn't necessarily mean you think their life is more valuable than yours. It certainly doesn't mean you love them. Hell, I'm willing to bet a lot of people would die for others, for strangers. There's an easy nobility to it. Your life is suddenly worth exactly something. You get the opportunity to die for someone and suddenly you have an exact purpose that comes with lore and legend... But that's not what I'm talking about because that's not love. When I say that I would die for Stephanie Bankfeldt, I mean I would be willing to take on meaningless pain. I would welcome the death of my body, my past, the memory of me, everything, in exchange for almost nothing from her. Because even the smallest moment with her, like the head-butts, those are holy moments to me. I'm not even sure what that means exactly. It's just what I feel. I feel like I would hurt if only for her smile. I would die for her to never have to experience a traffic jam. I would die for her to never get her money eaten by the pop machine. I would die every day if it would somehow save her from those minor inconveniences. Every day. That's what I mean. That feels like love to me. So I think that means I should at least ask her out. To at least share that moment with her.

With everything in flux for even a second. In a holy space between a fake head-butt and... anything. The next time she stops me in the hallway to fake head-butt me, I'll ask her. Hopefully she doesn't push my face away with her hand like she did last time. You ever love somebody like that, Alex? Alex?

ALEX is clamping his jaw down on his tongue so hard, his whole head is trembling in pain. A moan of pain grows out from his throat. The lights fade as the moan becomes a gurgling scream. Over black, ALEX spits his tongue out onto the floor. We hear ALEX gulping.

BaLTIMORE

Oh my God!

End of Act One.

ACT TWO

Scene 1- dak's pad

DAK is sitting in his chair with several medicine bottles in front of him on the coffee table. He is extracting very specific quantities from each bottle with a syringe and depositing them into a single shot glass.

RYAN is rubbing lotion on her lame-ass wolf tattoo.

Dak

Okay, I think that's it.

RyAN

How can you tell?

Dak

Because it smells like piss and chlorine.

RyAN

Have you used this recipe before.

DAK

Christ, once a month. When you're in this profession, there are some tricks you just have to know. This will kill the bug without having to scar her up or inject her with anything.

RyAN

I don't get why you just don't kill her.

DAK

That's because you're stupid. You know, I've never known someone who thought as much as you do, Ryan, who asks so many fucking questions, yet still remains, so goddamned stupid. You're a novelty. A disposable novelty.

RyAN

What the hell does that mean? You're going to replace me?

DAK

At least until you heal up, yeah. I'll have to. I have a quota to meet. Well, more of a personal financial goal, but yeah. I'm going to replace you for a bit. Bring her on out.

RYAN exits into a bedroom and reenters with NEBULA. DAK picks up a gun and the shot glass from the coffee table.

NeBULA

You're a fucking monster.

Dak

You know what I do to merch who's mouthy in all the wrong ways? I have her bite down on the top of my gun, right here. Then I fire a shot. The hammer shoots forward and retracts with such force, it rips off their tongue, their lips, their teeth, BOOM! Gone! Some food for thought. I made you something.

NeBULA

I don't want it.

Dak

Why did Dana name you Nebula?

NEBULA

Fuck you.

Dak

I get that you're brave, Nebula, and you don't care about your own life, but if you sass me one more time, I'll kill your mother, I'll kill your brother, Alex, and I'll kill Ray too. So right now, you're not being brave, you're just being selfish. So please, why did Dana name you Nebula?

NEBULA

A nebula is a cluster of stars. Every star is a sun with worlds orbiting around it. My mom said she named me that because I mean more than any one world to her.

Dak

I don't doubt it. You got her out of the business you know.

NEBULA

I know.

Dak

Out of the biz and into the drink. I'm surprised you don't have a standing BAC of 2.1 considering Dana downed a couple fifths a week with you in the womb. Believe me, I know. I've had my eye on you all that time. Did you get that feeling?

NEBULA

Yeah.

Dak

The deal was, I was to pay for your maintenance, from before your birth up until seventeen years old, then your mom was to officially retire when she turned you over to me. To take her place basically. Ryan here can tell you, I need consistency. You didn't know about that deal did you?

NEBULA

No.

DAK

Dana gave all the money back. She'd been saving. So every penny I'd given her for your upbringing, she reimbursed me for, hoping to buy you back. But that wasn't the deal. This pregnancy of yours kind of threw a wrench into everything. And sure, I thought about taking your baby. Raising it, grooming it to be a living sex doll, assuming it's a girl. I'd pull out all its fingernails, poison the gums so it would never develop teeth. Damage its eyesight, snip the uvula. You know, so there wouldn't be a gag reflex? It would be a minimal investment for a nominal gain. But you take into account the investment of time and ugh... Plus... you know. I'm not a monster.

NEBULA

You just think like one?

Dak

That's fair to say. But what successful businessman doesn't think like a monster?

NeBULA

Maybe you're a monster that thinks like a businessman.

DAK

These taxonomies bore me. It's time for you to drink this. Your family and your lover or your baby, the human sex doll? What do you say?

NEBULA takes the shot glass from DAK.  
DAK lights a cigarette and puts the lighter on the table.  
NEBULA looks back at RYAN.

NEBULA

He's going to kill you, you know?

Dak

Then gun's pointed at you, dear.

NEBULA

I wasn't talking about you.

NEBULA takes the shot and swallows.  
She starts coughing. DAK rises and sits her down on the chair.

Dak

I know, it's not great, but it'll do the trick. I think now is the time to mention that I haven't fucked without a condom in almost a year, so. Ryan, could you get the handcuffs please?

RyAN

Handcuffs where?

Dak

They should be in the night stand.

RYAN exits.

Dak

When your mom got herself pregnant, it was devastating for me. Did you know she had a client base of over a hundred? A hundred regulars! Now that's a resume! But the way she would hit the bottle, I thought there was no way that baby would make it full-term. But by Christ here you are. Some kind of miracle. Sometimes things work out no matter how hard we try to fuck them up. (To RYAN) You find them?!

RyAN

Are you sure they're in here?

Dak

If they're not in the night stand they're under the bed.

RyAN

I checked there too, I can't find them.

Dak

Useless. Sit tight, the pain will subside in five to ten minutes.

DAK exits to look for the cuffs.  
NEBULA finds the lighter on the coffee table. She takes off a sock and wraps it around the shot glass. She holds the lighter over the rim of the shot glass, heating it.

Dak (OFFSTAGE)

Here they are! You stay in here. We'll get some dinner after I'm done.

NEBULA bends down with her head by her knees, concealing the shot glass as she continues to heat it.

DAK enters, spinning the cuffs on a finger. He locks RYAN in the room behind him. DAK undresses slowly as he speaks.

Dak

You know, my sex doll idea reminds me of a story I'd heard. Talk about a monster. So I have this veterinarian friend. A while ago he was telling me how he used to receive these hamsters on the doorstep outside of his office. One or two at a time, he'd get them, every six weeks for over a year. Now these poor critters had all been shaved hairless, and their teeth and claws had all been removed, pulled out, not clipped. Also, they'd be in a constant state of shock. Whenever my friend would pick them up they would lose their absolute shit, screaming and flailing. They had no choice, but to put them down. Toward the end, one of the nurses realized that, or maybe she'd known, but was just too taken aback to mention, that all of these hamsters smelled like human assholes. Well, they eventually caught the guy who was dropping off these damaged rodents, after they had him followed. Turns out he was shaving and plucking them, so he could lube them up and shove them up his own ass and the asses of his friends as well. It was their thing. They'd all have a good tickle. Then after a rowdy night, out of guilt or shame or what have you, this fruit bat would drop these hamsters off at the vet's. I hope he intended to have them put down like they were doing, not rehabilitated and given to children, but you know never know with those creepers. You know what they did to him? They gave him six months house arrest. What do you suppose he did with all that time on his hands? When his sentence was up, listen to this part, he missed his court date, so they went to go check on him. His house was crawling with psychotic, shaved hamsters, smelling of man ass, and the man had hanged himself from the staircase. He didn't have it in him kill

the damned things. But he couldn't stop shoving them up his ass either. Then he'd have to look at those traumatized little faces and somehow decide what to have for dinner or what to watch on TV later that night.

DAK circles his cigarette over NEBULA as he did earlier with the fly.

Dak

Monsters can't be angels, Nebula. But every angel has at least a little monster in them. Like you're about to.

NEBULA pounces on DAK, pressing the shot glass into his eye, burning it. DAK screams in agony, falling back to the floor.

DAK throws NEBULA off of him. She lands by the chair, where she scoops up the bottle of bug spray. DAK takes a step toward her, and NEBULA blasts a warning shot of bug spray fueled fire through the lighter.

NEBULA

One more step and I'll melt the fucking flesh off your bones, you sicko!

NEBULA backs out through the exit.  
RYAN pounds on the door.

RyAN

Dak! Dak! What's happening! Nebula? Nebula! Nebula, help me! Help me! Someone help me!

Scene 2- The Fond Household

ALEX is standing stage right, staring vacantly. DANA holds his hands, searching for a sign of life in his eyes. She has a gun tucked in the back of her pants.

DANA

They should be here any minute, honey. We're going to catch the bad man. We're all going to be safe here. Then he's going to come right to us, okay? I know you're thirsty... Can mama just hear your voice? It's okay if you don't say anything, but can mama just hear you? Please? Alex? Why did you do that, baby? Why won't you tell me?

KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK.

NEBULA

Mom! It's me!

DANA runs to the door and answers.  
NEBULA, RAY, and PERRY all enter.  
DANA hugs NEBULA.

DaNA

Are you okay? Let me look at you, baby. Oh my God.

NEBULA

Perry called the cops. They should be here soon.  
Right Perry?

PERRY

Yup.

DANA

I told you. I told you, you weren't safe, any of you! And now you morons cost me my grandbaby.

PeRRY

Actually, Nebula was going to abort it anyway. We're lucky she got the fuck out of there before... well, we're just lucky.

NEBULA

Yeah Mom. You wanted this baby gone more than I did. You know it's just like you to take your fucking pride points instead of actually being helpful. The fuck is wrong with you?

DANA

I can't help you if you're always running from me!

NeBULA

Well, where have you been, Mom? I'm pregnant, living at a fucking tattoo parlor, your son is starving to death, and we're being hunted by a fucking psychopath, and where are you?

DaNA

What are you talking about? Nebula, I didn't put my dick in you! I didn't force you to move into that tattoo parlor! These are things you wanted! You made that very clear the last time we talked.

RAY

How could neither of you fucking see this? (To NEBULA) You're too proud to admit when you're fucked and need help, (to DANA) and you're too proud help your daughter without an apology! Too proud or too drunk!

DANA

Fuck you!

RAY

You're the same person.

NeBULA

Okay! Okay. I fucked up and I need your help. That's why I called you, that's why we came here, but if you need me to say it, I'm saying it. I've *needed* your help. I'm sorry. I'm just scared. But I really need you to be a mother to us now? Can you do that please? Mom, can you do that?

DANA

Okay.

RAY

Okay and what?

DaNA

I need to stop drinking. For good. Alex can't drink my blood if there's alcohol in it, but I... I want to stop so bad.

NEBULA

You can. Mom, we can help you.

DANA

I'm going to need that. I'm sorry. I'm sorry for all the shit I said. I'm sorry for what I said about not wanting you to keep the baby. I respect your decision, whatever you think is right, I'll support you.

RAY

We were going to keep it.

DaNA

What? We?

RAY

We were going to keep the baby and raise it. I lied to you. I mean, you had a taser. But I'm... I was going to be the father. I love your daughter, Mrs. Fond. I'm going to be good to her, and I would've been good to that baby too. For sure.

DANA

Nebula? Is this boy good for you?

NEBULA

He's not bad.

PERRY

She won't find any better, Mrs. Fond. Ray's solid.

DaNA

(To RAY) Then I'm sorry about your baby. (To NEBULA) Did Dak make you drink the shot? That shot he makes to...

NeBULA

I did. I had to. He said he was coming after you and Alex and Ray unless I drank it. I had to. But... the weirdest thing. I don't feel like it did anything. I still feel it in there, alive. I know it's so tiny at this point, but... I feel like it might be okay.

RaY

What? What do you mean okay? Do you think Dak made the shot wrong maybe?

NeBULA

I think... I think it might be like Alex. I think the baby might be like you, Alex.

NEBULA crosses to ALEX, who seems to wake up.

ALEX sadly points to his mouth.

NEBULA

I mean strong like you. If I had my way, I'd want this baby to be everything you are exactly. I'm sorry we're putting you through all this, buddy. You deserve better. You're too good for all of us, Alex. Way too good.

NEBULA kisses ALEX on the cheek.

DANA

And you're both too good for me. I hope you know... both of you, that I'm doing my best.

RAY

Mrs. Fond, Alex has a lot of his awesomeness to attribute to you, you know? Like it shows that you gave him a lot of love.

DaNA

Yeah. I just wish... I'm going to find a way to love you, Nebula. I promise you. I haven't been good to you, but... I'll be different. For you. You mean more than any one world to me.

NeBULA

I know.

DANA

You know. As weird as it is to say, I've always wanted to be one of those neighborhood moms. You know the one that all the kids come in, and she gives them snacks and Kool-Aid?

PERRY

I could use a snack.

RAY

Yeah. That sounds good. What do you have?

DaNA

Ohh, I don't think we have much of anything. Um... I think we have some graham crackers.

PERRY

Sounds perfect.

NeBULA

And juice?

Dana

Okay, sure. I'll be right back.

DANA exits.

RAY and NEBULA embrace and kiss.

RAY

Are you sure about the baby?

NeBULA

No, but I know what I feel.

PeRRY

Your mom seemed sincere.

NEBULA

Oh she is. I know she is. She means every word.

RaY

I believe it. She tasered Perry's balls off trying to protect you.

DANA enters with some paper plates, a box of graham crackers, some cups, and a gallon of value juice.

DANA

Sorry about that, by the way. Perry was it?

DANA passes around the plates and snacks.

ALEX remains standing and staring.

PERRY

Yeah. I get it. And for the record, I was pretty messed up at the time, I shouldn't have been talking like that.

DaNA

Are you okay?

PERRY

I won't be horseback riding for a few weeks probably, but on the bright side, I think you might have given me a free vasectomy. Time will tell.

DANA

Well, you all snack up, I'll stay by the door here.

RaY

Are you loaded and everything?

DaNA

Oh. I'm ready for this son-of-a-bitch. You have no idea. Nebula, how on earth did you get away from him, anyway?

NeBULA

I heated up the shot glass with his lighter when he wasn't looking, then pressed it against his eye.

RAY

Jesus. Where the fuck did you learn that?

NEBULA

Where do you think? There's very little usable wisdom an ex-hooker mom can pass down, but the stuff that is useful, is REALLY fucking useful. It was horrifying. He had Ryan there, from the Ink Tank. I think she was working for him. I told her you'd kill her.

RaY

Fuck. You're damn right.

NeBULA

He locked her in the room and came out with handcuffs. He just started taking his clothes off and telling me about this really fucked up veterinarian friend he had. I don't want to talk about it really. It made me sick. If I hadn't gotten away, he would've killed me in the worst way possible. I just know it.

DANA

The hamsters?

NeBULA

Yeah, he told you that one.

DaNA

I'll never forget it. I wish I had gotten away.

RaY

You did.

DANA

Not that time I didn't.

NeBULA

And as much as Ryan can go fuck herself, when I was running away, she started screaming my name. She started screaming for help, and I... I don't know. I wanted to go back.

RAY

Fuck that.

DaNA

It's best that you didn't. Did he call you an angel?

NeBULA

Mom... you don't have to know...

DANA

Did he call you an angel?

NEBULA

At the end he did. Right before I melted his fucking eye shut.

DaNA

Yeah. He called me that too. I remember that. The flies... You all should get some sleep.

NEBULA

What? We're not going anywhere.

RAY

Yeah, we're fine.

DaNA

If Dak gets here as pissed off as he is, he's going to kick the door in, see all of you, and just start shooting. If it's dark, if there's no one here when

he kicks the door in, I'll just come up right behind him and put one in his head. It'll be easier. We have to catch him off guard or we're going to get hurt.

RAY

We can't leave you alone out here though, right? Like... fuck, I don't know, what you said makes sense. I just don't think you should be here alone.

DANA

I won't be alone. I think Alex is going to stay up.

RAY

What's his deal, anyway?

DaNA

He bit his own tongue off at school the other day.

PeRRY

Jesus. Gross.

DaNA

My baby's just thirsty. He's just trying to protect us. Aren't you baby? But when Dak gets here, dinner time.

NeBULA

Are you sure, Mom?

DaNA

It's the best way.

PeRRY

I think she's right. Frankly, I'm spent. If we sleep in shifts and keep our ears to the door...

RaY

I'm tired too, but... this sounds insane, we outnumber him, why aren't we using that to our advantage?

DaNA

(Sternly) We're not going to beat him by outnumbering him, Ray. We're going to beat him by sneaking up behind him and shooting him in the head.

NEBULA

Okay. Okay, two awake at a time. One of us should be in the kitchen, just so someone's closer.

RAY

I'll do that, you and Perry hang out upstairs. We'll switch off sleeping every, what? 90 minutes?

PeRRY

Sounds good.

NEBULA

I'll come down and get you in 90.

RAY

No. I want you to stay upstairs if we're going to do it this way. If he sees you... I just would feel better if you stayed upstairs. Perry?

PERRY

Yeah, I'll take over kitchen duty in 90.

DaNA

Good thinking, kids. You all should potty before we start the shifts. Upstairs and to the left.

RAY

Okay. Thanks Mrs. Fond. You know if you're tired, just come and get one of us.

DANA

I won't be tired.

NeBULA

Mom, seriously.

DaNA

Okay, if I get tired, I'll switch with whoever's in the kitchen.

NEBULA

I love you, Mom.

DaNA

I love you too, baby.

RAY, PERRY, and NEBULA exit. DANA checks her gun, looks out the window, then exits into the kitchen. She reenters with a bottle of olive oil. DANA gets the gun out from her waistband and puts the bottle on the floor next to the couch. ALEX stares onward. Lights fade.

Beat.

Lights fade up, but remain low. DANA is sitting on the arm of the couch, facing the door. Her head is bowed in sleep. The olive oil bottle is tipped on its side below her feet. She holds the gun loosely in her lap.

ALEX is still standing and staring. The door opens slowly, a gun points at DANA. DAK enters with RYAN behind him, carrying a knife. DAK gestures down toward DANA's gun. RYAN slowly peels the gun from her hand and points it at DANA.

DAK gestures for RYAN to wait, and heads for the kitchen, almost walking into ALEX. DAK is startled, then realizing ALEX is not reacting, he exits into the kitchen and returns with RAY at gunpoint. DAK guides RAY down to center stage and whispers something in his ear. RAY lays down on the floor, facedown.

DAK shoots and kills RAY.

The lights come up in full. DANA wakes up and is backed into a corner at gunpoint by RYAN.

NEBULA

Mom! Mom!

PERRY and NEBULA enter.

PERRY

Oh shit!

NEBULA

Ray!

He's dead.

DAK

Baby I'm so sorry.

DANA

You fucking bastard!

NEBULA

Your mom fell asleep.

DAK

I'm so sorry.

DANA

God-damn you! Perry, do something! We have to do something!

NEBULA

(To PERRY) What the hell are you doing here?

DAK

They haven't gotten there yet, Dak.

PERRY

Ha! They haven't connected that dot yet huh?

DAK

What the fuck is he talking about?

NEBULA

You realize that the cops haven't shown up right?

PERRY

Why? You didn't call them?

NEBULA

Jesus. He works for me, Nebula.

DAK

For a while now. He launders a lot of money through the Ink Tank, so when he has his eye out for someone, I keep him informed. Sorry. That's how he knew you were staying there and why he sent Ryan to keep tabs. And for the tattoo, right Ryan.

PERRY

RYAN

Fuck you, the tattoo sucks.

DANA

Nebula, I'm so sorry.

NEBULA

Shut up, Mom! Is Ray seriously dead? You killed him?

DAK

Yeah.

NEBULA swings at PERRY. PERRY grabs her hands.

NEBULA

I'll fucking kill you! I'll fucking kill you, I swear to God.

PERRY

Easy! I didn't fucking want this! That's why I gave you the cash for the abortion, I thought that would take care of all this.

DAK

No sir, this runs deeper than my hatred for babies, Perry. Don't ever fucking medal in my shit ever again. You understand me?

PERRY

Fine, sorry.

DAK

Put him in the kitchen, would you?

PERRY drags RAY into the kitchen.

DAK

Ryan, back off a bit.

RYAN backs up against the wall upstage.

DANA

I'll do whatever you want, please don't hurt them!

DAK

No.

DANA

Please, I'll do fucking anything! What do you want?

PERRY reenters.

DAK

Were you going to kill me?

DANA

No!

DAK approaches DANA, getting close to her.

DAK

Dana, were you going to kill me?

RYAN locks eyes with ALEX and lowers her weapons. She slowly starts to walk toward ALEX.

DANA

I just wanted to protect my family.

RYAN puts the gun down on the couch and keeps walking, staring ahead at ALEX.

DAK

Once you belong to me, you have no family. You have by-products. Now do you take ownership in these two by-products?

DANA

I do. I'm responsible for them.

DAK

I'm glad to hear you say that, Dana. That's going to make this next part hella fun.

RYAN stops right in front of ALEX. ALEX breaks his eye contact with her and stares at PERRY.

DAK

You are going to choose which one dies.

DANA

No.

DAK

Because one of them is going to die, or both of them are going to die. You are responsible, Dana, just like you said. Ryan! Move the fuck out of the way.

ALEX steps forward, leaving RYAN and PERRY catalytic. ALEX taps NEBULA and points for her to go behind the couch.

NEBULA

Don't do it, Mom, don't let him control you.

NEBULA crosses to behind the couch.  
ALEX remains center stage.  
DAK turns behind DANA and points the gun in front of her.

DAK

What will it be, angel? The freak? The slut? Or both?

NEBULA

Mom. Don't. Please, just don't say anything.

DANA

(To ALEX) I love you, baby.

DAK

Him? The freak?

NEBULA

No! Mom! What are you doing!?

DANA

God, just fucking do it!

DAK crosses to ALEX, he goes behind him and puts the gun to ALEX's head.

DAK

This one?

DANA turns away.

DANA

Do it!

NEBULA

No! Shoot me! Please, she doesn't know what she's doing, shoot me and get the fuck out of our house, please! After what I did to you, you know you want to, please.

DAK

She makes a compelling case, what do you say, Dana?

DANA

Jesus Christ just do it! Shoot him!

DAK

Say his name.

DANA

No!

DAK

Say his name, Dana.

DANA

Alex. I love you so much, baby, I'm sorry.

DAK

Look at him. Look at him or I kill them both right now!

DANA looks at ALEX, who remains docile.

DAK

Good.

DAK aims the gun at NEBULA.

ALEX

NO!

As DAK fires, ALEX grabs his arm and bites it. DAK drops the gun. NEBULA

is hit in the arm and goes down behind the couch.

DANA

NEBULA! OH GOD!

DAK screams in pain. ALEX grabs his throat and pushes him onto the couch.

DANA

Alex, no! Stop!

ALEX straddles DAK and drives his thumbs into DAK'S eyes. DAK screams in pain as he attempts to shove ALEX off of him, but ALEX is too strong. ALEX punches DAK. DAK falls limp. ALEX drinks blood from DAK's face in gulps.

ALEX gets off of DAK, revealing he has punctured out both of DAK's eyes. (TECHNICAL NOTE: Blood capsules can easily be hidden/taped to the backside of the couch, behind DAK's head).

DANA collapses in shock, and sits against the front door. ALEX walks over to PERRY and smells his neck. He reacts disgusted. DAK sucks air back into his lungs and begins to grope for the gun. ALEX smells RYAN's neck. He inhales deeply. Looking into RYAN's eyes, he drags a finger across his own neck. RYAN drags the knife across hers. ALEX guides RYAN down to the ground as life leaks out of her. He drinks her blood, lapping it from his hands. DAK finds a gun. He waves it around blindly as he listens for a target. ALEX stands and grabs PERRY's throat. PERRY sinks to the floor as he's strangled to death.

ALEX wipes mouth and grabs DAK's

hand. He rips the gun away and drops it back on the couch.

DAK

Fuck you.

ALEX bites DAK's neck and drinks his blood.

DAK dies.

ALEX sits on the floor in front of the couch, satiated. He looks over at DANA.

ALEX

Mama.

DANA

No. No, Alex. No, please.

DANA locks eyes with ALEX and becomes calm.

DANA

No. Please, baby.

DANA crawls toward ALEX. She picks a gun up off the floor.

DANA

Please. Please.

DANA kneels in front of ALEX. ALEX pulls the back of her neck towards him, so their foreheads are touching.

DANA

Please.

NEBULA rises over the couch looking for something to stop the bleeding. She assesses the scene. Her eyes land on ALEX and DANA.

ALEX gestures putting the gun under his chin. DANA mirrors him, putting the gun under her own chin.

NEBULA

No .

BLACK OUT.  
End.