PARADISE PARTY

By

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EXT. OCEAN BEACH – DAY

People are on the sand and in the surf.

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

He takes a few shots out towards the ocean.

EXT. BEACH

JERRY, a young man stands with a girl in an argument.

With mutual frustration they part to walk off in opposite directions.

EXT. BEACH SAND

Jerry sits down upset alone with intense thoughts.

Alan walks nearby to notice Jerry which strikes him as if recognizing someone familiar.

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

He aims the camera towards the beach for a shot, and then quickly aims it towards Jerry for another shot.

FLASH on a close up of Jerry.

JERRY

What the hell! What’s with the picture?

ALAN

No I..

JERRY

I’m not stupid! You aimed it at me!

ALAN

Oh, sorry. Your inspired look got me.
JERRY
Well, how about privacy? You fuckin didn’t ask!

ALAN
I apologize. All right?

JERRY
Ok, maybe I over reacted. I’m really pissed off about something else.

ALAN
Well, it was a wrong thing and looks sneaky.

JERRY
Ok, no problem.

ALAN
Hope your problem gets worked out.

Alan gets up to leave.

JERRY
Hey, what did you mean by inspired look?

ALAN
I’ll show you.

Alan walks towards Jerry and then shows him the picture from the camera.

JERRY
Yup that’s me with the inspiration of being pissed off.
ALAN
Well, maybe, but I saw a very interesting face. Look, I’m primarily a headshot photographer which is also why this. I’m Alan.

JERRY
Jerry. I’ve been known to like faces too. I’m an artist and have painted some portraits in a class exercise.

ALAN
Oh, a student. So am I.

JERRY
What are you studying?

ALAN
Life, and it will take a lifetime.

JERRY
Oh, right. Do you live here?

ALAN
No, in New York.

JERRY
Long way, are you visiting?
ALAN

Yes, with family, but I’m on my own today. My passion is headshot and landscape photography. Interesting faces and nature turn me on such as yours.

JERRY

My nature or face?

ALAN

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

JERRY

Sure, this is strange. I’ve been wanting to get into photography.

ALAN

All right, a good thing for both of us!

EXT. BEACH

Jerry walks with Alan as they speak in voice over.

ALAN (OS)

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

JERRY (OS)

Interesting.
EXT. BEACH

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

Alan takes various pictures some of which include Jerry.

Alan pauses with a thought as he looks at Jerry.

ALAN

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

JERRY

Yes, but you don’t have to treat.

ALAN

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

INT. SMALL RESTAURANT

Jerry and Alan sit with glasses of wine and menus.

ALAN

Let’s have a paradise party!

JERRY

What?

ALAN

Oh, my niece and nephew came up with that.

FLASHBACK – BACKYARD – DAY

OSCAR, a young boy, and CAROLINE, a young girl, guide Alan towards a tent.
OSCAR
Come inside! We’re going to have a paradise party inside!

CAROLINE
With snacks and everything!

ALAN
Ok, let’s go!

Alan crouches to go inside.

INT. TENT
The three sit with snacks and festivity!

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

OSCAR
Come on! Everybody conga! It’s paradise party time!

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

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

Back to the present.

JERRY
Sounds like a fun time.
ALAN
Yes, it’s been great with family. I am also recovering from a serious blood clot and heart trouble, but am feeling better here. An important transition is about to happen.

JERRY
Hopefully, you’ll keep feeling better. Ok, let’s paradise party here!

They toast with wine glasses.

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

Alan shows the image from the camera to Jerry.

EXT. BENCH
Alan and Jerry sit.

ALAN
You remind me of someone.

JERRY
Who?

ALAN
Someone important from the past. He’s been gone awhile.

JERRY
A lover?
ALAN
No, but why do you ask that?

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

ALAN
Look, I don’t expect you to go anyway or anywhere. We are just looking at scenery and taking pictures! Ok?

JERRY
Yes, how long has he been gone?

ALAN
My son Beau was killed in a car accident a few years ago.

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

ALAN
Thank you. He died very young, but would be about your age now if still here. I understand you being cautious about an older man being friendly. Hopefully, you won’t make the same mistakes as mine at your age. Like thinking that all I needed was my good looks to get by. They passed as does life.
JERRY
Again, I’m sorry.

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

JERRY
So you are….

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

JERRY
Well, you must have many stories to tell.

ALAN
Yes, but enough for now.

JERRY
Sure, so let’s continue.

ALAN
Good, I’m not here to make you uncomfortable.

EXT. VILLAGE STREET
Alan and Jerry take in the sights with more pictures.
Alan takes a picture of Jerry.
He offers the camera to Jerry, shows him how to use it, and then Jerry takes a picture of Alan.

EXT. BENCH

Jerry and Alan sit together to look at pictures from the camera. They look out at the scenery in conversation.

ALAN

Hopefully, you will work things out with her if it’s meant to be.

JERRY

Yeah, hope so, but I am confused. Questioning a lot of things.

ALAN

That’s great! Life is one big question that may never get answered. But, we’re here for some reason. Right now being. You are searching.

JERRY

I suppose.

ALAN

So am I. Probably until the day I die. It’s so beautiful here.

JERRY

Yes, so vast and possible.

ALAN

I should move out here. A great place to live and transition into the next life.
JERRY
Do you believe in an afterlife?

ALAN
Yes, but a mystery still at the same time. I don’t know for sure yet.

EXT. BOARDWALK
Jerry and Alan continue to take pictures at sunset.
Later they stop to face each other.

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

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

ALAN
You are welcome. Please take this.
Alan takes the camera off his shoulder to give to Jerry.

JERRY
What?

ALAN
I want you to have it.

JERRY
But, it’s yours. It’s what you do.

ALAN
I have others and this might open up some other doors or help with the art.
JERRY

How about the pictures you took?

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

ALAN

Here’s my information. Email them to me.

If not, I also took pictures here.

Alan points to his head and heart.

JERRY

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

ALAN

My pleasure. This isn’t goodbye unless you want it to be. Keep up the art work and take care.

JERRY

You too.

Alan extends his hand.

Jerry quickly wraps his arms around Alan in a warm hug. They part with mutual emotional surprise.

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

EXT. BEACH

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

Beau, my son, a paradise party.

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

EXT. OCEAN SUNRISE

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

EXT. BEACH

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

FADE OUT