A Twist of Fate

by
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Short Inspired by
Chris Nolan's Inception

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EXT. DINER - NIGHT

Establishing shot of Diner.

INT. DINER - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

ALICIA, 13, sits at a booth in the diner, with her coffee, staring down at the table.

ALICIA (V.O.)
I have a special gift.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Alicia walks with her backpack along a residential street, she stops at a house.

On the lawn a “Sold” Sign. Alicia walks right passed it, up to the house, and looks through the window on the door.

INT. HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

A husband and wife sit across from one another arguing. Mother is crying.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Alicia sits down on the porch step, and drops her backpack next to her.

A mysterious man, GRAYSON (41). Dressed in a business suit, with top hat and cane approaches from the sidewalk.

He walks up the walkway, passes Alicia and looks through the window on the door.

GRAYSON
To painful to confront them?

ALICIA
I ran away from home.

(CONTINUED)
Grayson turns his head gently towards Alicia.

GRAYSON
Then the answer is yes?

ALICIA
Not like they’d care anyway.

GRAYSON
Why’s that?

ALICIA
It’s been five years.

Alicia gets up grabs the backpack, and looks through window on the door.

ALICIA (CONT’D)
Five years and they still don’t give a rats ass about me. Still arguing. You know they were my foster parents.

Alicia, heads back down the walkway and into the street.

Grayson looks momentarily at the couple. Then leaves and catches up to Alicia.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

GRAYSON
You ever consider using the sidewalk?

ALICIA
I’ve thought about it.

Grayson stops as Alicia continues.

GRAYSON
And?

Alicia turns around.

ALICIA
And what?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

Grayson confused.

INT. DINER - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Alicia sits in a back booth with coffee. The diner is completely empty except for one worker and Alicia.

Grayson walks in. Spots Alicia and goes and sits down at her booth across from her.

ALICIA
Who are you?

GRAYSON
You tell me.

ALICIA
What?

GRAYSON
If you were going to call me something, what would it be?

Alicia fidgets with her cup on the table with one hand.

ALICIA
Weirdo.

GRAYSON
No, I mean if you had to give me a name, what would it be?

ALICIA
I don’t know. Grayson?

GRAYSON
OK. Then my name is Grayson.
(Whispering)
Lucky guess.

ALICIA
What do you want?

GRAYSON
I don’t know, what do you want?

ALICIA
Would you stop that?!
CONTINUED:

GRAYSON
Stop what?

ALICIA
Oh my god, turning everything into a question.

GRAYSON
Sorry, force of habit. Kind of a special talent of mine.

ALICIA
Do you want some coffee?

GRAYSON
No, no, I can’t drink that stuff. I get... well, never mind.

ALICIA
Water?

GRAYSON
No, no. Thank you. But I actually just came to ask you a question.

ALICIA
What a surprise! What?

GRAYSON
How do you know your parents don’t give a rat’s ass about you?

ALICIA
You saw them, they were arguing. That’s exactly how they were when I left five years ago.

GRAYSON
How do you know they were arguing?

ALICIA
Because...

Alicia stops to think...

GRAYSON
Maybe they were just having a conversation. Sure, a heated one, but nonetheless, a conversation.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (2)

ALICIA
I never thought about it like that.

GRAYSON
So if you don’t want go home, where are you going to go?

ALICIA
I don’t know.
(Chuckles)
They always say the grass is always greener on the other side.

GRAYSON
They do, but what if you’re already on the other side?

Alicia ponders. Realizing... Gets up and runs out of the diner.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS
Alicia on the front porch, has key in hand, and peers through the window on the door. Her parents still in the exact position as earlier.

Alicia turns the key and the door opens, but her parents are nowhere to be found. Alicia searches for her parents.

Front door still wide open.

ALICIA
Mom? Dad?

Going down the hall, kitchen, etc.

ALICIA (CONT’D)
Mom? Dad?

Alicia returns to the living room and stares at the place where she saw them last

PAN around to front door behind Alicia-revealing--

GRAYSON, leaning against the frame in the doorway. Alicia realizing turns around.

(CONTINUED)
ALICIA (CONT’D)
You! You, what did you do?

GRAYSON
I didn’t do anything.

ALICIA
Liar! Where are my parents?

GRAYSON
There out of your life, because you don’t believe. Fate has been altered.

ALICIA
I do too believe in them.

GRAYSON
Not belief in them, you don’t believe in yourself. You don’t have faith in yourself!

ALICIA
Yes I do.

GRAYSON
No you don’t.

ALICIA
Yes, I do.

GRAYSON
Then prove it!

ALICIA
You! You know what I can do and you’re controlling them. You’re controlling my thoughts!

GRAYSON
No. Only you can control your thoughts. I’m simply... enforcing them.

ALICIA
How do I prove I believe in myself.
GRAYSON
See, that’s the question with an impossible answer.

Alicia thinking... Grayson sits and then Alicia finally sits down.

ALICIA
(Realizing)
My parents weren’t arguing. They were having a discussion.

GRAYSON
Pardon?

ALICIA
My parents were not arguing, they were having a discussion.

Grayson flashes a wry smile.

INT. CAFE - NIGHT

Full of people, customers. Waitress hovers over Alicia’s table. Alicia starring at the table head down.

WAITRESS
Sweetie, you okay?

Alicia flinches, looks up.

ALICIA
What?

WAITRESS
You okay?

ALICIA
Yeah, why do you ask?

WAITRESS
You seem to be dozing off.

ALICIA
Yeah, maybe.
WAITRESS
Did you ever find the person you were looking for?

Alicia notices Grayson is nowhere to be found.

ALICIA
What? Oh, no.

WAITRESS
That’s too bad. Well, I’m sorry about your parents.

ALICIA
Yeah, thanks I guess. Actually you didn’t happen to see a guy wearing a business suit with a top hat, and cane sitting with me?

WAITRESS
No, you’ve been buy yourself since you arrived here, a little over an hour ago.

ALICIA
Really?

Waitress nods.

ALICA
Huh. Thanks.

Alicia can’t find her backpack.

ALICIA
Where’s my backpack? Backpack!

She gets up and leaves.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Alicia from across the street sees a man, waking up the walkway to the house. He notices a backpack.

Alicia moves closer from across the street.

She notices a man in the street clothes. It’s Grayson.
Grayson walks inside.
Alicia walks up to the door.
Rings doorbell. Grayson answers.

GRAYSON
Can I help you?

Awkward silence.

ALICIA
Hi... I think I left my backpack on this porch.

GRAYSON
Hold on a second.

Grayson shuts the door partially. Alicia peers through.
Grayson returns with the backpack.
Grayson opens the door.

GRAYSON (CONT’D)
Is this the backpack your looking for?

Hands backpack to Alicia.

ALICIA
Yeah. Thanks.

GRAYSON
Sure.

ALICIA
(Sees wedding ring)
Your married? Where’s your wife?

GRAYSON
Oh, the ring? Actually my wife passed away five years ago. Killed by a couple driving looking for their daughter. I wear it as a reminder. I had a daughter once, but we had to give her up for adoption. About thirteen, fourteen years ago.

(CONTINUED)
Alicia’s stuff falls out of her backpack.

ALICIA
Great. Not again. I’m sorry. I’m such a klutz.

Grayson kneels to help Alicia pick up her belongings.

GRAYSON
Don’t worry about it. I’m always dropping stuff, another klutz right.

ALICIA
Tell me about it. They’ve linked being klutzy to possibly being hereditary.

GRAYSON
Really? I didn’t know that.

ALICIA
Yeah, I always thought maybe I got it from my mother.

GRAYSON
Yeah, I probably did from my mother too.

ALICIA
Thank you.

GRAYSON
Sure. Are you okay to get where you need to go?

ALICIA
Yeah. Thanks again.

GRAYSON
You’re welcome.

Alicia turns walking away, forgetting a piece of paper.

Grayson pauses, contemplating, sees the piece of paper and picks it up which reads:

Alicia Grace.
CONTINUED: (3)

Grayson doesn’t read the paper though. Alicia walks down the walkway.

Grayson shuts the door.

Phone rings.

MAN #1 (V.O.)
(Answering Machine)
Hey, Grayson. Good news, perhaps a Twist of Fate, but I think we’ve found your daughter, Alicia. Took a little digging, apparently she ran away from her foster parents the same day your wife passed away.
(Pause)
Anyway give me a call when you get this, otherwise I’ll give you a call in the morning and fill you in.

Alicia stops at the end of the walkway, turns around and looks at the front door.

A Beep indicating the end of the message sounds.

ALICIA (V.O.)
My name is Alicia, and I have a special gift.

Kock on the door.

FADE TO BLACK.