

AND NO ONE MOURNED

Written by

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MONTAGE - THE HISTORY OF ALEC VAN VEELEN

A) Two single-celled organisms dance closer, cautious lovers eyeing each other, virgins at the precipice of a first touch.

B) Primordial soup bubbles and shifts as a small ball-like creature forces its way to the air.

C) Two early mammals (resembling a cross between a dog and a monkey) play with each other, wrestling and rolling in sand.

D) Ancient primates hold each other in a post-coital show of affection.

E) A FEMALE NEANDERTHAL moves closer to a MALE NEANDERTHAL, flirting. Suddenly, FEMALE NEANDERTHAL 2 clubs the first Female Neanderthal to death. Then she approaches the Male Neanderthal, a flirty look on her face.

F) Early HUMANS in a cave make love.

G) A MAN prepares to leave a hut, dressed for battle; a WOMAN beckons him back. He hesitates for a moment, not sure what he should do, then goes to the Woman.

H) In a desert tent, as a war rages outside, a CRUEL SOLDIER holds a sword up as he advances toward a FRIGHTENED WOMAN.

I) A COUPLE screw on a rooftop.

J) COUPLE 2 screw in a castle.

K) COUPLE 3 screw in the bowels of a ship.

L) In a war hospital, a SOLDIER missing his leg forgets the pain as a NURSE feels him up.

M) In the back of a '60s style car, two awkward TEENS start to undo each other's clothes.

N) A plethora of sperm race toward a pulsating egg. One leads the pack; but the one right behind it suddenly hits it, knocking it off course. The cheating sperm reaches the egg just in the nick of time.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. ALEC'S BATHROOM - DAY

What is the result of millions of years of evolutionary reproduction, a series of miracles all leading up to this very moment? ALEC VAN VEELEN, a total piece of shit.

Slicked-back hair, gold chain, too much cologne, a narcissistic self-important jerk who doesn't realize how stupid he is. If Donald Trump, Fred Flinstone, and three gallons of Axe body spray had a child, it would be Alec.

He's planted on the toilet, pants around his ankles, eyes fixated on the porn on his phone as he jerks off. He looks pathetic and sad, especially considering this is one of the happiest moments of his life.

He finishes, then wipes. On the toilet paper, he notices a streak of blood.

EXT. NURSING HOME - DAY

Alec is parked in front of a brick building that looks like a prison for the elderly. He frowns. Spits out his window.

INT. NURSING HOME HALLWAY - DAY

Alec strolls down the hallway and passes a HOT ORDERLY at a computer. He stops. Moves back to her.

ALEC

Do we know each other?

HOT ORDERLY

... I don't think so.

ALEC

I'm sure we've met. It's impossible to forget a beautiful face.

HOT ORDERLY

And yet I don't remember yours.

ALEC

I'm sure we've met. Do you want to grab drinks later and maybe we can figure it out?

HOT ORDERLY

No. No, I don't.

She tries to speed along her business on the computer, but it's slow and old. Alec leans in.

ALEC

I'm very, very wealthy. Does that do anything for you?

HOT ORDERLY
Are you here for a reason?

ALEC
Oh, yeah, my dad's dying down the
hall.

Realizing he was too flippant, he suddenly gets serious.

ALEC
It's a very sad time for me. I wish
I had something other than my
tremendous wealth to comfort me at
night. The 5,000 square foot
chateau can seem so empty when it's
just me.

He snuffles without a hint of authenticity.

ALEC
Sometimes, I get so sad at night
that I have to use the hundred
dollar bills I have lying around to
wipe my tears away. The only thing
I have to look forward to is waking
up every morning and seeing that
Magritte painting hanging above my
mantle. You know the one. Uh...
Apple Face.

HOT ORDERLY
Please leave me alone.

ALEC
I'd pay you, if that's what you're
getting at...

HOT ORDERLY
You're a pig.

ALEC
Want to come back to my sty?

Finally finished, she walks away without a response.

ALEC
(shouts)
I'll see if you've changed your
mind after I talk to my decrepit
father. Does that sound good?

INT. CHARLES'S ROOM - DAY

Alec enters a cramped, ugly room to find CHARLES VAN VEELEN, ancient and barely alive, sitting in a chair next to KIM, a kind-looking nurse, who reads a book to him.

KIM

... saw a stout, sandy-haired, middle-aged man coming up the pathway. His heart leapt to his mouth, for this was none other than the great Brigham Young himself...

Kim stops reading when she notices Alec.

ALEC

Excuse me. He's my father.

CHARLES

... What?

KIM

Oh, yeah, I recognize you. I'll come back in a bit, Charles, and we can keep reading, is that all right?

CHARLES

Don't... don't leave me with him...

ALEC

It's fine. Do you recognize me?
Dad, do you know who I am?

Charles stares at Alec. The gears slowly turn. Kim steps outside, but lingers in the hallway.

CHARLES

Why did you call me "Dad"?

ALEC

Because you're my father.

CHARLES

I'm your father? You're my son?

ALEC

Yes, Dad. Do you remember my name?

CHARLES

... My son...

ALEC

Alec. My name's Alec. Do you remember me at all?

CHARLES

... Alec.

ALEC

How are you doing?

CHARLES

Where's your mom? Where's Tracy? Is she here?

ALEC

Mom's... Mom's dead.

Charles is hit by this like it's the first time. He begins to shake as his eyes well up.

CHARLES

She's... she's dead? Tracy's dead?

ALEC

Yeah. You don't remember?

CHARLES

... How?

ALEC

You were... you were in a car accident.

CHARLES

She's... she's dead? Was it my fault?

ALEC

You can't blame yourself just because you'd been drinking and took that... sharp turn on an icy road...

Charles bursts full-on into tears. Alec gives him a half-hug as he reluctantly comforts him.

INT. NURSING HOME HALLWAY - DAY

Alec steps into the hallway. Kim stops him.

KIM

Hey. I don't mean to stick my nose where it doesn't belong, but I just figured I'd mention this to you. With patients who have dementia, if they think someone is still alive, it's best to just play along with it and maybe say the person's out to lunch or something.

As she speaks, Alec's eyes wander; he's not paying attention at all.

KIM

When you tell them their loved one is dead, they experience that loss all over again as if it's the first time. It's just as traumatic as when it first happened.

ALEC

Oh, yeah, I know that. He's just a shitty person and a shitty father. A belligerent drunk asshole who should've been put down years ago.

Kim reacts.

ALEC

Yeah. I come by about once a month to tell him Mom died just to watch him experience it again. She actually died from an aneurysm in this very facility, but I like to come up with more heartbreaking ways for her to die just to see how it affects him. The best are when it's his fault.

INSERT - MONTAGE - ALEC GIVES HIS DAD REASONS HIS MOM DIED:

- A) "Dad... you mixed up her medication..."
- B) "You don't remember? Mom... Mom walked in while... while you were cleaning your shotgun..."
- C) "We all told you that you shouldn't be smoking by the propane tank and the oily rags and the piles of sawdust..."

BACK TO SCENE

ALEC

He deserves every moment of suffering he experiences and I'm more than happy to provide as many moments of suffering as possible before he finally kicks the bucket. But thank you for your concern.

With that, Alec walks off.

But then -- he suddenly feels a rush of pain. He grabs his side. Bends over. Lets out a cry. Kim rushes over.

KIM

Are you okay?

ALEC

I don't know...

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - DAY

An ugly, banal room with old, flowery wallpaper. Alec waits, bored, as two NURSES talk.

NURSE 1

I mean, he put that on my Facebook wall.

NURSE 2

Wow.

NURSE 1

Where my mom can see it.

NURSE 2

Wow.

NURSE 1

Now she'll think I'm a slut.

NURSE 2

Yeah.

NURSE 1

Which I'm not.

NURSE 2

Yeah...

INT. PHLEBOTOMY ROOM - DAY

Alec sits as a PHLEBOTOMIST draws his blood; PHLEBOTOMIST 2 stands nearby.

PHLEBOTOMIST 1
I saw the Bears game.

PHLEBOTOMIST 2
Don't remind me.

PHLEBOTOMIST 1
It's not going to be their year.

PHLEBOTOMIST 2
Tell me about it.

PHLEBOTOMIST 1
That fumble in the fourth... wow.

PHLEBOTOMIST 2
Don't remind me.

INT. MRI ROOM - DAY

Two TECHNICIANS talk as they prep Alec for an MRI.

TECHNICIAN 1
You hear about that shooting?

TECHNICIAN 2
Where?

TECHNICIAN 1
A school.

TECHNICIAN 2
Oh.

INT. DR. ELVING'S OFFICE - DAY

So bleak and cold, even the Norman Rockwell paintings look depressing. Alec stares into space, lost in thought.

His attention slowly swivels back to DR. ELVING, the kind of guy who became a doctor not to help people, but so he could golf on Friday afternoons.

DR. ELVING
... sooner. It's stage four colon cancer. It's spread to your liver and your lymph nodes.
(MORE)

DR. ELVING (CONT'D)

It's terminal. There's simply nothing we can do.

(pages through notes)

You also have high cholesterol, but, uh, I wouldn't worry about that.

Every negative emotion in the book pounds Alec like a freight train. He struggles to take it all in.

ALEC

... How long?

DR. ELVING

It's hard to say. Roughly six months to a year, I'd say. Do you have someone here? Someone to take you home? Do you want to call someone?

ALEC

... No.

DR. ELVING

You're probably experiencing a wide variety of emotions right now. It may seem like life is hopeless, like there's no reason to continue living.

(pause)

Good luck.

EXT. CLINIC - DAY

Alec, dazed, walks toward his oversized truck.

INT. ALEC'S TRUCK - DAY

Alec drives in a daze.

EXT. PENNER FINANCIAL - DAY

A building that was modern and sleek -- when it was built sixty years ago. Alec sits in his truck. He's a mess. Tear-stained cheeks, red eyes. But now it's time to face the day. He looks at himself in the mirror. Puts on a smile.

ALEC

You're so fucking hot.

He gets out of the warm car and steps into the cold, desolate wasteland that is this world.

INT. PENNER FINANCIAL - DAY

Alec pads across ancient carpet to CAMILLE, the lone secretary who happens to be a high-strung ball of neuroses.

ALEC

Hey, Camille. What are you doing tonight?

CAMILLE

... Why?

ALEC

I was hoping I could take you out for a drink.

CAMILLE

... No.

ALEC

Come on. Why not?

CAMILLE

First, I'm a recovering alcoholic. More importantly, as I've told you multiple times, not that you can take a hint, I'm married. Do you see this ring? Do you know what this ring means?

ALEC

It means you make more than your husband?

CAMILLE

It means I'm married. And my husband actually makes a lot of money, but we don't waste it on unimportant things.

ALEC

Oh, that's right. What is that dumb, loser job he has?

CAMILLE

He works for Doctors Without Borders.

ALEC

Can you say "lame"? Let me ask you something: tonight, do you want to go home to your boring old husband, or do you want to have the greatest night of your life -- and then go home to your boring old husband?

RICK PENNER enters. He's in his fifties but looks like he's in his seventies.

RICK

Alec. Did you see the news?

INT. RICK'S OFFICE - DAY

There's probably a desk somewhere beneath the piles of papers. Rick and Alec enter.

RICK

The SEC is going after Bristow. I know they're your baby, but we have to sell. They're already down fifteen percent today.

ALEC

You have to hold.

RICK

We're selling.

ALEC

Look, I'll give you this: Bristow's CEO is a lying, manipulative scumbag.

RICK

But?

ALEC

But he's a lying, manipulative scumbag. This stock is only going up.

RICK

No. We're out.

Alec clears his throat. He's prepared this sales pitch.

ALEC

I've spent hours of research on their new proprietary breast implants.

(MORE)

ALEC (CONT'D)

Trust me: Bristow's going to be able to provide a superior product at a significantly lower price. Soon, everyone's going to be getting implants. They're the next Beanie Babies, the next Furbys. Your wife catches you cheating, but you don't want to splurge on jewelry. What do you give her? Breast implants. Need a Christmas gift for the secretary? Breast implants.

RICK

Alec...

ALEC

Your daughter's feeling bad about herself. She's got some self-esteem issues. What do you, as a responsible and caring parent, get her? Breast. Implants. Trust me: these implants are going to explode.

RICK

You might want to rethink that phrasing.

ALEC

When you see these implants in a year, you're going to wish you were holding onto them.

RICK

We're selling. That's final.

ALEC

You're making a mistake.

(pause)

I, uh... shit. I'm dying. I have cancer. Colon, I guess, though it's spreading. I have about a year, maybe two.

RICK

Oh, God... Alec, I'm... I'm sorry to hear that.

ALEC

... Yeah.

RICK

Are you leaving, then?

ALEC

Not yet. But I think I'll take the rest of the week off.

RICK

That's probably a wise choice. What are you going to do?

ALEC

I don't know. I guess I'm free to do whatever I want.

INT. ALEC'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Alec masturbates to porn.

INT. ALEC'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

Alec makes a call.

ALEC

Hi. Is Giselle available?

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Alec sits on stained bedsheets as GISELLE -- emaciated, lingerie-clad, looking like her makeup was done by a sixteen year-old who just got her first makeup kit -- snorts some cocaine behind him.

ALEC

I don't really think about death. You just go through your life, deal with all these silly little problems, and you never stop to think that it might end, that you will vanish. And one day, you wake up, and suddenly you're mortal.

Giselle checks her watch.

GISELLE

Oh, fuck. I gotta haul ass.

He gets a wad of cash out of his wallet. Hesitates.

ALEC

What if my time on this earth... my life... has been a total waste?

She snaps her fingers. He hands her the cash. She stuffs it in her bra as she replies --

GISELLE

No, you haven't wasted your life at all. You're a great man. You're so funny, and so good-looking, and so handsome. I bet you could get any woman you wanted.

She goes to a mirror to fix herself and get dressed. He doesn't know how to react.

GISELLE

Why do you call me Sam? Is Sam a boy? That's kind of hot.

ALEC

Sam's a woman. Samantha. She's my ex-wife.

GISELLE

Ex-wife? You tip like you're married.

(finishing up)

Call me the next time you're lonely.

ALEC

How does ten minutes sound?

GISELLE

I have another appointment. I'd cancel, but the guy pays me double to dress like Eva Braun. He likes to shave me as he reads Mein Kampf. Weird thing is, the guy's name is Goldfarb. Maybe next time.

She goes for the door. He stops her when he says --

ALEC

What are you doing Saturday night?

GISELLE

I could probably spare an hour or two.

ALEC

I meant the whole night.

INT. JERRY AND DENISE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

An upscale studio apartment hosting a party. SAM and BRENT talk in a corner. She's motherly, but visibly tense, as if constantly expecting a past trauma to resurface. He's a moron, but so sweet you can't help but like him.

SAM

You look like a ragamuffin. Hold still.

She licks her fingers. Smooths down his hair.

BRENT

Stop doing that. We're in public.

SAM

Hold still.

BRENT

Stop it. My hair's fine.

SAM

Maybe if you took the time to look nice... if you don't respect yourself, why should anyone else?

BRENT

It's just my hair. It's not like there's much there, anyway.

SAM

Everyone looks at you and probably thinks I'm married to a homeless person.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - NIGHT

Alec parks his truck; he and Giselle step out.

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - NIGHT

Alec and Giselle navigate toward their destination.

ALEC

How do I look?

GISELLE

Sexy.

ALEC
You're not just saying that because
I'm paying you?

GISELLE
I lie with men for money, not to
them.

ALEC
Isn't that the same thing? No,
you're right; they're completely
different.

They reach the door and knock. JERRY -- a normally friendly
guy whose face dissipates into disappointment the second he
sees Alec -- opens the door.

JERRY
Alec. You... you came.

INT. JERRY AND DENISE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jerry lets Alec in. Across the room, Sam notices, and it's
like she just walked in on her parents committing sodomy. She
grabs Brent's hand and squeezes.

BRENT
... I'm serious. Would you be
embarrassed by me if I were
homeless? Would you be embarrassed
by me? Sam, you're hurting my hand.
Sam, you're hurting my hand. Sam.

SAM
Why is he here?

BRENT
Could you let go? Could you let go
of my hand? You're hurting my hand.

Across the room, Alec and Giselle talk with Jerry.

JERRY
I have to admit, I'm a little
surprised to see you.

ALEC
Well, you keep inviting me.

JERRY
That was really meant more as a
courtesy than an invitation.

ALEC

Oh, there she is. We should probably say hi to Sam.

JERRY

Are you sure that's a good idea?

ALEC

Why wouldn't it be a good idea to talk to the woman who destroyed my life?

Sam and Brent watch as Alec and Giselle move toward them.

BRENT

... Could you let go of my hand? My fingers are going numb. Could you let go?

SAM

He's coming over here. I need you to run interference, okay?

BRENT

Sam, my hand. You're hurting my hand.

SAM

Make him go away. I don't want to talk to him. Make him go away.

Alec and Giselle reach them.

ALEC

Brent.

BRENT

Hey, Alec. How are you doing?

ALEC

Good. Hey, Sam. You look good for, you know, your age.

SAM

... Hi.

ALEC

I wanted to introduce you to Giselle, my fiancée. This is Sam, my ex-wife.

GISELLE

Nice to meet you.

SAM
I didn't know you were engaged.

ALEC
I didn't know you cared.

SAM
I don't.

BRENT
I'm Br --

ALEC
Could've fooled me.

SAM
Not exactly a difficult task.

BRENT
I'm Brent --

ALEC
You shouldn't get so angry. It really emphasizes the wrinkles.

SAM
How's the hair loss going?

ALEC
First my intelligence, then my hair.

SAM
Wait until we get to your face, voice, belly, odor, and personality.

BRENT
I'm Brent --

ALEC
Is this the dress I bought you? No, I think the one I bought you was four sizes smaller than this.

SAM
That's a nice tie. Can I help you attach it to the ceiling?

ALEC
Is this menopause, or are you just normally this pissy?

BRENT
I'm Brent --

SAM
Tell me: did you ever find penis
enlargement pills that actually
worked?

ALEC
You just wished I was smaller.

SAM
Around the waist.

ALEC
You could use a diet yourself. I
see you've been working on a second
chin. It's coming in nicely.

SAM
You know what? I can't do this. I
can't. Excuse me.

She steps away. Stops. Turns back to Giselle.

SAM
And by the way, no matter what he
says, herpes is not a natural side
effect of circumcision.

And with that, she storms off. There's an awkward pause.

BRENT
I'm Brent.

GISELLE
Uh... nice to meet you.

ALEC
Sorry about that. She's got some
issues she needs to deal with.

BRENT
Um... hey, while you're here, uh, I
wanted to get your opinion on my
retirement portfolio.

ALEC
Sure. Of course. I have two words
for you: breast implants.

BRENT
I actually love Sam the way she is.

ALEC

I'm not talking about her. I'm talking about stock. I know some implants that are about to blow up.
(to himself)
Why can I not sell these things?

Sam walks up to Jerry.

SAM

Why did you invite him?

JERRY

It's more of a courtesy than an actual invitation. And... well, you know how vindictive he can be. We have a lot of money tied up with him.

SAM

I have to leave. I can't do it.

JERRY

Please stay. Tonight's important for Denise and I.

SAM

How do you feel about your apartment turning into a crime scene?

JERRY

... Which crime?

Alec and Brent. Giselle has wandered off.

ALEC

Other than that, it's going to be an establishment year. Stay away from IPOs, emerging markets, penny stocks, whatever. Stick with the big guns. It's going to be a strong year for the blue chips.

BRENT

Yeah. I actually prefer them to the yellow ones.

Sam and Jerry.

SAM

This world would be better if he had never existed.

JERRY

It would really be better if none of us existed. Humans are kind of a cancer on the world.

SAM

Not Alec. Alec's worse. Most of us aren't cancer. Most of us are migraines or sleep apnea or PMS. Alec's the bubonic fucking plague of human beings.

Alec and Brent. Brent reacts to what Alec just told him.

BRENT

... Oh, my God.

ALEC

Yeah. It's, um... colon cancer. Stage four. They think I probably have somewhere between eighteen and twenty-four months.

BRENT

I'm sorry. That really sucks.

ALEC

Thanks, Brent.

BRENT

From ashes to ashes, man. From dust to dust.

ALEC

Um... yeah, okay.

BRENT

You know, when you think about it, we're really all dying.

Alec reacts.

BRENT

Hold on.

Brent catches Sam's eye. Waves her over. She shakes her head. He waves again. She shakes her head again. They have a back-and-forth silent conversation until she finally rolls her eyes and marches over.

BRENT

Sam, uh... Alec has something to tell you.

SAM
Okay, what is it?

BRENT
He's dying.

ALEC
Yeah. I have cancer. It's terminal.
I've got, at best, two years to
live.

SAM
... So there is a God.

BRENT
Sam.

SAM
Whatever. Look, Alec, I guess it's
sad or whatever, so... sorry, I
guess. But you're a piece of shit
and I still hate you.

ALEC
... Thanks, Sam. That means a lot.

DENISE approaches them; she's over-the-top, high-strung, and
just a little too loud.

DENISE
Food is about to be served, so if
you wouldn't mind moving to the
table... oh, Alec, you came by.
Well, we'll make room for you, too.
Is your plus one the white trash in
the corner?

INT. JERRY AND DENISE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT - LATER

Everyone sits around the long table. Denise sits by Jerry,
who sits by Giselle, who sits by Alec. Sam and Brent are
across from Alec and Giselle.

JERRY
So, Giselle, what do you do?

GISELLE
Depends on how much you're paying.

Sam turns to Brent.

SAM
Eat more of your vegetables.

BRENT
They're gross.

SAM
Eat them.

BRENT
I don't like vegetables.

SAM
Do you want dessert?

BRENT
Yeah.

SAM
Then eat your vegetables.

BRENT
... Fine.

Alec hands some bread down to Giselle. She declines.

GISELLE
No thanks. I'm on a low-carb diet.

Sam catches this.

SAM
You didn't know that your fiancée
is on a diet? Why am I not
surprised that you still only care
about yourself?

ALEC
I've been a bit busy with the whole
dying thing.

SAM
It's always about you.

Jerry clinks his glass and stands. Denise joins him.

JERRY
We'd just like to say a few words.
First, we'd like to thank everyone
for coming. It's great to see all
of our friends... and Alec.

DENISE
We, uh... we've been doing a lot of
soul-searching lately. Especially
after... well, you know.
(MORE)

DENISE (CONT'D)

The world is in terrible disarray.
Climate change, pollution...

JERRY

War, famine, disease, death...

DENISE

And we came to the conclusion, and this is not something we are alone in believing, that the root of the problems in the world is humanity.

JERRY

Some of you know we briefly joined the Voluntary Human Extinction Movement, or VHEMT. The idea of that organization is that humans should stop reproducing.

DENISE

However, we decided that VHEMT wasn't committed enough to its cause. It was too centrist, too weak.

JERRY

Incrementalism is just delayed justice. Justice delayed is justice denied.

DENISE

So we've decided to join another organization that branched off of it: the Voluntary Human Eradication Movement.

Everyone reacts; they're mainly confused and uncertain.

JERRY

If we just wait for people to die off, it's going to take too long. We need to act now. That's why we left VHEMT, and joined VHEM-T. Unfortunately, the acronyms are a little similar.

DENISE

It's nothing illegal. We're not murdering anyone or anything like that.

JERRY

No, not at all. Let's be clear: no murder.

DENISE

We're just trying to convince people to commit suicide. It's completely different. And I know what you're thinking, but don't worry; we've consulted a lawyer who has assured us that our methodology is completely legal.

JERRY

He's very professional. He went to the Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Michigan.

DENISE

So we're selling everything, buying an RV, and traveling the country, visiting mental health care centers in every state. We figured mental health care centers would be good low-hanging fruit for us to dip our toes into the water.

JERRY

And it's basically just euthanasia. Or another term I like to use: retroactive birth control. Life is suffering; life is pain. We're just taking that pain away.

DENISE

So this will be our final get-together before we leave on our next journey. If you'd like more information, or if you'd like some reading materials, just let us know. Thank you.

They sit back down. The silence is palpable. Everyone stares at their food, except Brent, who starts eating.

Sam finally clears her throat and turns to the hosts.

SAM

Um... did you, uh... poison the food?

Brent, in the middle of stuffing a giant wad of food into his mouth, freezes.

JERRY

Oh, no. No, not at all.

DENISE

No, the food is perfectly fine. I'm sorry if it came out that way. We don't want any of you to die. We want you to live long, happy lives.

JERRY

Right. We just think your lives will be happier if more other people are dead.

INT. JERRY AND DENISE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT - LATER

The meal is finished, the food is cleared (there seems to be an awful lot of leftovers), and everyone mingles. Sam and Giselle stand awkwardly near each other.

SAM

I don't know what happened. They used to be so normal, and then they just snapped. I'd leave right now, but I'm kind of afraid of offending them.

GISELLE

Do you really think they didn't poison us?

SAM

... You know, I could see them poisoning Alec.

Alec talks with Jerry as he examines a large geode on a table; he tilts the geode to get a better look at it.

ALEC

This is beautiful. Crafted by nature over thousands of years. You know, for all practical purposes -- for me, anyway -- this will exist forever. I'll be dead long before this is even --

He accidentally lets the geode slip; it shatters when it slams into the ground. Everyone in the room looks.

ALEC

You should take better care of your things.

Sam turns to Giselle.

SAM

So. How long have you and Alec been together?

GISELLE

Um... a while. I'm not sure.

SAM

He said you're a teacher. I'm a teacher, too.

GISELLE

... Yes, that's right.

SAM

What do you think of the state's new discipline policies?

GISELLE

Um... I don't know.

SAM

Exactly my thoughts. Exactly. We're too easy on students. Everyone gets an A, everyone slides through... I'm not for corporeal punishment or anything, but we need better guidelines. Do you have to discipline a lot of your students?

GISELLE

Well... there are a lot that ask for it.

SAM

Right? We're not expected to be their teachers; we're expected to be their parents, to coddle them, to do everything. It's like I'm expected to be their mother.

GISELLE

Oh, I know the feeling. Could you excuse me? I think I need something stronger than this.

Alec and Brent talk.

BRENT

When my grandfather was dying, he said something that really hit me. He said it's not about how you die, it's about how you live.

(MORE)

BRENT (CONT'D)

I think those were the words of a man who had real clarity at the end of his life; I don't think it was just the OxyContin.

Sam talks to Denise.

DENISE

I mean, sure, we've thought about committing suicide ourselves, but we decided we can do so much more good in the world by convincing others to commit suicide instead. You know? Giving a man a fish versus teaching a man to fish and all that.

SAM

Oh. Okay. Yeah. Sure. Um... I have to use the restroom. Excuse me.

Sam steps away. She winds her way through the crowd. Reaches the bathroom. Opens the door --

And is shocked to find Giselle snorting coke off the bathroom vanity. She gasps.

SAM

... I can't believe we're in the same union!

She slams the door. Storms over to Alec and Brent.

SAM

Alec.

ALEC

What?

SAM

Your tramp stamp has a drug problem.

ALEC

Look, I know you still have feelings for me, but maybe it's time for you to move on. I've moved on. Maybe you should, too.

SAM

She's doing cocaine in the bathroom. What if the cops came and found your little tube top sniffing up half of Columbia's GDP?

ALEC
Fine. Whatever.

SAM
And you know what? I think she lied
about having her master's.

ALEC
Christ. I'll deal with it. Jesus.

Alec walks to the bathroom. He opens the door to find Giselle sitting on the vanity and rubbing her nose.

ALEC
Hey. Could you cool it with the
coke?

GISELLE
Yeah. I just needed something. Your
friends are insane.

ALEC
Yeah, well, they're not really my
friends. Just clean up and put
everything away.

GISELLE
Whatever.

Alec leaves the bathroom door ajar. He spots Sam. Slicks his hair back down. Returns to her. Brent loiters nearby.

ALEC
Sorry about that. She's been trying
to get help, but... I just don't
know if I really want to go through
with the wedding anymore. Between
that and my dying... do I really
want to spend the last months of my
life married?

SAM
If it means anything, finding out
you're dying didn't make me as
happy as I thought it would.

ALEC
Why didn't it work out between us?

SAM
Do you really have no conception of
how awful you were? Of how many
times you lied to me?

ALEC
When did I lie to you?

INSERT - MONTAGE - ALEC LIES (THIS FLIES BY):

- A) "I had to work late."
- B) "That dress looks great on you."
- C) "I'm fine to drive."
- D) "I'm sorry."
- E) "I'm sorry."
- F) "I'm really sorry."
- G) "I worked out today."
- H) "Underage girls don't really do anything for me."
- I) "It was a wrong number."
- J) "It was another wrong number."
- K) "I'm not lying."
- L) "I understand what you're going through."
- M) "Pornography? On the computer? How did that get there?"
- N) "It's not going to be like last time."
- O) "No, I really am interested in your day. Go on."
- P) "I had to stay late at work."
- Q) "I never talk to my exes."
- R) "I'm actually a really good cook."
- S) "I don't know why her son looks like me."
- T) "You smell great."
- U) "I'm allergic to condoms."
- V) "I don't gaslight you."
- W) "You're imagining things."
- X) "I can't imagine my life without you."
- Y) "I think we can get through this."

Z) "I missed you."

AA) "I'll do the dishes."

AB) "You get more and more beautiful every day."

AC) "Peeing on someone isn't a turn-on for me."

AD) "... to have and to hold, in sickness and in health..."

AE) "No, I don't wish your boobs were bigger."

AF) "I'm almost there."

AG) "Well, this has never happened before."

AH) "The best is yet to come."

AI) "I don't know how I got gonorrhoea."

AJ) "I don't know how I got chlamydia."

AK) "I don't know how I got gonorrhoea again."

AL) "You're the most important thing in the world to me. I love you more than I love myself."

BACK TO SCENE

ALEC

I mean, maybe I told the occasional white lie...

SAM

You never change.

ALEC

Do you ever wonder if we could still work it out?

SAM

No.

ALEC

I can tell you have feelings for me. That's why you're jealous of Giselle. Right?

SAM

The only feelings I have for you are hate, loathing, and irritation. I'm happy now.

ALEC
What? You really think you're
happier with that Neanderthal?

Brent's head whips around.

BRENT
Neanderthal?

SAM
Don't insult him. That's it, we're
leaving. I'm done. I can't take any
of this. Brent, get your coat.

BRENT
Uh...

He searches in vain. Alec moves between Sam and the door.

ALEC
I don't know why you're angry. You
left me. You're the homewrecker. In
fact, you owe me an apology.

SAM
Brent. Where's your coat? Get your
coat.

ALEC
Okay. Look. Here. Sometimes, we do
things we later regret. Sometimes,
we hurt the ones we love the most.
And sometimes, it's hard to admit
you're the one to blame. And you
are the one to blame. If I die
before you can apologize, will you
ever be able to forgive yourself?

SAM
How could you even think of asking
me to apologize?

ALEC
So it sounds to me like you're not
ready to admit your mistakes.

SAM
Brent, it's on the chair. No, the
other chair. The other chair.

ALEC
I really don't feel like I can
forgive you until you're ready to
be forgiven.

SAM

Shut the fuck up and fuck the fuck off.

With that, she grabs Brent's hand, darts around Alec, and pulls Brent out the door, slamming it behind her.

Everyone turns to look at the spectacle. Alec, unsure how to respond, pauses.

ALEC

Looks like I picked the wrong time of the month to have that conversation.

(to a nearby woman)

Hey, do we know each other?

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - NIGHT

Sam rushes to her car; Brent tries to keep up.

BRENT

Sam... are you okay? Sam?

INT. SAM'S CAR - NIGHT

Sam gets in and slams her door; Brent gets in shotgun. Sam takes a moment to just breathe.

SAM

You are brave, you are strong. You are brave, you are strong. You are brave, you are strong.

BRENT

I haven't seen you that angry in a long time.

SAM

If I had a scissors, I would've castrated him -- slowly. You are brave, you are strong. You are brave, you are strong.

She starts the car up and they drive off.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - NIGHT

Alec and Giselle step out of the building.

GISELLE
This was weird.

ALEC
I can see how you would think that.

GISELLE
Can I take a rain check for the
rest of the night?

ALEC
I mean, I already paid... but yeah,
whatever.

GISELLE
I don't need a ride. There's a
crack house nearby. I have some
friends there. I might just crash
there for the night.

ALEC
Um... okay. Sure.
(checks his watch)
Just for the record, I have three
hours left that I've already paid
for.

GISELLE
Okay.

ALEC
Have a good night. Enjoy the crack
house.

She walks off as he gets into his truck.

INT. ALEC'S TRUCK - NIGHT

Alec sits in the driver's seat. Shuts the door. Stares into the distance for a moment as he mulls over the events of the evening. Then, he starts his car up and drives.

EXT. SAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A nice and quiet neighborhood that's a great place to raise a family. Alec's truck slowly cruises down the near-empty street. He slows to a stop and idles.

He stares at Sam's standard-issue suburban house; the curtains are almost shut, so he can't make out much, but he just barely manages to make out Sam and Brent talking. He seems to be comforting her.

After a moment, Alec sighs and hits the gas.

INT. ALEC'S OFFICE - DAY

Fairly pristine, though his to-do box is overflowing. He studies a folder of information with a frown.

SAM (O.S.)
I'm not here to pick anyone up.

He looks up to see Sam in a club dress. She looks younger, freer, more friendly, and more fun.

SAM
I'm just here with some friends.

INT. BAR - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

A mid-range bar without much character. Alec flirts with Sam, whose body language leans toward disinterest.

ALEC
I'm not here to pick anyone up either. I just thought we knew each other.

SAM
No, I don't think so. Sorry, but you're not my type anyway.

ALEC
What do you mean by that? What's your type?

SAM
Um... let me think of the checklist. Intelligent...

ALEC
I can tell you all about stock fundamentals, IPOs, investment diversification, dividends... that's intelligent, right?

SAM
Honest...

ALEC
I'm honestly intelligent.

SAM
Recognizes his faults...

ALEC

Oh, that's me in spades. I have so many faults that I recognize, I don't even know where to begin.

SAM

Cares about his mother...

ALEC

Why do you think I put her in the home?

SAM

Makes me feel good...

ALEC

Okay, turn around.

SAM

What?

ALEC

Turn around.

SAM

So you can murder me?

ALEC

No. Would a murderer ask you to turn around before he stabs you in the back?

SAM

I don't know. I've never been murdered before.

ALEC

Just turn around.

Sam does so. Alec begins massaging her back and neck.

ALEC

Does that make you feel good?

SAM

Yes, actually.

ALEC

So really, I check all your boxes. I'm Alec. What's your name?

INT. ALEC'S OFFICE - DAY

Alec snaps out of his daydream. He drops the papers on the desk. Rubs his eyes.

INT. PENNER FINANCIAL - DAY

Alec walks up to Camille on his way out.

ALEC
Hey. About that drink.

CAMILLE
I told you: I'm not interested.

ALEC
One drink. Come on.

CAMILLE
Are you familiar with the laws of sexual harassment?

ALEC
Maybe you could tell me about them over cocktails.

CAMILLE
When was the last time you had sex with someone who was A) sober, and B) not being paid? Exactly. I know you're dying and all, but I don't have time for you.

Alec, hurt, takes a few steps back. Then he turns to her, his defensiveness surprising even him.

ALEC
I'm still a person, you know. I may be, you know, a total failure, a... a... ah, fuck it.

He waves her off and exits.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

The kind of place no one who doesn't suck goes to. Alec sits at the bar, the self-pitying drunk of the moment. He hears two SORORITY GIRLS talking nearby. He taps one on the shoulder. They turn.

ALEC
Hey. Do we know each other?

SORORITY GIRL 2
Get lost, creep.

ALEC
No, it's fine. I think I know her.

SORORITY GIRL 1
Uh... no.

ALEC
Are you sure? Here, let me see your
driver's license.

SORORITY GIRL 2
That's creepy. He just wants to
know if you're eighteen.

SORORITY GIRL 1
We're at a bar. I'm twenty-one.

SORORITY GIRL 2
He wants to see if you have a fake
license. Leave us alone, creep.

ALEC
But I know her.

SORORITY GIRL 1
Maybe you know my parents?

ALEC
Um... maybe?

SORORITY GIRL 1
Or maybe my grandparents? I mean, I
don't really know anyone as old as
you.

ALEC
Are you calling me old?

SORORITY GIRL 1
(pause)
Yes.

ALEC
Like, in a hot way, right?

SORORITY GIRL 1
... No.

SORORITY GIRL 2
Should I get the bouncer?

ALEC

No, no. I'll leave you alone. I'll stop bothering you.

(pause)

I'm dying. Yeah, I'm dying. I don't have long to live, maybe a week or two at most. I don't like to advertise it or use it for pity or anything. It's just... before I die, I... I'd really like to sleep with you. Do you want to grant a dying man his last wish?

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

A BOUNCER forcibly throws Alec out of the bar.

ALEC

Hey, what have you ever done with your life, huh?

The Bouncer slams the door closed.

ALEC

That's what I thought! I'm better than you! I'm better than all of you!

Alec spits. Shambles down the alley. Finds a perfect place to unzip his fly. Urinates against a wall.

As he urinates, his head tilts to the side, and he begins to fall asleep. Suddenly, his body crumples over onto the ground. The urine continues to spray, arcing into the air and then landing on his thighs.

The urine stream lessens to a trickle; but then he coughs, and for a moment, it picks back up again.

EXT. ALLEY - DAY

Alec still lies on the ground, dead to the world -- until a beautiful butterfly softly lands on his forehead, dew on its wings glistening in the morning light.

Alec's hand suddenly smashes the butterfly into his forehead, smearing its guts across his brow. His eyes flutter open and squint in the sunlight.

He pulls out a cell phone. Dials.

ALEC
... Yeah. I need help. No, not like that.

INT. RICK'S CAR - DAY

Rick drives as he tries to ignore the stench of Alec, who sits shotgun.

RICK
... Do you want to talk about it?

ALEC
Talk about what?

RICK
Why you were passed out in an alley.

ALEC
Um... no. No, I don't want to talk about it.

RICK
Okay.
(pause)
Do you want to talk about anything?

ALEC
To be honest, no.

RICK
Do you want me to take you home or to the office?

ALEC
Just to the office.

RICK
Are you sure? You don't want to clean yourself up or anything?

ALEC
I'm dying. Showering, brushing my teeth, hygiene in general... it's all just a waste of time at this point. Just things to kill time while I'm waiting to die.

RICK
... Okay. But the rest of us might appreciate it...

ALEC
Take me to the office.

INT. ALEC'S OFFICE - DAY

Alec enters, still a complete mess. He goes to his desk and collapses in his chair.

There's a knock at the door. Alec looks up to see MARTIN, a guy whose overbite is bigger than his IQ.

MARTIN
Hey, Alec. Heard the news. I'm really sorry to hear it.

ALEC
Thanks.

MARTIN
I just wanted to express my condolences. God works in mysterious ways. I find the key is to remember that God has a plan. It may not be a plan you like, but it's a plan.

ALEC
So you're saying it's God's plan for me to die?

MARTIN
... That's not how I'd phrase it, but... yeah.

ALEC
Great. Super.

MARTIN
God has His reasons for everything. They may not be clear at the time, but they will become clear in the future... or when you're dead. In the next life, I mean.

ALEC
Super.

MARTIN
Assuming you have faith in our lord, Jesus Christ.

ALEC
Oh.

MARTIN
You do have faith in Jesus Christ,
right?

ALEC
.... Not really.

MARTIN
You don't go to church? Were you
baptized? Did you go to Sunday
school?

ALEC
I got kicked out when I set off a
cherry bomb in the chapel and
accidentally blew Jesus's hand off.
Some clergy just don't have a sense
of humor, I guess. I mean, it's not
like I crucified him.

MARTIN
Um... uh... well...

ALEC
Could you excuse me? I have to make
a phone call.

MARTIN
Sure.

Alec picks up his phone. Martin nods too enthusiastically,
then exits. Alec pauses, then puts the phone back down.

INT. PENNER FINANCIAL - DAY

Alec walks up to Rick's office. Knocks.

INT. RICK'S OFFICE - DAY

Alec enters; Rick shuts the door behind him.

ALEC
Why do you let Martin work for you?

RICK
You think I shouldn't?

ALEC
The man's a moron. He couldn't tell
Benjamin Graham from Jim Cramer.

RICK
He's not a moron.

ALEC
Yes, he is.

RICK
That's just your opinion.

ALEC
My fact opinion.

RICK
I'm too tired to deal with this
today.

Alec winces and grabs his side.

RICK
You okay?

ALEC
Yeah. I'm fine. Is it Laura?

RICK
Yeah. I haven't slept in my bed in
a week.

ALEC
You can't let her boss you around
like that. Hike up that miniskirt,
kick off those high heels, and act
like a man.

RICK
It's been a rough couple of years.
I just want her to be happy again.
I want us to be happy again.

ALEC
Would it help if you got a new pet?
I mean, I owe you a new pet.

RICK
No, you don't. That could've
happened to anyone.

INSERT - FLASHBACK - ALEC AND THE DOG

Alec tries to rouse a dog that lies on the ground, dead.

ALEC
Hey! Hey! Who's a good boy? Do you
want to wake up?
(MORE)

ALEC (CONT'D)

Do you want to wake up? Who's a good boy? Come on, wake up! Time to wake up!

He waves a chocolate bar in front of the dog's nose.

ALEC

Do you want some more chocolate?

BACK TO SCENE

ALEC

I guess it was just bad luck that I was there when she died. Still, I could get you one out of the kindness of my heart.

RICK

Thanks, but no thanks.

ALEC

Well, let me know. I'm just the kind of guy who'd buy his friend a pet.

Rick's face betrays that he doubts this.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Alec opens the door to let Giselle in. She carries an oversized duffel bag. He closes the door behind her.

GISELLE

I brought the costume you requested. It's not real leather, but I think you'll live. Not to, uh... sorry. Hopefully it's not a sore subject.

ALEC

That I'm dying? No, it's not a sore subject at all.

She steps out of frame to change.

ALEC

It's, um... it's just crazy. All that we are and all that we do... it's all going to vanish.

(pause)

Do you have, like, a ball gag you could put on me?

She tosses a ball gag to him. He catches it.

ALEC

Perfect. Yeah, I've just been thinking a lot about if our lives have meaning. What's the point in living if we just die? Are those nipple clamps?

GISELLE (O.S.)

Sure are.

She tosses them to him; he starts affixing them.

ALEC

I'm just afraid that this is an empty, lonely universe; that we're born, we suffer, we die, and it doesn't matter, because nothing matters. There's no point to any of this. Can we pretend you're a horse trainer? Then it makes more sense for you to have the riding crop.

GISELLE (O.S.)

It's your money.

ALEC

If I were to die today, what was the point of it all? Am I just going to be forgotten about in the sands of time? Do you still have that prostate massager?

GISELLE (O.S.)

This one?

ALEC

If I'm just going to die, what was the point of living in the first place?

GISELLE (O.S.)

Get over here and maybe I'll show you.

He looks at her and smiles (perhaps halfheartedly), then moves toward her.

EXT. MOTEL - NIGHT

Alec walks to his truck. Stops. He sees Sam standing nearby.

SAM
What are you talking about?

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

A fancy studio apartment filled with expensive and tasteless decor. Alec holds Sam's phone as they yell at each other.

ALEC
Who's Mitch?

SAM
Mitch who?

SAM
Are you going through my phone?

ALEC
Yeah.

SAM
Why? Why are you so controlling?

ALEC
I'm not controlling. If you don't have anything to hide, there's no problem.

SAM
Mitch is the principal.

ALEC
Really? You're not seeing him on the side or anything?

SAM
No.

ALEC
Then explain this text.

He holds the phone out. She reads it.

SAM
What about it?

ALEC
It says, "Ready for PTA?" Ready for PTA? What does that mean? Is PTA penis-to-ass? Is this anal? Is he asking if you're ready for anal? Penis-to-ass?

SAM

No. It's the Parent Teacher Association. We have a meeting coming up.

ALEC

A penis and ass meeting?

SAM

Christ, Alec. Stop... controlling me. Are you my father? Do I need to ask you for the keys to the car or if I can go out with my friends?

Alec, frustrated that he's clearly in the wrong, sets the phone down and switches modes.

ALEC

I'm sorry. I just... I love you so much. I get a little carried away sometimes.

SAM

Show me some God damn trust.

ALEC

I trust you. I just... I want to marry you, and...

SAM

You want to marry me? This is how you tell me? To stop me from yelling at you?

ALEC

No. No, that's not... I'm just trying to explain... I care about you, and I get carried away.

SAM

... Do you have a ring?

ALEC

No, I haven't gotten that far.

The mood shifts. Sam, conflicted, finds herself calming down; Alec senses this, and he tries to use it to his advantage.

ALEC

Do you have a preference?

SAM

... White gold, not yellow gold. I like circles, not squares.

(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D)

I like one big diamond and a bunch of little ones, not three big diamonds or anything like that. Princess cut.

ALEC

Okay. I'll keep that in mind.

He holds her. Kisses her on the cheek.

ALEC

I love you. I'm sorry. I just love you so much.

SAM

I love you, too.

EXT. GAZEBO - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

A bunch of candles are lit in a wooden gazebo in a park. Alec leads Sam to it blindfolded.

SAM

How much longer?

ALEC

We're almost there.

He gets her positioned, then kneels in front of her.

ALEC

Okay. You can take it off.

As she does this, he pulls out a ring box and opens it.

ALEC

Sam... will you marry me?

SAM

Yes. Yes, I will.

He slips the ring on her finger.

SAM

Oh, my God. It's beautiful. It's exactly what I wanted.

ALEC

Good. The pawn shop gave me a good deal.

She hits him playfully.

ALEC
Ow! Kidding.

They lean forward and kiss passionately.

FADE TO:

EXT. MOTEL - NIGHT

Alec tongues some food out of his teeth as he stares at nothing in particular.

Then he gets in his car and drives off.

INT. SAM'S HOUSE - ENTRYWAY - DAY

The doorbell rings. Brent enters and answers the door to find Alec. Alec immediately maneuvers his way in.

BRENT
Oh, uh... hi, Alec. I probably shouldn't, uh... let you in...

ALEC
Thanks, Brent. Is Sam home?

BRENT
Um... she had to run to the store.

ALEC
(motions)
Without her car?

BRENT
Uh... I meant she's running. She's out running.

Sam enters.

SAM
What the fuck are you doing here?

BRENT
It was a short run.

ALEC
Sam, I need to talk to you.
Preferably without the Neanderthal.

BRENT
Neanderthals were actually quite advanced.
(MORE)

BRENT (CONT'D)

Some even think they were actually smarter than we are, so I should take that as a compliment.

SAM

Alec, get out.

ALEC

Sam. Hold on.

BRENT

Thank you. I consider you to be Neanderthalic as well.

ALEC

I'm sorry. I'm sorry, Brent. I didn't mean to...

BRENT

It's fine. I took it as a compliment. Some people think --

ALEC

Great. Listen. Sam. Just let me say a few things and then I'll leave. You can kick me out whenever. I just want to apologize and make amends. I just want to make things right. Can you give me the chance to apologize and make things right?

EXT. SAM'S HOUSE - DAY

The front door swings open to the sounds of shouting. Sam ushers Alec out.

ALEC

You're a whore! You're a fucking whore!

SAM

Get out! I don't want to see you ever again!

ALEC

You whore!

SAM

Stay out of my life!

She slams the door shut.

ALEC

What? Do I have to pay?

He pulls out a wad of cash. Starts throwing bills.

ALEC

Do I have to pay to talk to you? Is that it? I have to pay? There! There's your whore money, you fucking whore! Can I talk to the whore now? Huh?

He stops. Realizes he's basically shouting at no one. He glances around, then quickly starts grabbing the bills up.

Alec finally goes back to his truck. Gets in. Drives off.

BLACKOUT.

Red, glowing eyes slowly drift into the darkness, gliding ominously to and fro.

FADE TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

The glowing eyes are actually taillights from the crowd of cars in front of Alec's truck. Alec drives, pissed off and angry at the world.

ALEC

I can't keep doing this shit.

He slams his palm on the horn.

ALEC

I can't keep doing this shit!

He grabs his side in pain. Lets out a cry.

INT. PENNER FINANCIAL - DAY

Alec enters. He rubs his side. The pain subsides (or perhaps he just ignores it) as he strolls up to Camille.

ALEC

Hey.

And then he notices she's been crying. She tries to hide the tears, but with the sniffles and the streaming mascara, there's only so much she can do.

ALEC
Are you okay?

CAMILLE
I'm fine.

ALEC
Are you sure? What's wrong?

CAMILLE
Nothing. Can you leave me alone,
please? Thank you.

Alec walks away. He goes to Rick, who stands by his office.

ALEC
What's wrong with her?

RICK
It's a private matter.

ALEC
Yeah, so tell me.

RICK
... She found out her husband's
been having an affair.

ALEC
Oh. I thought it might be something
serious.

INT. RICK'S OFFICE - DAY

Alec and Rick.

ALEC
Well, the long and short of it is
that I'm leaving.

RICK
Can't say I'm surprised. What are
you going to do?

ALEC
Whatever I want, I guess. Go see
the Redwoods, maybe. I don't know;
they're just trees.

RICK
Sure. Well, if you need anything...

ALEC
Have you thought about what you
want your last words to be?

RICK
Oh, not really.

ALEC
I want mine to be something
meaningful...

INSERT - ALEC'S FANTASY

Alec imagines himself bleeding to death in a darkened alley
as Sam cradles him in the rain.

ALEC (V.O.)
I want them to have an impact. I
want to be remembered.

ALEC
Sam... promise me... promise me
you'll go on without me...

SAM
I can't. I won't.

ALEC
Listen to me. You're going to meet
someone else. Some other guy.
You're going to fall in love with
him. You'll ask yourself, "Is it
wrong for me to fall in love
again?" Yes. Yes, it is. Don't
marry him. Stay... true... to...
me. Stay... true...

And Alec dies in a cheesy, soap opera-esque manner.

SAM
Nooooooooooo!!!

BACK TO SCENE

ALEC
Or something like that. I don't
know. I'm still brainstorming.

Alec hands Rick a letter. Rick reads it.

ALEC
Here's a letter I typed up. You can
copy it and distribute it to my
clients.

RICK
There's a typo.

ALEC
No, there isn't. I double-checked it.

RICK
It says, "Alas, Martin Fennecker will be the interim supervisor of your accounts." It should say "also", not "alas".

ALEC
That's not a typo.

RICK
Hmm. Well, shit. I don't know what to tell you. Good luck, I guess.

INT. PENNER FINANCIAL - DAY

Alec passes Camille. Stops. Walks back. Starts to talk to her. She's initially very reluctant, but then he says something that makes her laugh, and that buys him a little more conversation.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The kind of place cheap guys take girls to impress them. Alec scarfs down food as Camille talks to him. He pays more attention to the food than to her.

CAMILLE
Two months. At least that's what he told me.

ALEC
Mmm.

CAMILLE
They did it at my house. In my bed. On my 800 thread-count Egyptian cotton sheets.

ALEC
This is delicious.

CAMILLE
Those were expensive. And she's a, a, a slut. Does he want me to dress like that?

(MORE)

CAMILLE (CONT'D)

Does he want me to be a yoga instructor? I can do that. I can stop eating and call myself a vegan.

ALEC

You know, I haven't had a steak this good in years.

CAMILLE

She's not even attractive. She looks like she's sixteen.

ALEC

That might be the appeal...
(clears throat)
Um, that might be the, uh, orange peel that I'm tasting.

CAMILLE

I bet she's not even a natural brunette.

ALEC

Orange peels are really, uh, in season right now.

CAMILLE

How could he do that and still say he loves me?

ALEC

Well, love and sex are two completely different things. I mean, have you ever thought about cheating on your husband?

CAMILLE

I, I can't imagine doing that to another human being.

ALEC

Then why are we here?

He gives her a slick smile. She ignores it.

CAMILLE

Just a few weeks ago, I was thinking about how happy I am. Wonderful job, wonderful husband. I think I hung my happiness on him. Maybe I was dependent or codependent or something. Now...
(MORE)

CAMILLE (CONT'D)

I don't know. My whole life is like
it's nothing.

She breaks down in tears. Alec stops a passing waiter.

ALEC

She'll take more wine.

INT. ALEC'S TRUCK - NIGHT

Alec and Camille get in.

CAMILLE

Thank you. I needed this.

Alec moves in to kiss her as he says --

ALEC

God, you're beautiful.

She moves back, thwarting his advances.

CAMILLE

I've never been particularly self-
confident. I hate my body, I hate
my... I hate me. And he makes it
worse.

(pause)

I'm not sure what we're doing here.
I don't know what I want, and I
don't want to make a decision I'll
regret later.

ALEC

I completely respect that and you.
I don't think we should go any
further right now. Let's wait.
Because I respect you as a person.

EXT. ALEC'S TRUCK - NIGHT

The truck rocks back and forth as they screw.

EXT. CAMILLE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Alec and Camille drive up to a cardboard cutout home.

INT. ALEC'S TRUCK - NIGHT

Alec and Camille.

ALEC

Is he here?

CAMILLE

No, he's staying at a motel. Thank you.

ALEC

Of course. Give me a call sometime.

She unbuckles her seat belt. Gives him a kiss on the cheek. Gets out.

He takes off before she even reaches the door.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Alec paces as Giselle lies in the bed.

ALEC

I think I did something good. I think I made her feel better, at least.

(pause)

Do you have any paraplegic costumes or a wheelchair or anything? I saw this special on CNN that was a total turn-on.

He sees that she's passed out.

ALEC

You okay?

He goes around the bed to her. Sees a needle, candle, spoon, and other drug paraphernalia on the bedside table.

ALEC

Giselle?

He shakes her. She stirs. He shakes her harder. Her eyes flutter, but she remains half-conscious.

ALEC

Hey, wake up. What did you take?

GISELLE

I'm fine... let me sleep...

ALEC

You sure?

GISELLE

Mmm...

ALEC

You don't look well.

GISELLE

Let me sleep...

He checks her pulse. She closes her eyes and rolls away.

ALEC

Hey, don't go to sleep. I'm worried
you might die on me. We haven't
even had sex yet.

(beat)

I'm not paying for this.

He looks back to the drugs.

ALEC

What is this shit, anyway? What's
wrong with a joint?

He shakes her. She doesn't react.

ALEC

Okay, you're scaring me. Wake up,
Giselle. Wake up.

He shakes her again. Paces.

ALEC

Shit. I can't... I can't be caught
with you like this. I can't spend
the rest of my life in jail. Do you
have family? A pimp, maybe? What
kind of health insurance do you
have? I can't deal with this. I
can't... fuck. Fuck!

Alec stares at her unmoving body.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Alec parks his truck. Gets out. Checks the area to make sure
he's not being watched.

He pulls Giselle out of the passenger seat and dumps her on
the sidewalk. He double-checks to see if anyone saw this,
then jumps in the truck and drives off.

INT. ALEC'S TRUCK - NIGHT

Alec drives as he makes a phone call.

ALEC

... Across the street from the park. Yeah. I was walking, uh, driving by, and this woman looks like she's passed out, uh, and I wanted to make sure she's okay.

(pause)

You have a very lovely voice. Do we know each other?

(pause)

Sure. Well, can I get your real number, or do I have to call 9-1-1 every time I want to talk to you?

INT. ALEC'S TRUCK - NIGHT - LATER

Alec parks. Starts to get out. Stops when he sees Giselle's purse in the passenger seat. He checks it. Pockets the cash.

INT. ALEC'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

The place is a mess; beer bottles are laying everywhere (why clean when you're just going to die anyway?). Alec kicks some aside to get to the fridge.

He opens it. He's out of beer.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT

Alec waits in line as a very pregnant CLERK assists another customer. They finish the transaction, and Alec sets some beer on the counter.

CLERK

Hi. Could I see some ID?

Alec obliges. When he does, she gets a big whiff of his breath.

CLERK

I, uh... I don't mean to pry or anything, uh... but don't you think you've had enough tonight?

ALEC

What do you mean?

CLERK
You've been drinking.

ALEC
No, I haven't.

CLERK
I can smell it on your breath.

ALEC
No, you can't.

CLERK
Did you drive here?

ALEC
Fuck you. Don't get in my business. Like you can judge. What kind of an idiot gets pregnant, huh? You think you're doing your kid a favor by forcing it to exist? You're reproducing because you don't have any meaning in your shitty little life, but all you're doing is creating more shitty little lives that just suffer, waste resources, and die. If you really want to do your kid a favor, abort it. That's the greatest kindness you can do for anyone in this world.

The Clerk, speechless, tries to hold back tears as she finishes ringing him up. Alec, for a brief moment, gets just a whiff of self-awareness.

ALEC
I'm sorry. I don't mean to be an asshole. I just am.
(pause)
Could I also get a pack of Marlboros?

INT. ALEC'S TRUCK - NIGHT

Alec gets in with his beer. He opens up a can. Downs half of it immediately.

Then he pulls out his cell phone. Dials.

ALEC
Hey.

INT. RICK'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Rick opens the front door to find Alec.

ALEC

Hey.

RICK

Have you been drinking and driving?

ALEC

No.

(pause)

Also, you left your mailbox in your driveway.

INT. RICK'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Alec and Rick sit at the kitchen table.

RICK

Laura's asleep, so, um... be quiet.

ALEC

What was it like for Kayla?

RICK

Jesus, Alec.

ALEC

I'm sorry, man. But I have to know. I want to know everything. I want to know when I'm going to die. I want every moment up until my death to matter. I want it to be that we die at a specific time for a specific reason, that there's a reason for everything in this world, and that the moments leading up to our death mean something, that every moment has meaning. That's what I want. But I don't believe it.

RICK

(pause)

It was really fucking painful for her.

ALEC

I'm sorry.

RICK

Laura instilled some religious beliefs in her, so she was... hopeful, maybe optimistic. But she was in a lot of pain. Life's just a stupid fucking thing.

ALEC

Yeah. All that money I wasted on fancy suits and flashy cars. I wish I would've spent more on hookers.

RICK

You could've been there for us.

ALEC

And you know what's funny? The more I think about meaning, about what I should do and what I haven't done, the more depressed I feel. So what's the fucking point? Why do I even bother? It just depresses me. Fuck meaning. Fuck it all.

INT. RICK'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Rick sets a blanket and pillow on the couch as Alec stands awkwardly nearby.

ALEC

You sure this is okay?

RICK

I'm not letting you drive in your condition. Besides, it gives me a good excuse to sleep in my own bed tonight.

ALEC

Thanks.

INT. RICK'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

Alec lies on the couch, slowly drifting off to sleep.

INT. RICK'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Alec wakes with a start. Groans.

Then he sees Rick, asleep on the floor nearby.

EXT. RICK'S HOUSE - DAY

Alec picks a mailbox up. Tosses it into Rick's yard. Then he goes to his truck and gets in.

INT. ALEC'S TRUCK - DAY

Alec closes the door. Spots Giselle's purse in the passenger seat. Grabs it. Opens it up.

EXT. DONNIE'S HOUSE - DAY

The grass is dead and sparse; the siding is cracked and yellowed; the stoop is crooked; the gutter is broken; and any window that isn't completely shattered is covered in a thick layer of grime. It's not exactly charming.

Alec walks to the front door, clutching Giselle's purse. He knocks. Beat.

DONNIE finally answers. He's a shaved-bald white guy in a tank top and camo shorts.

DONNIE

Yeah?

ALEC

Does Giselle live here?

DONNIE

Who? Giselle? I don't know no Giselle.

ALEC

Um... hold on.

He pulls Giselle's wallet out of her purse. Checks the driver's license.

ALEC

Angela. Does Angela --

DONNIE

What the fuck you wanna talk to her for?

ALEC

Um... this is her purse.

Donnie snatches it out of his hands. Checks it for cash.

DONNIE

Thanks.

ALEC

Is she all right?

DONNIE

Whaddya mean?

ALEC

Is she here?

DONNIE

(calls out)

Yo, Angela! Someone wants to know
if you're here!

Giselle emerges from the depths of the house. She tries (and fails) to hide a large bruise around her eye.

ALEC

Are you okay?

She nods.

ALEC

What happened to your eye?

DONNIE

She tripped and fell.

ALEC

I'm sure.

GISELLE

I did. I hit a table at an angle,
and my sunglasses pushed into my
face.

DONNIE

Here's your purse. No cash.

ALEC

I'm sorry about the other night...
I didn't mean to just leave you. I
was a bit drunk...

DONNIE

Wait. Are you the motherfucker who
made her go to the hospital?

ALEC

Yeah. I mean, no. Wait... with what connotation are you using the term "motherfucker"?

DONNIE

You fucking wasted my money on fucking hospital bills?

STELLA, a hooker in fishnets and stilettos, pushes past Alec.

DONNIE

Yo, Stella, where's my money?

STELLA

I don't owe you shit.

DONNIE

Don't make me fucking... get the fuck inside.

STELLA

I don't. Owe you. Shit.

DONNIE

You want your fucking arm candy? Get the fuck in the house.

She exits.

ALEC

Wait, what's going on here? Is he not your boyfriend?

Giselle laughs.

DONNIE

Look, I'm not fucking happy that I got woken up at four in the morning 'cause I gotta pick this bitch up from the hospital. Now we got this stupid ass bill...

ALEC

You're a pimp. Is this, like, a bordello?

DONNIE

A what?

ALEC

A brothel.

DONNIE

A what?

ALEC

Maybe you should consider offering health insurance to your employees. You can find some relatively well-priced high-deductible group plans... wait, is he keeping you here against your will? Is this how this works? You get them addicted to drugs and then they have to keep coming back to you?

DONNIE

Get the fuck off my lawn before I beat your ass.

ALEC

You're using her. You're treating her like property.

DONNIE

You're the one who fucked her.

ALEC

Well, that's, you know, I wouldn't say I'm culpable... you're the villain here. I'm just... I'm a victim too, really.

DONNIE

Get the fuck off my lawn. Do you know what a curb stomp is?

ALEC

Are they that percussion group?

DONNIE

You know what? I could fucking kill you right now, but you're not worth my fucking time.

He slams the door in Alec's face.

Alec hesitates a moment. Then he grabs the doorknob and opens the door.

ALEC

Lock your door, asshole!

He slams the door shut and walks off.

INT. ALEC'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Alec watches porn on a laptop and jerks off. His phone rings. He multi-tasks and answers it.

INT. CAMILLE'S KITCHEN - DAY

Camille is on the other end. She's distracted by making herself a cup of tea.

CAMILLE

Hey. How are you?

ALEC (V.O.)

Good. Good.

CAMILLE

Are you busy?

ALEC (V.O.)

No. No.

CAMILLE

Against my better judgment, I'd like to see you again.

ALEC (V.O.)

Yeah. Yeah.

CAMILLE

I have a, a... meeting, but I don't feel like going. I was thinking of taking the night off.

ALEC (V.O.)

Yeah! Take it off!

CAMILLE

I was thinking we could get some food and some wine...

ALEC (V.O.)

Oh, yeah!

CAMILLE

... and maybe I could make my world-famous chicken marsala.

ALEC (V.O.)

Uh-huh... uh-huh...

CAMILLE

It's a great recipe. I could eat it every day of my life.

ALEC (V.O.)

Put it in your mouth!

CAMILLE

And maybe we could, I don't know, give each other a massage...

ALEC (V.O.)

Touch me... touch me...

CAMILLE

What time works for you?

ALEC (V.O.)

I'm coming now! I'm coming now!

CAMILLE

I don't quite have the house ready or anything. Maybe you could give me an hour or two to get everything together?

ALEC (V.O.)

Ooh. Ooh, yeah. Whew. Two hours. I'll be over in two hours.

CAMILLE

Are you okay? You sound out of breath.

ALEC (V.O.)

I think we have a bad connection.

INT. CAMILLE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Alec and Camille sit and drink. He hands her a gift box.

ALEC

I got you a little something.

CAMILLE

What for?

ALEC

Just because.

CAMILLE

I don't remember the last time Pete got me something just because.

ALEC

Open it.

CAMILLE

Do you think she threatened him? Is that why he told me?

ALEC

No idea. Open it.

CAMILLE

Or did he just feel guilty? And if he felt guilty, does that mean he cares?

ALEC

Why don't you open that box?

CAMILLE

I'm sorry. Here.

She opens it. Pulls out some ridiculous-looking lingerie.

CAMILLE

Oh. Uh... wow.

ALEC

You're welcome. Here. Check this out.

He sticks his fingers through crotchless panties.

ALEC

Eh? Eh?

CAMILLE

For a second, I thought it might be something romantic.

ALEC

And I did not disappoint. Come here, let's get this on you.

A pair of headlights flash across the windows. A car turns into the driveway.

CAMILLE

Shit. That's Pete.

ALEC

(rolling up his sleeves)
Don't worry, I can handle him.

CAMILLE

He probably just got done with his
jujitsu class.

ALEC

(unrolling his sleeves)
... Sorry?

EXT. CAMILLE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

PETE, a suburban brute, walks toward the house as Alec and
Camille step out.

ALEC

Well, uh, ma'am, it was a pleasure,
uh... oh, this must be your
husband. What great timing. As if
God himself said, uh... let this
man be here... at this hour.

PETE

Who the hell are you?

ALEC

I'm, uh, Brother Fitzpatrick. I was
just telling your wife about a
little thing called eternal
salvation, but I can see I'm too
late. This is a house of sin and
corruption, uh, and all who live
here have been consumed by the
Devil, uh, so, I guess that about
does it for me...

PETE

You a Jehovah's Witness?

ALEC

... Yes. Would you like to hear
about Jesus? Or Jehovah? No? Well,
I should probably get going. So
many damned, so little time. I'll
put you on the mailing list.

PETE

Why don't you got a Bible?

ALEC

Um...
(taps his noggin)
It's, uh, it's all up here.

PETE
You memorized the entire Bible?

ALEC
Yep. All the books from, uh,
Genesis... to the last one.

PETE
Prove it.

ALEC
Uh, uh... John 3:16... And Jesus
said unto the Hutterites, "Thou...
hast... doth... thine... ark of the
covenant... do not look upon it,
for thou's head... shalt... melt."

PETE
That's not right.

ALEC
I have it word for word. Uh...
Genesis 1:1... "There once was a
man named Jesus..."

PETE
The Bible doesn't say anything like
that.

ALEC
... It's the Living Bible
translation.

PETE
Have we met before? Do you work
with her or something?

ALEC
If we've met, um, it was
probably... here. I mean, the high
priestess assigns me this block
often.

CAMILLE
Pete. Listen. I'll be honest with
you. I slept with him.

ALEC
Uh, woman, uh, don't you know the
verse about not bearing false
witness against one's newborn, uh,
and not just newborns, uh, anyone,
really...

PETE

How could you do that to me? I know... yeah, I did the same thing... but God damn it, that's childish!

CAMILLE

I'm childish? You're childish!

ALEC

As is written in the Gospel of Proverbs, Shalom Aleichem, I must be going.

Alec finally gets around Pete and goes to his truck. Gets in.

PETE

Hold on. Just hold on.

CAMILLE

You know who's really childish? That slut you've been slutting around with!

ALEC

Have a good night! Good luck with your eternal damnation! I hope it works out for you!

CAMILLE

She looks like she's fourteen! That's childish!

PETE

I'm trying to work this out. Do you not want this to work?

Alec starts the truck up. As he drives off, he shouts out --

ALEC

Mazel tov!

CAMILLE

... You think I don't want this to work?...

And he's gone before he can hear another word.

INT. ALEC'S GARAGE - NIGHT

Alec parks. Turns the truck off. Sits in thought for a moment. His head swirls.

He opens the door suddenly and vomits all over the ground.

INT. ALEC'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Alec grabs a roll of paper towels.

INT. ALEC'S GARAGE - NIGHT

Alec wipes up the vomit with soaked paper towels. He picks a handful up, and the vomit drips off them as he rushes them to a nearby garbage can.

He stares at his drenched hands as he walks back. As he reaches the remaining puddle, he slips in the drips, falling and sliding into the puke.

He looks at himself -- pathetic, sad, covered in vomit -- and his rage and depression spiral out of control.

ALEC

Are you fucking kidding me? Are you
fucking kidding me?

He tries to wipe his leg off, but there's so much vomit he doesn't really stand a chance.

ALEC

Fucking stupid waste of my God damn
fucking... God damn it!

And then, he simply begins to cry.

INT. ALEC'S OFFICE - DAY

Alec sits with Jerry and Denise.

ALEC

So you've been doing well. The
market as a whole dropped a bit
recently, so if you were to look at
your portfolios today, they
wouldn't look great...

JERRY

Yeah, we know.

ALEC

... but that's just the market
cycle. The person you work with
next... is it Rick?

DENISE

I think his name is Martin.

ALEC

I probably shouldn't be saying this, but don't go with him.

DENISE

He seemed very nice.

ALEC

Most idiots do. Get Rick. He'll do you right.

(fishing)

I'm just glad I had the opportunity to make a difference in your lives.

JERRY

So what kind of forms do we need to fill out?

ALEC

None. You don't need to do anything. I hope you've found that I've helped you achieve your financial goals. Helping people has always been my life's work.

JERRY

What if... hypothetically... we decided to move our accounts to another firm?

Denise touches Jerry's arm. They share a glance.

ALEC

You would have to fill out a form for that. I could help you out, or Rick could. Martin probably knows where the drawer is.

(pause)

I'm so proud of everything I've done for clients like you.

JERRY

(pause)

Why don't we get that form?

ALEC

Of course. Um... I was curious, uh... what you said at the party... you really meant that?

DENISE

Oh, yes. And we truly believe we're helping people out. Existence is merely pain and suffering. We would gladly euthanize someone dealing with a terminal, painful disease... that's exactly what life is.

JERRY

And that's not to discount the complete worthlessness of nearly every living human being. The truth of the matter is that there are many people that the rest of the world would be much better off without. Some people just shouldn't be alive.

Alec reacts. Hesitates.

ALEC

Why don't I go get that form?

INT. ALEC'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Alec channel-surfs, bored. In frustration, he finally clicks the TV off. Drops the remote. He checks his watch.

EXT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

A deserted road winds across a small wooden bridge. Alec's truck, headlights blaring through the darkness, slowly pulls up to a stop.

Alec gets out of the truck. Leaves it running. Marches up to the railing. Stares down into the abyss.

The water below is at a distance where he doesn't know if he'd survive or not. He contemplates jumping. The longest moment in the universe passes.

And then he slides to the ground, his back against the railing, tears streaming down his cheeks as he wails into the dark night.

INT. ALEC'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Alec enters. He collapses on the couch. Then he grabs the remote and clicks the TV on again.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

Alec gets out of his parked truck. He looks at the church. Takes a few steps forward. Stops. An ATTRACTIVE WOMAN starts to pass by.

ALEC

Hey, do we know each other?

She just ignores him. Alec frowns. He finally just turns back to the truck.

MARTIN (O.S.)

Hey, Alec!

Alec turns to see Martin with PENNY, his wife in an ugly floral dress and covered in about three pounds of makeup.

MARTIN

I didn't know you go here.

ALEC

I, uh... I don't.

MARTIN

You just...

ALEC

I don't know. I feel... kind of lost.

MARTIN

My wife and I are about to have lunch. Do you want to join us?

INT. MARTIN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

For every wall, a crucifix and a Caucasian Jesus. Alec sits with Martin and Penny.

ALEC

It seems like everything, in the face of death, is just an inane waste of time. What's the point in any of this?

MARTIN

You're looking for meaning. People find meaning in all kinds of places. Money, power, sex, drugs, even other people. I love Penny. But not as much as I love God.

PENNY
... Sorry?

MARTIN
It sounds to me like you have a hole in your life. It's not a money-sized hole, it's not a sex-sized hole, and it's not a person-sized hole. It's a Jesus-sized hole. Jesus is the only one who can fill your hole.

ALEC
Do you realize what you're saying?

MARTIN
Oh, yeah.

INT. MARTIN'S KITCHEN - DAY

Alec, Penny, and Martin.

PENNY
Have you tried much prayer?

ALEC
No.

PENNY
When my mother was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, I prayed every day.

ALEC
Did it help?

PENNY
Well, she still died, but I felt better about it.

INT. MARTIN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Alec, Penny, and Martin.

ALEC
I want purpose, but... life seems so arbitrary. It seems like there's no rhyme or reason for anything.

MARTIN
Studies have shown that those who are religious are happier.

PENNY

Are you happy?

ALEC

I don't know. I guess I'm happiest when I'm sleeping, eating, or screwing, or preferably some combination of the three.

Penny reacts.

MARTIN

You seem miserable. Whether or not God exists, the absence of religion leads to the depression you face now.

ALEC

I'm not sure about that. Even if there is a God, so what? If God chooses what happens to me, nothing's in my control, in which case, what's the point? If God isn't in control, everything's random, in which case, what's the point? Either everything's determined, in which case I have no say, or everything's random, in which case my say is practically meaningless, or it's somewhere in the middle, which is just a jumble of the worst of everything, so what's the God damn point? My existence, my life -- it's pointless no matter what.

MARTIN

So, first... everything is God's plan. It's God's will. And executing God's plan for you is where the meaning is --

ALEC

And church just seems like a waste of time. You just go through these pointless and arbitrary routines, these silly little sermons with vague platitudes and empty promises, and nothing changes. It doesn't change you, it doesn't change the world... I have so little time left;

(MORE)

ALEC (CONT'D)

why would I waste any of it on God when I could be doing something much more productive, like sleeping, eating, or screwing, or preferably some combination of the three?

MARTIN

Uh... do you actually, uh, do anything that's... actually... productive?

ALEC

I'm sorry. I overstepped. I shouldn't have said that. I didn't, um... I should, um... I should go.

Alec stands. Goes to the door. Martin and Penny follow.

ALEC

Thank you. And to answer your question -- no, I don't do anything productive.

MARTIN

Okay. Well, if you need anything, even just someone to talk to, give us a call.

ALEC

I will. Thanks.

Alec exits. Shuts the door behind him. Martin looks to Penny.

MARTIN

I hate that guy.

INT. ALEC'S TRUCK - DAY

Alec drives, lost in thought. He passes by a church and looks at the cross on top.

Then he slows to a stop. Parks by the side of the road. Looks down, thinking.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. ALEC'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

The place is even more of a mess. Beer cans, pizza and Chinese boxes, silverware, plates -- everything is scattered everywhere. Alec leads Giselle in as he clutches his stomach.

GISELLE
Are you okay?

ALEC
Yeah. I'm fine.

GISELLE
... Do you ever clean?

ALEC
In the face of death, cleaning just
seems like a waste of time.
(pause)
No, I don't clean.

GISELLE
You didn't tell me what to bring,
so I brought the cheerleader
uniform and the wedding dress.

ALEC
That's not why I had you come over.

He pulls out a checkbook. Writes a check. Tears it off. Holds
it out.

ALEC
This is for you. You can get out
from under that guy's thumb --

GISELLE
Donnie's not that bad.

ALEC
He's using you.

GISELLE
Unlike you?

ALEC
I know how these guys work. He gets
his talons in you by getting you
addicted to these drugs or in debt
to him or whatever, then he makes
you keep coming back. You can get
free of him. Promise me you'll use
it to start a new life and it's
yours.

GISELLE
I promise. Thank you.

He gives her the check.

ALEC

I'm just trying to do something meaningful before I die. I've kind of been on a spiritual quest of sorts, I guess...

GISELLE

And how's it going?

ALEC

Eh. I've investigated a few different belief systems, and, uh...

INSERT - MONTAGE - ALEC'S SPIRITUAL QUEST:

A) TEXT: "CHRISTIANITY". Alec sits with a PRIEST.

ALEC

Wait, hold on. So the Gospels don't even agree on what Jesus's last words were? They don't agree on how divine Jesus is? And in the earliest book of the Bible's earliest version, he's not even resurrected?

PRIEST

Well... yes.

ALEC

... How much free wine do you get for Communion?

B) TEXT: "ISLAM". Alec sits with an IMAM.

ALEC

Well, when you said your prophet had sex with an underage girl, my interest was piqued. But nine years old? That's, like, six years too young.

C) TEXT: "JUDAISM". Alec sits with a RABBI.

RABBI

Being chosen doesn't mean you have an easy life; in fact, Jews have a greater obligation to the world and end up suffering for it. Being a Jew is often quite difficult.

ALEC

... I don't think this is for me.

D) TEXT: "ATHEISM". Alec sits with an ATHEIST.

ALEC

So if I'm understanding you correctly, there's really no hope for the future, no reason to keep going; it's just a bleak, empty universe, and our lives are absolutely meaningless. It sounds depressing.

ATHEIST

Yes, but we have some great YouTubers.

E) TEXT: "JAINISM". Alec sits with a JINA.

JINA

There are five great vows.

ALEC

Five. That seems reasonable.

JINA

Celibacy...

ALEC

Okay, I'm out.

F) TEXT: "BUDDHISM". Alec meditates with some BUDDHISTS.

ALEC (V.O.)

(rapid-fire)

Breathe in. Breathe out. Calm your mind. Oh, God, my stomach. Shh. Cease thought. I'm never buying Mexican from a vending machine again. I can't tell if that's the colon cancer or the breakfast burrito. Stop thinking. Calm your mind. I'm so bored. I wouldn't buy Chinese from a vending machine either. Maybe a fortune cookie. No. I wouldn't pay a dollar for a fortune cookie. Maybe a dollar for four. Is she wearing a bra? Under the robes, it's hard to tell. Maybe if the robe just slipped down a little. Can you do that? Can you just let it slip down a bit? Come on, take a bigger breath. That's it. A little bit more. A little bit more. Let me see them Buddhist titties. Oh, come on.

(MORE)

ALEC (V.O.) (CONT'D)

You were so close. Is this meditating? We just sit here and do nothing? I'm so bored. I could really go for a breakfast burrito. Not out of a vending machine, though.

G) TEXT: "SCIENTOLOGY". Alec speaks with a SCIENTOLOGIST.

SCIENTOLOGIST

Your readings are really quite remarkable. Truly off the charts. You have the capability to be a great spiritual master.

ALEC

I'm not planning on spending any money on this...

SCIENTOLOGIST

... Well, I think we're done here.

BACK TO SCENE

ALEC

... I'd say enlightenment evades me.

GISELLE

Well, thank you. Are you sure you didn't want me to do anything in return?

ALEC

No. Just live a good life. I'm just trying to do some good. Well, if you're offering... no. No, just... just lead a good life.

INT. ALEC'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alec tries to sleep. He's in too much pain. His stomach makes him feel like shit. He groans.

INT. ALEC'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Alec sits on the toilet and struggles.

INT. ALEC'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Alec, holding a blanket over himself, leads Rick in. Rick carts a few grocery bags.

ALEC
Thank you.

RICK
... No problem.

Alec sits at the kitchen table as Rick puts groceries away. Alec slides a notebook across the table.

ALEC
Might as well pick this up while you're here.

RICK
What is it?

ALEC
It's what I'd like you to say at my funeral.

Rick grabs the notebook. Pages through it.

RICK
I'm not saying this.

ALEC
It's my last wish.

Rick is nonplussed. He goes back to putting groceries away.

RICK
You figured out what you're doing?

ALEC
I've thought about it. I just can't decide.

RICK
What's the one thing you've always wanted to do?

ALEC
Keep living.

RICK
Yes, but is there something...

ALEC

There are a few things I've thought about...

RICK

Like what?

ALEC

I don't know how to even begin choosing what to do. If I go to Paris, I'll never see Tokyo. If I do a triathlon, I'll never ride the Trans-Siberian express. Everything's a cost-benefit analysis, and no matter what I do, the opportunity cost seems higher than the benefits. Maybe I'll just go to some ballgames.

(pause)

Shit. I'm not even going to live to see the Rockies win the World Series.

RICK

Neither will I.

Alec smiles. He looks at Rick and -- perhaps for the first time -- views him as the complete human being he is.

ALEC

What about you? How are you doing?

RICK

Oh, you know. There's always something. We've got a virus wreaking havoc on the work computers. I've got you to thank for that.

ALEC

Me? What did I do?

RICK

Those sites you go to. They linked it back to one of them... barelylegalyeastinfections.com.

ALEC

(pause)

I thought it was a medical site.

RICK

Sure you did.

ALEC

Well, it's just a virus. Probably not the worst thing I've done to you.

RICK

What would be the worst thing you've done to me?

INSERT - CUTAWAY

Rick and Alec at the office.

RICK

We've been thinking of getting a cat. She wants these expensive... I think they're called Bengals? They're Asian cats.

ALEC

Here. I've got the perfect place.

Alec slips Rick a card. The office and Alec turn into Rick's home, and Rick dials on his cell phone while examining the card. A sexy-voiced SULTRY WOMAN answers.

SULTRY WOMAN (V.O.)

Hello?

RICK

Hi, is this Exotic Asians?

SULTRY WOMAN (V.O.)

Yes.

RICK

I'm interested in getting a kitten.

SULTRY WOMAN (V.O.)

Oh, we have plenty of kittens. I'm sure we can find the right one for you. What are you looking for?

RICK

Well, my wife wants a young one.

SULTRY WOMAN (V.O.)

You're thinking barely legal?

RICK

Um... I honestly didn't know there were laws around that, but I guess so.

(MORE)

RICK (CONT'D)

I guess I've never really paid attention to laws about that kind of stuff. Mainly we just want one that goes to the bathroom where she's supposed to.

SULTRY WOMAN (V.O.)

And you said this is for both you and your wife?

RICK

Yeah. She's the one who really wants an animal.

SULTRY WOMAN (V.O.)

Fascinating. She wants an animal. We have a girl named Panther you might be interested in.

RICK

Panther? Is she black?

SULTRY WOMAN (V.O.)

Yes.

RICK

Oh, we don't really like the black kind. I don't know; they're fine from a distance, but you get up close and they're just dirty. You always see the dander and stuff. They're like a dark car; they always look dirty. You know?

SULTRY WOMAN (V.O.)

We're very accommodating.

RICK

We'd only have one, so she'll be alone a lot of the time. It probably makes sense to get one that can, like, entertain herself, right?

SULTRY WOMAN (V.O.)

Entertain herself...

RICK

Yeah, like... play with herself. When she's alone. I mean, if we're there, we're going to play with her too. I just mean when my wife and I go to work.

(MORE)

RICK (CONT'D)

We had one once where we would leave her alone and go to work or whatever, and when we got home, the place was just covered in urine.

SULTRY WOMAN (V.O.)

We want to satisfy your every desire, so we will make sure you get exactly what you want.

RICK

Can we come meet them?

SULTRY WOMAN (V.O.)

Our website has pictures.

RICK

That's helpful, but I think we'd like to meet them, see what they're like personality-wise, play with them a little...

SULTRY WOMAN (V.O.)

I'm sure we can work something out.

RICK

Are they, uh... fixed?

SULTRY WOMAN (V.O.)

There's no need to worry about that. We take specific measures, and if something happens, we'll take care of it.

RICK

I'd much prefer to have it taken care of beforehand rather than after the transaction. I mean, I don't want to have to worry every time the Persian from next door waddles over, making sure everyone sees his ass before he waddles back.

SULTRY WOMAN (V.O.)

We'll tell her not to interact with the Persian. Our girls are extremely well-trained and obey your every word.

RICK

Forgive me if I'm being skeptical. You really think they're that well-trained?

(MORE)

RICK (CONT'D)

I'll be honest: I doubt it. I had one a few years ago that wouldn't listen to anything I said. I kept saying, "Don't poop on the carpet, don't poop on the carpet." You know what she did? She pooped on the carpet.

SULTRY WOMAN (V.O.)

I think you'll have a much better experience with ours. They will do anything you want, as long as the price is right. Do you have any concerns regarding prophylactics?

RICK

Prophylactics?

(pause)

Who am I talking to?

BACK TO SCENE

ALEC

Yeah, I embarrassed you a few times. I've done some not great things, but I've never killed anyone or raped anyone or anything terrible.

Rick finishes up. Turns to Alec.

RICK

Right. You cleared the lowest bar possible. Congratulations.

ALEC

I'm just saying...

RICK

Everything's put away. I'll let you get some rest. I need some sleep myself.

ALEC

Don't forget this.

Alec holds the notebook up. Rick stares at the lewd drawings on the cover for a moment before he finally grabs it.

RICK

Of course.

ALEC
I'm writing my obituary, too. You
read any good obituaries lately?

RICK
Can't say I have. But good luck.

INT. ALEC'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Alec sits down and reads the obituary section of the newspaper. Something catches his eye. He sits up.

ALEC
What the fuck...?

EXT. DONNIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Alec parks. Goes to the door. Knocks. Donnie answers.

DONNIE
The fuck do you want?

ALEC
What happened to Angela?

DONNIE
She's dead, man. Angela's fucking
dead.

ALEC
What happened? Did you kill her?
Huh? Did you hit her just a little
too hard? Is that what happened?

Alec moves toward Donnie, but Donnie shoves him back.

DONNIE
The fuck you mean?

ALEC
Did you beat her to death? Is that
what happened?

DONNIE
Shit, man. She OD-ed. Bought a shit-
ton of heroin. Used almost all of
it in an hour.

Alec absorbs this.

ALEC
... You beat her.

DONNIE

I wasn't even fucking there, man.
Amaryllis found her.

ALEC

What? That's not even a fucking
name. Jesus.

Alec suddenly reels. He stumbles away, trying to keep himself upright, and suddenly vomits uncontrollably.

DONNIE

What the fuck, man? You're puking
in my yard? You're puking in my
fucking yard? Get out! I'm gonna
puke in your fucking yard!

As Donnie moves toward him, Alec stumbles back to his truck. Donnie doesn't give pursuit.

INT. ALEC'S TRUCK - DAY

Alec, a bit of vomit still on his lips, cries as he drives.

INT. ALEC'S KITCHEN - DAY

Alec sits. Dials on his phone.

MARTIN (V.O.)

Hello?

ALEC

Hey, Martin. It's Alec. You said I
could call you...

MARTIN (V.O.)

Oh, yeah. Now's not a good time.
We're just heading out the door...

ALEC

Would tomorrow work?

MARTIN (V.O.)

Actually, tomorrow's bad. We have
family stuff all day, then the kids
have a... thing... tomorrow night.

ALEC

What about Sunday?

MARTIN (V.O.)

Um... we have plans Sunday.

ALEC

Oh. Okay.

MARTIN (V.O.)

There's a church, uh... thing. But another time, maybe.

ALEC

Yeah.

INT. ALEC'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alec drifts in and out of sleep as he clutches at his stomach. Then he notices something out of the corner of his eye -- hands that shake.

INT. SAM'S KITCHEN - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Sam stands at a counter, her face red, her hands shaking. She tries to calm her breathing.

LEXI, barely twenty and completely embarrassed, enters as she carries her high heels and tries to button her shirt. Alec also enters as he buckles his belt.

ALEC

I'm sorry. I didn't mean for you to, uh...

SAM

Shut. Up. You. Fucking. Asshole.

ALEC

It wasn't, I didn't mean to, uh... it just kind of happened... six months ago...

SAM

You God damn fucking piece of God damn fucking shit.

ALEC

We were at a gas station... I thought she was someone I knew...

SAM

Shut up, you fuck!

LEXI

Um...

ALEC

We never have sex! What were you expecting -- no cheating?

SAM

Don't put this on me!

ALEC

It's your fault!

SAM

You cheat, and it's my fault?

ALEC

I don't see how you could see it any other way. I don't know why you're angry at me. I should be angry with you.

SAM

On what fucking planet...

ALEC

You've driven me to cheat. This is all because of you.

LEXI

Um... excuse me...

SAM

And who the fuck are you? Why are you talking?

LEXI

I'm Lexi...

SAM

Why are you still here?

LEXI

Um, I don't have a car. Alec drove me here, and, uh... it's a long way back to my dorm...

SAM

To your dorm? Your dorm?!?

LEXI

I had no idea he was married...

SAM

The ring and the photos didn't give it away?

LEXI

He told me, he told me you were deceased. He said you went skydiving together and your parachute didn't open and he had to watch you fall and... I felt so sorry for him...

ALEC

(pause)

She seduced me. She knew all about you. It was completely this homewrecker's fault. In addition to yours.

SAM

A college student? What the fuck?

ALEC

Well, wouldn't you prefer it to be someone younger and more attractive than you? So you know it's not because of your personality?

SAM

No! I'd prefer you to be a decent fucking human being!

LEXI

I, I don't think I should be here, so if you could, uh, give me some money for a taxi?...

SAM

Get the fuck out of my house!

LEXI

Uh... I, uh...

SAM

Get out!

ALEC

Yeah, homewrecker!

Lexi, freaked out and not sure what to do, simply runs out.

ALEC

I can't believe I let her use me.

Sam slaps him.

SAM

You fucking pig.

ALEC

Hey. I'm not the only culpable party here. Out of the three of us, I'm probably the least culpable.

SAM

It's... it's over. This is over.

ALEC

What are you talking about?

SAM

We... we need a divorce. That's it. That's what needs to happen.

ALEC

(zips his fly)

But Sam... you mean the world to me.

SAM

I don't love you anymore. I don't respect you. I only feel hate and anger and disappointment. Disappointment in you, but mainly disappointment in myself for ever thinking I could trust you. I'm going to call a lawyer.

Sam walks away.

ALEC

Okay, I'm not Gandhi... I'm not, you know, Milton Friedman... but we, we belong together. Sam...

But she's already gone.

INT. ALEC'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alec continues to struggle with falling asleep.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Sam walks toward her car. She jumps and lets out a cry when Alec suddenly appears.

SAM

What the hell are you doing here?

ALEC

I didn't mean to scare you...

SAM

Were you just lurking here? Are you the creepiest man alive or what?

ALEC

I'm sorry. But you didn't return my calls. I don't know if you know this, but I'm kind of working on a deadline here.

SAM

Leave me alone.

She pushes past him, but he stops her when he says --

ALEC

I want to apologize, okay? I just want to say I'm sorry for everything.

SAM

I'm at the point where I flat-out don't believe you. Just go die and leave me alone.

ALEC

I treated you like shit. I recognize that. And I'd like to apologize. How about this: if you come with me and we get a cup of coffee and you just let me talk to you for a bit, I'll never bother you again.

SAM

... Is that a promise?

EXT. CAFE - DAY

Alec and Sam sit on the patio and drink coffee.

ALEC

And Brent?

SAM

He's good, too.

ALEC

Of all the guys in the world...

SAM

He loves me and I love him. So if you don't want me to stand up and walk away right now, you better stop insulting him.

ALEC

I'm sorry. I shouldn't have said that. It just makes me angry that you left me for him.

SAM

I didn't leave you because of him. I left you because of you.

ALEC

That's why I... that's why I wanted to talk to you. I wanted to tell you I'm sorry... for everything.

SAM

Are you hoping everything's suddenly okay because you're dying? Are you trying to use me, to get me to lie so you can feel better about yourself? Because tough shit. You've had years to become a halfway decent human being, and you fucked it up.

ALEC

You're right. I really... I wish things had worked out between us. Or at the least, I wish I'd been the kind of person that, uh... you know.

SAM

... Yeah. So did you call off the wedding? Is that why you keep stalking me?

ALEC

Oh, um... she's not actually my fiancée. She's a hooker. I just hired her for that night. Oh, and she's dead.

SAM

... What?

ALEC

Let's just not talk about it.

SAM
Did you kill a hooker?

ALEC
No. I hope not. Look, that's not...
the reason I... let me just give
this to you.

He slides a sealed envelope to her.

ALEC
I wrote you a letter. Wait to read
it until after...

She takes the letter.

SAM
Okay.

ALEC
I'm sorry, Sam. I am sorry.

SAM
... Good. I guess.
(pause)
I did love you, you know. At one
point. But you changed.

ALEC
Or maybe you just got to know me.

EXT. CAFE - DAY - LATER

Alec and Sam awkwardly hug. She breaks it off quickly.

SAM
So what now?

ALEC
I figured I... I've been pretty
useless my whole life. So I figured
I'd try to do something good.
There's this program, um... I'm
going to Cameroon. I'm going to
help feed starving children, dig
some wells, stuff like that. Do
something worthwhile before I die.

SAM
That's wonderful. I guess it's
never too late to change.

ALEC

Yeah. Tell the Neanderthal I said hi.

SAM

... Goodbye, Alec.

ALEC

Yeah. I, um... bye.

She turns and walks away. He watches her go.

INT. ALEC'S BEDROOM - DAY

Alec packs a duffel bag. He makes a few inconsequential decisions -- this shirt, not that one; these socks; those pants; etc. Then, he grabs his passport off a table. He hits it against his hand.

ALEC

Why do they make passports blue?

Alec tosses it onto the bed. Then, he suddenly freezes. A wave of nausea hits him.

He suddenly vomits on the floor. His head spins so hard he can't stay upright. As he falls, his skull slams into a dresser before his body hits the floor.

Then he begins to spasm as his organs struggle to keep him alive. His face betrays the pure agony within.

INT. ALEC'S BEDROOM - DAY - LATER

And then he's dead.

A couple of DETECTIVES enter and move around the body as some forensics people snap photos.

DETECTIVE 1

Sociology.

DETECTIVE 2

You kidding?

DETECTIVE 1

I wish.

DETECTIVE 2

What's she going to do with that?

DETECTIVE 1
No idea.

DETECTIVE 2
Well, it could be worse. My niece
majored in Communications.

DETECTIVE 1
Communications?

DETECTIVE 2
Not sure why. She's not that
bright. No one wants to communicate
with her, anyway.

DETECTIVE 1
Huh.

INT. MORGUE - DAY

Two MORTICIANS talk as they transfer Alec's body.

MORTICIAN 1
It's terrible.

MORTICIAN 2
Seriously?

MORTICIAN 1
My wife listens to it every
morning.

MORTICIAN 2
Shit.

MORTICIAN 1
Cranks the volume so loud you can
hear it in the garage.

MORTICIAN 2
Shit.

MORTICIAN 1
Watch the head, watch the head...

MORTICIAN 2
Shit!

INT. FUNERAL HOME CREMATORIUM ROOM - DAY

Two EMPLOYEES stand next to a crematorium as they load Alec's
body in.

EMPLOYEE 1
He played basketball.

EMPLOYEE 2
Who?

EMPLOYEE 1
The guy who invented the mnemonic
device.

EMPLOYEE 2
What's his name?

EMPLOYEE 1
I don't remember.

INT. SAM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Brent puts dishes into the dishwasher. Sam walks up.

SAM
What are you doing?

BRENT
... The dishes?

SAM
How many times do I have to tell
you... here.

She rearranges them.

SAM
If you put things on top of each
other, they don't get clean.

BRENT
I know.

SAM
There has to be room...

BRENT
I know.

SAM
The water has to be able to hit the
dishes.

BRENT
I know.

SAM
If you know, then do.

BRENT
... I know.

SAM
Christ.

She looks at him. Slowly, she realizes her anger is out of control. She takes a deep breath.

SAM
I'm sorry. I love you. I'm having a bad day. I'm sorry.

She hugs him like a mother about to send her child to war.

BRENT
It's okay. I love you, too. Here.

He turns her around. Massages her back.

BRENT
Does that help?

SAM
Yeah.
(pause)
I'm trying. I'm really trying. Some days I just can't help it.

BRENT
I know. I know.

A phone rings. Sam pulls her cell out of her pocket.

SAM
Hello? Hi, Rick... Oh, I'm sorry.
Oh, God. Yeah... Yeah, thanks for letting me know. Okay. Thank you.

She hangs up.

BRENT
What was that?

SAM
Alec died. A couple weeks ago, they think, but they just found him Saturday.

BRENT
God.

SAM

Yeah.

(pause, then playfully)

Can I show you how to correctly load the dishwasher?

BRENT

Okay, well, here's the thing: it wasn't on top of the other bowl. They were overlapping.

SAM

Nuh-uh.

BRENT

Uh-huh.

SAM

Nuh-uh.

BRENT

Uh-huh.

SAM

(moves dishes)

How is this overlapping? It's just over it.

BRENT

Over, and, uh, lapping. Overlapping.

SAM

It's just on it.

BRENT

No. I mean, if you look at the spray of water...

They continue to argue playfully.

EXT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

The parking lot is mostly empty.

INT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

An urn stands on a table next to pictures of Alec. The Priest from before speaks to a large but nearly empty room. Rick sits with Sam and Brent. Charles sits in a wheelchair with Kim next to him. There isn't a wet eye in the room.

PRIEST

Death is a fact of life; perhaps the fact of life. It is the one thing we all have in common, the final equalizer. Death makes us question. Our existence, the meaning of our lives, God -- it's natural to wonder about all of these things. We may ask, "Why was this man taken from us?" Perhaps God wanted him in Heaven more than we needed him on Earth.

Sam snorts. Tries to cover it as crying.

PRIEST

This man may be gone, but he will not be forgotten. We will always remember our love for Alan.

RICK

Alec.

PRIEST

For Alec. Amen.

The Priest steps down. Rick steps up, his knuckles white as he clutches Alec's notebook.

RICK

Um...

Rick sets the notebook down. Shakes his head at the lewd drawings. Opens the notebook.

RICK

Alec was a great, uh... a great man. Women wanted to be with him, and men wanted to be him.

Crickets.

RICK

... What a man. Everyone who knew him would have described him as passionate, loyal, kind; a friend to all, an enemy to none. He was God's gift to women, some might say...

Rick blinks.

RICK

Um...

He skims through the eulogy, deciding to skip most of it.

RICK

I'll, uh... Alec gave me a poem to read. Let's see here... oh, it's a limerick... oh... uh, I don't think I'll read that... uh...

Rick shakes his head. Puts the notebook aside.

RICK

Well, you all know... knew... Alec. There's nothing I can say that would... change... things. So, um, Alec, if you're out there, and if you can hear me, I... I wish you weren't dead.

Rick steps down. An ORGANIST starts up a boring hymn.

INT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY - LATER

Kim wheels Charles toward the door. Rick stops them.

RICK

You're Alec's father, right? I'm sorry for your loss. Alec is... well, he was a... a good man.

CHARLES

... Who?

Kim gives Rick a look, then continues wheeling Charles out.

Camille approaches Rick.

RICK

Hey. Thanks for coming.

CAMILLE

Well, thanks for the PTO.

RICK

Sure.

CAMILLE

You know, I hated Alec for a long time...

RICK

But now?

CAMILLE

... Eh.

As Sam and Brent go toward the door, they see Jerry and Denise walk in. The duo beeline to Sam and Brent.

JERRY

Sorry. We got stuck in traffic.

DENISE

Are we too late?

Sam, torn between wanting to get away from these weirdos and her inherent sense of politeness, says --

SAM

... Yes, but... it's fine. What are you doing here?

DENISE

We just came to pay our respects.

SAM

Based on what you said before you left town, I would've thought you'd be glad he's dead.

JERRY

Oh, we are.

DENISE

Yes; we're deeply gladdened by your loss.

JERRY

Anytime a human dies, the result is a net positive for the world. And with Alec, the benefit is like having two or three normal people die.

SAM

(unsure)

I... I'm not sure you should be talking like that here...

DENISE

I hope it doesn't offend you. We just assumed that, given how awful of a person he was and how miserably he treated you, you'd be happy that he died.

SAM

No, no, I'm not offended. I get it. He just seemed... sorry at the end, I guess.

DENISE

Being sorry doesn't make up for what someone's done in the past. Don't let him off the hook like that.

SAM

Right. I just... in case anyone who cared about him overhears you.

JERRY

... You think someone cared about Alec?

BRENT

I cared about him.

JERRY

Really?

BRENT

Well... I felt like someone should say that.

DENISE

And, at the end of his life, after all the resources he used and wasted, after all the things he's done, what does he have to show for it? What was the point?

They look toward the front of the funeral home, where Alec's ashes rest.

BRENT

... Was someone supposed to do something with his ashes?

SAM

Um... I don't know. I thought I saw Rick leave... surely they don't want me to take them, right? I don't want them. I'm sure someone will take care of them. Let's go before someone tries to make me take them.

INT. RICK'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

An amazing array of foods are laid out, but there are no guests. Rick answers the door and lets Sam and Brent in.

RICK
Welcome. Come on in.

SAM
Thanks. Anyone else here?

RICK
Just me.

Brent immediately digs into the food.

SAM
Where's Laura?

RICK
She had an appointment. A hair... here... she wishes she could be here.

BRENT
Have you told him?

RICK
Told me what?

BRENT
Let's just say she's eating for three.

RICK
Uh...

SAM
I'm pregnant.

RICK
... Congratulations! That's wonderful!

SAM
They think it's twins. We're very excited. Very nervous.

RICK
Twins! Wow! That'll be quite a handful. That's truly wonderful...

They continue their joyous and friendly conversation.

INT. SAM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Sam enters. She spots the envelope on the counter from Alec. She tears it open and pulls out the letter.

ALEC (V.O.)

Dear Sam... you are an amazing person, the woman I always wanted and the woman I never deserved. Now that I'm dying, I want to leave some legacy; I don't want to be forgotten. So this letter is the last thing I leave this world with. I feel like my life is unfinished, like I'm being cut off before I compl --

She sighs, crumples the letter up, tosses it in the trash can, and exits.

BLACKOUT

INSERT TITLE

ROLL CREDITS