ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Wind blows through tall, dead weeds on a hill in the countryside. It's a cool night, but not freezing. It's completely quiet until a red CAR comes around the turn.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

JESSICA ALLEN (22) a.k.a ELIZABETH WAGNER sits next to her pretend boyfriend, NICK LANCASTER (24) a.k.a JESSE MADDOX. She sits as far away from him as possible, squishing herself against the door.

He tries to speak to her.

NICK
Liz. Will you please talk to me?

JESSICA
I don't have anything to say.

NICK
There has to be something. Tell me what you're feeling.

JESSICA
I feel like this is a pathetic attempt at an apology.

NICK
What do you want me to say?

JESSICA
I shouldn't have to tell you!

NICK
Well, I've tried everything and nothing seems to work! Tell me, please, what you want me to say!

JESSICA
(starting to tear up)
How about I love you, Elizabeth. I want to stay with you forever, Elizabeth. We can work this out, Elizabeth. There! Three things off the top of my head. Was that so freaking hard?

Nick TURNS. He looks deep into her eyes.
NICK
Fine! I love you, Elizabeth! I want to stay with you forever, Elizabeth. Marry me, Elizabeth!

Jessica gives him a confused look.

JESSICA
What'd you say?

NICK
Marry me.

JESSICA
Do you mean it?

NICK
I mean it. Will you marry me Elizabeth Marie Wagner?

JESSICA
(sudden, out of breath)
Yes.

NICK
I love you.

He leans over and plants a big one on her. Neither of them notice the deer that casually steps into the road.

Then Jessica sees it.

JESSICA
LOOK OUT!

Nick darts his gaze back to the road. He SWERVES just quick enough to miss the deer, but he doesn't miss everything.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Their CAR SWERVES out of control. Jessica's side RAMS up against the guard rail. It keeps them on the road, but a spray of sparks showers along the side of the car.

It pulls off the railing, but careens to the other side of the road. They hit the other guard rail and BREAK through.

The road drops off and so does the car.

Rolling over once, the hood of the small car is CRUSHED under pressure. They hit a boulder and FLIP! The car seems to stay in the air for an unnatural amount of time before it lands. They've fallen twenty feet to another road.
The passenger's side crashes down. The car ROLLS again, finally hitting flat ground. It lands on all wheels. It's totaled.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Blood covers the dashboard. The front window has been broken out and glass covers the inside of the car. Nick is SLUMPED on the steering wheel. Blood covers his forehead as well as the steering wheel.

Sitting across from him is Jessica. Her body is a mess. Blood smears her forehead along with her hair. She's back in her seat, head laying limp to the side.

Nick lifts his head up. He looks at Jessica.

NICK

Elizabeth?

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

CUT!

Jessica's head POPS up. She runs her fingers through her hair. Fake blood now covers her hand.

JESSICA

This is going to be a bitch to get out.

She tries to unbuckle herself, but it's stuck. Nick helps her.

NICK

Here.

He BREAKS the buckle with relative ease.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Okay people that's a rap! Great job this season,

Jessica opens the door, which falls off. As she steps out of the car a camera on a crane swings out of her way. A CREW MEMBER dressed in black runs over and hands her a towel. She WIPES her face off with it.

The Director gets up from his chair behind a television set. He takes off a set of headphones and drapes them around his neck.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

I think everybody needs to congratulate Jessica on finishing (MORE)
DIRECTOR (CONT'D)
her final episode on Washington Heights. She will be greatly missed. I also want to be the first to wish her a happy twenty-second birthday.

He starts to APPLAUD and a few more people join in. Jessica NODS to a few people and marches off to a TOWN CAR that will take her to get cleaned up back at the studio.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A beautiful WOMAN. Her brown hair is done up neat, but not beautiful. Her blue eyes could almost look through you. She stares deeply into someone's eyes. Her left eyebrow TWITCHES. This is CHARLENE PIERCE (21). She is staring at--

ALEX EAGEN (21). Alex has a pretty-boy-face. It's not quite a baby face, but he doesn't look like a 21 year old. He is DOWN ON ONE KNEE and is in the middle of a dreadful proposal. He's trying to keep his smile, but it's fading quickly.

ALEX
So?

CHARLENE
So.

ALEX
Will you marry me?

Everybody in the restaurant is staring at them and this is becoming humiliating quickly. Charlene's eyes dart around the room, hoping she is somehow invisible.

CHARLENE
This is just so--

ALEX
Unbelievable?

CHARLENE
(empties her champagne glass)
You could say that.

ALEX
You're at a loss for words.

CHARLENE
Oh no, I could say a few.

Alex's hopes rise a little. They shouldn't.
ALEX
Then say them.

CHARLENE
I think we need to talk.

ALEX
About?

CHARLENE
Us.

His hopes start to fade.

ALEX
About?

Charlene closes her hands around the tiny, white box that is sticking out like a sore thumb in front of her. She CLOSES it.

CHARLENE
I think we need to break up.

Everybody sitting around them immediately becomes interested in their food. Suddenly Charlene gets her wish and no one is looking at them.

ALEX
Why?

Alex gets up and sits back down in his chair. He slides the ring box back into his suit pocket.

CHARLENE
I just feel like I need someone who can support me right now.

ALEX
Is this about the whole acting thing? We agreed that this was my dream. That we would try this together.

CHARLENE
We did, but plans change. People change.

ALEX
I didn't change.

CHARLENE
That's the problem!

ALEX
Wait. You said I was a good actor.
CHARLENE
That was when I was in college! We were young.

ALEX
You graduated a few months ago. We've been together since we were sophomores in high school.

CHARLENE
Like I said. We were young. We had different dreams then.

ALEX
You had different dreams then. Mine are still the same. I still want to act. I'm an actor.

CHARLENE
(suddenly hostile)
You haven't found a job yet. You can't be an actor until you have had a job to act at!

ALEX
What about that commercial a few months ago?

CHARLENE
You didn't even get paid for that!

ALEX
But it was a job.

CHARLENE
Like I said. I need someone who can support me.

ALEX
Please, Charlene. Just give me one more chance.

CHARLENE
It was fun while it lasted.

Charlene gets up from the table. Alex can't stop staring at where she was sitting. She looks at him one last time and walks away.

ALEX
(turns to her)
Don't.
CHARLENE
  (softly)
  I'm so sorry.

EXT. CITY SQUARE - NIGHT

The sidewalks are wet. Alex WALKS alone down the sidewalk of the square. A giant FOUNTAIN is in the background and that is the ultimate destination. The only thing accompanying him is his cell phone. He has it pressed up against his ear.

INTERCUTTING: Alex walking down the sidewalk, and his friend, JEFF NEWLIN (22) watching television.

    JEFF
        (astonished)
        She said no?

    ALEX
    She said no.

    JEFF
    Why?

    ALEX
    I don't know.

    JEFF
    Did you get on one knee?

    ALEX
    I did the whole she-bang.

    JEFF
    Wow.

    ALEX
    I know.

    JEFF
    So she just broke up with you...right there.

    ALEX
    Right there.

    JEFF
    Did she at least pay for her meal?

    ALEX
    No!
JEFF
Okay. So let me get this straight. She just pretty much embarrassed the hell out of you and got a free meal?

ALEX
Yeah.

JEFF
I can't believe it.

ALEX
Me either.

JEFF
So what are you going to do?

ALEX
I don't know yet.

JEFF
Well you definitely cannot live in her apartment anymore.

ALEX
No. I can't do that.
(beat)
Can I move in with you?

Jeff takes a second to answer. He also lives with his girlfriend, who wears the pants in the relationship.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Jeff?

JEFF
Uh. Yeah...I mean I would have to ask...Sandy, you know, but um...Sandy, you know...Sandy likes you and we have the extra space so I think that it could...it could be arranged.

ALEX
Okay. Cool. I will just sleep on the couch in my apartment tonight and be there in the morning. Thanks man, your a good friend.

JEFF
Yeah, so I will talk to you in the morning.

ALEX
Yeah I guess. Good night.
'Night.

Alex HANGS UP and drops his phone into his pocket. He walks over to the giant fountain and sits on the edge of it. He rests his head in his hands.

RING. His cell phone goes off. With a sigh, Alex runs his fingers through his hair, slicking it back. He reaches into his pocket and takes his phone out.

ALEX

Hello?

It's MARCIE HANNIGAN. His talent agent.

MARCIE (ON PHONE)

Hey kid!

She has the voice of a long-time smoker.

ALEX

(suddenly upbeat)

Hey, Marcie. How's my favorite agent?

MARCIE (ON PHONE)

I'm doin' good hon. How're you? You sound terrible? You have a bad day?

ALEX

It was in the top five, but you know how it is.

MARCIE (ON PHONE)

Aw I'm sorry kid. Wanna talk about it?

ALEX

No, I'm good. What did you call me for?

MARCIE (ON PHONE)

Oh, right. Good news kid! You're going to be a star!

ALEX

(perks up even more)

You got me a gig?!

MARCIE (ON PHONE)

Even betta! I got you a commercial!

ALEX

A commercial?

(MORE)
ALEX (CONT'D)
That's slightly smaller than what I had expected, but it's a start. What's it for?

MARCIE (ON PHONE)
Ah geeze I dunno. Do you want it or not?

ALEX
No, I want it. When is it?

MARCIE (ON PHONE)
In a week. And good news. Have you eva seen a show called Washington Heights?

ALEX
No.

MARCIE (ON PHONE)
Well I would hope not. Teen drama. Not your cup-of-tea. But anyway, there's this girl who just got killed off it whose rumored to be doing the commercial. Supposed to be a real talent. You could go places workin' with her. Don't mess this gig up, and you could be a supporting character on a soap one day.

ALEX
Thanks, Marcie. The audition is in a week?

MARCIE (ON PHONE)
No audition.

ALEX
Then how do I get the part?

MARCIE (ON PHONE)
You already have it. That's the good news.

ALEX
Marcie. What have you been doing to get me a job?

MARCIE (ON PHONE)
Nothing illegal. The director is my brother. I showed him some off your stuff and he liked you. He offered the part to you.

(MORE)
MARCIE (ON PHONE) (CONT'D)
I suggest you take it. It may be
the only thing you get for a while.

ALEX
I'll take it. Thank you, Marcie.

MARCIE (ON PHONE)
No problem kid. This is what I do.
Remember. Friday at two. Don't be
late. I hear this Washington Height
chick can be a real prima donna.

ALEX
I won't be late. Thanks again.

MARCIE (ON PHONE)
No problem kid.

She hangs up. Alex JUMPS UP and PUNCHES at the air.

INT. PARTY ROOM - NIGHT

POP! The cork FLIES off a champagne bottle. The bottle is
poured onto a tall champagne fountain. Everything in this
party is either gold, or a shade of it.

The size of the room is about the size of a high school
gym...with the bleachers put away. The ceilings are tall,
and again, a shade of gold.

A STRING QUARTET is playing on a STAGE in the front of the
room. A large banner is displayed. It says "Happy Twenty-
Second Birthday, Jessica!".

Everybody else is CHATTING with friends and associates, or
they are LISTENING to the music and enjoying the HORSEDOURLVES
that WAITERS are carrying around the room. They are the
only people not wearing gold, and that's because they are
wearing dark green vests.

The doors OPEN at the end of the room. Jessica walks in,
wearing a Cinderella-style golden dress. Her hair is put up
in curls. She is undoubtedly the most beautiful person in
the room. All eyes instantly go to her, and the room goes
quite except for the quartet.

A WOMAN hurries up to the microphone on the stage. A drink
is in her hand, which she almost SPILLS everywhere as she
PULLS the microphone out of its holder. This is Jessica's
talent agent, RUBY CROSS (56, gray-haired, short, skinny).

She tries to hid her wrinkles behind a fake suntan, but it
doesn't work. She wears her OVER-SIZED SUNGLASSES to go
tanning and hence has created a slight tan line from it.
She is a little tipsy as she makes her speech.

The music goes quiet.

RUBY
I have known the talented Miss Jessica Allen since she was a little girl. I have been in this business for 36 years, and I will never forget the day she came in and auditioned for me. And even with the first few words she said to me, I knew she would be big. She has become a big star now. She has become the daughter I never had. She has become my friend, and my business partner. I'm proud to know her and I'm proud to represent her. I'm also proud to wish her a happy twenty-second birthday. Thank you, Jessica, for giving me the privilege of representing you for 36 years, and I hope to do it for another.

(raising her champagne glass) 
So let's all raise our glasses, and wish her a happy birthday.

Everybody RAISES their glass.

RUBY (CONT'D)
Happy birthday, sweetie.

Ruby puts the microphone back in its holder and steps off the stage. Everybody LOWERS their glasses and goes back to their individual conversations.

A WAITER walks by with a giant SERVING DISH that holds several CHAMPAGNE GLASSES. Jessica takes one and the waiter stops by her. She guilps it down very unwomanlike and sets it back on the dish. She takes another and takes a little sip of it.

JESSICA
(orders)
Stay close to me and there could be a very large tip waiting for you at the end of the night.

WAITER
Yes ma'am!

JESSICA
Good.
Jessica takes another sip and WALKS AWAY. She sifts her way through the crowd until she comes upon Ruby, who is conversing with a friend.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Nice speech.

Ruby TURNS around and squeals as she gives Jessica a hug. She sets her empty drink on a waiter's tray.

RUBY
How've you been? How was the last day on set?

Ruby, out of habit, starts to PULL Jessica away from the crowd. She holds her hand near her back but not touching her back. Jessica seems to feel the force of it and starts to WALK with her. They go to a CORNER.

JESSICA
It was difficult, I must admit. But what's done is done, and I can't change it.

RUBY
When did they call it a rap?

JESSICA
About two hours ago. I think I still have a little bit of fake blood in my hair.

RUBY
I'm sorry. I know how much you loved working on that show. I'm sorry I couldn't get you another season. But, I have some good news.

JESSICA
Good. I need good news.

RUBY
I got you a spot on a commercial for Jiodore Jewelers!

JESSICA
(less than satisfied)
A commercial?

RUBY
Yes.

JESSICA
That's all the better you can get me?
RUBY
Well work is hard to find in this town.

JESSICA
Yes it is but not for me. Not for Jessica Allen!

RUBY
You've only been out of work for a day. I would consider a commercial pretty well.

JESSICA
It's not what Jessica Allen does.

RUBY
(hisses)
Right now Jessica Allen does nothing. So I suggest that she takes this job and is grateful for it.

JESSICA
What is your problem?

RUBY
Okay, kid I'm just going to be blunt. No one wants to work with you. You are a brat. You're lucky you even got this commercial so I suggest you don't mess it up.

Jessica SLUMPS back against the wall. Apparently she didn't realize she was a brat. Ruby tries to CONSOLE her.

RUBY (CONT'D)
Do you want my two cents?

JESSICA
I don't know. Are they worse than hey Jess you're a bitch?

RUBY
Possibly.
(beat)
Get a boyfriend. A no body boyfriend. When was the last time you had a real boyfriend, not just a fling?

JESSICA
When I first started on Washington Hills.
RUBY
So now is the time, if any, to have one. Second. Stay out of the press. Everybody loves celebrities more when they are mysterious. Sure, you can make a stroll through the park every once in a while, but don't make it any more than a stroll in the park. I don't want to see you on E! for beating up a photog. And finally, be pleasant.

JESSICA
At the commercial?

RUBY
Just any time. Be pleasant to the paparazzi. Be pleasant to taxi drivers. Hell, tip your doorman a twenty.

JESSICA
I don't live in an apartment, Ruby.

RUBY
Then tip someone else's doorman. I want you to be a freaking saint. And when you don't think you can be a better you, I still want you to be able to shit butterflies and puke a daffodil. Got it?

JESSICA
I like roses.

RUBY
Got it?

JESSICA
No.

RUBY
(pointing to the party-goers)
Okay. You see all those people out there? Right now they hate you. That needs to change. I want you to imagine that they are Spielberg. Now Spielberg has this new movie coming out. You want that part. So what are you going to do?

JESSICA
(perking up)
Suck up?
RUBY
That's right. So right now you are going to go suck like you've never sucked before.

JESSICA
Thank you, Ruby.

RUBY
It's what I'm here for.

Jessica WALKS away. Ruby looks into her clutch and pulls out a cigarette. She takes out a lighter next. She flicks it on and LIGHTS her cigarette. She takes a giant puff, and CLOSES her EYES.

RUBY (CONT'D)
(to herself)
It's what I'm here for.

She takes the cigarette out of her mouth and puts it out using the wall. Pushing herself off the wall, she goes back to finish her evening.

INT. COMMERCIAL SET - DAY

The SET is actually the CITY SQUARE from before. Now we see that the park is fairly large. The green grass spreads for quiet a distance. In the center of the whole park is the fountain. Everything is beautiful except for the camera equipment that acts as a black cloud on this wonderful day.

Assistants run around trying to fix last minute things. Both Marcie and Ruby are here, trying to start a conversation together, but both seem more interested in their Blackberries.

This is the first time we see Marcie. She's a short woman, with long brown hair. She looks a lot younger than 40.

MARV, the director, is sitting behind his directing chair. He becomes more frustrated by the minute. Jessica's beyond late. Marv's badly attached toupee is slightly off-center, but he doesn't notice. He's also a little overweight.

MARV
Ruby, you said she would be here. Where is she!?

RUBY
(looking up from her Blackberry)
She'll get here. Cool your jets, Marv.
MARV
I'll give her five more minutes.
Then I'm out of here.

Alex is sitting away from the commotion. He's rereading his lines under a tree a good distance from the group. Suddenly, he jumps up. Then lands down on one knee.

ALEX
Julie, I've been waiting to ask you this since the moment I met you.

He opens an invisible box, and does a fake proposal.

ALEX (CONT'D)
And Jiodore helps make this moment beautiful. Julie, will you marry me?

He looks in front of him. A towncar pulls up in the road, and Jessica finally arrives. Alex is star-struck. Something, even from this distance, makes him attracted to her.

He finally realizes how weird he must look, so Alex gathers his stuff and walks back to the actual set just as Jessica does.

RUBY
(putting her Blackberry away)
Finally! Where have you been?

JESSICA
Just running late. That party kept me up late, remember?

RUBY
Honey, I was at that party later than you and I'm 56. Come back to me in 24 years and then complain. Right now, get your butt on the set and do your job.

MARV
Can we get shooting people? The sun's going to go down before we even get started.

ALEX
Where do you want us?

MARV
I don't care. Let's start by the fountain.
Alex walks to the fountain faster than Jessica, who just takes her time.

    MARV (CONT'D)
    Ready!

    ALEX
    (to Jessica)
    I think you're suppose to hold my hand.

    JESSICA
    (taking his hand)
    Whatever.

    MARV
    ACTION!

Alex and Jessica start walking forward. The camera on the crane picks up all of their movements.

    ALEX
    Do you remember what happened here?

    JESSICA
    This is where we first met.

    ALEX
    Yeah. We had some good memories here.

    MARV
    CUT!

They stop walking. Jessica is quick to let go of Alex's hand.

    MARV (CONT'D)
    (to Alex)
    Kid.

    ALEX
    Yeah?

    MARV
    That was really...pretty good. But Jessica? Can you at least act like this is the best day of your life?

Alex and Jessica are quick to hurry back to their spots before Marv yells action.

    MARV (CONT'D)
    ACTION!
They start walking again.

ALEX
Do you remember what happened here?

JESSICA
This is where we first met.

ALEX
Yeah. We had some great memories here.

MARV
CUT!

They stop walking.

MARV (CONT'D)
Jess. Act! Please? You're going to kill me. And Alex, that was good. READY!

They hurry back again.

MARV (CONT'D)
ACTION!

This time Alex says the words from his heart. Nothing is scripted.

ALEX
Remember the first time we met?

JESSICA
(confused)
Yeah. It was right here. We had some great memories.

ALEX
And they are about to get even better.

Alex stops walking and Jessica turns and looks at him as he gets down on one knee. He puts his hand into his pocket and takes out a huge ring.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Julie. I love you more than I thought I could ever love anyone. Will you marry me?

Jessica takes a deep breath, this time she's over acting a little.

MARV
CUT!
Alex doesn't act like the scene is over though. He just stays on one knee, his eyes glazed over. Jessica gives him a weird look.

JESSICA
You can get up now. He called cut.

Ruby and Marcie see them. Ruby leans over to Marcie and whispers--

RUBY
I think we may have a crush.

Marcie gives Ruby an odd look. Apparently Marcie hasn't been paying too much attention.

MARCIE
My brother doesn't like Jessica.

Alex wakes up from his trance. He stops looking at her and stands up, feeling stupid.

MARV
Okay people! That's a rap!

ALEX
Wait? That's it? No more shots or anything?

MARV
Yeah.

ALEX
Why?!

MARV
(packing up equipment)
Jiodore only paid me for the hour and since little miss-lates-a-lot decided to show up 45 minutes late, I'm only doing the one shot. Congratulations kid, you've just had your first job in Hollywood.

INT. JEFF'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jeff and Alex are totally transfixed on the XBOX 360 game they are playing. It's Marvel Nemesis: Rise of the Imperfects. On the television screen, Jeff's character, Spiderman, is kicked into a wall by Alex's character, Elektra.

Elektra soars into the corner where she kicked Spiderman and repeatedly stabs him until his health goes down completely. VANQUISHED appears on the screen.
Jeff, in pure frustration, throws his controller across the room.

JEFF
When are you going to let me win for once?

ALEX
(with a Chinese accent)
When you have learned, young grasshopper.

JEFF
I can't believe I lost to a half-naked girl. It's as bad as rape.

ALEX
(getting up)
It's as close as you will ever get to a half-naked lady.

JEFF
Then why did you have to be the half-naked lady?

ALEX
Because she's the best. I'm going to get another beer. Want one?

SANDY, Jeff's long time girlfriend walks in, carrying a plate of hot, steamy food. She sets it on the dinner table.

SANDY
Not before dinner. Alex, could you get some water?

ALEX
No problem.

Alex hurries off to the kitchen. Glasses CLINK together as he takes them out of the cupboard.

Sandy checks to make she he can't hear anything, the walks over to Jeff, who is turning the XBox off.

SANDY
(whispers)
How long is he going to be staying with us?

JEFF
Just until he gets back on his feet. He sold his apartment to move in with Charlene, remember?
SANDY
Yeah, I remember. It's just, he eats all our food, he doesn't have a job, he doesn't even pay rent!

JEFF
We are doing this as a favor to him. And he got a job today. He had some commercial.

Alex walks back in, completely unaware of their conversation. He sets three glasses of water on the table next to the food and the plates.

SANDY
Shall we eat?

ALEX
Yes! I'm starving.

Alex takes his seat in the middle of the table. Jeff and Sandy sit at opposite ends.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Can I dish some food for you, Sandy?

SANDY
Yes, please.

Alex takes her plate and puts it close to the lasagna they are eating for dinner. He takes the large spatula and cuts a large piece for her. He hands the plate back to her, then fills Jeff's, and then his own.

Sandy takes a few bites of hers before starting in on conversation. She tries to sound mildly interested.

SANDY (CONT'D)
So, Alex, Jeff told me you were filming a commercial today?

ALEX
Yes. It was for Jiodore Jewelers.

SANDY
Did you meet anybody famous?

ALEX
Well, there was this one girl. I think her name was Jessica Allen.

SANDY
Was she on Washington Heights?
ALEX
I don't know.

SANDY
I think she was. My little sister is her biggest fan. It's really cool you got to work with her.

ALEX
It was pretty cool.

The conversation ends, and everybody eats in silence. It's kind of awkward. Sandy tries again.

SANDY
So have you tried to meet anybody lately?

JEFF
(warning)
Sandy.

SANDY
(innocently)
What? I'm just trying to make conversation.

JEFF
It's only been a day.

ALEX
No, Jeff. It's okay. I'm fine.

JEFF
You sure? 'Cause I got your back, you know? We are like brothers. She says to much, she's gone.

SANDY
Jeff!

JEFF
I'm just telling it how it is, honey.

ALEX
No, it's fine. No, Sandy, I haven't really had time to meet anybody lately. As Jeff said, it's only been one day, and I had work today.

SANDY
Well, why don't you try to date this Jessica girl?
ALEX
I don't know. I just met her, and it was only for a few minutes.

SANDY
Nonsense! You're quite a catch. I'm sure any girl would die to be with you.

ALEX
You think so?

SANDY
I know so.

Sandy pushes her plate away and stands up. She walks out of the room to the coffee table in the living room and picks up her laptop. She brings it back in and sets it on the table where her plate once was.

SANDY (CONT'D)
We will look her up. Maybe she will be walking a red carpet or something so you can meet her more formally.

JEFF
Sandy. Let's just let him eat--

SANDY
-- found it!

Sandy spins the laptop around so everybody can see it. It's the web page for IMDb. There are several pictures of Jessica at various events. It's only in view for a few seconds before Sandy scrolls down the page to an article.

The article reads "Miss Jessica Allen will be seen walking the red carpet at the premiere for her BFF's (Shayla Cadmar) new movie, "Love Story". She is expected to arrive with her on-again-off-again boyfriend Ethan Levitts, who also stared in the film." There's more but the screen doesn't show it.

ALEX
It says she will be there with someone.

SANDY
And you are going to let that get in your way?

ALEX
I guess not....

SANDY
Damn right you wont!
JEFF
Sandy, I don't think this is a good idea.

SANDY
(not listening)
So it's settled! You will go to the premiere tomorrow and you will have a good time, and you won't come back until you have a girlfriend.
(beat)
I'll set up an appointment for you to meet with my little sister tomorrow. She can tell you everything about Jessica.

INT. RUBY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Ruby is working on some last minute paper work before she heads home for the evening. There is a KNOCK at the door. Jessica peeks her head in.

RUBY
Come in.

JESSICA
(walking in and taking a seat)
What are you doing here so late?

Ruby looks up at her. She takes off her reading glasses to get a better look at who has walked into her room.

RUBY
Last minute paper work. Penning a contract or two. You know, business.

JESSICA
Right, business.

RUBY
What are you doing?

JESSICA
Oh you know. I was just doing some shopping and I saw your light on. I thought I would stop by.

RUBY
Oh.

JESSICA
I never got to thank you for the commercial today.
RUBY
Just doing my job.

JESSICA
I know.

RUBY
(returning to her paper work)
You know, it would do your image good if you would show up on time like I told you to.

JESSICA
I really didn't mean to be late today, I swear.

RUBY
I know, kid. How's the nobody search going?

JESSICA
It's going.

RUBY
That's a lie. I read you were going to Shayla's premiere with Ethan. He's not good for you, Jess.

JESSICA
I know.

RUBY
If you know then why do you still date him?

JESSICA
I don't know! It's like he has this death grip on my heart and whenever I get to far away from him it crushes me. It crushes me, Ruby, and I don't know what to do!

RUBY
Find someone new.

JESSICA
But who?

RUBY
Well, that kid at the commercial was cute today. Maybe you could look him up.
JESSICA
That's exactly it. He's a kid.

RUBY
He's twenty-one. You were twenty-one two days ago. I think you should call him. He could be your nobody.

JESSICA
(getting up)
I'll think about it.

RUBY
Think hard.

JESSICA
(leaving)
Good night Ruby.

INT. KALI'S BEDROOM - DAY

A giant picture of Jessica Allen as she accepts a Teen Choice Award. It's one of the few pictures of her smiling. Other pictures and posters of Jessica cover literally every square inch of KALI DIQUARDY'S (15) bedroom. There is even a specially made bedspread with a blown-up picture of Jessica's face on it. This is her biggest fan.

Alex is sitting in a little chair built for a five year old. He's in front of this scary-big poster. With meter stick in hand, Kali is circling this poster that is sitting on a tripod. When it comes to Jessica Allen, Kali is extremely serious.

KALI
Do you understand my terms and conditions?

ALEX
Yes.

KALI
Then we can begin.

Kali stops in front of the picture. She is almost in a military pose. Suddenly, she SMACKS the yard stick onto a dimple on Jessica Allen's face.

KALI (CONT'D)
Through my research, I have noted that when Miss Allen smiles, her stress points are here, here, and here.
With each HERE, Kali swiftly jabs the pointer to different spots on Jessica's face. One is the first dimple, then the second dimple, and finally the crow's feet between her eyes.

KALI (CONT'D)
As you can tell, she has a flawless face. Not a wrinkle on her. She prevents wrinkles from NEVER smiling. Her smile only comes out from pure happiness. Consider yourself lucky if you ever, and I mean ever, get her to smile.

Kali circles back to her bed, which is behind the tripod. She takes a folder off of it, and tosses it to Alex.

ALEX
(looking at the folder)
What's this?

KALI
Her extensive profile put together by me. I suggest you read it. It has all of her films and television shows she has ever been in, along with a thorough biography. If you ever wish to completely know her, you will study this every night.

ALEX
(reading from the folder)
Her favorite color is red. Her favorite fruit is the green grape. She only buys Victoria's Secret underwear?

(looking at Kali)
Kali how do you know this?

KALI
Because I'm the best.

ALEX
(getting up)
Okay, this is too weird. I'm going to go. Thanks for the help.

Kali stops him with a flick of her wrist. She points the meter stick to chest.

KALI
Not so fast. There is the matter of payment.
ALEX
What kind of payment?

KALI
You have to take me to the premiere.

ALEX
If I say yes will you let me leave?

KALI
It's a deal.

EXT. LOVE STORY MOVIE PREMIERE - NIGHT

Limos, celebrities, news crews. The RED CARPET is a mess of people and cables. Flashes from cameras are going off like crazy.

Alex is lost in the crowd of adoring fans. Kali is pushing her way to the front of the crowd. She shoves aside a 20 year old girl and is there.

ALEX
(loud, over the crowd)
Has she arrived yet?

KALI
I don't think so.
(beat)
Wait! Is that her?

Sure enough, a long black limo as pulled up at the start of the carpet. The driver hurries to her door and opens it for her. Long, tan legs stretch out of the car. They are followed by Jessica.

She has on a short, red, probably over-paid-for dress on. Her hair is dead, hanging down in long curls--but it's a pretty dead. In her hand is a golden CLUTCH, but it looks empty.

She climbs out of the car with amazing poise. She fixes her hair. A few steps. Then ETHAN LEVITTS(24) crawls out--the anti-cupid. He's everything every girl would and could ever want. He's smart, successful, athletic, rich, and drop-dead gorgeous. Girls scream at the sight of him.

Ethan joins Jessica to pose for pictures in front of the blown up version "Love Story" movie poster.

KALI (CONT'D)
She looks gorgeous.
ALEX
(breathless)
Yeah she does.

KALI
Now what are you going to do?

ALEX
(slow to realize)
What do you mean?

KALI
You came to woo her didn't you?
How?

ALEX
(freaking out)
Oh my God! I have to woo her! What am I going to do? I've never had to woo anybody in my whole life!

KALI
Okay, just keep your cool. Breath. Now, go do something to get her attention. Then do what you have to.

ALEX
(not paying attention)
Wait. What's he doing to her?

Ethan and Jessica have moved over to do an interview. The NEWS LADY is mainly interviewing Ethan, but Jessica still has to stand there. What no one seems to notice but Alex though is Ethan is being grabby.

His hand keeps grabbing at Jessica's butt. She pushes it away, but he doesn't get the hint. Jessica takes a small step away from him, but he puts his arm around her and pulls her back close. She shrugs his arm off.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Why isn't anybody stopping him?

Ethan grabs at her butt again. Jessica blinks away tears. She's incredibly embarrassed.

Alex decides to stop it. He starts to climb over the three bar railing that separates the crowd from the celebrities.

KALI
What are you doing?!

ALEX
Wooing her!
Alex drops to the red carpet. Almost immediately, a GUARD is stopping him.

GUARD
What do you think you are doing?

ALEX
That guy. He's groping Jessica Allen.

GUARD
That is none of your business. I'm going to have to ask you to step behind the railing again.

The guard starts to push Alex back behind the railing.

ALEX
No. Someone has to stop him.

GUARD
Sir, that is none of your business.

Alex is done with this. He punches the guard and runs past him.

NEWS LADY
I would like to thank you, Ethan, for the interview. And I would like to say that you look astonishing Jessica.

JESSICA
(silent)
Thank you.

BAM! Alex is a blur as he tackles Ethan, and they both fly back several feet. Jessica just stands and watches in awe.

NEWS LADY
(confused)
That was Ethan Levitts.

Alex gets in a good punch or two before Jessica pulls him off Ethan.

JESSICA
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

ALEX
Protecting you.

JESSICA
Protecting me from what?!
ALEX
(points to Ethan)
Him!

Alex can't say anymore. The guard that he punched earlier tackles him with the help of another guard.

EXT. LOVE STORY MOVIE PREMIERE - LATER

A POLICE MAN pushes a handcuffed, bloody-nosed Alex in to a police car. He closes the door, and walks to the drivers seat.

Jessica is standing a few feet away from the street, arms crossed. Everybody has gone. The premiere started.

The car drives off.

Ruby walks up from behind Jessica.

RUBY
I think we may have found our nobody.

Jessica turns and walks away without a word.

RUBY (CONT'D)
Where are you going?

JESSICA
To the premiere.

Ruby sighs and takes her Blackberry out of her clutch. She dials a number and puts the phone to her ear.

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

INT. JAIL CELL - NIGHT

Alex is sitting in the dingy cell. His nose has stopped bleeding, but there are stains on his shirt and face. A few bums sit around him.

Suddenly, freedom! A POLICEMAN opens the door. He points at Alex.

POLICEMAN
You, out.

ALEX
(getting up)
How?

POLICEMAN
This lady paid your bail. You're free to go.

Alex gingerly steps over a boozie passed out on the floor. He almost skips out of the cell. He turns and sees Ruby.

The policeman closes the door to the cell and locks it.

RUBY
You look like shit.
(to the guard)
Do you have a bathroom where he can clean up?

The policeman just shakes his head. No. He walks past them.

RUBY (CONT'D)
I think I have a bottle of water in the car. That should work. Come on.

Ruby turns and walks away. She only gets a few steps then looks behind her. Alex didn't move.

RUBY (CONT'D)
Coming?

ALEX
Who are you?

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Alex and Ruby exit the jail. Parked but still running is the limo and, behind it, a black town car.
RUBY

Get it.

Alex goes to the limo. Ruby walks to her town car and gets in the back. Before Alex gets in he looks over at Ruby. She slowly nods her head. Alex gets into the car.

INT. LIMO - NIGHT

Alex falls into the limo. He slowly looks at his surroundings. It's dark in here, but you can still make out the objects of a mini bar, a flatscreen television, and another set of seats. He also sees Jessica--right beside him.

ALEX

(playfully)

What took you so long?

JESSICA

I went to the premiere.

Alex looks out his window as they start to drive away.

ALEX

I'm sorry about before.

JESSICA

No, it's okay. I know you were only trying to help. It was sweet. I can't think of the last time anybody stood up to Ethan like that.

ALEX

Well no one stands up to him without a bruise or two.

Alex wipes at his nose. Jessica laughs at him a little--it's a laugh not a smile.

JESSICA

Well that's true. Here--

(taking the bottle)

--wash it off with this.

ALEX

Thanks.

Alex unscrews the cap. He looks around for a towel.

JESSICA

Oh right. You probably will need a towel.
Jessica gets up, but at a crouch. She goes to the mini bar and opens it up. She finds a white towel.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
(handing him the towel)
Here.

ALEX
(accepts the towel and blots it with water)
Thank you.

Alex starts to wash his face off, then he realizes this is probably a two hundred dollar towel.

ALEX (CONT'D)
I think I ruined your towel.

JESSICA
Oh, that's not a big deal. Don't worry about it.

You sure?

ALEX
Yes.

JESSICA

Alex finishes cleaning his face. He doesn't even attempt to clean off his shirt. He's unsure what to do with the bloody towel. He looks to the ground, then to Jessica. Ground. Jessica. Jessica.

ALEX
(handing Jessica the towel)
Here.

JESSICA
(amused)
Thanks?

Alex turns away from her to put the lid back on the water bottle. As he does this, Jessica discreetly puts her window down and throws the towel out. Alex turns back to her.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
So where do you live?

ALEX
Right now, I don't.

JESSICA
I'm sorry?
ALEX
Yeah.

JESSICA
What happened?

ALEX
Bad breakup.

JESSICA
She kick you out?

ALEX
No, I proposed and she said no.

JESSICA
Ouch! I'm sorry. So where do you want me to drop you off?

ALEX
I'm staying with a friend, but I don't think his girlfriend likes me so much. Just take me to the nearest Omni.

BUZZ. Jessica's phone.

JESSICA
(getting her phone)
Excuse me.

It's a text message. It says "Invite him over!!"
Jessica replies "How do u no wat we r talkn about?"
A second later her phone vibrates again. It says "Driver"
Jessica looks up. The DRIVER is looking her in his rear view. He smiles.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Would you like to stay with me? For the night?

ALEX
(taken off guard)
Well, I...I guess if you have the space. I don't want to be any trouble.

JESSICA
You won't be any trouble.

ALEX
Okay. If you want.
INT. JESSICA'S MANSION - NIGHT

The front door opens to Jessica's enormous house. A walkway lit by red and white candles leads out of the main room. They go up the steps and out of sight. Jessica walks in and immediately becomes embarrassed. This wasn't suppose to happen. Alex walks in behind her, confused at the sigh of the romantic scene.

JESSICA
(blowing out a few candles)
I'm sorry. Ethan was suppose to come over tonight. I forgot to call the staff and tell them to clean this up.

ALEX
(looking around)
It's no problem. Your house is beautiful, by the way. How much did this set you back?

JESSICA
A few million. Five I think.

Alex whistles with amazement. Jessica flips on the lights and sets her clutch on a side table by the door.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
I'm going to go change out of this dress. Let me show you to your room.

Jessica walks up the steps and into the mini hallway that leads right to a stair case in an open dining room/kitchen. On the left is the giant living room.

Jessica points to the stairs.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
It's up the stairs and the third door on the right. Fresh towels are in the adjoining bathroom if you want to talk a shower or anything. Feel free to anything in the refrigerator. If you want the chef to make you anything, his number is on the speed dial. I'm going to take a shower. I'll send some new clothes up for you.

Jessica walks away.
INT. JESSICA'S MANSION - UPSTAIRS - NIGHT

Alex counts the doors to himself as he walks down the hallway.

    ALEX
    One. Two. Three.

Alex tries the door. It's unlocked. He steps in.

INT. JESSICA'S MANSION - ALEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A warm wind blows in from the giant glass doors that lead out to a balcony. The room is huge. A king sized bed is in the center of it. Next to the bed is the open door to the bathroom. Alex flops onto the bed. He stares at the ceiling. Then he sits up and takes out his phone. He calls Jeff.

INTERCUTTING: Alex sitting on the bed. Jeff is making a sandwich in his kitchen.

    ALEX
    I'm at her house.

    JEFF
    Alex?

    ALEX
    Yes!

    JEFF
    Dude what happened to you?! I saw you on the news. You beat the shit out of that guy.

    ALEX
    I was sent to jail. Then Jessica bailed me out. Well, I think it was her agent, but it was still her money. Dude. I'm in her house.

    JEFF
    What are you doing in her house?

    ALEX
    She invited me to stay the night.

    JEFF
    You've got to be shitting me.

    ALEX
    I'm sitting on my own king sized bed right now.

    JEFF
    What are you going to do?
ALEX
I'm going to sleep. What did you think I was going to do? Bang her?

JEFF
Yeah!

ALEX
No dude. Not cool. I'm her guest. Anyway, I was just calling to make sure Kali got home safe.

JEFF
Kali's safe. I just hope you are, too.

ALEX
Dude! Shut up!

Jeff takes a bite out of his sandwich.

JEFF
Whatever dude.

ALEX
Alright. I'll talk to you later.

JEFF
See you later.

Alex hangs up. He slips it back into his pocket. He laughs at his situation and falls back onto the bed.

INT. JESSICA'S MANSION - KITCHEN - LATE NIGHT

Alex has a small tub of ice cream sitting on the counter. He has eaten most of it. His spoon sticks out of it.

Across the living room, Jessica walks out in a white bathrobe with a towel wrapped around her head and a toothbrush sticking out of her mouth. She is all hot from the bath she took. She has on no make up but it doesn't matter. Her beauty is true.

She hasn't seemed to notice Alex yet. Then she steps into the kitchen. She jumps.

ALEX
Did I scare you?

JESSICA
Just a little. I thought everybody was in bed.
Jessica realizes she is only in a robe. She fidgets nervously with it.

    ALEX
    Wow.

    JESSICA
    What? I'm not wearing any make up.
    Do I look hideous?

    ALEX
    No! You look beautiful.

She smiles a little bit. Her dimples flash briefly.

    JESSICA
    Good.

Jessica walks over to the sink and spits. After running water through her toothbrush, she sets it next to the sink.

    JESSICA (CONT'D)
    (seeing the ice cream)
    Mm. Rocky Road. My favorite.

She digs in a drawer and finds a spoon.

    ALEX
    It's all I could find in the fridge.

    JESSICA
    I love ice cream.

Jessica dips her spoon in. She walks to the counter where Alex is sitting and hops up on it. She is close to him. After she eats her bite of ice cream, she sets her spoon on the counter. There is a little ice cream on her lip.

    ALEX
    (reaching to wipe off the ice cream)
    You have a little--

Jessica leans down to him so he can wipe it away with ease.

    JESSICA
    Thanks.

    ALEX
    Anytime.

Awkward pause. Jessica sets her spoon on the counter. They avoid each other's gaze.
ALEX (CONT'D)
So when did you buy this place?

JESSICA
A few years ago. I became a regular on Washington Heights and I played June in June Without Hold.

ALEX
I don't think I ever saw that. What was it about?

JESSICA
I was a singer who got her big break. I made it on Broadway in the musical Wicked as Elphaba. My character died when she got addicted to drugs and overdosed. I liked playing Elphaba though. It let me show people I could sing.

ALEX
Bummer.

JESSICA
Yeah. But it was fun.

ALEX
I didn't know you could sing.

JESSICA
Maybe I will have to sing for you sometime.

Another awkward pause.

ALEX
(quickly and nervously)
Would you like to go out to dinner tomorrow?

JESSICA
What?

ALEX
Nothing.

JESSICA
Like a date?

ALEX
Or just as friends. Whatever you are cool with.
JESSICA
Who says we're friends?

ALEX
I just figured since--nevermind.

JESSICA
(toying with him)
If it's a nevermind then I will go to bed.

She takes the ice cream and stabs her spoon in it.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
This is coming with me.

Jessica slides off the counter and walks away.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
(back turned away)
If you want anything special for breakfast just write on a Post-It and stick it on the refrigerator.
(beat)
Oh, and Alex? I'll pick you up tomorrow night at 7:30.

ALEX
Great. Wait. Where are we going?

JESSICA
That's for me to know, and you to pay for.

ALEX
How are you going to fine me!?

JESSICA
I have my ways.

She walks back to her room.

INT. MARCIE'S OFFICE - DAY

Mountains of paper fill literally every crevice of Marcie's tiny office. They are on the chair, her desk, the floor. Most of them aren't even that important, but Marcie is a pack rat. She works, half-hidden, behind a stack of them when Alex walks in.

MARCIE
Hey! How's my little DT doing?
ALEX
(confused)
Your what?

MARCIE
You didn't come from a football family did you?

ALEX
Not in the slightest.
(looking around at the mess)
Marcie, where can I sit?

MARCIE
I don't care. Just push papers on the floor.

Alex leads by example. Marcie pushes the stack of papers that half-hides her face to the floor. Alex does the same to a chair. Papers fly everywhere. Alex sits in an old, rickety-looking chair.

MARCIE (CONT'D)
Okay, now I can see you. How's my little defensive tackler doin'? I saw you on the news last night...and again on Good Morning America. Twice.

ALEX
Oh I get it. DT, okay. Me? I'm good, despite the bruised ego. I have a date for tonight.

MARCIE
A date? Did you find yourself a little jailbird?

ALEX
No, it's with Jessica Allen, actually.

MARCIE
You're shittin' me, right?

ALEX
No. She bailed me out of jail last night and invited me to stay at her house. When I asked her on a date she wouldn't tell me where we were going.

MARCIE
I hope it's not expensive.
ALEX
Me, too. I might have to sell a kidney or something.

MARCIE
I know someone in the black market, if that helps.

ALEX
Thanks, but no thanks. I'm actually here because I'm having a crisis, not to do something illegal.

MARCIE
That being?

ALEX
Marcie, I've never dated a famous person before. I don't know what to do!

MARCIE
It's just like dating a regular person who has a few million to their name.

ALEX
That's the troubling part!

MARCIE
(soothing)
Relax. Tonight, all you have to do is be yourself. She'd be crazy not to date you.

ALEX
How do you know so much about this?

MARCIE
Oh, I dated Elvis.

ALEX
He would have died when you were 8.

MARCIE
Costello.

ALEX
He's fifteen years older than you.

MARCIE
(giggling)
He was fun.

ALEX
That's gross.
Marcie giggles again. Alex gets up. Marcie doesn't notice. She's too far into her memories to notice anything now.

ALEX (CONT'D)
I'm headin' out. Thanks for the advice.

MARCIE
He was great in bed.

ALEX
I'm leaving now.

Alex walks out and then Marcie realizes he's gone.

INT. JEFF'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Alex is running in a frenzy. Jessica should be by...now. The doorbell RINGS. It doesn't disturb Sandy, who is sitting on the couch in her robe, or Jeff.

ALEX
(running out of the room)
Can you answer that?

In a flash, he's gone. Sandy looks at Jeff, who is completely zoned into the television. She walks to the door and opens it, robe and all.

Jessica stands, looking beautiful, in the hallway. She doesn't looked pleased that Alex didn't answer the door.

JESSICA
Is Alex ready?

Sandy is star-shocked. She doesn't know how to reply. Her eyes are wide. Then--she slams the door.

EXT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Jessica is confused. She looks around the hallway. It's dirty and all she wants to do is leave, so she does. A few feet later, Alex opens the door and looks outside. Jessica turns to him.

ALEX
Starting without me?

EXT. LITTLE SANDWICH BISTRO ROOFTOP - NIGHT

The Little Sandwich Bistro is a tiny sandwich shop. The owners are Italian. The front window is huge, and printed on it is "Little Bistros". The building is made out of dark red brick.
On the roof is a little table with a checkered table cloth. A single candle is lit on the table. Two wine glasses are filled with red wine.

A door opens and the CHEF leads Jessica and Alex to the table. They sit into the chairs. The chef hands them menus.

CHEF
I will be back soon to get your orders. Would you like anything before I go?

JESSICA
(looking at Alex)
Would you like some bread sticks?

ALEX
Sure.

CHEF
Bread sticks?

JESSICA
Yes.

CHEF
I will have them out in a few minutes.

He walks away.

ALEX
Thank you.

Beat. Jessica looks over the menu.

ALEX (CONT'D)
How did you find this place? It doesn't seem like someone like you would eat at a place like this.

JESSICA
What do you mean by someone like me?

ALEX
Nothing bad. You just seem like a person who adores nice things, and this place isn't exactly a gem.

JESSICA
What's wrong with this place?!

ALEX
Nevermind. It's cute.
JESSICA
That's what I thought.

ALEX
But how did you find this place?

JESSICA
It's one of the few places paparazzi can't find me. Like you were implying, this isn't the typical place I would go, so no one looks.
(the chef enters with a bread basket)
And Rinaldo has been a family friend for a long time. I like to give my business to him.

RINALDO sets the bread basket on the table by the candle.

RINALDO
She keeps me in business, and has bailed me out twice.

JESSICA
Now those bailouts are loans. I'm still waiting for that money.

RINALDO
I know, Miss Jessica. (beat)
Are you ready to order?

JESSICA
Yes. I'm going to have the Green Allen Pimento.

RINALDO
(to Alex)
And you?

ALEX
I will have the same.

JESSICA
Are you sure? It's really spicy.

ALEX
Have you had it before?

JESSICA
I created it. It's named after me.

ALEX
(to Rinaldo)
I'll have the same.
(reluctant)
Okay. They will be ready in a few minutes.

Rinaldo leaves.

JESSICA
You are going to regret this.

ALEX
I bet I don't.

JESSICA
Fair warning. You run with me, and you are going to get hurt.

ALEX
I'm up for a challenge.

JESSICA
I would hope so.

Beat. Jessica sips from her wine glass. She peers with curious eyes at Alex.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
So.

ALEX
So.

This is when they both realize they have nothing in common!

JESSICA
So, when did you decide you wanted to be an actor?

ALEX
A few years ago. I was a freshman in a small town in Washington and tried out for the part of Peter Pan in our spring musical. That fell through and I fell in love with the stage. I was in a few more musicals and children's plays at the local theaters. Senior year came up and my theater teacher told me to apply to Juilliard, so I did. They agreed to come to one of my performances and I got in, but I never went.

JESSICA
Why?
ALEX
My parents couldn't afford it. I was pretty crushed, but I moved to Hollywood to make a name for myself. I lived in a crappy little apartment and ate Hot Pockets for months. You'd be surprised at how long you can live off Hot Pockets alone. Then Marcie agreed to represent me. I've been with her for two years. She's great. Can't do a darn for my career, but I stick with her.

JESSICA
Why? Most actors move on if their agents can't get them work.

ALEX
I know, but I stay with her for moral support. She's only forty, but she's wise well beyond her years.

JESSICA
I didn't get that when I met her.

ALEX
She was probably hung over.

JESSICA
Oh. So, Julliard? That's pretty big. It's too bad you couldn't afford it.

ALEX
I want to go back some day, but I don't think I will every be able to get accepted again.

JESSICA
You should at least try. I could loan you money if you get accepted. Then you could go and make a name for yourself.

ALEX
You would do that?

JESSICA
If you needed it. Alex, I may come off as a bitch, but deep down I can be a good person.

ALEX
Then why don't you show it to everybody else?
JESSICA
Publicity.

ALEX
The public likes a bitch?

JESSICA
They like mystery. The two just got mixed together a long time ago.

ALEX
Have you ever tried being a good girl?

JESSICA
Yes. It's not as fun.

Rinaldo walks up with two plates of food. That was fast.

ALEX
That was fast.

JESSICA
The Green Allen is Rinaldo's specialty.

Rinaldo sets the two plates down in front of their owners. It's a huge sandwich. A slivers of habanero and jalapeno peppers hang out the sides with melted Swiss Cheese along with other condiments like mayonnaise, shredded lettuce, tomato, and spicy mustard. The main meal of the sandwich is chunks of steak, shredded chicken, and turkey.

Jessica uses her knife and fork to cut small chunks of the sandwich off. Alex is stupid and just digs in.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

ALEX!

Alex, mouth full of sandwich, tries to talk.

ALEX
(muffled)
What?

JESSICA
You just ate two habanero peppers at once.

ALEX
That bad?

Alex starts sweating. He leaves his mouth hanging open. He spits the huge bite back onto the plate. The area around his sinuses starts getting red, and his nose starts watering.
His eyes are becoming bloodshot. He almost looks like a gross, sweaty cherry!

JESSICA
(offering her wine glass)
Do you want some wine?

ALEX
(trying to stay calm)
Hot....Hot!

JESSICA
Here. Drink some wine!

Alex snatches up his wine glass and chugs it.

ALEX
More.

He takes Jessica's and chugs it down, too. He still needs more to quench his thirst.

ALEX (CONT'D)
More!

JESSICA
I don't have any!

Jessica runs to the door to downstairs and opens it. She has to fight fits of laughter.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Rinaldo! Water! Red alert!

Jessica runs back to her date.

ALEX
(freaking out)
HOW CAN THEY PUT SO MUCH HATE IN A LITTLE PEPPER!?! My throat is bleeding!

Jessica can't hold it in any more. She has to laugh or she will explode. She almost falls over from laughing so hard. Rinaldo hurries passed her with a cold pitcher of water and hands it to Alex.

Alex takes a few huge gulps, then just dumps it down on his face and body. He soaks his shirt and hair. He hands the now empty pitcher back to Rinaldo.

RINALDO
Do you want more?
ALEX
(coolly)
I think I'm good now. Thanks.

RINALDO
She warned you.

Jessica has seemed to recover from her laughter.

JESSICA
That I did.

Rinaldo walks back downstairs. Jessica smiles at Alex, one of those three stress point smiles. One that shows she truly cares about you, or just what is happening in general, except this one is different. She's biting her bottom lip, and she looks like she is fighting the urge to do something.

ALEX
Was that a smile?

JESSICA
(hiding her smile)
Maybe.

ALEX
It was!

Something bright flashes below them. Then something to the side, in another building. Alex looks around confused. Jessica is quick to hide her face and walk to the door.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Was that lightning?

JESSICA
(urgent)
Come on, Alex. We need to go.

Another flurry of flashes. Rinaldo appears at the door.

ALEX
There it was again.

JESSICA
Alex.

Jessica looks like she really doesn't want to be here. She almost sounds scared.

RINALDO
Miss Jessica. They--
Alex looks around again. Then he listens to Jessica and hurries over to her by the doorway.

ALEX
What is that?

JESSICA
Get inside.

Jessica hurries inside. Alex steps in a moment later. Rinaldo rushes over to their meal to clean it up.

INT. STAIRWELL - NIGHT

Jessica is a step ahead of Alex as they rush down the stairs. Alex catches her arm and forces her to stop.

ALEX
Jessica. What was that?

JESSICA
It's nothing. Just paparazzi.

ALEX
I thought you liked that.

JESSICA
I do. I just--I wanted to go.

ALEX
Why do you run from them?

JESSICA
I'm not running.

ALEX
What do you call this?

JESSICA
Finishing a date.

She tries to go, but Alex won't let her.

ALEX
You shouldn't run from them. It only makes them want more.

JESSICA
I don't have to have my whole life displayed on US Weekly either.
ALEX
So then don't.

JESSICA
How?

ALEX
Just don't be mysterious. Tell them everything they want to know. If you went out for dinner, tell them what you got. If you went shopping, tell them what you bought. If you are in love, splash it on every magazine cover in the country. They will get tired of an easy catch.

JESSICA
I can't do that. I'm not like you Alex.

ALEX
I can help you.

Jessica gives him one of those your-so-dumb looks.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Come on.

Alex lets go of her arm, and instead puts his arm around her.

EXT. LITTLE SANDWICH BISTRO - NIGHT

The paparazzi storm has really gathered. Flashes go off everywhere as Jessica and Alex walk out of the restaurant. They stop in the midst of the crowd.

ALEX
(loudly)
Hi, how're you doing? My names Alex. We just ate on the rooftop of the Little Bistro.
(acknowledging his wet shirt)
I had a Green Allen. It was good, but as you can see I got more on me than in me.
(looking to Jessica)
And right now I think we are going to go take a walk.

His look is so sweet and reassuring.
JESSICA
You're welcome to follow if you want. Just stay one hundred feet away most of the time.

They walk through the crowd, which surprisingly starts to get smaller as photogs get bored with this story.

As Jessica and Alex make it out of the crowd, Jessica puts her arm around Alex's waist, and rests her head on his shoulder. How cute.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

The waves CRASH against the shore, making beautiful background music. Jessica and Alex are holding hands as they walk shoeless down the beach. No photographers decided to follow them.

ALEX
What's your favorite flower?

JESSICA
It's a tie between the red tulip and the yellow tulip. What's your favorite color?

ALEX
Red.

JESSICA
Mine too. What's your favorite fruit?

ALEX
The green grape.

JESSICA
Mine too!

ALEX
What would you be if you weren't an actress?

JESSICA
A dentist.

ALEX
Why?

JESSICA
I don't know! I like teeth.

ALEX
Okay. What's your favorite Hollywood cliché?
JESSICA
(she looks at him)
The happy ending.

He looks at her. Something between them connects. Alex pulls her closer. He goes in for a kiss, and Jessica does too. Then—she stops. Alex opens his eyes and looks at her.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
(at a whisper)
Don't.

ALEX
What's wrong?

JESSICA
I'm sorry.

ALEX
Why?

JESSICA
It's nothing. I--I just told myself I wouldn't do this again.

ALEX
What?

JESSICA
Fall for someone. I promised myself to never kiss on a first date ever again unless I knew that what I had with that person was real.

Talk about killing the moment. Alex loosens his grip around her, but he still holds her hand.

ALEX
I think I need to go home.

He starts to let go of her hand, but she holds tight.

JESSICA
Let me give you a ride.

INT. JEFF'S APARTMENT BUILDING - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Alex and Jessica get off the elevator. They keep their distance with each other until they reach the door. Alex turns to Jessica.

ALEX
Well, I had fun. Good night.
JESSICA
Good night, Alex.

Alex opens the door and Jessica walks back toward the elevator. She stops. She turns back to Alex, who is still standing in the doorway. He's not looking at her.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Alex?

ALEX
(looks at her)
Yeah?

She runs toward him. She wraps her arms around his neck when she gets to him.

JESSICA
It's a good thing this wasn't a date.

Before Alex can speak, Jessica has him tongue-tied...literally. Alex must realize what is happening, because he puts his arms around her. They stand and kiss for a long time.

Then there is a total mood-killer. Sandy, in her cream face mask and robe, opens the door on them.

SANDY
(embarrassed)
Oh! Sorry.

She slams the door on them. They pull away from each others lips long enough to smile and possible take a breath. Then they go back at it.

INT. RUBY'S OFFICE - DAY

Jessica is sitting in front of Ruby's desk. Ruby is extremely pleased about something. She has a dumb-looking grin on her face. In her hand is her BlackBerry. She is holding it up so Jessica can see what she has received in an e-mail. It's a picture of Jessica and Alex leaving the restaurant last night.

RUBY
This is good. Very good.

JESSICA
How did you get that?

RUBY
I have an insider at People. He snapped this photo and sent it to me last night. I called you last night.
JESSICA
I didn't get any calls.

RUBY
Bull shit. You were with him.

JESSICA
So what if I was?

RUBY
Nothing. It's good publicity.

JESSICA
How good?

RUBY
Good enough to get you an audition.

JESSICA
(ecstatic)
Really!?

RUBY
(pulls a paper from her desk)
I got the fax this morning for the script.

JESSICA
Is the director--

RUBY
Yes.

JESSICA
Spielberg!

Jessica jumps up from her chair. She can't sit now, she's too excited.

RUBY
This could be huge. It could really shove you to A-list quality.

JESSICA
I thought I already was.

RUBY
(lying)
Oh, you are...this could be A+-list.

JESSICA
Ruby do you know what this means?!
RUBY
A red carpet.

JESSICA
(falling back into
her chair)
A red carpet. Oh Ruby. This is
everything I have ever dreamed of.

RUBY
You deserve it.

JESSICA
I have to tell Alex. He will freak!

RUBY
He made this happen.

JESSICA
What do you mean by that?

RUBY
Nothing. You stick with him for a
few more months, become America's
new sweethearts, and then you dump
him. By then you will be the hottest
girl in town and you could have any
guy you want.

Jessica doesn't seem to like Ruby talking about Alex this
way, but she does nothing to stop it.

RUBY (CONT'D)
And when you flaunt your love for
him in New York, you really will be
on every magazine.

JESSICA
New York?

RUBY
When you and Ethan were dating a few
weeks ago, you reserved tickets for
the red carpet to his new movie,
remember? You just got them today.

JESSICA
But that's just two tickets.

RUBY
I'm sure it won't be too difficult
for you to get a third. And worst
case scenario you just show up.
JESSICA
Do you have the tickets?

Ruby digs into her desk again and pulls out an envelope. She tosses it on the table.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Ruby. You are the best.

Jessica snatches the tickets up and runs out of the room. The door doesn't even close before Jessica runs back in and gives Ruby a peck on the forehead. Ruby cowers away.

RUBY
Save it for Alex.

Jessica runs out of the room again.

INT. JESSICA'S MANSION - JESSICA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jessica covers Alex's eyes as she lead him into the master bedroom. It's really a master bedroom. There is a king-sized bed, a plasma HDTV mounted across from the bed, a walk-in closet, and a door that leads to the master bath. Just like Alex's guest room, there is a giant glass door that leads to a patio.

ALEX
Are we there yet?

JESSICA
Almost.

A few steps into the room, Jessica lets Alex see his surprise.

ALEX
I don't get it.

Jessica walks to the door of her walk in closet. She opens it, and lets Alex see inside. Confused, he walks closer and see's the real surprise.

ALEX (CONT'D)
(grabbing at clothes)
These are mine.

JESSICA
Surprise!

ALEX
What did you do?

JESSICA
Move in with me.
ALEX
(laughing)
We've only been on one date. We've
known each other for three days!

JESSICA
Please?

ALEX
Jessica....

JESSICA
There's no reason not to! Your here
all the time anyway, and most of
your clothes are already here.

ALEX
This is my second time here! And my
clothes are here because you had
them delivered.

JESSICA
So save the movers from moving your
clothes back!

ALEX
The last time I had a serious
relationship, it was four years before
my girlfriend and I moved in together.

JESSICA
And see what happened with that one?
You didn't stay together!

ALEX
That was her fault.

JESSICA
Just try it? If it doesn't work
after a week I will give you money
to go buy an apartment.

ALEX
I don't know.

JESSICA
Please?

Alex sits on his soon-to-be-bed. Jessica walks over and
sits on his lap.

ALEX
Okay.
JESSICA
What?!

ALEX
I want to move in with you.

Jessica can't contain herself. She kisses him again. They fall back onto her bed. Jessica is on top. She looks at him.

JESSICA
That's only a third of the surprise.

ALEX
What's the other third?

JESSICA
I'm going to New York.
(beat)
And you're coming with.

ALEX
Serious?

JESSICA
Serious.

ALEX
When do we leave?!

JESSICA
Tomorrow. And now for the final part of the surprise.

ALEX
There's more?

Jessica crawls off Alex and runs out of the room. Seconds later she is back in, carrying a shiny laptop. Jessica hops back on the bed. Alex sits up and scoots closer to her.

ALEX (CONT'D)
You bought me a computer?

JESSICA
No, this is mine. The surprise is in the computer.

She pulls something up, and shows the screen to Alex. It's a blank word document.

ALEX
Paper?
JESSICA
An application.

ALEX
For?

JESSICA
Julliard.

ALEX
I told you I don't have the money to get in.

JESSICA
I will pay for you.

ALEX
Really?

JESSICA
Yes. Remember, contrary to popular belief, I'm a nice person. This is me being nice. So I will help you write this. Okay?

ALEX
(thinking it over)
Okay.

JESSICA
Okay.

Jessica turns to her computer and begins to type.

INT. JEFF'S APARTMENT - DAY

Alex sticks his head into the apartment. He knocks twice on the door before he enters.

ALEX
Hello?

No answer. Alex walks through the living room and back to the hallway that has all the bedrooms. He enters the only guest bedroom.

INT. JEFF'S APARTMENT - GUEST BEDROOM - DAY

A few of Alex's belongings are still in the room. He walks around and picks several of them up, including a backpack. He starts to shove things in it. He walks over to the dresser and opens the top drawer. The only thing in there is the envelope. He takes it out and shoves it deep into his backpack.
JEFF (O.S.)
Stealing again?

Alex jumps. He turns around. Jeff is standing in the doorway.

ALEX
You scared me.

JEFF
Sorry. Moving out already?

Jeff moves to sit on the bed.

ALEX
Yeah. The movers got most of it already. I was just finishing up with the little things. And I wanted to thank you for giving me a place to stay, man. I really appreciate it.

JEFF
Yeah, not a problem. If you ever need a place to stay, you know my door is always open. If things don't work out between Jessica and you, this room will still be here.

ALEX
I know. But I better get going. We are flying out to New York in an hour.

JEFF
Since when?

ALEX
Jessica told me last night. We'll be back in a week or so.

JEFF
Have fun.

ALEX
I will. See you when I get back.

Alex leaves. Jeff stays sitting on the bed.

JEFF
Shit.
(beat)
He loves her.
INT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jessica walks in first. She sets her purse down on a nightstand holding a lamp. She turns the lamp on. The light reveals her apartment, which is really more of a McMansion.

It has two stories. The main hallway leads into a living room. The living room has a spiral staircase leading to upstairs. The living room is separated from the kitchen by a granite counter. The kitchen is almost a direct copy of her one in Los Angeles. There is an island counter in the center of it. There is no dining room. A bathroom is opposite the kitchen.

Alex walks in with their luggage and looks inside the apartment. He's amazed.

   ALEX
   This is your second house?
   
   JESSICA
   It's more of an apartment.
   
   ALEX
   How did you manage to pay for this and your house in L.A.?
   
   JESSICA
   Endorsement deals paid for the kitchen and Washington Heights helped pay for the rest.
   
   ALEX
   I'm impressed.
   (beat)
   Where do you want the suitcases?

Jessica starts walking to the kitchen.

   JESSICA
   Just put them upstairs. Do you want anything to drink?

Alex carries the three suitcases—-one for him, two for Jessica to the spiral staircase.

   ALEX
   Um.

He can't concentrate as he tries to shove the huge suitcases up the staircase. Jessica looks over at him, she pops open a bottle of juice. She smiles.

   JESSICA
   There's an elevator, you know.
ALEX
Really?

Alex looks at Jessica. He forgets the suitcases and they fall down the stairs.

JESSICA
(points to a closet)
In there.

Alex walks over to the closet and opens the door. Sure enough, there's a small elevator. Alex gives Jessica a look.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
An old couple use to live here. I think one was in a wheelchair.

ALEX
Oh, I see.

Alex just sets the suitcases in the elevator and pushes the UP button. It glows yellow and the elevator doors close.

Jessica walks to the giant leather sofa and plops down on it. Alex goes and plops next to her. She cuddles up next to him. Her head rests on his shoulder. She close her eyes.

JESSICA
I'm so tired.

ALEX
That plane ride killed me. What time is the premiere?

JESSICA
(checks her watch)
Four hours. We should probably get ready. I have us set for a spa appointment in thirty minutes.

INT. LIMO - NIGHT

Jessica is now in a long, flowing blue dress. She looks beautiful. Alex is in a tuxedo. They are definitely red-carpet ready. Jessica grabs Alex's hand.

The car stops. Jessica looks at Alex. He smiles at her.

JESSICA
Okay. This is your first red carpet...well, not really, but it's the first one you were invited to. Are you ready? It can get a little crazy out there.
ALEX
I'm ready.

JESSICA
You're sure?

ALEX
I'm sure.

Jessica leans over and kisses him. The door opens and photographers instantly snap pictures. Jessica slides out of the car and walks onto the carpet. Alex gets out after her.

EXT. RED CARPET - NIGHT

Jessica and Alex walk down the red carpet. They hold hands the whole way. They stop and pose for pictures. Alex puts his arm around Jessica's waist and pulls her close.

PHOTOGRAPHER
GIVE HER A KISS!

Alex looks at Jessica.

ALEX
Why not, right?

Jessica smiles at him. She goes in and gets the kiss. More flashes. It's insane. When they are done kissing, Jessica bites her bottom lip. She's never been this romantic with anybody on a red carpet.

They move further down the red carpet. Jessica looks behind her as someone yells.

PERSON (O.S.)
JESS!

Jessica and Alex stop walking. They turn around. SHAYLA comes running towards them. It's more of a brisk walk, though. She can't run in her heels.

Shayla embraces Jessica as soon as they reach each other. She lets go of her. Alex stands off to the side during the little reunion.

SHAYLA
How've you been? I didn't see you at the Love Story premiere! I wanted to talk to you, but I got shoved into a limo to go to an after party. I heard you got attacked by some psycho.

(MORE)
SHAYLA (CONT'D)  
(beat)  
Whose this?  

JESSICA  
Shayla.  

ALEX  
(to Jessica)  
It's fine.  
(to Shayla)  
Hi, I'm the psycho.  

Shayla glances a worried look at Jessica.  

JESSICA  
He's kidding.  

ALEX  
(offering a hand)  
I'm Alex Eagen.  

Shayla takes his hand and shakes it.  

SHAYLA  
Sorry.  

ALEX  
It's fine. I get it all the time.  

Someone behind Shayla catches Alex's eye. It's just a celebrity.  

ALEX (CONT'D)  
You'll have to excuse me for a second.  

He gives Jessica a quick peek on the cheek.  

JESSICA  
Where are you going?  

ALEX  
Just to meet a celebrity crush.  

Jessica gives him that "warning" look.  

ALEX (CONT'D)  
I said crush, not romance. I'll be right back.  

Alex skips off back down the red carpet. Shayla looks at his backside as he leaves, then turns back to Jessica.
SHAYLA
God, why do you always get the cute ones?

JESSICA
Because I'm better looking.

SHAYLA
True, but I have personality. How long have you been dating?

JESSICA
Almost a week.

SHAYLA
So he's new to all this?! Sounds like fun.

JESSICA
He is.

SHAYLA
You little devil.

JESSICA
I didn't mean it like that.

SHAYLA
You haven't?

JESSICA
Not yet.

Shayla looks behind her again and stares at Alex.

SHAYLA
That's a shame. Better get on it soon. Looks like he is getting cozy with someone else.

Back to Alex. He's talking with an old friend, the beautiful DANICA FLETCHER (25). They go way back.

DANICA
I didn't know you were in town.

ALEX
I flew in a few hours ago. I'm here with someone.

DANICA
I heard about that. You were on the news.
ALEX
Yeah. But I can't say that was a big mistake. It helped me meet Jessica.

DANICA
We need to talk about that.

ALEX
What about it?

Danica checks around her to make sure no one is eavesdropping. Then she turns back to Alex.

DANICA
Just be careful. Acting means more to her than anything. She would drop you without a second thought if the right job came around.

ALEX
I'll be careful.

DANICA
Good.

ALEX
Are you here with someone?

DANICA
Yeah, my husband is over there.

She points to a dark-headed man in a tux a few feet away. He has his back turned from us.

ALEX
That's good.

DANICA
Yeah, it's good. I need to be getting inside, but I will see you before you get back? We should do brunch tomorrow.

ALEX
I'll talk to Jessica, but it sounds good. Give me a call sometime.

DANICA
I'll see you later.

ALEX
See you.

She walks away.
Alex looks around for Jessica. Someone notices him first. Ethan. He struts up into Alex.

ETHAN
What do you think you're doing here?

ALEX
I was invited.

ETHAN
No you weren't.

ALEX
Jessica invited me.

ETHAN
I'm finding it hard to believe Jessica would invite her stalker.

ALEX
And I'm finding it hard to believe a rapist would be an actor, but I guess stranger things have happened.

The two are practically at each others throats. Luckily Jessica and Shayla break up the fight. Jessica forces herself in between the two, pushing them both away from each other.

JESSICA
Stop it.

ETHAN
Got your girlfriend to fight for you?

ALEX
Yes.

Jessica starts to push Alex away from Ethan. Shayla does the same for Ethan.

JESSICA
Come on, Alex. Let's just go.

ETHAN
That's right. Run.

ALEX
You're just mad that I have her and you don't.

ETHAN
You really think I would be sad about someone else dating a whore?
Jessica has her back to Ethan. She keeps pushing Alex away. She is almost to tears.

    ALEX
    She's not a whore.

    JESSICA
    (whispers)
    Alex. Please. Don't.

Shayla pulls Ethan further away.

    SHAYLA
    Honey. Just let them go. They don't want to start anything.

Jessica turns to Shayla.

    JESSICA
    You're dating him?

    SHAYLA
    We are just seeing each other.

    JESSICA
    How could you do that to yourself? After everything that I told you he does!?

    SHAYLA
    Just let it be, Jess. It's nothing.

    JESSICA
    It may be nothing to you, but it really means something to me. I can't believe you.

Alex puts his arm around Jessica.

    JESSICA (CONT'D)
    Take me home.

Alex and Jessica leave Ethan and Shayla standing in the crowd.

INT. NEW YORK STREET - NIGHT

Alex is giving Jessica a piggy-back ride through the streets of New York. She has her high-heels off and is holding them in one hand. In her other is her tiny clutch.

    JESSICA
    I told you we should have gotten a cab. I think it's going to rain.
ALEX

It's okay. I'm not tired.

JESSICA

You slowed down.

ALEX

I'm fine.

They walk a little further in silence.

JESSICA

Who did you go talk to at the premiere?

ALEX

Just an old friend.

JESSICA

You can tell me.

ALEX

You probably know her.

JESSICA

Then tell me!

ALEX

It was Danica Fletcher.

JESSICA

Stop!

ALEX

What?!

JESSICA

You know Danica Fletcher?!

ALEX

Yeah?

JESSICA

How do you know her?

ALEX

We went to the same high school. She dated my brother for a little while. We became pretty good friends.

JESSICA

I thought you didn't know anybody famous!
ALEX
I don't consider her famous....

JESSICA
Shut up! Danica Fletcher is like...the best romantic comedy movie actress in the world.

ALEX
I don't like romantic comedies!

JESSICA
You weirdo! How can you expect to make a good boyfriend if you don't love a good laugh at love?

ALEX
Most guys don't like them.

JESSICA
They like them when they are with me.

Alex has nothing to say to this. Jessica looks up at the building they are passing. She stops Alex by jerking herself backwards. He has to recover from the jerk so he doesn't fall.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
We're here.

ALEX
Where?

Alex look at the building. It's the post office.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Why are we at the post office?

Jessica hands him her shoes.

JESSICA
Put those on.

ALEX
They aren't my size.

INT. POST OFFICE - NIGHT

Jessica is filling out an envelope at a little counter. Alex just stands next to her, leaning against the wall. He tries to look at what she is doing, but she brings her hand up and covers his eyes.
JESSICA

Done!

She licks the envelope and seals it shut. A little drop box is in the wall. Jessica opens it and drops the letter inside.

EXT. NEW YORK STREET - NIGHT

Alex and Jessica leave the post office. There's a quick flash of LIGHTENING and then THUNDER. Suddenly, there's a downpour of rain. Jessica gasps and looks at Alex. She's absolutely soaked. He starts to laugh at her.

JESSICA

It's not funny!

But Jessica starts laughing, too. They walk to the street in hopes of finding a passing taxi. Jessica puts too much weight on her back heel and it snaps. Quick reflexes allow Alex to catch her. It looks like they were dancing and he just put her into a dip.

Jessica looks beautiful. Alex brings her back up. Holding her close, extremely close, he kisses her.

Another flash, but not from lightening. A photographer is waiting for a bus. They don't notice him.

Alex looks at Jessica, and he pushes a loose strand of wet hair from her face. He kisses her again.

INT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Alex and Jessica are still kissing as they push through the door. They run into a wall, well...Alex is pushed into a wall. Jessica half-smiles and half-laughs at him. They make their way to the bathroom. Alex's tuxedo coat and shirt drop to the floor on the way there.

INT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Steam covers the glass doors to a shower. Inside the shower, hot water pours down on Jessica and Alex as they kiss. The water isn't the only thing warming them up.

INT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT - JESSICA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alex sleeps alone in Jessica's huge bed. He still isn't wearing any clothes, but a sheet covers the bottom half of him.

A cold breeze wakes him up. He looks around the room. Jessica is no where to be found. He slides out of the bed, bringing the sheet with him. He walks out to the BALCONY.
INT. JESSICA'S APARTMENT - BALCONY - NIGHT

Jessica has a blanket wrapped around her. It's tucked in around her shoulders, and makes it look like a dress on her. She is standing, at the top of the world, looking down on the city. A breeze brushes through her hair.

Alex walks up behind her. He has his sheet tucked in around his waist. He wraps his arms around her. A kiss lands on Jessica's bare shoulder. Then another, and another. He kisses her neck. She turns around.

JESSICA
I want to show you something.

Jessica slips past him and walks back inside. She comes back out a second later with a guitar. Jessica takes a seat in what looks like an expensive furniture chair.

A few notes are strummed. Alex takes a seat across from her. The notes turn into a song. Jessica begins to sing after a few measures. The song is "Love Story" by Taylor Swift. Jessica doesn't look at Alex while she is playing.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
(sings)
We were both young when I first saw you. I close my eyes and the flashback starts, I'm standing there, on a balcony in summer air. See the lights, see the party, the ball gowns. See you make your way through the crowd and say hello. Little did I know....That you were Romeo; you were throwing pebbles, and my daddy said stay away from Juliet and I was crying on the staircase begging you please don't go. And I said, Romeo take me somewhere we can be alone. I'll be waiting; all there's left to do is run. You'll be the prince and I'll be the princess. It's a love story baby just say - yes.

Jessica's music slows down and comes to a stop. She looks at Alex. The moonlight hitting her makes her face glow beautifully. She smiles weakly.

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

EXT. CAFE PATIO - MORNING

A WAITER walks up to Alex's table. He has a glass pitcher of orange juice. Sitting with him is Jessica. Across from them are two empty seats.

WAITER
(to Jessica)
Would you like more orange juice?

JESSICA
Sure.

He fills her glass and leaves.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Maybe they forgot.

ALEX
I called them this morning. There's no way they could forget.

JESSICA
We should just try another--

She's cut short when Danica and her husband, BEN, walk up. They take their seats.

DANICA
(slightly embarrassed)
Hi. Sorry we're late. We were a little...occupied.

ALEX
It's fine. We were just about to order.

DANICA
It's self serve. Didn't you see the buffet line?

Alex looks behind him. Sure enough, a line of people are getting food from a buffet table.

ALEX
I see it now.

DANICA
Food later. Introductions now. Alex, this is Ben. Ben, this is Jessica.

They all shake hands with each other.
DANICA (CONT'D)
(to Jessica, smiles)
How about the two boys go get our food?

JESSICA
No, it's okay. Alex doesn't know what I like. It would just be--

ALEX
No it's fine. I can get it.

Alex rises from the table. He joins Ben and they walk into the cafe.

With just Jessica and Danica left on the patio, feelings become hostile.

JESSICA
So....

DANICA
So....

INT. CAFE - CONTINUOUS

Alex and Ben reach the buffet table. They each grab two plates. Alex starts to put scrambled eggs onto one. Ben takes the sausage links.

Alex turns to Ben, starting to say something, then he quits. Then he starts again.

BEN
(slightly annoyed)
Yes, I've been to a spa before a red carpet.

Seeming content, Alex turns back to filling the plates. He puts pancakes on his, sausage on Jessica's. Ben takes some bacon.

Alex turns to him again.

BEN (CONT'D)
Use the exfoliate cream twice a day. Remember. Tiny, circular strokes.

Again, Alex is content. He puts more food on the plates.

EXT. CAFE PATIO - CONTINUOUS

Danica leans in close to Jessica.
DANICA
Are you planning on hurting Alex?

JESSICA
What? No!

DANICA
Good. If you do--

JESSICA
If I do, which I won't, it will be none of your business. You may think I don't love him, but I do. The last possible thing I would want to do to him right now is hurt him. So here's a little suggestion. Back off.

DANICA
Are you threatening me?

JESSICA
Only if I have to.

Danica sees their two men walk back towards the table, hands full of plates of food. She leans back in her chair.

DANICA
(whispers)
Laugh.

JESSICA
What?

Danica breaks into a burst of laughter. Catching on, Jessica laughs, too.

Alex and Ben walk up and set the plates of food down. Alex is relieved his two favorite girls like each other.

ALEX
What's so funny?

DANICA
Oh, nothing. You wouldn't understand.

ALEX
Okay.
(to Jessica)
I didn't know what you wanted, so I got a little of everything.

JESSICA
Thank you, honey.
As if to anger Danica, Jessica pulls Alex close and gives him a huge kiss. They continue a little too long, and Danica obnoxiously clears her throat. Jessica lets go of Alex.

DANICA
Let's eat before I lose my appetite.

INT. RUBY'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Jessica is sitting in a chair in front of Ruby's desk. Her knees are pulled up to her chest and she is balancing in the chair. Ruby has several magazines in her hands. One the front cover of the first one is the picture of Jessica and Alex as Alex holds her in the dip in the rain. The main headline says, "Allen's falling head over heels".

Ruby drops that newspaper. Another one shows the picture of Alex holding Jessica in the rain as he wipes the hair out of her face. This headline says, "Allen likes getting caught in the rain".

Another. It's a picture of Alex and Jessica walking along the beach. This headline says, "Long walks on the beach? Jessica Allen loves them!"

Ruby is grinning like an idiot as she drops the last magazine on to her desk.

RUBY
This is good.

Jessica doesn't say anything. Her mind is glazed over from recent events.

RUBY (CONT'D)
With this, you wouldn't have to step outside for the next two months and people would still be asking to hire you from image alone. You're Hollywood's new couple. I checked the internet polls this morning and your hotter than Brad and Angie and Ben and Jen put together.

Jessica doesn't even look like she is listening.

RUBY (CONT'D)
Jessica?

Jessica comes out of her daze. She looks at Ruby.

JESSICA
Yeah?
RUBY
Are you with me?

JESSICA
Yeah. What do I do next?

RUBY
You wait. You go to the audition this afternoon, get the part, and BAM! You're back on top. There's nothing to it.

JESSICA
And Alex and I just hide in the shadows and have a normal life?

RUBY
Forget about him. Once you start this movie, you're an A-lister. A-listers date other A-listers. You dump this kid after the initial publicity of your movie starts up and your star quality starts to rise. Then you hit everybody with a new romance.

JESSICA
I don't think I can do that, Ruby.

RUBY
(laughing)
Why? It's not like you actually love him.

Jessica avoids her gaze.

RUBY (CONT'D)
You actually love him, don't you?
(beat)
No, baby, don't do this to me! You can't do this to me, not now!

JESSICA
Why is this about you? This is my career.

RUBY
Who do you think gave you this career?

JESSICA
Me. It's my acting talent that got me where I am today.
RUBY
Oh please! Can you really be that naive? You got where you are today because I've slept with half the producing world.

JESSICA
That's a lie.

RUBY
Is it? How many jobs have you gotten where I haven't been there during the actual production? I was there through your first five seasons of Washington Heights everyday you were filming making sure you didn't mess up, and when you did who was there to clean up after you? Me. The producers wanted you gone within the first ten episodes you shot.

JESSICA
Take that back.

RUBY
Why should I?

JESSICA
Because I will walk out of here right now, and you will lose the biggest name you have.

RUBY
Fine. Leave. Your career will be dead in a month and you and your little lover boy will have to do commercials that air in the middle of the night to support a family. I have other actors, honey. I can stand to lose one of the worst I have. Here's an ultimatum. Two options. You can either leave, like you want to and die like a fish out of water, or you can sit down and shut up.

Jessica stays where she is sitting.

RUBY (CONT'D)
That's what I thought. Now, you are going to go to that audition later, act your little ass off, or don't. It doesn't matter either way. You will be in that movie.

(MORE)
RUBY (CONT'D)
You will break up with that nobody you insist on loving, and you will be back on top. Got it?

JESSICA
(quietly)
Got it.

RUBY
Good. Now get the hell out of my office. I have more important things to do.

Jessica gets up. She makes it to the door, but then Ruby has one more thing to add.

RUBY (CONT'D)
Come to my house for dinner tonight.

Jessica doesn't even look at her. She just walks out of the office.

INT. RUBY'S OFFICE BUILDING - HALLWAY - DAY

Jessica closes the door to Ruby's office. She doesn't make it very far before she bumps into the wall and slides down to the floor.

She weeps silent tears, hoping that no one will come around the corner and find her.

INT. OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Wannabe actresses are practicing there lines for their big chance for the movie part. Everybody but Jessica. She sits in a chair in the corner, seeing the world but not paying attention to it. She has the script in her hand, but she's not reading it. Her face is red and blotchy from crying. Her hair is a little messed up. It looks like she has run her hand through it multiple times.

One of the WANNAEBE'S walks over to Jessica and sits in the open seat next to her. She has a note pad and a pen.

WANNAEBE
You're Jessica Allen, right?

Jessica turns to her.

JESSICA
Yeah.
Okay, so I know this probably looks tacky, and sounds even worse, but can I have your autograph?

Sure.

Thanks!

Jessica takes the piece of paper and pen. She signs it, and hands them back to the wannabe. The wannabe tries to get up, but Jessica pulls her back into her seat.

Do you want some advice? What's your name?

Kerry.

That's a pretty name. Don't become an actress, Kerry. You will wake up some day and be twenty-two--

I'm already twenty-five.

--and have some fifty year old bitch sitting behind a desk tell you she whored herself out to make a name for you. Pretty soon she will make you break up with your boyfriend and rule your life. Do you want that to happen to you?

No.

Then get out of here. Get out as fast as you can, and don't look back because you will be making the biggest mistake of your life if you do.

Are you alright?

Me? No. But you are! That's all that matters.
Kerry tries to get up again and success! Jessica is too far into her own thoughts to notice her leave.

An ASSISTANT to the CASTING DIRECTOR steps out her door with a clipboard. She's the type of person who likes to feel important, so she carries around a clipboard.

ASSISTANT
(reading off clipboard)
Kerry Monahan?

JESSICA
She left.

ASSISTANT
(scratching her name off the list)
Jessica Allen?

JESSICA
That's me, I guess.

Jessica forces herself out of the chair and into the auditioning room.

INT. AUDITIONING ROOM - DAY

A panel of people are sitting at a desk behind a video camera. One of them has a large pile of profiles for various actors. One has the controls to the video camera. One is in charge of handing out extra scripts. In the center of these other less important people is the main casting director. It's a mean looking woman. Jessica sees her.

JESSICA
(under her breath)
Shit. Ruby's straight.

In the center of the room is a single chair. The assistant with the clipboard stops at the door and sits on a little chair by it.

CASTING DIRECTOR
When ever you are ready.

Jessica sits down in the chair. Her hair is messed up and she runs her fingers through it. Her eyes meet up with the camera. A tear is already falling.

JESSICA
Don't do this to me, James. If you go to war then I know you wont come back.

(MORE)
JESSICA (CONT'D)
I cant stand to live that way, not knowing when I will get that Mrs. James letter from the postman.

The casting director is reading the part of JAMES.

CASTING DIRECTOR
You wont get that letter in the mail.

JESSICA
You can't promise me that. And it's not just that. Not being able to see you everyday. Not being able to wake up with your arms around me. Not being able to watch you steal little pieces of meat when you think I'm not looking while I cook dinner. Not have your face be the last thing I see before I go to sleep.

Jessica wipes a tear off her cheek, but another drops to fill its place.

CASTING DIRECTOR
You don't think that wont be hard for me?

JESSICA
It can't be.

CASTING DIRECTOR
Why?

JESSICA
Because that would mean you love me more than I love you, and we both know that ain't true.

The casting director stops reading. That was the whole audition.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

The car stops in front of Ruby's house. It's quite a bit larger than Jessica's house, and a lot more expensive.

In the back seat, Jessica turns to Alex. They are both dressed in nice casual clothes for this dinner. She wants to say something but stops to put the glass divider up. The chauffeur can't hear them now.

JESSICA

Ready?
ALEX
Let's go.

JESSICA
You remember Ruby?

ALEX
No.

JESSICA
Good.

Jessica takes a moment to fix a stray hair from Alex's head. She smiles at him.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Let's go.

EXT. RUBY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jessica and Alex walk hand in hand up the lit walkway to Ruby's front door. Her gardeners have made Ruby's front yard beautiful with a fountain, several small trees, and a few small flowerbeds.

They reach the front door. Show time. Jessica rings the doorbell then turns to Alex.

JESSICA
Remember, whatever happens in there, I will always love you.

ALEX
(confused)
What are you talking--

Ruby opens the door. She acts unusually happy to see the couple. She's a good actress.

RUBY
Jessica!

She leans in and gives Jessica two air kisses to both cheeks.

RUBY (CONT'D)
And you must be Alex!

Ruby forces herself to give Alex a hug. Alex just stands there in a daze.

JESSICA
Hi, Ruby.

There's still a little hostility towards Ruby from Jessica. Ruby opens the door a little wider.
Ruby ushers them in. Jessica makes sure not to let go of Alex.

INTERIOR. RUBY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Ruby and the couple enter. Ruby walks fast to her chair, while Alex lingers behind looking at the beauty of the house. Jessica tries to pull him along, but he keeps looking around.

ALEX
You have a beautiful house.

RUBY
Thank you, darling. It put me back around ten mil after all the furnishings and I added the pool.

Alex finally reaches his chair at the long dining room table. Jessica sits close to him. Ruby sits at the complete opposite end of them. She smiles at them.

RUBY (CONT'D)
Shall we start with some wine?

A WAITER enters and stands next to Ruby.

ALEX
That would be nice.

RUBY
Red or white?

ALEX
(to Jessica)
What would you like, honey?

Jessica seems taken off guard that someone is talking to her.

JESSICA
White?

RUBY
(to the waiter)
I'll have red.

The waiter nods and walks back to the kitchen somewhere in the back of the house.

ALEX
You have your own waiting staff?
JESSICA
Ruby doesn't like to get hands on with the domestic dealings. She's more of a business woman. She really likes to sink her teeth into her business associates and devour competition. Isn't that right, Ruby?

RUBY
It's how I paid for this house.
(beat)
So, Alex, why don't you tell me a little more about yourself? We didn't meet under the best circumstances last time in the jail.

JESSICA
Alex is an actor.

RUBY
(to Jessica)
I believe I asked Alex.

JESSICA
I was just--

ALEX
It's okay. Yes, I'm trying to be an actor. I think I met you at the set of the Jiodore commercial? I know you met my agent. Marcie Broyle?

RUBY
Oh yes. I remember Marcie. She was quite a character. Tell me. Is she a good agent?

ALEX
She's been good for me.

RUBY
That's good. If you ever feel the need to switch agents, my door is always open!

JESSICA
(warning)
Ruby.

RUBY
(nonchalantly)
What? I'm just trying to make a business deal.
JESSICA
Not with Alex.

ALEX
Jessica, it's okay.

JESSICA
No, it's not.

ALEX
No really. It's okay. It won't matter much longer anyway.

RUBY
(intrigued)
Really? Why would that be?

ALEX
I've decided to quit show business. For the time being, at least.

JESSICA
(looks at Alex)
What?

Conversation ceases. The waiter comes back out with the three drinks. He sets them by the rightful owner and walks out of the room.

ALEX
(to Ruby)
Could you excuse us for a moment?

RUBY
By all means.

Alex gets up and pulls Jessica along with him. They walk into the HALLWAY outside the room.

INT. RUBY'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Alex pulls Jessica out of sight from Ruby in the other room. Jessica has a concerned look.

JESSICA
Alex, what are you talking about?

ALEX
I got into Julliard!

JESSICA
What?
ALEX
I got the letter this afternoon. When did you mail that application?

JESSICA
When we were in New York. You got in?

ALEX
Yes!

JESSICA
(at a loss for words)
Alex...that's wonderful. Congratulations!

She kisses him.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
When does semester start?

ALEX
Monday.
(beat)
So that means we only have three more nights together.

JESSICA
That's so sudden.

ALEX
It's also why I'm not going.

JESSICA
What?!

ALEX
I don't want to leave you, Jessica. You are the best thing that has ever happened to me.

JESSICA
You can't reject Julliard again, Alex. I can't believe you got away with it the first time.

ALEX
I'm not leaving you.

Jessica thinks about something.

JESSICA
You won't have to. I'm coming with you.
ALEX
You don't have to do that. Your whole life is here. Ruby, your house, your career, your friends. I don't want to ask that of you.

JESSICA
You don't have to. I'm going. We have the apartment in the city, and there are more jobs in New York. I can still work with Ruby from the opposite coast. This will work. I'm not ready to leave you yet.

Alex kisses her.

ALEX
You are too good for me.

INT. RUBY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Jessica leads Alex back into the room and the both sit in their seats. Ruby is on her BlackBerry talking to someone. She seems too happy. Jessica takes a sip from her wine.

Ruby ends her phone call. The waiters bring food out. It's chicken, along with some other side dishes. They set them down.

Jessica cuts into hers and takes a bite. Ruby stares at her, grinning. Jessica looks up at her.

RUBY
Did you have good news?

JESSICA
(swallows)
Yes, actually. Alex was accepted into Julliard.

RUBY
That's fantastic. Well, it depends on how you look at it.

ALEX
What do you mean?

RUBY
Jessica did good at her audition and got the part in a movie.

JESSICA
Are you serious?
ALEX
What audition?

RUBY
Oh, she didn't tell you? Jessica auditioned for the new Spielberg movie and got the part.

JESSICA
When does filming start?

RUBY
Monday. You will have to fly out to Germany in two nights night.

JESSICA
Germany?

RUBY
Didn't I tell you? They're filming in Germany for nine months.
(to Alex)
It's a World War Two film.

Jessica and Alex look at each other, suddenly afraid.

RUBY (CONT'D)
I know! I was surprised, too! I never thought she would get another part in anything. I practically had to force her into dating you to get her publicity meter rising.

Alex gives Ruby a confused look. Jessica get a horrified look. She's ready to kick some Ruby ass.

Ruby merely drinks from her glass. She stares at Jessica from the rim. She sets the drink down calmly.

RUBY (CONT'D)
(sweetly)
Didn't you know?

INT. JESSICA'S MANSION - NIGHT

Jessica storms through the front door. Alex SLAMS it as he walks in after her. They are both furious at each other.

ALEX
How much of this was real, Jessica?

She doesn't answer. She just stomps back to her room.
INT. JESSICA'S MANSION - JESSICA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jessica walks over to her closet and takes Alex's suitcase out. She throws it on the bed. It bounces open. Going back into the closet, Jessica begins to throw Alex's clothes toward the suitcase, missing most of the time.

Alex storms back in next. Something bad went down in the car ride here.

ALEX
Jessica!

Jessica throws another heap of clothes toward the suitcase. Then she marches out of the closet.

JESSICA
You want to know how much of that was real? All of it! Every single damn second. (acknowledging the clothes) See this? All real!

She returns to the closet.

ALEX
Why didn't you tell me about the audition?

JESSICA
I didn't think I would have to fly half way around the world when I got it. Sorry! My bad!

ALEX
So now you give me sarcasm?

JESSICA
No, now I'm giving you clothes. I gave you sarcasm in the car.

ALEX
Why are you even mad at me?

JESSICA
BECAUSE RUBY ISN'T HERE!

Jessica throws the last of Alex's clothes out of the closet. She moves to the backpack in the corner. Alex gets in front of her first and grabs her by the arms.

ALEX
Stop this.
JESSICA
(warning)
Let go of me, Alex.

Alex lets go of her. Jessica takes the backpack out of the corner. She opens it. The folder is sticking out. Jessica doesn't notice it. She takes the whole thing into the bathroom.

INT. JESSICA'S MANSION - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Jessica walks to the cabinet and rips it open. Alex walks in behind her. He stays in the doorway. Jessica starts to pull Alex's bathroom things from the cabinet and shove them into the backpack.

JESSICA
(looking at the folder)
What is this?

Alex sees her open the folder.

ALEX
No!

Too late. She opens the little packet of positive death.

Silence. Jessica's reading all about herself. She turns to Alex completely horrified.

JESSICA
(holding the folder up)
What is this?

ALEX
It's nothing.

JESSICA
I sure as hell hope you are just this forgetful. Alex, what is this?

ALEX
It's before I met you.

JESSICA
CLEARLY!
(reading from the folder)
Her favorite color is red. Her favorite fruit is the green grape. I use Crest toothpaste. Victoria's Secret.
(looks at Alex)
Are you stalking me?
ALEX
Alright, I know this looks bad, but it's not! I got that from a friend.

JESSICA
Your friend is stalking me?

ALEX
It's not like that.

JESSICA
Then what is it? Because what I think this is something sick.

ALEX
I've never looked at it.

JESSICA
See, I find that hard to believe. Everything is typed until the bottom of the page, then there's pen.

ALEX
Kali must have added stuff while I was gone.

JESSICA
The stalker has a name?!

ALEX
This isn't her fault.

JESSICA
So then this is yours?

ALEX
(giving up)
Yes.

JESSICA
Get out.

ALEX
What?

JESSICA
Get out. Take your crap with you.

Jessica throws the backpack at him. Alex catches it with awe.

ALEX
Jessica. Please.
JESSICA
If you don't get out of my house right now, so help me I will call the cops.

Alex knows when to quit. He takes his things and walks out the door. Jessica, still angry, looks around for something else to throw.

INT. JEFF'S APARTMENT BUILDING - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Alex KNOCKS on the door to Jeff's apartment. His backpack slung around his shoulder, and his suitcase is standing next to him.

The door opens. Jeff is standing there in his pajamas. He squints from the sudden light in the hallway. He understands when he sees the look of sorrow on Alex's face.

No words need to be said. Jeff welcomes Alex in and closes the door.

INT. JESSICA'S MANSION - JESSICA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jessica is sprawled out in a pile of Alex's clothes on her bed. Used tissues surround her. She adds to them when she wipes her eyes. She picks up a magazine with the picture of her and Alex kissing in the rain. This just makes her cry even more. She throws it across the room.

INT. JEFF'S APARTMENT - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alex is half covered by the blankets on his bed. He just stares at the ceiling, wondering what went wrong.

The DIGITAL CLOCK switches to read two-thirty. Alex looks at it. He rolls over on his side and tries to sleep, but it doesn't come easily.

INT. RUBY'S OFFICE - MORNING

Jessica knocks, then enters. She looks terrible. Her hair is messy, her eyes are all blotchy, and she's not wearing make up.

Ruby is no where to be found in her office of packing boxes. Jessica looks around for her.

JESSICA
Ruby?

Ruby's head pops up behind a tall box.

RUBY
Yeah?
JESSICA
What is all this? Did you lose one of your biggest clients or something?

RUBY
No. I'm insuring that I don't by doing this. I'm coming with you to Germany!

JESSICA
Why are you bringing all your stuff with you?

RUBY
You know how I hate that German built crap.

Jessica looks for a place to sit, but can't seem to find a chair.

RUBY (CONT'D)
I'm sorry about the other day. I shouldn't have forced your hand with Alex.

JESSICA
It doesn't matter anymore. We broke up last night.

RUBY
Would that be why you look like shit?

JESSICA
Probably.

Jessica looks like she is about to cry again.

RUBY
I'm sorry about Alex.

JESSICA
You don't have to lie, Ruby. I know you got what you wanted. You always do.

RUBY
No I didn't. I want you to be happy.

JESSICA
You couldn't have told me that earlier?
RUBY
You know I was never one with good
timing. But what's done is done.
No use crying over spilt milk. We
are going to fly to Germany. You
will meet a cute guy. Have a good
time. You won't even have time to
think about that nobody.

Jessica gives Ruby a "don't even go there" look.

RUBY (CONT'D)
You won't have time to think about
Alex is what I meant.

Jessica just stands there.

RUBY (CONT'D)
So are you just going to stand there
or are you going to help me pack?
Come on! We have to be on a plane
in three hours.

Jessica helps Ruby move a box.

RUBY (CONT'D)
That's the spirit!

INT. JEFF'S APARTMENT - DINING ROOM - MORNING

Sandy, in a business suit, pours herself a cup of coffee
before she heads out to work. She walks over to Jeff, who
is reading the paper, and gives him a kiss on the forehead.

JEFF
Have a good day.

SANDY
You, too.

Sandy walks out of the apartment. Jeff lowers his newspaper
and shows Alex. He picks at his bowl of soggy cereal.

JEFF
Are you going to eat that?

Alex just slides the bowl away from him.

JEFF (CONT'D)
You want to talk about it?

Alex shakes his head no.

JEFF (CONT'D)
Are you going to shower today?
Alex just shrugs.

JEFF (CONT'D)
You smell like ass.

Alex doesn't acknowledge that.

JEFF
Right. Well I have to get ready for work.

Jeff gets up--then he adds.

JEFF (CONT'D)
Stay away from the knife drawer.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Alex runs in the brisk morning air. Morning commuters try to stay out of his way. He's doing a fast jog. Buildings blur past him. He almost runs completely past a magazine vendor on the street in the shadows of a building.

He gets a few steps past, then walks backwards and looks closer. There are several of the magazines with him and Jessica on the cover.

Alex picks up the magazines. Six in all.

VENDOR
How many?

ALEX
Six, please.

Alex bends over and takes a twenty out of his shoe and hands it to the vendor.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Keep the change.

Alex puts the magazines under his arm and walks to the nearest trashcan. He dumps them there and takes off jogging again.

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

Jessica sits by Ruby, waiting for their flight number. It's called, but Jessica doesn't hear it.

Ruby gets up.

RUBY
Jessica. Come on, that was our call.

Jessica sits in a daze.
Jessica.  

Jessica just looks in the crowd and then--Alex appears! He forces his way through everybody and runs towards her. Jessica is overjoyed. She stands up to greet him.

RUBY (CONT'D)  

Jessica!

In a blink, Jessica's perfect vision is gone. No Alex. Jessica looks to Ruby. She realizes she is standing.

JESSICA  

What?

RUBY  
(concerned)  
Are you okay?

JESSICA  
(thinks about it)  
No.

Ruby keeps an eye on Jessica as they walk to the lady checking boarding passes.

Jessica looks into the crowd of airport people again just for that little hope at a happy ending. There isn't one.

INT. MARCIE'S OFFICE - DAY  

Alex walks into the messy office. He's sweaty from his run. Marcie looks up from her work pile.

ALEX  

Tell me. How does a lady with one client have so much paper work?

MARCIE  

This? It's all scenery. Half of this is blank printer paper.

Alex sits in a chair.

MARCIE (CONT'D)  

Whatever you want, make it quick. You stink.

ALEX  

I got accepted to Julliard. I haven't figured out how I'm going to pay for it yet, but I'm definitely going this time.
MARCIE
That's great, kid.

ALEX
This means good bye, Marcie.

MARCIE
I know.

ALEX
You do?

MARCIE
Every time you have walked into this office I have expected a good bye from you. I know I'm not the best agent in the world. I'm surprised you stuck it out with me this long. As soon as you leave, I'm torching this office and moving to some other career. The scenery will make great fire starter.

ALEX
So this really is good bye?

MARCIE
I'm afraid so.

Marcie gets up. She walks to Alex. He stands up and gives her a hug. Marcie keeps him in a that hold for a long time. When they pull away from each other, Marcie sheds a tear.

ALEX
Marcie, are you crying?

MARCIE
(playfully punches him)
Dammit, kid! You weren't supposed to notice.

She laughs as she wipes away her tear. Alex lets out a chuckle.

ALEX
I'm going to miss you.

MARCIE
You have my number. Don't be a stranger. I know where you will be. If you don't contact me I'll find you.
ALEX
(laughs)
Okay.

MARCIE
I'm serious.

ALEX
(smiles)
I know.

MARCIE
Now get out of here! I promised myself I wouldn't let myself cry in front of a man after I started beat my second husband.

Alex leaves.

Marcie sits back at her desk and pulls out a bottle of Vodka. She takes a drink, then pours the rest on the piles of paper on her desk.

INT. JEFF'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jeff walks into his apartment. Alex walks out of the hallway in a towel. He's just finished a shower. Jeff looks through the mail in his hand

JEFF
You got something.

ALEX
I did?

Jeff tosses an envelope to Alex. Alex catches it and sits on the couch.

Upon examination, Alex finds his name written in bold, capital letters on the back. On the front "FOR JULLIARD" is written.

Alex tears the letter open. He pulls out a check big enough for the first years tuition. A note falls out with it. Alex picks it up and it says "With all my love -- Jessica"

Alex just stares at the note.

JEFF
What is it?

ALEX
Nothing.
INT. GERMAN MOVIE SET - DAY

Assistants run around like crazy. Jessica, now a blonde, walks off a sound stage of a kitchen. Her hair is done up to the style worn by ladies during World War Two. She looks like a typical house wife.

JESSICA
(yells)
I'm going to go rehearse lines in my trailer if anybody needs me!

She walks past a snack table and takes a bottle of water from a bowl of ice. Opening a door, Jessica steps out to...

EXT. GERMAN MOVIE SET - DAY

Sweltering heat. A few pins are pulls from her hair and she takes her blonde wig off. Her brown hair falls to her shoulders. She walks back to her trailer. She opens the door and walks in.

INT. JESSICA'S TRAILER - DAY

Thousands of yellow tulips and red tulips split the trailer into two sections. The flowers cover the floor, cover the furniture, and they are stuck to the walls.

What is happening? Jessica looks around for her answer. It's Alex. He's standing with a bouquet mix of tulips. Jessica is almost in tears.

ALEX
It was a tie, right?

Jessica runs at him. She wraps her arms around him and smothers him with kisses. Alex drops the flowers and holds her close to him.

JESSICA
What are you doing here!? What happened to Julliard?

ALEX
No elevators.

JESSICA
What?

ALEX
I was trying to get my suitcases to my room using the stairs, and when I looked around, there was no elevator.
JESSICA
What? That doesn't make any sense.

ALEX
I need you in my life, Jessica. When I'm with you, everything seems easier. It doesn't feel complete without you.

JESSICA
You gave up all your dreams to be with me, though.

ALEX
No. Being with you makes all my dreams come true.

JESSICA
But--

ALEX
Julliard will always be there.

JESSICA
But--

ALEX
I know. It's okay.

JESSICA
How did you find me?

ALEX
Ruby.

Jessica turns. Ruby is smiling in the doorway.

RUBY
What can I say? I'm a sucker for a happy ending.

Jessica laughs at her. Jessica turns back to Alex and kisses him again. This time nothing will come between them.

FADE OUT: