

Love and the Art of Placement

by  
Angela M. Giorgio

Revisions by  
John D. McMahon

Current Revisions by  
Angela M. Giorgio 4th Draft 08.2011

WGA #1539907  
Fruit & Nut Productions  
269 S. Beverly Dr. #1125  
Beverly Hills, CA 90212  
310.600.6509

FADE IN

INT. SAN FRANCISCO, LARGE LOFT APARTMENT - AFTER MIDNIGHT

The camera starts at the cover of a book sitting on a night stand. The title of the book is 'The Principles and Applications of Feng Shui'.

Coming up to eye level the camera begins to meander throughout the spacious loft, down the hallway, past the kitchen and into the living room.

There are boxes everywhere.

The camera stops moving and focus' across the large living room. The back wall is all glass and in the center are sliding door panels which lead out on to an equally large patio space.

We see ALEX PARKER on the patio, she's clearly on her cell (headset) and paces while in conversation. Off in the distance is an amazing view across the Mission District.

*Alex is turning 30 in a few days. She's about 5'7" tall with shoulder-length sandy brown hair. Alex has an average build is slightly athletic and toned. She's naturally attractive (think Drew Barrymore).*

Alex paces in jeans and a T-shirt. She is barefoot.

Silhouetted and sitting at the glass door-wall we see her two cats, OSCAR and FELIX.

The camera begins to move again and pushes its way strait through the glass and onto the patio, we are now privy to Alex's conversation.

ALEX

(on the phone)

Yes, I know. I'll be there.

Pause

I'm rearranging my living room furniture before I start unpacking.

Pause

It's really interesting. Besides I'm desperate! I'll do anything to meet someone interesting!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Pause

The basics; funny, intelligent, no drama! What every girl is looking for really.

She giggles.

And charming guy...

Alex leans against the metal railing and takes a long look out and across the city. She sighs at the amazing view.

ALEX

I think it's time I moved on.

Pause

YES! I should have listened to you! You are excellent at reading people, but I was in heavy admiration.

Pause

Yes. I was stupid!

Pause

It's late, I need to unwind and get some sleep.

Pause

No, they won't announce anything tomorrow, maybe Thursday.

Pause

Thank you! Then we'll have two things to celebrate! Love you Pea!

Alex ends the call and walks towards the door-wall. As she opens it the two cats make a break for it, she corrals them with her foot.

CUT TO:

INT. SAN FRANCISCO, LARGE LOFT APARTMENT - AFTER 2 A.M.

Alex walks across the dimly lit living room holding open her new Feng Shui book. She talks out loud to her cats.

ALEX

So this is the 'success' section. I'll set up my desk and home office here.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEX (CONT'D)

Oscar, what do you think?

The cat is completely dis-interested.

Alex takes a panning look around the living room. Most of the furniture has been arranged already. She smiles.

ALEX

It's amazing what a little book  
and two days of marathon shopping  
can accomplish.  
Do you think Felix will approve?

She looks around the room.

ALEX

Felix?  
Felix?

The fuzzy guy is sitting under her desk and looking at her like she's demented!

ALEX

(finally seeing him)  
There you are mister.

She reached under the desk and picks him up.

ALEX

So, honest opinions. What do you  
guys think?

Pause

I can tell you two are just  
thrilled! Well, get used to it  
because this is our new life!  
Complete with everything from new  
furniture to new possibilities.

ALEX

(under her breath)  
And hopefully a huge promotion  
too!

Alex reaches for her iPhone sitting on the granite counter top, she taps it and the time reads 2:16 AM.

ALEX

And on that note I am much overdue  
for some serious sleep.

End scene

FADE IN

INT. AD AGENCY - MORNING

The internationally known ad agency is located in downtown S.F. It takes up the upper half of a skyscraper; about 16 floors to be exact.

Alex works on the 29th floor which is nicknamed 'tough accounts'. As in most ad agencies the floor mostly consists of cubicles with window offices encircling the perimeter.

Alex occupies one of these offices. She is a Senior Art Director; the camera flows into her office (the door is wide open) where she is already at work on her computer.

Her office is cluttered to the point of ridiculous! Presentation boards, digital print outs, piles of graphic illustration manuals, strange toys and such clutter shelves. Advertising awards shoved in and around the clutter.

SUSAN and DAN, two of Alex's closest coworkers, enter her office briskly.

SUSAN

Hey Alex, good luck! I'm pulling for you!

Dan sets a STARBUCKS LATTE on her desk.

DAN

Me too! Get the hell off this floor! Four years... pure torture!

Alex reaches for the latte.

ALEX

(after taking a quick sip)

Thanks!

Pause

Haven't you been here 6 years?

DAN

(in a motherly tone)  
Sweetie, I was born to run this floor!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He pulls his eyeglasses down then looks over Alex sternly.

DAN  
You belong up on 30!

Alex's phone rings.

She reaches for it as Susan and Dan wave off and head quickly out of her office.

ALEX  
(on phone)  
Just got here...  
He most likely won't announce  
anything until Thursday.

Pause

Yes... John and Kristen are taking  
me out.  
I suppose...  
NO MOM!

Long pause

Stop worrying, I'm completely  
fine! Never been happier!

Pause

OK, I have to go. Tell dad I said  
"Hi".

Pause

MOM... I really have to go.

Alex swivels her chair and starts looking out the window and across the city.

I'll see you both on Sunday.  
Promise!!

Alex hangs up the phone and immediately gets back at her computer.

Dan pops his head back into her door.

DAN  
The mom?

Alex shakes her head.

ALEX  
Si!

Dan smiles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DAN

Just be thankful you still have  
yours kiddo! I think of mine every  
day!

Alex nods in agreement.

Alex's phone rings again. This time she recognizes the  
extension (upper offices, Katie, secretary to senior VP)  
and hits the SPEAKER BUTTON.

ALEX

(to the phone)

Yes.

KATIE

Hello Alex. Oliver wants to know  
if you are ready to go over the  
campaign with him before the  
clients arrive?

ALEX

Sure. I'll come right up.

KATIE

Thank you. I'll let him know  
you're on your way.

Dan gives the thumbs up!

DAN

This could be it!!

Alex grabs the stack of presentation boards off her desks  
and heads quickly out the door and past Dan. He quickly  
turns and follows.

She walks briskly towards the elevators.

DAN

(smugly but with  
love)

Don't forget us little people.

Alex hops into the elevator and pushes the executive  
suites button. She steps back and as the doors begin to  
close...

ALEX

(with a smile)

Never! You are all rock stars!!

CUT TO:

INT. ELEVATOR

Alex is staring at the buttons as they light from floor to floor. The overhead 'elevator music' is an instrumental version of Madonna's 'Holiday'.

A smile comes across Alex's face and she quickly bursts into her own version of 'the happy dance'.

The elevator reaches the Executive floor and as the doors open she's caught in mid hustle by KATIE (Executive floor receptionist).

Katie suppress laughter.

Alex quickly steps out of the elevator and towards Katie's desk.

ALEX

You did not see that!

KATIE

OK, whatever. But for what it's worth if I were you I'd be doing the exact same thing!

Alex smiles.

ALEX

I'm just happy to get this account off into a new direction.

KATIE

Take a seat, he's just finishing up a call.

Alex sits on the couch off to the side.

KATIE

You've had your hands full with this client!

ALEX

Indeed I have.

KATIE

I don't think you have anywhere to go but up... their last TV spots made no sense what-so-ever.

ALEX

It's been more of a battle than I've led on.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEX (CONT'D)

Many a private email exchange has occurred over the last six months.

She holds up the stack of digitally printed and mounted story boards so Katie can see a glimpse from a distance.

ALEX

I have to have faith that every email was worth it and that Mr. Jones and his son can agree to moving their advertising out of the dark ages and into the present then beyond and into the future.

A little excited she quickly flips to the last board.

ALEX

My team even started laying out all the ground work for a social networking platform.

Katie nods in a 'someone's a freak for their job' kinda nod.

Alex catches herself sliding into overenthusiastic mode, she takes a calming breath and sits back on the couch.

Katie sees that Oliver's line becomes free. She calls his line.

KATIE

(on phone)  
Alex is here.

She then gives Alex a nod.

KATIE

(to Alex)  
Go on in.

CUT TO:

INT. OLIVER'S OFFICE - MORNING

*Your A-Typical ad agency executive, OLIVER CHALMERS is about 55 years old. He's tall, thin and has greying hair. You can tell he was once handsome, he's aged quite well through the years and takes care of himself.*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

*He's the type of executive who backs the client when they don't care for an idea and who backs his art directors when a client loves one. Two-faced, NO, he's just very good at playing the advertising game!*

The double doors to his office are wide open, Oliver sees Alex approach and quickly gets up from behind his desk and meets her as she's entering.

He smiles at her like a father would to his own daughter.

OLIVER

Com 'mon in. Have a seat.

He gestures towards two nice chairs in front of his desk.

OLIVER

You want a coffee or anything?

ALEX

No, thank you. I've had a latte already.

Alex takes a seat and Oliver does so as well.

OLIVER

Before we go over your Axxis ideas I just wanted to thank you for another stellar performance with the Barneby campaign. John and Ross are very pleased! It's testing through the roof... a real home run!

ALEX

(with a huge smile)  
I'm glad it's turning out to be such a success... For everyone. Thank you.

OLIVER

They, we'll mostly Ross, never really gave us much to work with but he found your ideas truly refreshing.

He takes a drink of his coffee.

OLIVER

You have a gift Alex!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALEX

I could have gone farther too.  
Next years campaign.

OLIVER

Baby steps Alex. When dealing with  
older, established and ultra  
conservative brands it's all about  
little steps.

He leans back and smiles.

OLIVER

We're very proud of you.

ALEX

Thanks Oliver. It truly means a  
lot to me.

She sets the stack of presentation boards on the floor  
next to her chair.

ALEX

I just get so passionate with  
these older brands. We all grew up  
with them and kids. They make  
GREAT products.  
I'm not afraid to push the  
envelope but I also know that Rome  
wasn't built in a day so sometimes  
I just need to accept even the  
smallest amount of creative  
license.

OLIVER

Nor was any great ad campaign!

They both pause and take in the moment.

Oliver was always a mentor to Alex. He believed in her  
ideas and fought whenever he could. He encouraged her  
strengths and politely pointed out her weakness'.

OLIVER

I remember just six years ago when  
you were interning. You knew more  
about the technical aspects of  
computer design and layout than  
over half my highest paid Senior  
Art Directors.

ALEX

Oh... I remember too!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

OLIVER

Many of them took retirement or moved elsewhere within just a few years.

ALEX

Occasionally I run into one when about town. Just bumped into Bob, remember Bob from 'Corporate Accounts'?

OLIVER

The one who wanted to protest Apple because he thought they were trying to take over advertising?

ALEX

YES!

... Well, not only does he have two complete Mac desktop systems now, he's teaching a Photoshop class at his local community college.

Oliver shakes his head and starts to laugh.

OLIVER

Well, I'm happy for him!

ALEX

(with a laugh)

Me too!

There is a pause and Alex reaches down to retrieve her boards.

OLIVER

Hold on. Before we get to the boards...

I know you have a Birthday coming up later this week and well, there have been a lot of rumors floating around about who we are going to pick to fill Roger's position.

ALEX

(coyly)

Rumors? What rumors???

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

OLIVER

(with a wink)

So as an early present to you I am going to forego waiting until Friday to make the announcement. ... There is another rumor floating around that you will be too hung-over to come in any ways.

Alex tilts her head as if she's a little more than shocked this is happening now.

OLIVER

We'd like you to take over Roger's department. He'll be leaving for London in 4 weeks. It will give you plenty of time to hand off your clients and transition into taking over his.

Alex, overly excited, jumps up and reaches over the desk to shake his hand.

Oliver gets up, comes around the front of the desk and hugs her instead.

ALEX

Thank you! I'm speechless!

Oliver laughs.

OLIVER

Really? You?

Now Alex starts to laugh.

ALEX

Yeah, I guess that's pretty far fetched. ... why did I think this would happen in a more formal setting. Like in a board room with all the partners?

OLIVER

I really wanted to be the one who told you and all the other partners agreed. I was, after all, the one who met you on career day and offered you the internship.

Alex hugs him again.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ALEX

Thank you so much!

OLIVER

I can't think of a single person  
who deserves this more than you!

Alex looks down at her pile of presentation boards which  
during all the excitement have fallen over.

OLIVER

No need to see 'em!  
... I was in early and took a peek  
in your office.

(with a big smile)  
Simply brilliant! They will love  
the new direction!

She leans down and clumsily picks-up the boards; with a  
wide smile she bolts out of his office.

Oliver casually leans against his desk sipping his  
coffee.

CUT TO:

INT. RECEPTION DESK

Katie watches as Alex comes out of Oliver's office and  
down the hall briskly.

KATIE

(as Alex approaches  
the desk and with a  
smile)

Many congratulations!

Alex blushes.

ALEX

Thank you... I think I'm in shock!

Katie stands from the desk, approaches Alex and helps  
straighten the pile of boards in her arms.

KATIE

Just take a deep breath.

Alex closes her eyes briefly and takes a deep breath. She  
opens them then smiles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEX

I really wasn't expecting this today... I wasn't expecting to take over for Roger either.

She reaches for the elevator call button.

KATIE

Good things happen to good people.

The elevator doors open and Alex steps inside.

ALEX

(to Katie)

Thank you!

The doors close.

CUT TO:

INT. ELEVATOR

There is a CHIME then the doors open. Alex takes a deep breath.

CUT TO:

INT. AD AGENCY, 29TH FLOOR.

As she steps out everyone within eye shot starts applauding; she blushes. Obviously Katie sent a message down while Alex was in with Oliver.

Alex nods and smiles as she makes her way back to her office.

ALEX

Thank you!

Dan and Susan round the corner and follow Alex into her office.

DAN

I get dibs on your office!

ALEX

Oh really??

SUSAN

Congratulations Alex. Very well deserved!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEX  
Thank you both!

She pauses.

ALEX  
(sarcastically and  
with a smile)  
Now get out... I have to gather my  
thoughts and prepare for this  
presentation.

She points to the door.

Dan and Susan leave with smiles; Susan closes the door.

Alex rounds her desk and sits down. Then spontaneously  
she covers her mouth with both hands to suppress a scream  
of happiness!

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT BUILDING, LOBBY - EARLY EVENING

Alex walks across the lobby, her phone headset is on.

ALEX  
(on phone)  
Yeah, I know it's early.  
... um, I'm getting into the  
elevator. Might lose you.

She steps into the elevator as soon as the doors open.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT ELEVATOR

ALEX  
(on phone)  
We have to celebrate!

Pause

I'll start along side Roger on  
Monday but won't move officially  
until after the 30th.  
John???  
DAMN!!!

Alex hits re-dial.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEX

Seriously, you need to get a new phone.

Pause

I was saying I'll start along side Roger on Monday but won't move officially until after the 30th.

Pause

That would be great! We can do it over the weekend.

Pause

At first I just wanted dinner and drinks but now I think I want to go all out!

Pause

Yes! Why not!

Pause

So get over here as soon as possible so we can make plans.

The elevator reaches the 9th floor; the doors open and Alex steps out. It's only a few steps to her front door.

ALEX

(on phone)

Um, we could order in?

She unlocks then opens her door; slightly startled she starts to laugh. Standing inside her apartment and on his cell phone is her BFF, JOHN.

He smiles.

JOHN

Beat you to it.

He gestures towards a bag of take-out Chinese.

ALEX

HA!

She pulls her headset off.

ALEX

(with a laugh)

I think it's safe to hang up now.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

John ends the call on his end as he walks over to her; he gives her a hug.

ALEX

You should just move in already...  
or give me back my spare.

JOHN

(with a laugh)  
I don't think Kristen would  
approve.

ALEX

Touche!

JOHN

Any ways, she sends her best and  
cannot wait for your party!

ALEX

Aww! She's finally warming up to  
me!

John starts opening the bag of packed Chinese take-out.  
Both cats emerge; rub at Alex's feet for affection.

JOHN

She adores you!! ...plates or you  
just wanna eat from the  
containers?

ALEX

Out of the containers is fine. I  
still haven't unpacked everything.

John starts opening up various containers and setting  
them out on the counter. He takes a seat on one of the  
stools and motions for Alex to join him. John reaches for  
a bottle of wine, removes the cork and fills two glasses.

JOHN

Oh, and I love what you've done to  
the place so far!

Alex takes the other stool and reaches for a set of  
chopsticks.

ALEX

Thanks. I'm lacking a bit of sleep  
but I think it's been worth it!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JOHN

About the spare key. I thought I was your go to person incase you locked yourself out or needed someone to look in on the kids (referring to the cats)?

Alex laughs.

ALEX

You're right... keep the darn key!

John notices an open book on the counter and reaches for it.

He flips to the cover.

JOHN

So this is it?

ALEX

(reaching for the book)

Yes, Dan says it really does work!

JOHN

You and your fads! Too cute!

ALEX

I don't think so and already have proof!

Alex gestures across the room towards her home office area.

ALEX

Just last night I was working on this, my Career section and viola, today I get the big promotion!

John shakes his head.

JOHN

OK. I admit it looks very nice. I especially like the bookshelf but we all know you were the number one contender for that promotion!

ALEX

... I will admit I was the best choice for the job. Especially in-house. But no one expected Oliver to make an announcement today!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

John laughs then reaches for a spring roll.

JOHN

Whatever you say Alex-san.

The two cats continue to hover at their feet.

ALEX

The kids weren't too excited about the move. Felix didn't come out at all the first few days.

JOHN

(whispering towards  
Alex)

Actually... I don't think Felix is 'all there', if you know what I mean??

Alex smacks John on the arm.

ALEX

Be nice!

JOHN

Owww... brute!

ALEX

(with a laugh)  
Wuss!! ... OK, lets talk weekend plans. I want over the top, club hopping festivities!

JOHN

(pulling a folded  
piece of paper from  
his back pocket)  
I thought you might so I printed out the nightlife section from The Edge.

ALEX

Awww... you went Gay for me! I'm sure Kristen was thrilled?

She hugs him then grabs the paper from his hand.

JOHN

Only for you though! And yeah, Kristen might hate it a little.

Alex closes her eyes and tips her head back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ALEX

(opening her eyes  
back up)

Ugh! It's been almost a year now!

JOHN

I know.

ALEX

Even my own family is cool with  
who I am. GOD! My mom even tries  
to get me to go to functions with  
her at the center just so she can  
set me up!

JOHN

I know. Boy do I ever know.

ALEX

Besides, most of your friends are  
gay. Why do I feel singled out?

JOHN

(shrugging his  
shoulders)

I think it makes her a little  
uncomfortable at times, maybe even  
a little jealous. You and I are  
very close and her family is ultra  
conservative.

ALEX

Don't take this wrong sweetie but  
you are, by far, *the* most metro-  
sexual person I have ever met!  
Does she not notice this?

JOHN

Perhaps love truly is blind?

He reaches for another spring roll.

ALEX

Perhaps it is...

They both start laughing.

ALEX

OK, I'll dial down the 'gay  
factor' this weekend what with you  
being so in love with her and  
everything.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

John reaches for the wine bottle and adds to their glasses.

CUT TO:

EXT. GOLDEN GATE PARK, JAPANESE TEA GARDEN - DAY

Australian art student NICKI, born and raised in Melbourne sits at a table with fellow student PHILLIP.

He's a local and the two of them became friends quickly.

Nicki is stateside for a one year exchange between art colleges; both she and Phillip major in photography.

PHILLIP

I absolutely love it here! This place always brings back fond memories.

Nicki takes in the lush gardens, huge trees with paper lanterns strewn about and the pagoda tea house.

NICKI

It is quite lovely. So you've come often?

Phillip snacks on rice crackers then takes a sip of his green tea.

PHILLIP

As a child my mother would bring me almost every afternoon. She'd meet with a friend or two who also had small children. Some days it was just us. So coming here is warm and nurturing to me.

NICKI

I have a similar place back home. It's a sweet shop... you'd say bakery I believe.

Phillip holds up his camera, focus' in on a grouping of hanging lanterns and takes a stream of rapid shots.

PHILLIP

I must have hundreds of shots taken all around these gardens and ponds.

...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PHILLIP (CONT'D)

There is a great gallery in China Town I try to get to at least once a month. Great space and some amazing shows over the years. We should go tomorrow night?

NICKI

Can we make it Saturday night instead? My flat mates want to go out to the clubs.  
... I'm in need of serious girls night out. It's been too long.

She takes a sip of her tea.

NICKI

You should join us?

PHILLIP

(with a bit of a laugh)

Not sure if you've noticed Nick but I'm not one of the girls and if memory serves most of the clubs won't let guys in at all.

NICKI

Finicky American clubs.

She thinks for a moment.

NICKI

Perhaps a mixed club? You know of any good ones? I could mention it to my mates.

PHILLIP

(with a wink)

Pulse!!! You'll love it.

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT BUILDING, ALEX'S LOFT - FRIDAY 6 PM

Alex is quickly exiting her place while on the phone with John; she grabs a money/cash clip along with her license and keys then slides them into her jeans pocket.

ALEX

(on phone)

I'm heading down right now.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Pause

No. I finished unpacking last night. Then worked on the kitchen.

Pause

Yes, following the layout I liked.

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT BUILDING, STAIR WELL

ALEX

Funny!! Lets hit some stores along the way.

Pause

We have plenty of time. Besides you and I both know everyone, with the exception of James and Robert, will arrive a few minutes late. ...That's the MUNI for ya!

Pause

Yeah, see you in a minute.

She hands up the phone.

Alex reaches the ground level and quickly opens the door to the lobby. She cuts across the room and is outside within seconds.

John's car is parked in the loading zone right in front; the top is down. He sees her and smiles.

JOHN

(loudly)  
You look fabulous darling!  
Happy Birthday!!

She opens the passenger door and slides in. Leans over to hug and kiss John on the cheek.

ALEX

(blushing)  
For the sixth time today... and I feel fabulous!

John checks for then merges back onto the street.

JOHN

Well, I'm sure the mom and dad called you more.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEX

Actually... only three times so far!

JOHN

(with a laugh)  
The night is still young!

ALEX

Yes it is but I think I'll let everything go to voice mail. I'm pretty beat, this birthday stuff isn't for the weak!

JOHN

Second wind time!!

ALEX

Oh, I feel it coming!

Alex stretched her arms out and points through the windshield.

ALEX

Strait to Mecca!

JOHN

(correcting her)  
We say 'gayly forward' sweetie!

She laughs at his quick witted remark.

ALEX

I stand corrected, gayly forward!!!

Camera pulls back behind car to expose wide-angle shot down beautiful Castro street.

CUT TO:

INT. MR. & MRS. PARKER'S HOME - EARLY EVENING

Lou and Vivian Parker (Alex's parents) hover over a laptop on the dining room table.

They have FACEBOOK open to Alex's 'wall' and are reading through some of the birthday well wishes.

VIVIAN

Oh Lou, remember Samantha?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LOU  
(nodding)  
Real sweet girl! Glad they  
remained friends.

VIVIAN  
(scrolling down  
further)  
And Christina too!

LOU  
Yes. I really liked her. One of my  
favorites! Thought those two would  
hit it off for sure.

Vivian starts to type.

LOU  
Now we promised we wouldn't  
embarrass her if she let us be  
friends with her. So keep it short  
and simple Viv.

VIVIAN  
I know, I know.

She types, then deletes a word or two. Ads <3 at the end  
then decides to remove that too.

Lou leans over Vivian's shoulder then gives his approval  
with a nod.

LOU  
Perfect dear! Not smothery at all.

Vivian hits the ENTER key and posts the message.

CUT TO:

CLOSE-UP OF FACEBOOK MESSAGE

'Wishing our lovely daughter a wonderful 30th birthday.  
We are so proud of you and hope you meet someone new  
soon! Love mom and dad'

CUT TO:

EXT. CASTRO STREET - EARLY EVENING

Alex and John walk briskly down the street heading towards the restaurant; Alex's attention diverts towards a book store/GLBT gift shop.

John glances over to realize she has stopped walking and turns back; just as he reaches her she grabs him and pulls him inside.

ALEX

I want to buy something of a party favor for everyone.

JOHN

We should speed things up. Kristen and some of the others might already be waiting.

Alex doesn't take her eyes off the oodles of trinkets sprawled about the book shop/GLBT gift shop; she's searching for something unique.

ALEX

Text her. We're only a few blocks away. Oh, and it is MY birthday... they'll wait.

Alex looks back towards John and winks; he pulls out his cell and starts typing.

She then looks towards a display that catches her eye; club necklaces (ones that light up or glow neon).

Alex walks over to the counter and starts to examine the items. Some are a little fancy, almost artsy.

Without hesitating she starts counting off necklaces.

ALEX

This is perfect!

John walks over.

JOHN

Screams "party over here" to me!

ALEX

How many should I get?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN

Well, you are kinda popular thus  
if everyone we've invited shows  
up...

(he thinks for a  
moment)

I'd guess eight to ten.

Alex looks for a moment at the handful she already has;  
she grabs four more.

ALEX

OK. This should do it.

She gestures towards the sales associate to ring her up.

CUT TO:

EXT. MECCA RESTAURANT - EARLY EVENING

Kristen hovers outside playing with her phone as Alex and  
her boyfriend John approach

She is a very attractive, petite long haired brunette;  
she's wearing a brightly colored spaghetti-strap cocktail  
dress and wedge heels.

KRISTEN

Hey cutie!

She kisses John; looks over towards Alex then extends a  
warm hug.

KRISTEN

Happy Birthday Alex!

JOHN

How long?

KRISTEN

They said about 30 minutes twenty  
minutes ago.

She wraps her arms around John.

ALEX

Damn tourists.

She winks at John and Kristen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN

Curse you tourists!! Invading our home! Birthday festivities delayed...

ALEX

Well, at least the 'happy hour' part of the festivities.

KRISTEN

We can go to the bar and order drinks before everyone else gets here.

John quickly heads towards the door and opens it for the girls.

JOHN

We are all over that my dear!

The three of them enter the restaurant.

CUT TO:

INT. MECCA RESTAURANT - EARLY EVENING

Alex, John and Kristen sit at a huge booth with an extra table added for additional seating.

Alex's friends gather.

CUT TO:

INT. MECCA RESTAURANT - EARLY EVENING

Quick montage of friends arriving, greeting one another and most importantly, greeting Alex.

CUT TO:

INT. MECCA RESTAURANT - EARLY EVENING

TONI

(kissing Alex on each cheek)

Happiest of birthdays my dear!

ALEX

Thank you! You look great!!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TONI

It's what happens when you date a personal trainer.

ALEX

Still with Marisa. Nice!

Toni blushes.

TONI

Yep. And wait for it... we've U-Hauled already too.

She and Alex both start to laugh.

ALEX

That's awesome. Congratulations to you.

CARRIE

(joining in)

Yeah Toni that's awesome. But did you hear what birthday girl accomplished this week??

Toni looks towards Alex, perplexed.

ALEX

...I got a monster promotion!

Toni, Carrie and Alex all scream at the same time.

CUT TO:

INT. MECCA RESTAURANT, OPPOSITE END OF TABLE - EARLY EVENING

At the opposite end of the table sits John and Kristen.

JOHN

(to Kristen)

Cats out of the bag.

MARISA walks up.

MARISA

(to John)

Hi, I'm Marisa. You must be John.

JOHN

That be me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She shakes his hand then goes for Kristen's.

MARISA

So that makes you Kristen. Right?

KRISTEN

Yes. Nice to meet you Marisa.

Marisa sits at their end of the table then glances towards the other end; Toni sees her and waves her over.

MARISA

(to John and Kristen)

I'll be back. Save these seats for  
Toni and I.

John nods; Marisa walks to the other end of the table. Toni extends her hand which Marisa takes. She then hugs Alex.

MARISA

Happy Birthday!

ALEX

Thanks! And congratulations...  
Toni told us the news.

MARISA

Yeah. We decided that after two  
years of on-and-off, back-and-  
fourth we should just do it!

ALEX

(starting to laugh)  
That would be an interesting  
campaign for NIKE.

Carrie, Toni, Marisa join Alex in laughter.

CUT TO:

INT. MECCA RESTAURANT, OPPOSITE END OF TABLE - EARLY  
EVENING.

JOHN

(to Kristen)

Alex making gay advertising jokes  
again.

Off in the distance John sees SUSAN and MARIE looking around the crowded restaurant; he stands and waves to catch their attention.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They see him and head over.

Alex sees them approaching too and breaks from the other three to meet them.

Hugs all around!

ALEX

(with a huge smile)

So amazing that you two have truly been able to make this 'friends' thing work.

Susan and Marie laugh.

SUSAN

I know, right!

Susan winks at Marie.

MARIE

It's more common than you think! Besides Susan was always my best friend first so we just decided to keep it that way.

SUSAN

And date other people.

MARIE

And talk to each other about it.

ALEX

Ewww. T.M.I. Ladies!

They start to laugh.

ALEX

There is NO way I could ever do the 'friends' thing with Lindsay! Never in a million years.

John over hears the 'L' word and scolds her from a distance.

JOHN

Hey! No 'L' word today.

Half the people in the restaurant turn to him and start to laugh and/or chuckle.

John blushes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KRISTEN  
(patting him on the  
leg)  
Feel free to crawl behind me and  
hide at anytime dear.

JOHN  
Thank you but your too tiny.

He kisses her gently; they hold hands. Alex watches from  
a distance, happy for her BFF.

She continues her conversation with Susan and Marie as  
they walk to her table.

SUSAN  
Busted!!

ALEX  
It's been quite a while since I'd  
even mentioned her name. Freudian  
slip I guess.

They reach the table; Alex winks at John and Kristen.

SUSAN  
Special occasions bring up the  
memories.

JOHN  
(to Susan)  
OK counselor lay off the Birthday  
Princess.

More hugs all around. Susan and Marie sit down and Alex  
walks back to the other end of the table.

MARIE  
Hey John, Kristen. Thanks for the  
invite. We haven't seen Alex since  
Pride!

JOHN  
We've all been so busy and now  
she's received a huge promotion.

Marie looks down toward Alex.

MARIE  
The point where our careers take  
over our life...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JOHN  
I know... it sucks.

CUT TO:

INT. MECCA RESTAURANT, OPPOSITE END OF TABLE

Alex opens the bag from the gift shop and starts handing out cheesy necklaces; one by one they are turned on and glow various colors.

A few get handed down towards John and Kristen; he accepts two and hands one to Kristen.

KRISTEN  
Here we go...

CUT TO:

EXT. PULSE NIGHT CLUB - NIGHT

Alex and her group of friends stands outside in a briskly moving line as everyone pays to enter the club. They look like a cult all wearing the light-up necklaces.

ALEX  
Tonight I just want to dance and  
dance and dance!!!

JOHN  
(to Kristen)  
Call the agency and cancel the  
entertainment.

Alex lovingly punches John in the arm while the other's laugh.

ALEX  
What??

JOHN  
Joking my dear!

ALEX  
You better not!

John gestures as if to say 'you got nothing to worry about'.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN

(to Susan)  
So I gather everyone at the agency  
was pulling for our Alex?

SUSAN

Totally! And it's about time too!

Alex blushes at the compliment.

MARIE

Susan called me as soon as she  
found out. ... Yeah, I did the  
Snoopy dance!

ALEX

(laughing)  
Right there in your office?

MARIE

Actually I was on my way into  
court and YES, I did the dance  
right in the hallway!

Everyone privy to the conversation start to laugh.

The group shifts closer to the door.

ALEX

(to John)  
And for the record I don't need  
your help getting a date.

JOHN

Whatever you say Birthday  
Princess.

MARISA

(laughing)  
Don't forget to check their I.D.

Everyone totally gets that 'jab' and start to laugh.

ALEX

You met her! ... Did she look like  
she was 17???

CARRIE

(grabbing and hugging  
Alex)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CARRIE (CONT'D)

The perfect dinner One Hundred and twenty dollars, coffee and desert afterwards twenty-four dollars, finding out that your date is twelve years younger than you...

JOHN, KRISTEN, TONI AND SUSAN

(in unison)

And Illegal!

CARRIE

Priceless!!!

More laughter from everyone. Alex then realizes they are finally at the club entrance and that the BOUNCER has heard most of the conversation.

Alex just shakes her head.

BOUNCER

(to Alex)

It's happened to many of us doll.  
Still beats Internet Dating.

EVERYONE MOANS!

BOUNCER

It's twenty bucks a head.

Alex turns back towards her posse.

ALEX

It's on them! Today's my birthday!

CUT TO:

INT. PULSE NIGHT CLUB, MAIN BAR - EVENING

The place is upscale with a mixed 'trendy-looking' crowd.

Dan (from the Ad Agency) and his beau JASON are at the bar awaiting their drinks.

The bartender uncaps a bottle of STELLA ARTOIS; sets it on to a black napkin then out of view puts the finishing touches on the second drink.

When he sets it on the bar napkin Dan cannot believe his eyes.

The mixed cocktail Jason has ordered is overflowing with cocktail umbrellas and various garnishes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAN

Seriously?? What is that called again?

Both men pick up their drinks.

JASON

(after a quick sip  
from the straw)

A 'Happy Ending'. Wanna taste?

Dan shakes his head 'NO'.

DAN

Sweetie we've been dating for almost a year now and I have NEVER seen you order something like this before.

He notices Alex and her other friends entering the club off in the distance and starts to wave towards her.

DAN

(without looking away  
from Alex but  
speaking to Jason)

Who are you and what have you done with my boyfriend?

Jason notices what he's looking at (Alex and friends) and starts to wave to them as well.

JASON

Just something different... you should try it some time.

Dan turns towards Jason; a little more serious.

DAN

Your drink or something different?

Dan is clearly the 'sensitive' of the two. Jason reaches for his hand.

JASON

Sweetie, you do love your routines and I love that you have them.  
... I'm just suggesting you open yourself up, once in awhile, to new things.

Dan looks at his STELLA. Then he looks at Jason's obnoxious drink.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

He slightly rolls his eyes.

DAN  
(with a sigh)  
OK, let me try it.

Jason quickly offers his drink to Dan; Dan sips from the straw.

JASON  
Well? It's amazing isn't it??

DAN  
It's very sweet.  
...They should call it 'Never  
Ending Sugary Mess'.

Dan winces and washes the taste away with more beer.

JASON  
Well, I'm glad you tried it.

Dan rolls his eyes a bit then leans in and kisses Jason.

DAN  
Call me old fashioned, I prefer my  
beer or a glass of wine.

Jason smiles and squeezes Dan's hand.

Alex and the rest of her posse arrive; seeing Dan and Jason don't have free hands she leans in and kisses cheeks.

DAN  
OK birthday girl. First drinks on  
us. What do you desire?

Alex is immediately drawn to the drink in Jason's hand.

ALEX  
(referring to Jason's  
drink)  
Definitely NOT that!

Jason frowns.

ALEX  
I'll have a glass of white wine.

She reaches over to Jason and rubs his arm.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ALEX  
 Sorry sweetie, it just screams  
 LUAU to me... can't do it.

Marie notices Jason's drink.

MARIE  
 (excited)  
 Is that a 'Happy Ending'?

Jason nods 'YES'.

MARIE  
 (singing)  
 I know what I'm having!!!

Marie heads strait for the bar on a mission; Susan smiles  
 and follows.

CUT TO:

EXT. PULSE NIGHT CLUB, PRIVATE CABANA

The back of the club has an open-air courtyard encircled  
 with eloquently furnished cabanas.

Alex and her posse hang out chatting, listening to the  
 music and going off in small groups to dance or explore.

A waitress approaches with a tray containing another  
 round of drinks and behind her another waiter carrying a  
 birthday cake.

Alex notices and rolls her eyes.

ALEX  
 GUYS!!!

The waitress sets the cake down onto the large coffee  
 table in the center of their cabana; Susan immediately  
 pulls out a lighter and lights the candle.

ALEX  
 Just what I wanted... more cake!

She laughs.

ALEX  
 (looking towards  
 John)  
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEX (CONT'D)

And you wondered why I've moved  
and have been working out so much  
lately... Cake season!

Kristen pulls from her bag a card and hands it to John;  
he in turn slides it in front of Alex.

JOHN

It's from all of us.

He gestures towards the cake.

JOHN

Make a wish first...

Alex closes her eyes, makes a wish then blows out the  
candle.

She reaches for the card and quickly opens it. Inside is  
a generous Crate & Barrel gift card.

ALEX

(Overjoyed)

Thank you! This is really awesome!

SUSAN

It will help you make good use out  
of that book!

ALEX

Very generous guys, thanks and YES  
Susan it will and you can help me  
spend it!

CARRIE

What book are you guys talking  
about?

ALEX

Oh, Susan and Dan gave me a book  
on Feng Shui when I moved and they  
SWEAR it will help restore order  
to my life... which is apparently  
engulfed in chaos.

JASON

I have a friend who swears by it!  
Do it honey!

CARRIE

Oh now this ought to be good...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALEX

Well, I did get promoted quicker than expected... Maybe following the book had something to do with it? I do find it interesting and well, everyone here knows me and that If I could use anything right now it's a little bit of order in my life.

DAN

Oh sweetie you need more than order! We are all one breath away from performing an intervention on you!

Alex shoots Dan a look.

DAN

Tough love!  
... You work almost non stop and when you aren't working you're at the gym.  
... Time to start living your life sweetie!

Her friends all nod.

JOHN

Time will only tell but I personally believe you don't have anything to loose by trying it. I mean, what's with moving a few pieces of furniture around??

ALEX

Well, It's worked for billions of Chinese so I'm willing to give it a shot!

Alex holds her glass up.

ALEX

To the best friends anyone could ever ask for!

As everyone toasts Alex for her birthday JAMES and ROBERT (Alex's perpetually late friends) finally arrive.

Toni looks at her watch.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

TONI  
(towards James &  
Robert)  
Earlier than usual...

She winks at them.

ROBERT  
(air kisses towards  
Alex)  
Birthday loves my dear! Sorry we  
missed dinner... James FINALLY  
decided on wearing the poor-mans  
Armani.

Kristen looks perplexed; Dan defines.

DAN  
Kenneth Cole!

Kristen nods. She's a bright girl, new to learning 'gay  
lingo' but eager to fit in and learn.

ROBERT  
Which in turn influenced me into  
wearing this.  
(he poses along side  
James)  
Don't we make the cute couple??

Everyone either claps, nods or smiles in agreement.

JAMES  
Next rounds on us.  
(towards Alex)  
What you drinking sweetie?

ALEX  
White wine... and I'm pacing  
myself. I would like to remember  
this birthday!

TONI  
The last thing we need is a repeat  
of last year.

Robert and James wince.

ROBERT  
That bad huh?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

TONI

Well, let's just say we all got a little carried away.

Carrie, Marisa and Susan start to laugh.

JOHN

If memory serves I was the one doing the carrying! Had to see a chiropractor for weeks afterwards too!

ALEX

(blushing)  
That's right! You did have to carry me out of there!

JOHN

(shaking his head)  
And up to your apartment!

He pauses.

JOHN

Four flights!!

The waitress approaches to take another drink order.

WAITRESS

Another round?

JAMES

(Handing his credit card to the waitress)  
Start a tab. On me and we'll have a bottle of Prosecco. The Cartizze please.

WAITRESS

(a little befuddled)  
I'll check with the bar.

JAMES

(with a wink)  
I know Dominic, the owner. He stocks it for me.

WAITRESS

Very well. I'll be right back.

CUT TO:

EXT. PULSE NIGHT CLUB, ENTRY - LATE NIGHT

Nicki and Phillip stand in a short line in front of the club. It's to capacity and the bouncer cannot let anyone new in until someone leaves.

PHILLIP

It's getting pretty late. I'm sure we can walk a few blocks and get into plenty of other places.

NICKI

We're here. I don't mind waiting.

PHILLIP

I need a beer!

NICKI

Me too! But there's only a few people ahead of us. I have a good feeling. Besides, you said this was the best mixed crown.

The bouncer watches a group of four people exit the club. He motions for the line to move forward then dis-connects the velvet rope.

The two in front of Nicki and Phillip reach in their pockets for cash.

BOUNCER

(shaking his head NO)

It's after midnight. Just go have fun.

He lets them then Nicki and Phillip into the club before putting the velvet rope back up.

Phillip reaches for the door handle and lets Nicki in ahead of him.

CUT TO:

INT. PULSE NIGHT CLUB, MAIN BAR

Nicki and Phillip nudge their way through bodies up to the bar.

A bartender's eyes meet Phillips.

PHILLIP

Two STELLAS please!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The bartender nods and as he's reaching for and uncapping the bottles Phillip is pulling cash from his pocket.

NICKI

I'll get the next round!

CUT TO:

EXT. PULSE NIGHT CLUB, PRIVATE CABANA - LATE NIGHT

Half the cabana is empty, some of the group is on the dance floor.

JAMES

Congrats on the promotion too!  
Parents must be proud!

JOHN

You have no idea! Their living  
room is practically a shrine to  
Alex and her brother Andrew.

MARISA

I thought Lindsay was the one who  
had the shrine?

There is chuckling amongst the group; Alex just shakes her head.

JOHN

She did and it was pretty freaky.

JAMES

Oh my god! I almost forgot about  
that. What ever happened to her?

ALEX

(looking at best  
friend John and  
being cautious)  
Last I heard she moved east, New  
York. I think she's with someone  
else.

JOHN

Poor girl, whoever she is.

ALEX

I thought she was a great girl.  
Quite a catch.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN

So is herpes!

SUSAN

She was a catch if you like psychos with baggage!

MARISA

On 'Air Lindsay' you are allowed one piece of emotional baggage, the rest must be checked!

Alex gets up.

ALEX

Enjoy your laughs, I'm going to dance!

Just then Robert, Carrie and Susan bound up to Alex and drag her off to the floor; she turns back and winks.

CUT TO:

EXT. PULSE NIGHT CLUB, OUTSIDE DANCE FLOOR

Nicki and Phillip set their bottles down on a ledge along the back wall then start to dance.

The floor is somewhat crowded but they find a nice open space.

Nicki immediately notices Alex and her friends; hard not to they are all wearing cheesy, blinking necklaces.

NICKI

(Loudly to Phillip)  
Is it always this crowded.

PHILLIP

(loudly)  
YES!

CUT TO:

EXT. PULSE NIGHT CLUB, OUTSIDE DANCE FLOOR

Alex and her friends are still having a great time dancing.

Toni notices Nicki checking out Alex; she moves in close to Alex.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TONI  
(into Alex's ear)  
Hey! Look over there!

Toni nods in the direction of Nicki and Phillip; Alex takes a look.

ALEX  
I hope she's the escort John paid!

She and Toni start to laugh; Alex looks again. More sincere this time.

TONI  
(into Alex's ear)  
She's totally checking you out!

Alex blushes.

ALEX  
Really? You think.

Toni pushes her in Nicki's direction.

TONI  
Go find out!

Alex rolls her eyes yet feels confident after 4 glasses of wine.

She turns and is suddenly face to face with John; they bump into one another awkwardly. They both laugh.

JOHN  
(screaming over the  
music)  
I'm sorry. I thought you saw me.

ALEX  
(screaming over the  
music)  
It's OK!

She pauses.

ALEX  
(screaming over the  
music)  
Everyone seems to be having a  
great time.

He shakes his head.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOHN  
(screaming over the  
music)  
It's your party... are you having  
a great time?

She smiles.

ALEX  
(screaming over the  
music)  
Yes. And I'm going to try to make  
it even better.

John is perplexed a moment. Alex nods past him and  
towards Nicki.

He sees the girl Alex is referring to and starts to  
laugh.

JOHN  
(screaming over the  
music)  
Go get her tiger!

Alex winks at him then continues dancing but in the  
direction of Nicki.

Nicki and Phillip both notice Alex approach; Phillip  
steps out of the picture.

With wine for encouragement Alex moves in fairly close to  
Nicki.

ALEX  
(screaming over the  
music)  
Hi!

NICKI  
(screaming over the  
music)  
Hi to you!

Nicki touches Alex's light up necklace.

NICKI  
(screaming over the  
music)  
What's with the necklace?

CUT TO:

EXT. PULSE NIGHT CLUB, PRIVATE CABANA - LATE NIGHT

Phillip and Nicki have joined Alex and her group of friends in the cabana; it's almost two A.M.

Alex is a little inebriated but clearly fixated on Nicki.

JASON

OK, this one's for James.  
... Would you rather A, wear a used suit from a resale shop or B, a new suit but a polyester blend from Sears.

Everyone's laughing; James looks in shock.

He then smiles and answers with wit...

JAMES

It depends... is the resale shop suit 'Vintage Prada?'

The group laughs more and Jason realizes he's been bested.

JASON

You raise an excellent question.

Toni butts in.

TONI

No fashion, no divas, nothing illegal! OK James, your turn.

James glances around at the group in his presence and stops at the Aussie invited by Alex.

JAMES

(pointing at her)  
Nicki, right?

She nods; then takes another drink of her STELLA.

JAMES

(thinking of the perfect question)  
What unique talent do you possess?

The patio lights flicker off then on; LAST CALL.

Alex thinks about his question then looks about the group.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEX

Does anyone happen to have a pen  
and a piece of paper?

CUT TO:

EXT. ALEX'S APARTMENT BUILDING, LOBBY - ALMOST 3 AM

John is helping walk Alex into the lobby of her apartment building; she's slumped over, barely walking on her own.

Parked at the curb is John's car, Kristen is in the drivers seat.

It's a nice summer evening so the top is down. As he uses Alex's keys to unlock the door he turns back to the car.

JOHN

(to Kristen)

I'm just going to take her up and  
put her in bed.

Kristen smiles.

KRISTEN

Take your time, get her in safe.

Kristen bends the rear-view mirror down and checks her hair.

Alex moans.

JOHN

Almost home Birthday Princess!

They reach the elevator; John pushes the button to call it down.

Alex's head is buried in Johns chest.

ALEX

(muffled)

Best birthday ever!

John chuckles a bit.

JOHN

I'm glad!! ... And it looks as if  
you've met a new friend!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEX  
(muffled)  
Yeah. And she was fun!!!

She pauses.

ALEX  
Did I get her number?

The elevator arrives; it's doors open. They shuffle inside and John selects the button to her floor.

As the doors close John lifts Alex's head up by her chin.

Written (poorly) in PEN across Alex's forehead is what looks like a random group of letters and numbers, all backwards!

JOHN  
(shaking his head and  
suppressing a laugh)  
I'm pretty sure you did!  
... Interesting talent she had.

Alex just blinks then smiles up at John.

The elevator CHIMES and the doors open.

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT BUILDING, ALEX'S BEDROOM - ALMOST NOON

The room is dark, the blinds are drawn closed.

There is a BUZZING sound coming from Alex's cellphone which sets on the night stand. It lights-up, vibrates and buzzes until it slides off the night stand and onto the floor.

Oscar and Felix run up to the phone. It stops buzzing.

CLOSE-UP on the cell. It's a silly photo of Alex's parents and listed as 'Mums and Daddio'.

The light goes out.

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT BUILDING, ALEX'S BATHROOM - AFTER NOON

Silhouette of Alex as she turns on the light, moans and walks to the sink.

She's wearing an oversized T-shirt and her hair is a complete mess. Alex turns on the faucet and looks into the mirror.

CLOSE-UP of Alex's facial expression. It's puzzlement at first then she cracks a smile. The camera pulls away enough to show her entire head.

There, written backwards (which in a mirror reads forward) on her forehead is 'Nicki 415 645 1195'.

Alex turns off the water then walks back out of the bathroom. She exits the frame and returns a few seconds later with her cellphone in hand.

She looks in the mirror again and takes a photo of her forehead then sets her cellphone down, turns the water back on and proceeds to splash cold water on her face.

CUT TO:

INT. MR. & MRS. PARKER'S HOME - AFTERNOON

Alex is sitting on her parents living room couch; her mother Vivian hands her a BLOODY MARY then takes a seat beside her. Her father Lou is already seated at her other side.

While most young gay people yearned for acceptance and understanding Alex's family offered it up by the truck load!

Her older brother Andrew not only 'had her back' but founded the Tolerance Society at their high-school and her parents joined and became prominent members of the local P Flag.

Everything Alex did or more importantly who she dated was very much in the house-hold spotlight.

Alex smiles knowing that although quite bizarre she had to admit it was kinda cool and not to mention rocked being loved so much.

She takes a sip of the Bloody Mary then gazes upon a stack of wrapped presents that lay before her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Mr. Parker sporting his newest P Flag baseball hat (he's the captain of the team of course).

VIVIAN

So dear, tell us about your evening with your friends.

Alex begins to speak but is interrupted by her brother ANDREW and his wife STEPHANIE entering the room; wrapped gift in hand.

ANDREW

I knew it would be a Bloody Mary birthday!

Their mother gets up and heads towards the mini bar to pour two more glasses.

Alex is pretty tired still and can't believe she drove into Oakland for Bloodys, presents and family time.

Andrew and Stephanie snuggle in around Alex as mom brings their drinks; Andrew cannot wait for Alex to see his 'fun' gift!

He sets the small gift on her lap as Stephanie puts a smaller wrapped box on the pile in front of her.

ALEX

Guys!!! It's too much!

Andrew pokes at the wrapped item on her lap.

ANDREW

Open. Open. Open.

He smiles like a giddy boy.

Alex leans into him and whispers.

ALEX

I have a fierce hang over! Should be pounding REVIVE (The Vitamin Water)...

She rests her head on his shoulder.

VIVIAN

(gesturing to two gifts)

Sweetie, you open these then go take a nap on the hammock. The others can wait till after cake.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Alex smiles and with added energy starts unwrapping.

CUT TO:

EXT. PHILLIPS APARTMENT PATIO - AFTERNOON

Phillip, his room mate STEVEN and Nicki are hanging out on the patio.

Nicki keeps playing with her phone; Phillip notices.

PHILLIP  
(reaching for her  
phone)  
Put it down and step away...  
She'll call.

Nicki smiles.

NICKI  
She was cute, right?

PHILLIP  
Oh, absolutely adorable!

Steven smiles.

STEVEN  
(To Phillip)  
You didn't tell me Nick met  
someone???

Nicki blushes.

PHILLIP  
Yes. Our girl from down under met  
someone last night. I was there  
and witnessed first hand... there  
were sparks for sure!

Steven leans in for details.

STEVEN  
Com 'mon... gimme deets!!

Nicki puts her head down onto the table and covers herself with her arms.

NICKI  
(muffled)  
She hasn't even called yet.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

STEVEN

Oh my GOD, you didn't get her  
number!?!

He looks over to Phillip; Phillip shakes his head 'No'.

Steven reaches for a book of matches and lights a MEXICAN  
MADONNA candle (there are several on the patio).

STEVEN

I shall pray to the  
Madonna for you my  
dear.

NICKI

(muffled)  
Thank you.

CUT TO:

EXT. MR. & MRS. PARKER'S HOME - AFTERNOON

John and Kristen pull up in front of the house and get  
out of the car. John reaches in back and crabs a grocery  
bag. The walk up to the wooden side gate and enter the  
back yard.

Off in the distance and under a grouping of trees is  
Alex, sound asleep in the hammock.

JOHN

(to Kristen)  
I'm not surprised.

He reaches in the bag and pulls out a REVIVE vitamin  
water and hands it to Kristen.

JOHN

Wake up the birthday princess and  
give her this. I'll put the rest  
in the fridge.

They separate and Kristen walks out to Alex.

CUT TO:

EXT. MR. & MRS. PARKER'S HOME - EARLY EVENING

Everyone's seated around a large outdoor table; dinner is  
finished.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Vivian stands and starts to clear the table; Stephanie and Kristen get up to take over.

Stephanie takes a bowl and plate away from Vivian.

STEPHANIE

It's OK Mom, we've got it.

VIVIAN

Thank you girls.

Vivian sits back down and rejoins the conversation.

ANDREW

(leaning over to  
Alex)

While you were napping John mentioned you met someone last night??

Alex blushes. Lou and Vivian perk up a little in hopes their daughter will share some news.

Andrew looks across the table to John.

JOHN

Yeah, birthday princess did meet someone last night.

ALEX

Ugh... John! It's just a girl. She was really cute.

ANDREW

And...

Alex is still a bit shy.

ALEX

She was nice and we danced, talked a bit. Then she and her friend...

(drawing a blank)

Ummm...

JOHN

Phillip

ALEX

(with a smile)

Yes, thank you.  
She and her friend Phillip joined our group.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

John smiles...

JOHN

She gave Alex her number too.

Alex blushes again.

Vivian and Lou are very happy for their daughter.

Lou looks over to John.

LOU

Were there sparks?

ALEX

DAD!!

LOU

You know I believe in sparks!

Vivian smiles; Andrew drops his head onto the table.

LOU

There were sparks when I met your  
mother... still sparks every time  
I look at her.

Stephanie and Kristen return to clear the rest of the  
plates; John looks over to Alex.

JOHN

Well, sparks??

ALEX

Through the fog of champagne it's  
possible.

Alex is embarrassed enough, decides it's time to move  
away from this conversation.

ALEX

Please. Lets just light the cake.

Vivian nods to Lou who pulls a book of matches from his  
pocket.

ANDREW

(calling to Stephanie  
& Kristen)  
Cake and wishes!!

Vivian looks over to Alex.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

VIVIAN

Now don't wait too long to call  
her dear.

Lou starts lighting candles.

ALEX

(with a smile)  
I promise I won't.

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S CAR - LATE NIGHT

Alex sits in her car. She's parked inside the garage of  
her apartment building.

She sighs then looks at her phone.

ALEX

(to herself)  
Now or never...

CUT TO:

INT. NICKI'S APARTMENT - LIVING AREA

Nicki sits at a small desk in front of her laptop. She's  
looking at tons of photo thumbnails up on the screen.

Her cellphone starts to buzz and vibrate.

She reaches for her phone and answers.

NICKI

Hello?

When she hears who it is she smiles.

CUT TO:

EXT. PATIO OF A RESTAURANT - EARLY EVENING

Alex and Nicki sit at a table talking over dinner and  
drinks.

NICKI

I feel I've met everyone of your  
friends already!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEX

(laughing)  
And we were all completely  
ourselves!

NICKI

Wine will do that.

ALEX

Especially too much wine.

She sighs.

ALEX

I think it's fun to start on an  
awkward note.

NICKI

(laughing)  
More like a symphony!

They both laugh.

NICKI

I still can't believe I actually  
wrote my number on your forehead!  
So, so sorry...  
And for the record I NEVER thought  
you'd actually call me.

ALEX

It was funny! Very funny and quite  
clever.  
Had I not been hung-over It would  
have been hysterical!

Nicki smiles.

NICKI

Well, that makes me feel better.

ALEX

I would have called you no matter  
what happened that evening!

Alex reaches over and touches Nicki's hand.

NICKI

Bold.

Alex smiles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALEX

For you, yes.

CUT TO:

INT. JOHN AND KRISTEN'S PLACE - EARLY MORNING

John and Kristen lay in bed, face to face, staring into each others eyes.

There is a BUZZ from a cell phone on the night stand; without breaking eye contact John reaches behind him for the phone.

He then breaks eye contact from Kristen and looks at the screen. A moment later John reaches behind him and puts the phone back, he goes back to staring at Kristen.

She frowns.

KRISTEN

Still nothing.

JOHN

It was Kevin. Looking for a workout buddy.

KRISTEN

A bit early, even for you.

JOHN

Yeah.

Kristen smiles.

KRISTEN

Farmer's Market instead?

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT BUILDING, ALEX'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING.

Alex and Nicki are laughing in bed.

ALEX

(joking of course)  
Is it too late for me to say  
things are moving a bit fast?

Nicki laughs and kisses Alex on the neck.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NICKI

(muffled)

I feel the same. This is  
definitely special.

They kiss some more.

ALEX

Yeah. Quite special.

There's more laughter.

NICKI

I'm starving! Aren't you hungry?

ALEX

Totally! I hate to break this to  
you though...

Nicki gives her complete attention.

ALEX

I'm not much of a domestic  
goddess.

NICKI

(laughing)

I'm not expecting a Sunday brunch  
buffet.

ALEX

I wasn't offering one!

They laugh some more.

ALEX

Think I have granola, but no milk.

NICKI

Can only do soy.

ALEX

(thinking)

A true Brunch then? I know the  
perfect place too!

NICKI

OK. Exciting. ...shower first?

She kisses Alex again.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALEX  
Definitely!

CUT TO:

EXT. MISSION STREET, CASTRO DISTRICT - MORNING

Alex and Nicki are walking down the street heading toward one of several restaurants open for Sunday brunch.

Alex grabs Nicki's hand and twirls her around.

ALEX  
Nice fit!

NICKI  
Not really my style but it feels comfortable. Like you.

Alex blushes.

ALEX  
Well, you're rockin' it for sure!

As they walk past several restaurants with outdoor seating they come upon a restaurant that happens to have Marisa, Susan, Dan and Jason seated in plain view.

Susan notices them soon.

SUSAN  
Well, well, well!

Alex notices they've been spotted and blushes.

They walk up to the railing which separates the outdoor seating from the sidewalk.

DAN  
Perfect example of 'people watching' paying off.

JASON  
Join us? We'll get two more chairs.

Alex looks to Nicki for her opinion.

NICKI  
If it's no bother.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARISA

We've just ordered our mimosas,  
haven't ordered food yet.

ALEX

OK.

She guides Nicki into the restaurant to join her friends.  
Susan grabs her cell and sends a quick text.

CUT TO:

EXT. MARKET STREET FARMER'S MARKET - MORNING

John and Kristen are perusing the vendors at the market.

His cell buzzes, John pulls it from his pocket and  
glances at an incoming text.

CLOSE UP of text from Susan reads:

AT RANDOLPH'S FOR BRUNCH. JUST SAW AND INVITED ALEX AND  
HER AUSSIE FRIEND TO JOIN US. FYI ;)

John smiles and shows the text to Kristen. He then copies  
and pastes it into another text.

CUT TO:

INT. MR. & MRS. PARKER'S HOME - MORNING

Lou and Vivian are preparing BLOODY MARYS for them and  
their brunch guests.

Lou's phone starts to vibrate on the counter. He glances  
at it, notices the text from John and quickly looks at  
the message.

He smiles then shows his wife. Lou starts to forward the  
text...

CUT TO:

EXT. RANDOLPH'S BISTRO, PATIO - MORNING

Marisa, Susan, Dan, Jason, Alex and Nicki are enjoying  
their brunch.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A third round of mimosas have been brought to the table.

SUSAN

So your finished in December?

NICKI

Yes. It will have been 6 years total. Having the opportunity to finish stateside has been amazing.

DAN

(to Alex)

What is it with you and photographers??

Nicki looks at Alex.

ALEX

John's a fairly successful photographer.

NICKI

Oh. Very nice.

DAN

Just a matter of time before he gets a top five cover.

NICKI

Fashion?

DAN

Yes. And he's got quite an eye.

Alex's phone buzzes and she glances at the screen. It's a text from her brother Andrew.

CLOSE UP of text from Andrew reads:

WAY TO GO SIS!!! :P

Alex just shakes her head then looks around the table for the texting bandit who started all this.

When her eyes meet Susan's, Susan winks. Alex gives a disapproving look!

CUT TO:

EXT. NICKI'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NOON

Alex and Nicki walk up the sidewalk to the doors.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEX

Thank you for a... memorable date.

Nicki laughs.

NICKI

Quite memorable indeed.

Alex sighs.

ALEX

So. December.

Nicki nods her head then looks down at the ground.

NICKI

December. I'm signed on for an exhibit in Melbourne. It opens in January.

ALEX

It's summer there, right.

NICKI

Yeah. It's summer. Weird timing.

Alex leans in and kisses Nicki goodbye.

ALEX

No such thing! Maybe it's perfect timing?

NICKI

Optimistic too! Perhaps I am lucky?

Pause

Call me when you get home.

ALEX

I will because on the way home I'll be thinking of the list of things I'd love to show or share with you.

Alex turns to walk away.

NICKI

I'd love that!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALEX

This is my home town and Fall is  
just around the corner.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE OF ACTIVITIES/DATES THROUGHOUT THE S.F. CITY:

CUT TO:

EXT. GIANT'S STADIUM - DAY

Alex, Nicki, John and Kristen at a S.F. Giants baseball  
game.

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT BUILDING, ALEX'S LOFT - DAY

Alex stands holding her Feng Shui book; she and Nicki are  
viewing an illustration of patio furniture layout.

Close-up on the technical illustration.

The camera pulls back to reveal the girls interpretation;  
crowded is an understatement!

ALEX

Hum

NICKI

Well, Something has to go!

CUT TO:

EXT. ART GALLERY - EARLY EVENING

Alex meets Nicki out front for a photography exhibit.

Nicki leans in and kisses Alex then they turn to enter  
the gallery; Nicki's friends Phillip and Steven wave from  
the window, Nicki blushes.

CUT TO:

INT. AD AGENCY, ALEX'S OFFICE - TWO MINUTES TILL 5 PM

Alex's assistant stands and takes notes as Alex is actually delegating creative work to two interns.

Alex finishes quickly and heads for the door; she almost crashes into Dan and Susan.

ALEX

Sorry guys. Gotta go, don't wanna be late.

Dan looks down at his watch as Alex rounds the corner headed for the elevators.

Close up on DAN'S WATCH shows the time at exactly 5:00!

DAN

(to Susan)

Never thought I'd see the day.

CUT TO:

EXT. CASUAL S.F. RESTAURANT, PATIO - NIGHT

Alex, Nicki, Toni, Marisa and Carrie are at a large table laughing and enjoying a nice meal.

CUT TO:

INT. CLOTHING STORE - NIGHT

Alex is on her cell with her parents as Nicki is in a dressing room trying on clothes.

ALEX

(on cell phone)

I've just been busy.

Pause

No, I'm not hiding her from you.

Pause

Nicki walks out of the dressing room; Alex, focused on the phone conversation, looks at Nicki briefly and simply nods that the outfit is 'OK'.

Nicki turns and walks back into the dressing room.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEX  
(on cell phone)  
Soon, I promise!

Pause

Very, very soon!

Pause

Nicki comes out of the dressing room again; Alex looks up from her call and in approval gives a huge smile then two thumbs up.

NICKI  
Well alright, someone likes little  
black dresses!

Alex WINKS at her.

ALEX  
(on cell phone)  
I'm LISTENING!!

Nicki turns and heads back into the dressing room.

CUT TO:

INT. POTTERY PAINTING STUDIO - DAY

Nicki and Alex paint pottery. There is a kids birthday party going on and Alex compares her sloppy work to the kids (which is better).

ALEX  
(laughing)  
I'm not as comfortable painting as  
I am with other mediums.

Nicki laughs then leaves the table to get more supplies.

As soon as Nicki is out of ear shot Alex starts looking at everyone else's work.

She eyes a little kids painted masterpiece at the next table. She and the BOY make eye contact.

ALEX  
I'll give you twenty bucks to  
trade?

The kid looks down at his piece then over to Alex's.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOY  
(without hesitation)  
Just give me the twenty bucks.

Alex reaches into her pocket.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOVIE THEATRE - AFTER MIDNIGHT

It's an old school movie theatre that's been newly renovated. On weekends it shows classics.

Sporadically people exit the theatre. Alex and Nicki walk out holding hands and laughing.

As they cross the street the camera pans out, the MARQUEE reads:

HALLOWEEN HORROR CLASSICS  
Karloff - Lugosi - Price  
Frankenstein - Dracula - The Fly

CUT TO:

EXT. JOHN AND KRISTEN'S PLACE, BACK PATIO - EVENING

A simple dinner for four with wine is on the covered patio table.

John, Kristen, Alex and Nicki are enjoying a warmer than usual fall evening.

JOHN  
It's never this warm in November!

ALEX  
Nice to have this for a few days  
then back to brisk fall.

Kristen reaches for a bottle of wine; proceeds to top off everyone's glasses.

NICKI  
(to Kristen)  
Thank you!

Pause

And the meal too. Divine!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEX

Yeah it's great!

NICKI

Please inbox me the recipe!!

KRISTEN

(blushing)

I'm glad you enjoyed it! Sure,  
it's real easy!!

John smiles and leans across the table towards Nicki.

JOHN

Alex mentioned she's taking you  
north to meet the folks?

Alex rolls her eyes and shakes her head. Nicki blushes.

ALEX

Just dinner, nothing fancy.

JOHN

If I wasn't invited then it's  
fancy!

NICKI

I'm sure you and Kristen can join  
us?

Nicki looks over to Alex.

ALEX

You two are up there almost more  
than me! Mom just wants the six of  
us.

KRISTEN

John just wants to be the fly on  
the wall. Your parents are a total  
riot!

ALEX

(to John)

Not like you won't be updated!

JOHN

(non suspecting)

What?!?

He smiles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALEX

Like I don't know you're all  
texting behind our backs. Every  
date, every detail...

NICKI

Every detail??

Alex reaches for Nicki's hand.

ALEX

(to Nicki)  
Not EVERY detail sweetie...

Nicki looks relieved.

KRISTEN

It's the right time.

ALEX

I completely agree.

Alex pulls Nicki towards her.

ALEX

8 weeks till you leave.

NICKI

I know.

Nicki kisses Alex.

JOHN

(always the funny)  
Awww, now I'M SAD!

Alex takes a deep breath.

ALEX

John can back me up on this. I was  
always the one who made fun of  
couples who dressed alike. I just  
never understood it.

John laughs.

JOHN

Very true! We (referring to he and  
Kristen) wore matching sweaters  
one day and I didn't hear the end  
of it!!

Alex winks at John.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ALEX

So here I sit today eating crow...  
I am so in love with this one  
(referring to Nicki who smiles at  
Alex's words). If she handed me a  
pink polka-dotted cowboy shirt and  
said "put this on". I would do it  
without hesitation!

Laughter erupts from everyone.

NICKI

Umm, thanks and I think everyone  
at this table can sleep well  
knowing I would NEVER bestow such  
horrific fashion statement upon  
you my love!

JOHN

(to Nicki)  
I would TOTALLY pay for the shirts  
to see that!

ALEX

OK, I pushed the extreme crazy...  
again. Not happening!

Alex looks at Nicki.

ALEX

(speaking to  
everyone)  
We're going to do the back and  
fourth long distance thing.

Nicki gently claps her hands.

NICKI

(quietly)  
Yay!!!

Big smile.

ALEX

(sternly to John)  
No texting!

Alex takes a breath then winks at John.

JOHN

(raises his glass to  
toast)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

JOHN (CONT'D)  
I've always wanted to surf the  
great barrier... salute!!

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S CAR, DRIVING NORTH OF SAN FRANCISCO - MORNING  
It's quiet in the car, the music is turned down low.

NICKI  
You're quiet today.

She reaches to hold Alex's hand; Alex offers it.

NICKI  
Nervous?

Alex takes a deep breath.

ALEX  
Yeah, a little.

NICKI  
Everything is going to be fine.  
I'm excited, this is really cool!!

Alex rolls her eyes.

ALEX  
They can be a bit much.

NICKI  
My family as well and depending on  
your work schedule you'll be  
meeting them soon enough. Then  
I'll be feeling exactly how you  
are right now.

ALEX  
Well, I just don't want to see you  
running from the house while  
screaming "who are these people".

Pause

I doubt you'll be feeling the same  
as I do. I seriously think I have  
the largest case of butterflies  
ever!  
And... I give multi-million dollar  
advertising campaign pitches to  
some of the richest people in the  
world without breaking a sweat!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NICKI

A tad dramatic.

She laughs to break the mood.

NICKI

We are all a bit embarrassed by  
our families. ...all this build-up  
is a bit exciting though.

CUT TO:

INT. MR. & MRS. PARKER'S HOME - LATE MORNING

Alex pulls up into her parents long drive; puts the car  
in park.

As she and Nicki get out of the car Alex's parents burst  
out the front door in eager anticipation.

Both of Alex's parents are dressed quite casual, jeans  
and Polo shirts. ... And wearing MATCHING P-FLAG baseball  
hats.

Alex, embarrassed simply smiles and nods.

Nicki is swarmed by Alex's parents; trailing in the  
background is Alex's brother and his wife.

VIVIAN

(going strait for the  
hug)

Why she's adorable Lou!

Lou gets in on the hug too.

NICKI

(from the hugs)

Oh my, pleased to meet you.

LOU

(letting her and  
Vivian go)

OK Viv, give her some room.

Alex stands aside allowing everyone to fuss over Nicki.

VIVIAN

Adorable accent too!

Alex simply smiles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Andrew and Stephanie approach and each shake Nicki's hand.

ANDREW

Welcome to Sunday brunch, I'm Andrew and this is my wife Stephanie.

NICKI

Happy to meet you all. Thank you.

Everyone walks back up to the house.

LOU

Your mother's prepared an amazing spread.

(to Nicki)

Mimosa or Bloody Mary?

Before Nicki can even respond.

LOU

I make a killer Mary!!

NICKI

I'd love to try one.

Alex's parents, Brother and wife go in ahead of Alex and Nicki.

NICKI

(whispering to Alex)

Nice hats.

ALEX

(whispering back)

Ha, ha. Well, I did warn you!

NICKI

(whispering)

And matching outfits too.

She WINKS at Alex.

ALEX

(whispering)

Oh, you just had to mention the outfits!!

Alex WINKS back.

CUT TO:

INT. MR. & MRS. PARKER'S HOME, LATE MORNING

Alex's parents are finishing the final touches on the brunch buffet; Lou is stirring a large pitcher of Bloody Marys.

As they entered the house Andrew snagged Alex and is talking to her in the corner while Stephanie leads Nicki over to a grouping of family photos.

CUT TO:

ALEX AND ANDREW'S CONVERSATION

ANDREW  
(whispering)  
She's cute! Not really what I had  
pictured.

ALEX  
(whispering)  
Umm, awkward and thanks.

She pulls her brother closer.

ALEX  
Promise me you'll help me steer  
mom and dad away from their  
bizarre conversation.

ANDREW  
(with a quiet  
chuckle)  
I don't think you have anything to  
worry about.

LOU (O.S.)  
Nicki, do you have fondue in  
Australia.

NICKI (O.S.)  
Umm, Yeah. I guess. Are we having  
fondue?

LOU (O.S.)  
No. Not today. I was just curious.

Alex looks sternly at her brother.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANDREW  
OK, I've got your back.

CUT TO:

LOU AND VIVIAN'S CONVERSATION

VIVIAN  
Oh, that would be an interesting  
addition to the table.

LOU  
We should do that next week for  
the Fletcher's.

CUT TO:

NICKI AND KRISTEN

Nicki's attention is drawn to a grouping of framed  
photographs on the built-in book shelves; she walks over,  
Kristen follows.

Reaching for one of the photos Kristen pulls is close to  
Nicki. They both start laughing.

KRISTEN  
I bet every family has a picture  
similar to this.

CLOSE-UP OF PHOTO: Alex and Andrew as kids dressed in  
super hero costumes, Batman and Robin.

NICKI  
Alex... Great Batman!

CUT TO:

ALEX AND ANDREW'S CONVERSATION

Alex blushes and hurries towards the photo, Andrew  
follows.

ANDREW  
I wanted to be Batman but Alex  
called it first.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Lou and Vivian walk back into the room, Lou carrying a tray of Bloody Marys.

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S CAR - LATE AFTERNOON

NICKI

Surreal, but in a very good way.

They both laugh.

ALEX

I agree. It went much better than I had imagined.

NICKI

Well, I could tell you and Andrew had a plan.

ALEX

He did an amazing job! I'll have to send him a case of his favorite wine!

NICKI

Your parents are hysterical! I had so much fun!

ALEX

Well, I hate to break it to ya but meeting the family wasn't the only surreal event on today's agenda...

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT BUILDING, ALEX'S LOFT - EARLY EVENING

Alex's cats, Oscar & Felix, are looking out the patio door; fixated on a few swirling leaves.

Nicki is in the kitchen grabbing a couple of glasses and a bottle of chardonnay; already on the counter is a bag of Chinese take out.

Alex is on the floor working effortlessly on assembling a shelving unit.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEX

Well, it's official! If I ever  
lose my job I can easily get one  
building IKEA furniture!

Nicki walks over to Alex holding two glasses of wine;  
Alex stands and takes her glass.

ALEX

Thank you love.

Nicki kisses Alex.

NICKI

It's not rocket science dear.

ALEX

I know but do have to admit it  
makes me feel quite empowered.

Pause

Can't believe you wanted to help  
me do this...

NICKI

Made it thorough the day with your  
family and decided to top it off  
with furniture building.  
... Not gonna lie, I'm fairly  
certain it's love.

Alex takes in the moment.

ALEX

(leaning in to kiss  
her again)  
Nick... Nick... Nick

Nicki laughs and goes with the moment; she continues to  
kiss Alex back.

NICKI

... long distance.

ALEX

We can do it.

Pause. Kiss

ALEX

For awhile. Then we'll decide on  
where we want to land.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

NICKI  
(more serious)  
Are we flying somewhere?

There is a KNOCK at the door.

ALEX  
(while walking  
towards the door)  
No sweetie, just going with the  
flow. That's all I meant.

She opens the door.

Standing like a gunslinger is John, full-on overalls,  
tool belt and cordless drill in hand.

He REVS the trigger.

Alex and Nicki laugh.

JOHN  
(walking inside)  
The real joke here is that you  
(referring to Alex) don't own any  
tools!

Alex reaches for and grabs the drill.

ALEX  
I have tools. Just not the right  
ones for this job.

JOHN  
TMI!!!

John gets a whiff of the FOOD and immediately changes the  
subject.

JOHN  
Chinese?

ALEX  
Si! Your favorite. And it fits  
with the evenings theme.

JOHN  
Let's get some chi flowing up in  
here!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

NICKI  
 (to John)  
 Glass of wine?

CUT TO:

EXT. MR. & MRS. PARKER'S HOME, BACK YARD - EARLY EVENING

Lou and Viv are laying in the hammock enjoying the still warmer than usual fall weather.

VIVIAN  
 Very sweet and intelligent girl.

LOU  
 They're a great match. I can tell.

Pause.

VIVIAN  
 Yes, yes they are.

LOU  
 I learned a lot today. Ariel Ping-pong, Stubby and Rip Snorter.

VIVIAN  
 It would be exciting to go visit.

Pause.

LOU  
 Yeah, they both have careers headed in different directions. Hope they can find a way.

VIVIAN  
 Would be a great story to share with the other parents.

LOU  
 I was thinking the same thing!

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT BUILDING, ALEX'S LOFT - LATE NIGHT

John is securing the last cabinet to the wall.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN  
You are officially earthquake  
ready!

ALEX  
YAY!

NICKI  
More wine?

JOHN  
I'd love to but I have a big shoot  
tomorrow. I need to pack the rest  
of my gear too.

ALEX  
Hey, maybe Nick could help or  
something?

JOHN  
That's right. You're finished with  
school.

Nicki smiles.

NICKI  
All finished. Just packing and  
shipping stuff home the next few  
weeks.

Alex frowns.

JOHN  
Awww!! You're going to have to set  
up a Cisco system so you can...

ALEX  
I already have that all figured  
out... just need to plan between  
campaigns.

JOHN  
You must have at least three  
months vacation saved!

John makes sure he's reupholstered all the tools he's  
brought back into his pockets and on his belt.

The last thing he needs are his keys which he grabs off  
the counter.

As he's leaving the apartment he turns back to the girls.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOHN

(to Nicki)

I'll text you the address tomorrow. It's in an abandoned warehouse but in a decent neighborhood. Bring a camera or two... you never know.

NICKI

Thanks!!

He winks at Alex.

JOHN

Night ladies.

He exits.

CUT TO:

INT. AD AGENCY, ALEX'S OFFICE - MID-DAY

Although Alex is standing and momentarily look out the window she is completely focused on the CISCO video call/meeting up on her MAC flat screen.

The call is between her and the NY office in regards to taking on another big client and their campaign.

In the room with Alex is Susan, Dan, her assistant CHELLY and intern DAVID.

Susan and Dan, like Alex, listen and contribute. The other two sit quietly taking many notes.

MAN - NY AGENCY (O.S.)

The ideas were quite refreshing. Your reputation as being quite the forward thinker is something of great interest to us.

ALEX

Thank you. I'm part of an amazing team.

MAN-NY AGENCY

Well, your 'team' is amazing. We're curious as to what we'll see from you in the future!

Pause

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Let's move forward. Can you have something tight in a week?

Alex looks over towards Dan and Susan. Dan calmly nods.

ALEX

Absolutely.

MAN-NY AGENCY

Perfect. I'll fly in for the presentation and bring the clients with me.

ALEX

Thank you for the opportunity. Have a great night.

MAN-NY AGENCY

You to Ms. Parker.

He raises his voice.  
To your team as well.

THE ENTIRE TEAM

Good night.

Alex ends transmission. She pauses then turns to her team.

Dan and Susan stand.

DAN

We'll get started right away.

ALEX

(to David and Chelly)  
Grab lunch and we can go over the campaign this afternoon.

Alex looks at her watch.

ALEX

Meet me on the patio at three.

David and Chelly nod then exit Alex's office.

CHELLY (O.S.)

Chris and David mentioned going for Thai, wanna join?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DAVID (O.S.)

Sure.

After they leave and close the door behind them Alex walks around her desk and pulls a chair around to face Dan and Susan. They both sit back down on the couch.

ALEX

When you're great you're great I guess.

SUSAN

This is a big deal. HUGE!!

DAN

The New York office rarely asks for creative input for their clients.

SUSAN

I agree with Dan. This could garner more than a CLIO nom.

DAN

A win and you're executive creative director in the next year. And head hunted by all the best agencies in the world.

Alex sighs.

ALEX

It's a dream I've had since my first year of college yet all I can think about lately is when's the soonest I can jet off to Melbourne??

SUSAN

She's headed back soon?

ALEX

(bummed)  
She's already started packing.

DAN

That's a long flight...

Alex leans over, reaches for her iPad and shows her calendar to them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ALEX

(scrolling through  
the upcoming weeks)

We have six, now seven big  
campaigns rolling out in the next  
two months.

The latest one will be considered  
to push on Super Bowl Sunday for  
sure.

SUSAN

Four day weekends?

ALEX

(shaking her head)

All that jet lag... no way, won't  
work.

DAN

What about flying her back here?  
She's a fine art photographer,  
right?

ALEX

Already thought about it. Her big  
show is up the entire month of  
January then she's scheduled to  
teach. Earliest would be summer.

DAN

(with a wink)

SKYPE sex!

ALEX

(turning off iPad)

Ewww!

Stupid Feng Shui...

SUSAN

It giveith you a relationship and  
it apparently takeith away.

ALEX

You two have to help me think of  
something.

Susan and Dan stand to leave.

DAN

We'll help you think of something.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

They exit her office. Alex gets up and straitens up the room a bit.

A moment later there is a KNOCK on her door.

ALEX

Yeah?

Susan slips in quickly and closes the door behind her.

SUSAN

You should go with her.

ALEX

What?

SUSAN

If it was me.

Pause.

I mean, if I was lucky enough to be in your shoes I'd be packing already.

ALEX

Are you crazy?! I can't move to Melbourne!

Susan walks right up to Alex.

SUSAN

What's keeping you here?

ALEX

Geez. I don't know... my family, friends, career, a new lease on a car and condo.

Pause.

I could keep going.

SUSAN

Email, SKYPE and facebook, Cisco systems, you can free-lance from anywhere these days. Have a friend take over your lease and sub-let the condo.

ALEX

Don't make it sound that easy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

SUSAN

Guess what, it really is that  
easy!  
I've known you for almost four  
years now... Ummm. Chicken!

Alex is taken aback.

ALEX

I am not!

SUSAN

You're letting past fears cloud  
your judgement.

Pause.

This isn't a repeat of your last  
relationship. We all see it...  
live YOUR life Alex!

Susan hugs Alex.

SUSAN

Tough love! Think about it!!

Susan goes to leave the office.

ALEX

(quietly)  
What if it doesn't work out?

Susan stops at the door and without turning back.

SUSAN

You could always come back you  
know.

Pause

But for the record we all think  
what the two of you have is the  
real deal. So if you're truly  
committed it will work.

Susan opens the door and leaves.

Alex walks to her window and starts staring out across  
the city.

CUT TO:

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE, PHOTOSHOOT - DAY

John and his team of make-up artists and stylists take a break from the shoot; a small crew is putting the finishing touches on a new set.

Nicki reaches for her phone and sends a quick text to Alex.

CUT TO:

INT. AD AGENCY, ALEX'S OFFICE - DAY

Alex's phone BUZZES with the incoming text from Nicki. Alex is still pensive and staring out the window.

She reaches towards the phone and smiles as she sees the text.

ALEX  
(to herself)  
Long distance is doable...

She takes a seat back at her desk.

ALEX  
... for the time being.

She sighs.

Alex looks over towards her land-line telephone and pushes the button labeled HR.

After one ring REBECCA answers. The call is on speaker.

REBECCA  
This is Rebecca, how may I assist you.

ALEX  
Good afternoon. This is Alex Parker on 29. Could you tell me how many vacation days I have?

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT BUILDING, ALEX'S LOFT - EVENING

Alex is behind the kitchen counter, she's poured a glass of wine and is surveying her loft and amazing view.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Oscar and Felix are in their favorite spot; in front of the door wall to the patio.

ALEX  
(to the cats)  
Eighteen month wait list to get  
this view.

No reaction from the cats.

Alex reaches for a can of TREATS; just the sound evokes excitement from Oscar and Felix who bolt towards her.

She gives them each a treat.

ALEX  
(while petting Oscar)  
Nine years to get my dream job.

She stands and reaches for her glass of wine, Alex walks towards the door wall and opens it. Both cats hurry past her and out onto the patio.

ALEX  
(to herself)  
Now one of us has to consider  
moving to another continent.

There is a loud KNOCK at the door. Alex leaves the patio and opens it.

It's BFF John.

He heads straight in, gives a quick hug and proceeds to the kitchen for a glass of wine.

John pours a glass as Alex walks in behind and grabs a seat on a counter stool.

He takes a sip.

JOHN  
OK, spill!

ALEX  
Susan gave me a piece of her mind  
earlier... now I'm even more  
confused.

Alex reaches for her iPad.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOHN  
(waving off the  
technology)  
I don't need graphs or charts.  
Talk to me.

ALEX  
She's leaving Thursday at five and  
I honestly don't know what to do.

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT BUILDING, ALEX'S LOFT - LATE  
EVENING

Several glasses of wine later and after ordered in sushi  
John and Alex are still trying to work through her  
conundrum.

JOHN  
Yeah, you really can't quit.

ALEX  
If things don't work out then I'd  
be shooting myself in the foot  
career wise.

JOHN  
You have more than enough vaca  
time.

ALEX  
But the earliest I could break  
away would be late March.

JOHN  
It's really not that bad. Two  
weeks in late April then another  
two late June.

ALEX  
It buys time.

There is a long pause.

ALEX  
We have decided to not say 'good  
bye' though. No special dinner,  
nothing out of the ordinary. Just  
another day.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN

And then on Friday you wake up and realize she's in Melbourne. Next week is Christmas, the week after that New Years and then her show opens.

ALEX

Which, I'll be missing!

JOHN

I know you. You'll throw yourself into your work and be back to 10 hour days and half-day Saturdays.

ALEX

The end of April will be here in no time...

Pause

I did take Thursday off though.

JOHN

(singing)  
Because you love her!

Alex takes a playful SWAT at John.

JOHN

Not helping!

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT BUILDING, STAIR WELL - THURSDAY EVENING

Alex is walking up the stairs from the parking garage, she has a cell head set on and is talking on the phone to her parents.

ALEX

(on phone)  
Off without a hitch.

Pause

ALEX

(on phone)  
Sixteen hours.

Pause

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEX

I'm just going to chill here.  
Watch TV or just go to bed early.  
Yes, I'll be there Sunday.

Pause

Brunch fondue... sounds amazing  
dad.

She reaches her landing then her doorway; she unlocks the door.

ALEX

(while entering)  
Yeah, I'll tell her.

Pause.

(O.S)  
Love you too.

Alex hangs up on the call then sets her phone and keys onto the kitchen counter; she turns and heads to the bedroom.

Once there she collapses, face down, onto the bed. Oscar and Felix follow her into the room.

A moment later she stretches out and slides her hands under the pillow and proceeds to pull it over her head; immediately Alex FEELS SOMETHING.

She pulls out from under the pillow the cheap light-up necklace she was wearing on her birthday, the night she met Nicki, and a tiny note card.

Alex sits up and reads the card. She smiles then holds both (the card and cheap necklace) against her heart.

ALEX

(looking to the cats)  
You two up for a trip?

CUT TO:

INT. AD AGENCY, ALEX'S OFFICE - THE NEXT MORNING

There is a quiet KNOCK on the door.

ALEX

Come in.

Dan opens then enters the office.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEX

Close the door.

He follows her instructions.

DAN

This is early, even for me.

ALEX

Yeah, thanks for meeting me.

DAN

You have nothing to be nervous about. Everything is ready and it's a grand slam presentation.

Alex smiles.

DAN

What?

Dan then gets a good look at what Alex has been doing while she waited for him to arrive.

There are a few copy paper BOXES on her desk, chair and the retro couch.

DAN

(sitting onto the arm  
of the couch)

Alex, what's going on?

ALEX

Everything's OK. Just breathe.

Alex steps out from behind the desk and sets a few things into a box.

DAN

They're stealing you away to New York!!

ALEX

No, I've decided to step down.

Shaking his head in dis-belief.

DAN

Alex, why??

ALEX

When I started here we became friends quickly.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALEX (CONT'D)

You and I had the same instincts when it came to advertising and we never fought. That's why I want you to give the presentation.

She moves over and sits next to him on the couch.

ALEX

Within nine months I was your right arm.

Dan smiles.

DAN

You made a lot of jealous frienemies that year.

ALEX

And then somewhere along the way the roles flipped and now you've become my right arm.

DAN

(sincerely)  
I've never held an ounce of resentment towards you.

ALEX

(sincerely)  
I know and that's why this will work so very well.

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S CAR - MORNING

The blue-tooth phone is on and it's RINGING; John answers.

ALEX

FINALLY!

JOHN (V.O.)

Hey, sorry. Late night shoot. She get off to Melbourne OK?

ALEX

You never read your texts!

JOHN (V.O.)

I do when I get them! Stupid piece of junk.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEX

Dude! Seriously, you need a new phone!

Pause

I'm on my way to the airport.

JOHN (V.O.)

You leave something there?

ALEX

I'm going for it. I'm leaving!  
Like right now.

JOHN (V.O.)

What, like right now!

ALEX

Yeah dude!

JOHN (V.O.)

Holly shit!!

KRISTEN (V.O.)

JOHN!?!

JOHN (V.O.)

(to Kristen)

Alex is moving to Melbourne. Like right now!

Alex rolls her eyes.

ALEX

Hey, wo! Hold on... I didn't say MOVING. I'm leaving in two hours.

Kristen obviously grabs John's phone.

KRISTEN (V.O.)

GO FOR IT ALEX!!!

ALEX

(laughing)

Thanks, keep an eye on Johnny for me!

KRISTEN (V.O.)

Will do!

John grabs the phone back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALEX

I need your help with a few things. Get Andrew to help you.

JOHN (V.O.)

OK, go ahead.

ALEX

I'll email you from the plane dork!

JOHN (V.O.)

Yeah, right! Sorry, major lack of sleep.

ALEX

OK, I'm here. I gotta go. Need to gather my thoughts... I too haven't slept. Hopefully I packed enough clothes.

There is a succession of BEEPS.

ALEX

And my battery is dying!

JOHN (V.O.)

Just GO! You can buy what you didn't pack. I'll ship the rest.

ALEX

I'll take you surfing down under!!

JOHN (V.O.)

That's what she said!!!

ALEX

(laughing)  
OK, bye!

JOHN (V.O.)

Bye.

CUT TO:

INT. JOHN AND KRISTEN'S PLACE, BED - EARLY MORNING

John and Kristen hug and rejoice!

JOHN

I can't believe this is happening.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He immediately starts dialing another number; Kristen hits the SPEAKER button.

There is a group of rings then Lou answers.

LOU (V.O.)  
Hey Johnny what's new with you??

JOHN  
As we speak Alex is at the airport leaving for Melbourne.

VIVIAN (V.O.)  
Is that John dear?

LOU (V.O.)  
HOT DAMN!!!  
Yes Viv... Alex is flying out this morning.

VIVIAN (V.O.)  
Flying out where?

JOHN, KRISTEN AND LOU (O.S.)  
Melbourne!!

VIVIAN (V.O.)  
Go Alex!!

CUT TO:

INT. SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - MORNING

Alex is past security, she glances at her phone; it's completely dead so she stuffs it into a carry-on pocket.

She jumps onto a moving walkway.

CUT TO:

INT. AD AGENCY, LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - MORNING

The room is glass walled and we see inside but cannot hear.

Everyone starts to gather around the table, including the client and team from New York; Hands are being shaken and pleasantries exchanged.

Susan in particular is looking around for the rest of the team.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Finally and a little hurried, in walks Dan.

As he makes his way around the table shaking hands with the guests when he gets to Susan he puts his hand on her shoulder and lightly squeezes it for re-assurance.

Susan still looks confused... until Dan sits in Alex's chair.

It then become clear to Susan. Alex is not making this meeting.

Susan smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - MORNING

Although exhausted Alex is in the best mood ever as she skips off one moving walk way takes a few strides then jumps onto another.

The airport is sparsely populated.

VOICE

ALEX?

Alex steps off the walkway; she glances around.

VOICE

ALEX??

She turns and sees, quickly approaching, her crazy ex-girlfriend LINDSAY!!

Alex cannot believe her eyes and before she knows it is being bear hugged; Alex doesn't hug back.

LINDSAY

I thought it was you!

Alex, still in a bit of shock, just stares at her.

LINDSAY

Silly, It's me.

ALEX

Yeah, I know. I'm just surprised.

LINDSAY

Oh sorry! You running late for your flight?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LINDSAY (CONT'D)

I'm just getting in from Vancouver, we're filming a new pilot... This one has real promise.

ALEX

Yeah, listen. I have to go.

LINDSAY

Oh right.

Lindsay pauses and checks her out.

LINDSAY

You look great by the way. When you get back from... you didn't say where you were going? Anyways, when you get back you should definitely give me a call.

ALEX

Umm. Thank you but NO.

Lindsay looks shocked; she isn't the type of girl who's ever heard the word "NO" very often.

Alex turns and hops back onto the moving walkway heading away from Lindsay.

She turns back; Lindsay is still standing there like a deer caught in headlight.

ALEX

I'm headed to Australia and might not be coming back.

Then Alex turns back around and proceeds to be pulled even further away.

ALEX

(under her breath)  
PRICELESS!

CUT TO:

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - MORNING

Quick shot of a Qantas jet taking off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The first few bars of The Theme from the Odd Couple start to play.

CUT TO:

END CREDITS

CUT TO:

FLASH-FORWARD MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA SMALL BEACH HOUSE - EARLY MORNING

It's the first Sunday of February, Super Bowl Sunday in the States and Monday morning in Melbourne.

The beach house is cluttered with a few boxes, all labeled from the States.

Alex and Nick sit on the couch and while up on their big screen are watching the pre-show; her Mac monitor is open to SKYPE with a live feed into John and Kristen's Super bowl party.

Everyone is there (John, Kristen, Andrew, Stephanie, Susan, Katie, Marisa, Dan, Carrie, Toni, etc), and most donning 49er's gear!

ALEX

I was 10 the last time they were there! This is awesome.

Dan walks up to the computer.

DAN

Glad you're able to stream. How's the surf?

ALEX

Great, you should come visit.

DAN

I'm too busy for holidays.

He winks.

It's supposed to be the sixth commercial!

ALEX

Great job Dan!!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAN

I couldn't have done it without my  
right-hand freelance director.  
Enjoy!

John pulls Dan away.

JOHN

You know I, well we, love you...  
But we're putting you on mute now.

ALEX

Ha ha! Right!

JOHN

No, seriously mute.

Nicki laughs.

The computer goes mute. Nicki raises the volume on the  
TV.

The camera pulls back out past the living room, across  
the dining room and through the windows; Oscar and Felix  
sit staring outside.

The Theme music from The Odd Couple starts up again.

The End

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CONTINUED:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)