

Let's Spend The Night Together

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NETWORK DRAFT IV: A NEW HOPE

OVER BLACK. One word. A name: "Alex"

AT WHICH POINT WE FADE IN ON A TALKING HEAD:

Said head belongs to ALEX FLETCHER (early-40s). A lover of words and a true believer in the healing power of music.

He's scruffy and boyishly handsome with a hint of the rock and roll about him in a black John Varvatos tux. His tie is loosened and he's a bit disheveled. In a good way.

The video is lo-fi cool, courtesy of a wedding video booth.

ALEX

Yeah, I guess I've always been a sucker for the Wild Romantics. Springsteen grabbed me by the heart early on and told me how love was going to feel. Meanwhile, John Hughes and Cameron Crowe gave me a window into what it all looked like. But nothing prepared me for what happens after Happily Ever After? What are supposed to do when real life doesn't match up to the rom-com? Well, if you're lucky, you get a second chance at this often maddening yet entirely worthwhile little thing called Love...

EXT. GREEK THEATER - NIGHT

Where an aging British rock star, NIGEL VALENTINE (60s), plays a supercharged cover of the Stones' "Let's Spend The Night Together" in front of a sold-out crowd.

Nigel's desire to save the world through music is exceeded only by his weakness for supermodels.

The venue is ablaze with virtual cigarette lighters held aloft, and the nearly 6000 in attendance are singing along in one powerful collective voice. Loud and proud.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - BACKSTAGE - SAME

Alex is trying to knot his aforementioned tie whilst nervously mumbling a speech of some kind in front of the mirror. A ROADIE knocks and enters --

INT. GREEK THEATER - BACKSTAGE

The roadie leads Alex through the hustle and bustle of backstage to side-stage, where Nigel and his backing band, the Screaming Hearts, are bringing the song to a close.

EXT. GREEK THEATER - NIGHT

Song ends. Nigel addresses the crowd:

NIGEL

Thank you, Los Angeles! Now before we play the final song of the evening for all of you beautiful people, I must beg your indulgence. All my life I've written songs about girls, and this girl is without question my favorite song. Please welcome to the stage my beautiful daughter Daisy...

DAISY VALENTINE (30s) takes the stage. A bolt of pure sunshine with deep, soulful eyes and a funky wedding dress. She hugs her father and nervously waves to the crowd.

NIGEL (CONT'D)

Believe it or not, I am mere moments away from marrying off my firstborn. Before I do that, however, we need a prospective Mr. Where's Alex? Has he run off?

A nervous Alex is shoved out onto the stage. He takes Daisy's hands and locks eyes with her. The digital backdrop behind them becomes a beautiful sheet of stained glass, transforming the Greek Theater into a veritable rock and roll cathedral.

NIGEL (CONT'D)

Los Angeles! Say hello to Alex Fletcher! Alex is a writer for Rolling Stone magazine, he worships at the altar of peace, love and music, but most importantly, he worships my daughter. Do I have that right, Alex?

ALEX

(very nervous)

You do have that that right, sir.

NIGEL

This is why he's a writer. Okay, let's get these two hitched so we can get back to the business of rocking your bloody faces off...

Alex, meanwhile, only has eyes for Daisy. And it's through his eyes that we journey back in time to the events of roughly a year ago, which we'll be doing quite a bit on this beautiful summer night in the City of Angels...

EXT. MALIBU - DAY (FLASHBACK)

A vintage Mustang convertible stops in front of a killer house in the 'Bu. Great vibes. Alex gets out. Approaches the front door. Hears yelling from within.

Before he can even so much as ring the doorbell, the door flies open and Daisy comes storming out, pissed. She slams straight into Alex without looking. Knocks him flat on his ass and ends up atop him for an odd beat. Alex smiles.

ALEX

So that happened!

She clambers off of him and up onto her feet, yanking him up.

DAISY

You scared the crap outta me!

ALEX

Right back at ya, lady!

DAISY

Who are you?

ALEX

I'm Alex. From Rolling Stone. I'm here to meet --

DAISY

-- My father? Well, Alex from Rolling Stone, good luck with that. He's around back. Lemme guess. You're probably a huge fan, right?

Alex holds his fingers apart. Then he frowns...

ALEX

Who am I kidding?

...and puts his hands fairly wide apart.

DAISY

Awesome. Prepare to be disappointed. All those songs that were the soundtrack to your adolescent heartache? Written by an absolute fraud.

ALEX

I find that very hard to believe.

DAISY

Of course you do! Because all you
dopes drank his stupid rock star
casanova Kool-Aid! Here's the
Behind The Music on Sir Nigel
Valentine -- absentee father, crap-
tacular husband, spoiled idiot man-
child narcissist -- and feel free
to quote me on that!

She turns and goes, leaving Alex charmed and bemused. He
rings the doorbell -- no answer. He hears music. Follows it
around the side of the house to...

THE BACKYARD

Where Nigel Valentine is strumming an acoustic guitar and
humming a melody, trying to coax a song from the universe.

Alex is delighted. The creative process writ large before his
very own eyes. Until Nigel suddenly grows frustrated. He
stops playing, stands up, and SMASHES the guitar to pieces.
Which is pretty awesome, too. Alex begins a slow handclap.

ALEX

Hey, what'd that guitar ever do to
you?

NIGEL

No bloody songs in it. Had to go.
You the writer?

ALEX

Alex Fletcher. It's an honor to
meet you, sir.

NIGEL

Of course it is. You spent all
those years alone in your room
listening to my records because you
couldn't get the girl. Let's get a
drink. I'm thirsty and miserable.

As Nigel leads Alex into the house, we go back to:

EXT. GREEK THEATER - NIGHT

NIGEL

...By the power vested in me by the
Sun Kil Moon Ministry of Northern
California, I now pronounce you
nerdy rock critic and wife. You may
kiss the bride with very little
tongue and be quick about it...

They kiss. The CROWD ROARS. Down in the pit, FRIENDS and FAMILY we'll be meeting momentarily cheer them on.

INT. BLACK SUV - NIGHT

Alex and Daisy spill into the back as the car takes off...

DAISY

Are you kidding me?! We just got married in a rock and roll cathedral in front of six thousand screaming people! And we did it for free!

ALEX

I like the way you think, lady...

DAISY

And I like the way you call me lady. Thank you for the happiest day of my life...

ALEX

Hey, it's not over yet. We've got miles to go before we sleep. This is going to be a great night...

DAISY

You promise?

ALEX

Not only do I promise, but I think I've planned for every potential disaster. We've assembled a highly combustible group of friends and family. I mean, my mother alone could burn the whole place to the ground. My goal is to make sure you, my blushing bride, have the perfect wedding night.

DAISY

You're sweet, but it's OUR wedding night.

ALEX

Yes, but it's your first. And only. I love you. Thanks for marrying me.

DAISY

How could I not? You're very endearing. And an excellent kisser.

Which prompts some excellent kissing. Life is good.

EXT. SUNSET MARQUIS HOTEL - NIGHT

The SUV pulls up in front of the legendary rock and roll hotel in West Hollywood, where Alex's best friend/best man, JULIAN BARNES (40s), is pacing out front, on the phone.

Julian is annoyingly handsome and exceedingly cocksure.

JULIAN

Melanie! You can't bail on me!
Well, for one, I'm the best man!
It's embarrassing! Hello...?

By now Alex and Daisy are out of the SUV. Julian greets them with a big hug --

JULIAN (CONT'D)

Guys, my date just bailed on me!

ALEX

Smart girl.

DAISY

I could set you up with my sister.

JULIAN

What about your mom?

DAISY

Oh she'd eat you alive.

JULIAN

You say that like it's a bad thing.

DAISY

(rolls her eyes)
I'm going to find Kate...

They kiss. Daisy moves off into the hotel.

JULIAN

Well, you did it, kid. How do you feel?

ALEX

Good. Great. Grateful. I mean, I always felt pretty lucky to have one great love story, and when it fell apart, I figured that was it for me. But then along she comes, out of nowhere. A second chance...

JULIAN

Well, jeez, you don't have to gloat about it. I don't even have a date!
 (off Alex's laugh)
 Let's get this party started, shall we?

Together they head into:

INT./EXT. SUNSET MARQUIS HOTEL - CONTINUOUS

They peel off and we fall into step with Nigel, who's headed for the garden, where tonight's wedding reception will be taking place. Nigel is accompanied by his decades-younger supermodel wife GRETA (20s) and his other daughter POPPY (30s), Daisy's younger, dowdier sister.

NIGEL

I didn't like Alex at first. Found him quite irritating, actually. But he grew on me. And I have to admit -
 - he does make Daisy very happy.

GRETA

You make me happy...

They kiss. Poppy makes a face, disgusted, muttering:

POPPY

Which makes me nauseous...

NIGEL

What do you make of it all, Poppy?

POPPY

Well, Dad, it's actually quite the grotesque little circus. We come together for a lavish party to celebrate in advance something completely unproven that can't possibly sustain itself. It's insanity. The sheer hubris of it all. Hardly matters, though. I'm not even here. I'm a ghost. I've left for Africa already. Trust me, it's much better for everyone...

Nigel and Greta exchange a look. Hard to argue with that. By now they're arrived at:

EXT. SUNSET MARQUIS - RECEPTION AREA - CONTINUOUS

Dinner tables set up in a beautiful garden space gorgeously lit. It's all very elegant and understated with sophisticated and timeless rock and roll vibes.

Poppy moves off, crossing paths with Alex's other best friend, ALI HUGHES (40s), a big, joyful, dreadlocked foodie who clearly enjoys his comestibles. Questlove meets Jonathan Gold. He walks up to Poppy...

ALI

Hey, Poppy, right? We met at the rehearsal dinner. We spoke about life, love, and the perfect loaf of sourdough.

POPPY

Yes we did. I remember the conversation quite well, actually. While you were droning on about feeding your starter, I was looking up at the ceiling fan, wondering if it would hold my weight should I choose to hang myself.

That said, she moves on, leaving Ali betwixt and between, taking us to Alex's mother, GRACE (think Kathy Bates), who displays a stunning lack of it most of the time, and Daisy and Poppy's mother, LILY (an aging supermodel meets '80s video vixen Tawny Kitaen), who is busy giving Nigel and Greta some serious stink-eye. Alex's other-other best friend KEVIN (40s; earnest, avuncular; think Ed Helms) is moderating.

KEVIN

Cheers to you both on this momentous occasion!

LILY

I'm sorry. And you are...?

KEVIN

Kevin. I'm --

GRACE

Alex's gay accountant.

KEVIN

True. But I'm Alex's friend first and foremost. The gay of it all is largely irrelevant.

GRACE

(to Lily)

I'm curious. When did he toss you
aside for the mail-order bride?

LILY

You didn't just me ask that...

GRACE

Well, if you don't want to talk
about it, don't talk about it. But
you don't have to be rude...

Grace turns her back on Lily, who walks off, taking us to
Daisy's best friend KATE, her hipster husband DAMON, and
their daughter CLAIRE (a goth Molly Ringwald, swathed in her
edgiest black finery).

CLAIRE

Great. So they're man and wife and
now we're all just passing time
until the great decline. Can we go?

KATE

Don't start.

CLAIRE

I hate it here.

DAMON

You hate it everywhere. It's part
of your charm.

CLAIRE

Who's that...?

They follow her look to edgy teen NIC, off by himself,
AirPods in, world out.

KATE

That's Alex's son Nic. From his
first marriage.

CHLOE

What's his deal?

DAMON

Same as yours. Disgusted with life.
Yet happy to be here.

KATE

You should go say hi.

Claire scoffs, but she senses a kindred spirit. That's when Alex walks by and makes his way over to Nic...

ALEX

So what'd you think, kiddo?

NIC

The Dad Rock vibes were super-cringey, but I guess I should be grateful you didn't make me suffer through a season finale of the Bachelor type of wedding.

ALEX

It's what I do.

NIC

(eyeballs Claire)

What's the deal with goth Molly Ringwald?

ALEX

Ah-ha. Daisy's best friend's daughter. Claire. Her father is the EDM producer I was telling you about. You interested?

NIC

What's the point? Love is pain.

ALEX

Sure, but what's the alternative? Cynicism? People say the world is on fire right now, we're all so divided, but take a look around. What do you see? I see nothing but love. All kinds of it.

We look at the reception through Alex's eyes and that's exactly what we see, too. Friends and family in every variety and stage of love.

NIC

Well, except for Grandma. She looks as miserable as ever.

But he says it with a smile, signaling that Alex's point has landed. And that's when Daisy approaches, Claire in tow...

DAISY

Nic, I want you to meet Claire...

ALEX

And Claire, this is Nic...

CLAIRE

You don't look very happy to be here, Nic.

NIC

And you don't look as unhappy as your little Halloween costume might suggest, Claire.

Claire smiles. Which makes Alex and Daisy smile. Daisy grabs Alex by the hand and tugs him off, headed for Daisy's mom Lily, who downs a glass of champagne and grabs another...

ALEX

Lily, I feel like I need to apologize both retroactively and in advance for anything my mother says or does tonight...

LILY

Oh, Alex, I sense great sadness in the woman. I feel bad for her.

ALEX

Yeah, that'll wear off...

That's when Nigel slithers over. Hands up in mock-surrender.

NIGEL

I come in peace...

DAISY

Careful, Dad, you might leave in pieces.

NIGEL

It was a lovely ceremony. If I do say so myself. I thought I acquitted myself quite nicely.

ALEX

I thought so!

DAISY

Me too...

NIGEL

Didn't you think so, Lils?

LILY

Is someone talking? Or is that the wind?

NIGEL

Good god, woman, I wish this swill
was as cold as your heart.

LILY

And I wish Alex had kept driving
that night.

NIGEL

So you'd rather I be dead than
happy?

LILY

Yes, I'd say that's exactly right.

NIGEL

Well, obviously I was right to
leave you then...

LILY

For some Slavic teenager!

NIGEL

Oh please, she's the same exact age
you were when we met!

Which maybe wasn't the right thing to say. Alex and Daisy
wince. A moment as Lily boils over and throws her drink in
Nigel's face. Which he takes with fairly casual aplomb.

NIGEL (CONT'D)

Lovely. Are we about done here?

LILY

Just about...

That's when SHE PUNCHES HIM IN THE FACE, KNEES HIM IN THE
BALLS, and STALKS OFF, leaving all concerned gobsmacked. None
more so than Alex and Daisy.

DAISY

Tell me, was there a plan in place
for this particular contingency?

ALEX

I'm sorry, but I did not anticipate
ex-on-ex crime.

Daisy moves off to deal with her mother. Off Alex...

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

VIDEO BOOTH - ALEX

ALEX

Here's the thing about second marriages. It's a miracle. You've found love again. Against all odds. But you're also nervous as hell. Because you don't want to screw up this all-important second chance. And then factor in the wedding day. So much crazy importance is placed on this one day. But isn't it the journey that matters most? What got us here? And where we're headed?

EXT. SUNSET MARQUIS - NIGHT

Where Alex finds an upset Daisy...

DAISY

She won't come out of her room unless he leaves.

ALEX

Meanwhile, he's threatening to call the cops and press charges.

DAISY

Oh my god, this is a disaster!

ALEX

I'll talk to her.

DAISY

You're very sweet, but that's a lot of lady crazy to untangle...

ALEX

Hey, when it comes to crazy moms, no one's got me beat. Relax. Don't stress. I love you. I will fix this. Perfect night, remember?

Daisy smiles, charmed. Kisses him. Alex moves off, only to be accosted by his mother Grace. Alex keeps moving, forcing her to follow...

GRACE

Alex, I have to tell you -- I really don't approve of the seating situation...

ALEX

Really, Mom? You found something to disapprove of tonight? I'm shocked!

GRACE

I just don't understand why I'm not at your table!

ALEX

Because if you're there, Daisy's mother has to be there, and then what about Daisy's father and his new wife? It's complicated family dynamic stuff! Haven't you noticed?

GRACE

Well, it's not my fault these people can't keep their families together!

ALEX

Mom. Check yourself. Before you wreck yourself. Why don't you go spend some quality time with your grandson?

GRACE

Please. He won't even talk to me. Too busy flirting with that morbid little creature...

Alex looks and sees Nic and Claire talking, listening to music, sharing his AirPods. He smiles. Which triggers a --

EXT. AERO THEATER - DAY (FLASHBACK)

"Harold and Maude" on the marquee. Alex and Nic walk out...

ALEX

So... what'd you think? Pretty cool, huh?

NIC

Kinda weird. But in a good way.

ALEX

Love is weird, dude.

NIC

Yeah, so I've gathered.

(then)

What's the deal with you and Mom and the Big D?

ALEX

Can't we just stick to
deconstructing a movie and not my
marriage?

NIC

She says you won't sign the papers.

ALEX

She says this? Out loud? To you?

NIC

Not to me. I've just overheard.

ALEX

Well, here's the thing -- it ain't
over til it's over, kid. No
retreat, baby, no surrender.

NIC

Dad, face it -- rock is dead and so
is your marriage.

ALEX

Hey, you're way too young to be
cynical about love or music!

NIC

Look at the facts. You're an
artist; she's an attorney. You live
in your head; she lives in the
world. But you're both great
parents and you tried your best.
Two happy homes beats one sad one
any day.

ALEX

You're annoying me with your well-
adjusted wisdom right now.

NIC

And who knows, maybe it would've
been easier for you guys to stick
together if you had been able to
have kids on your own...

Which puts a sudden halt to their walk and talk --

ALEX

Do you really believe that?

NIC

You can't deny that it's a
possibility.

ALEX

Sure I can. Because you're my son.
Biological or otherwise. I love
you. Your mother loves you. And our
problems have zero to do with
you. Do you hear me?

NIC

(shrugs)
Sure. I hear you.

By now they've arrived at...

EXT. ISABELLE'S PLACE - CONTINUOUS

A charming little Craftsman in Santa Monica. Alex gives Nic a
big hug goodbye. Alex just stands there for a moment,
regarding this house that was once his home. He's about to
walk off when dark-haired beauty ISABELLE (40s) comes out...

ISABELLE

Hey...

ALEX

Hey yourself...

ISABELLE

How's it going?

ALEX

Not great. Apparently he thinks
we'd be all fine and dandy if he
was ours the old-fashioned way.

ISABELLE

He said that?

ALEX

Yes, Isabelle. He said that.

ISABELLE

I'll talk to him...

ALEX

It kills me to think he's got that
rattling around in his head.

ISABELLE

I said I'll talk to him.
Meanwhile... have you signed?

ALEX

Why? What's your rush to make it
final? Are you seeing someone?

ISABELLE

(sighs)

Come on, Alex, it's none of your business. I'm not asking you what you're up to you out there.

ALEX

You know what exactly I'm up to! Nothing! Other than trying to fight for our marriage!

ISABELLE

No, you're just fighting for the idea of our marriage! Which isn't the same thing! And it's not working!

ALEX

Because you won't put in the work!

ISABELLE

At what point is it just too much work?! Love shouldn't be this hard!

Alex's phone rings. He takes it, happy for the interruption.

ALEX

Hey. Really? Wow, okay, cool. Today? Sure, I'll make it work!

ISABELLE

What was that?

ALEX

What do you care?

ISABELLE

I care, Alex. I'll never not care.

ALEX

The magazine wants me to profile Nigel Valentine for the cover.

ISABELLE

That's amazing. He was on that first mixtape you gave me...

ALEX

Yeah, it is. And he was. And you know what's always bothered me? You never once made me a mixtape!

ISABELLE

Seriously?

ALEX

Yeah, I basically music supervised our entire relationship and you never, ever returned the favor!

ISABELLE

Well, I'm sorry I let you down, Alex. But I am happy for you...

She pulls him into a hug. Which feels like home. He inhales.

ALEX

You smell good...

Isabelle pulls away, gives him a sad smile, goes back inside.

INT. SUNSET MARQUIS - HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Alex walks in and finds Lily sitting on the floor amidst miniature vodka bottles and dark chocolate from the minibar. She's been crying.

LILY

I'm sorry, Alex. I just can't be around him. And her! My god, she's like an Eastern European toddler! With huge boobs! He could be her great-grandfather! The whole thing is a crime against humanity!

ALEX

No worries. I totally get it. Just thought I'd bring some of the party to you. Can I sit?

She shrugs. Alex plops down next to her.

LILY

Why do men think it's okay to just discard women at a certain point?

ALEX

I don't know. But I've been discarded myself. I was married. Thought she was the one. Turns out I was wrong. Your daughter was the one.

LILY

For now.

ALEX

Always.

LILY

You're so sure, but if you asked Nigel that question thirty years ago he'd have said the same thing. Watching him onstage tonight was like this gut punch to the soul. Once upon a time, I was his muse. We traveled the world, I gave him two beautiful daughters, and then I did the unforgivable -- I got old.

ALEX

Not old. Just older. Which doesn't make you an ounce less beautiful.

LILY

You're sweet, Alex. But all the nice words in the world are no match for the hideous monster that is menopause.

ALEX

You know, I've always felt a little weird about telling you this, but I had the hugest crush on you when I was growing up.

LILY

You did...?

ALEX

You were the girl in all those great rock videos? How could a guy of a certain age not fall in love?

LILY

I was pretty hot, wasn't I?

ALEX

Smokin'. And lose the past tense. Julian, my best man? Big fan.

LILY

Really? He's very good-looking.

ALEX

You know what? You should come out and flirt with him. I'm pretty sure that will drive Nigel crazy. Fight fire with fire.

LILY

That's not a terrible idea.

ALEX

And just so you know, I've been right where you are. Love ends, and it sucks hard, but that doesn't mean it can't evolve into something else that allows you to both be there for your kids.

LILY

That sounds nice and all, but holding on to the hate is fun, too. Just do me a favor, okay?

ALEX

Anything.

LILY

Don't ever discard my daughter like Nigel discarded me.

ALEX

Never.

She rests her head on his shoulder. Alex thinks back...

INT. NIGEL'S PLACE - LIVING ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Warm, classy, and cool. Strewn with vintage guitars and recording equipment. Alex and Nigel and a couple of pints. Nigel shifts in his seat, uncomfortable.

NIGEL

Your questions are really quite insufferable. Are there many more?

ALEX

Just a few. I ran into your daughter on the way in --

NIGEL

Oh, she's not pleased with me at the moment. Nor is her sister. Which is understandable when you up and leave their mother after some thirty odd years...

ALEX

Seriously?! But you and Lily have one of the great marriages in rock history!

NIGEL

Yes, well, it's still just a marriage, isn't it?

(MORE)

NIGEL (CONT'D)

No matter how far we've come as a civilization, no one's quite been able to figure out husbands and wives, have they?

Alex smiles and writes that last bit down in his notebook.

NIGEL (CONT'D)

Was that particularly quotable?

ALEX

I think so. But I'm currently in the thick of some complicated husband and wife stuff myself so maybe it just hits close to home.

NIGEL

How long have you and your immortal beloved been together?

ALEX

We met in high school. Dated until she moved away. Re-met in our twenties. Been together ever since.

NIGEL

Oh my -- you're like the pathetic, mournful hero of some long forgotten Bruce Springsteen demo.

ALEX

Yeah, something like that.

NIGEL

For what it's worth, I've lived my own version of that particular love story. Doesn't end well, I'm afraid. Young love, first love... it's not built to last. Maybe that's what makes it so sweet. But imagine trying to dance with a ghost for the rest of your life...

Nigel winces a little. Looks like he's in pain.

NIGEL (CONT'D)

Let's pick this up again tomorrow, shall we? That is if I decide to keep you.

ALEX

Fair enough...
(eyes him)
You sure you're okay?

NIGEL

Yes, just something I ate. I'm going to lie down for a bit.

ALEX

Okay, but I hate leaving you...

NIGEL

I understand you're a big fan, but what are you going to do? Tuck me in? Watch me sleep?

ALEX

Well, you're all alone up here, and no offense, but you are at that point in life where things can go suddenly and viciously wrong --

NIGEL

-- Are you suggesting I'm old?!

ALEX

Not at all, sir, but is there someone I could call? I wouldn't be able to forgive myself if I left and something happened to you...

Nigel shoves him toward the door and out --

ALEX (CONT'D)

Okay, well, it was a pleasure talking to you --

NIGEL

-- I'm sure it was!

-- and slams the door shut on him.

INT. ALEX'S MUSTANG - DRIVING - DAY

Alex pulls up to a light at PCH. One of Nigel Valentine's songs comes on the radio. He smiles. It's funny. But also troubling. Feels like an omen. The light turns green. Alex makes a last-second decision and turns around --

EXT. NIGEL'S PLACE - MOMENTS LATER

Alex pulls up. Gets out. Rings the doorbell. Tries the door. It's locked. He goes around back. Where he finds Nigel collapsed in a heap by the pool. As he rushes over...

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

VIDEO BOOTH - ALEX

ALEX

"Love means never having to say you're sorry." Quite possibly the dumbest phrase to ever take root in the American psyche. How is it even remotely possible? Love and pain are so inexorably intertwined that "I'm sorry" seems not only entirely necessary but maybe the only words as powerful as "I love you"...

EXT. SUNSET MARQUIS - NIGHT

Alex rejoins the reception with Lily on his arm. Daisy smiles, kisses Alex.

LILY

This boy is keeper. Keep him happy or I'll steal him for myself.

DAISY

That's creepy on many levels, Mom.

Alex moves over to Julian, Ali and Kevin...

JULIAN

Ya hanging in there, kid?

ALEX

Oh I'm fantastic! Half this place is Team Isabelle and they're hoping for a trainwreck. And guess what? They're getting it!

JULIAN

Hey, we were all very much Team Isabelle once upon a time, but Daisy's the bomb, her mom is a legit badass, and at the end of the day, we're always gonna be Team You first and foremost. How can we help?

ALEX

Okay, speaking of Daisy's mom, I need you to flirt with her. Really shine it on. Make her feel good.

JULIAN

Are you kidding me? I'd be honored!
And I don't have to shine anything
on. The woman was a huge go-to in
my teen wank bank! Yours too I'm
sure. I don't how you deal with it!

ALEX

Okay, settle down over there.

ALI

I'd be happy to get in on that.
Make her feel twice the love.

ALEX

Ali, my friend, I appreciate the
enthusiasm, but that's not gonna
get it done. You're a big lusty
sweetheart of a guy, but we need
classically handsome.

ALI

I get it. I tend to grow on the
ladies, but it does take some time.

KEVIN

Much like a slow-moving fungus.

ALI

Hey, on that tip, can you put in a
good word with Daisy's sister?
She's mean and nasty. Like a feral
cat. But I'm digging it for some
reason. There's something there.

ALEX

Absolutely, buddy, just give me a
minute...

Alex grabs Julian and leads him over to Daisy and Lily...

ALEX (CONT'D)

Lily, I want you to --

But Julian jumps right in. Grabs her hand and kisses it.

JULIAN

Lily, would you allow me to buy you
a drink and go on and on about just
how much your work has meant to me?

LILY

(charmed)
I'd be honored.

Julian leads her off. Daisy half-smiles at Alex.

DAISY

What are you up to?

ALEX

I just think her soul needs a big hug. She wants to feel young and beautiful tonight. Now I'm off to deal with your dad. Oh and put in a good word with your sister for Ali!

DAISY

Why would I do that? Why would I want to punish the poor guy?

INT. SUNSET MARQUIS - NIGEL'S SUITE - NIGHT

Alex walks in to find Greta tending to Nigel's face.

NIGEL

Are the police here yet? I'm pressing charges. I'm getting a restraining order against the woman. She's quite mad, you know.

ALEX

You won't be doing anything of the sort.

NIGEL

As far as I can see there's only one bloody rock star in the room! You don't tell me what to do!

ALEX

I will tell you what to do. You know why? This is my wedding day. But more importantly this is your daughter's wedding day. Do better, Nigel! Get your ass out there and apologize!

NIGEL

Apologize?! Are you out of your skull?

GRETA

He's right, Nigel. And she's not crazy. You left her for a much younger woman and it hurts. You have the power to make her feel better. You should do it.

NIGEL

But she humiliated me in front of fans and family, she disrespected the baby-maker, and even worse, she dared damage the money-maker!

ALEX

Nigel, I didn't want to pull this card, but it seems like I must. I saved your life. You owe me.

NIGEL

Let's be real, Alex -- I saved my own life.

ALEX

Oh yeah, how do you figure?

NIGEL

The sheer volatility of my love life quite literally broke my heart, but you -- a lover of my music -- saved my life. So in a manner of speaking you could say that the love I put out into the world through my art is what ultimately came back to save me...

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING AREA - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Alex sits and waits. He looks up, sees Daisy approaching.

DAISY

They said you called 911...

ALEX

Yeah, I'm sorry, I should've never left...

DAISY

You're sorry? The man had a heart attack, but because you got him here so quickly, he's going to be okay. You saved my father's life...

ALEX

That's awesome! For once, my anxiety pays off in a big way!

DAISY

I've been so pissed at him lately. So blinded by anger.

(MORE)

DAISY (CONT'D)

If what I said to him today was the last thing I ever said to him, I'd be devastated. I don't know who you are or where you came from --

ALEX

I'm Alex from Rolling Stone, remember?

DAISY

(smiles)

That's right. Well, thank you, Alex from Rolling Stone...

ALEX

Honestly, it was truly my pleasure. I'm always happy when I can help elongate the lives and careers of influential artists.

DAISY

Gosh, I feel like I need to get you something. But what? A card, a gift basket, a bottle of wine? What do you get the person who saves your father's life?

ALEX

Don't worry about it. Just make the most of the time you have left with these strange creatures known as our parents. Say all the things that need to be said. Hug them now because tomorrow is promised to no one. And if you find that you absolutely must get this person a gift of some kind, well, there's always free concert tickets.

DAISY

(laughs)

Look, I know he's gonna want to thank you himself, but he's pretty out of it right now.

ALEX

No worries. Give him my best. And hopefully this will guilt him into letting me write the story.

DAISY

I'll put in a good word...

She smiles and walks off, leaving Alex enchanted...

EXT. SUNSET MARQUIS - NIGHT

Alex drags Nigel back to the reception. Nigel sees Lily and Julian hitting it off. He is immediately annoyed.

NIGEL

Who is that smarmy car salesman
she's talking to?

ALEX

That's Julian, my best man. You've
met him fifteen or sixteen times.

NIGEL

Alex, do you have any idea how many
faces I've seen in my career?

ALEX

Yes, I know, and you've rocked them
all.

They run into Daisy and Poppy.

NIGEL

I'm sorry, darlings. I'm deeply
ashamed.

DAISY

Wow, an apology, I'm impressed.

NIGEL

Your husband is manipulating me
into making amends.

Nigel walks off towards Lily. Ali walks up, makes eyes at
Alex --

ALEX

Poppy, I think you know my good
buddy Ali here --

POPPY

Don't waste your time. I'm in a
foul mood. It's all I can do to not
run screaming for an Uber.

DAISY

Lovely, thank you!

ALI

Look, I promise not to bore you
with bread anymore --

POPPY

Bread doesn't bore me. Bread is delicious. I could live on toast for the rest of my life.

ALI

Same here.

POPPY

Obviously.

ALI

Oh is that a fat joke?

POPPY

Merely an observation that your passion is also very bad for your health. Carbs convert to sugar --

ALI

Oh, I know all about carbs. I just pretend I don't. Makes everything taste better.

POPPY

Also leads straight to diabetes.

ALI

Oh, is that why you're giving me such a hard time?

POPPY

What are you going on about?

ALI

You're thinking that if you fall for me, you'd be worried about my health all the time.

Poppy laughs out loud. Almost does a spit-take.

ALI (CONT'D)

I get it, I do, but we're all just at the whim of the universe, baby. Might as well taste what we can while we can.

POPPY

You're really quite insane.

ALI

I'm going to get you a refill...

Ali grabs her glass and heads off --

DAISY

He's really sweet, Poppy. You should give him a chance.

ALEX

One of the greatest dudes I know.

POPPY

I believe you, Alex, I do. But what's the point? What could possibly happen? We fall in love and have some epic storybook romance? These things don't happen to me! And I'm leaving for Africa in two days! I'm not available!

Poppy overheats and storms off. They watch her go.

ALEX

It's still hard to believe she's a licensed therapist.

DAISY

I blame my father. For most things.

INT. GREEK THEATER - BACKSTAGE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Alex walks and talks alongside Nigel amidst the pleasant chaos of backstage at a big rock show.

ALEX

Do you still love the walk to the stage?

NIGEL

No more questions.

ALEX

Fair enough.

NIGEL

Save it for the book.

ALEX

Book?

NIGEL

Didn't I tell you?
(off his look)
They offered me a huge book deal. Said they'd pair me with any writer I wanted. I said there's one particular writer I have in mind...

ALEX
You're kidding me...

NIGEL
Yeah, the bloke who wrote Tom
Petty's book. That was quite a good
one.
(smiles)
Would you care to write a book with
me, Alex?

ALEX
Does the word duh mean anything to
you? Thank you!

Overcome, Alex pulls Nigel into a hug. But Nigel stops him --

NIGEL
No. Thank you, Alex. For things big
and small. Look who's here --

He nods out Daisy standing by the side of the stage.

NIGEL (CONT'D)
She hasn't been to one of my shows
in years. Before the heart attack
we weren't talking at all. She
would just show up and scream at me
from time to time. But because you
were kind enough to care about some
cranky old relic from the MTV era,
I get a second chance with my
girls. So you don't have to thank
me for a bloody thing ever again.
How's your love life by the way?

ALEX
Sadly status quo.

NIGEL
Be good to yourself, Alex. Close
your eyes and listen for the
whisper of your heart. Give
yourself permission to love again,
and love will find you...

Nigel heads for the stage, pausing to give Daisy a hug and a
kiss before walking out in front of an adoring sold-out crowd
on a beautiful summer night at the Greek Theater. Daisy finds
Alex. They hug. The crowd and the music is loud, forcing them
to get close and talk into each other's ears.

DAISY
Hi, Alex from Rolling Stone!

ALEX
You remembered!

DAISY
Yes! And I got you something...

ALEX
You didn't have to do that!

DAISY
Yes, I did!

She smiles and turns her attention to the show. And if her smile is a drug, Alex is starting to cop a serious buzz.

EXT. GREEK THEATER - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

The concert is over now. The venue empty, moonlit and beautiful. Alex and Daisy are perched on the edge of the stage, drinking in the magical post-show vibe...

DAISY
When I was little, we'd spend the summers on the road with my dad and after every show, I'd sit on the edge of the stage of every venue and soak it all in. It was just the most peaceful, easy feeling. Like going to church with all the boring parts cut out.

ALEX
I get it. I totally get it.

DAISY
I'm glad you do, Alex Fletcher...

ALEX
Oh so you know my last name now, too? Impressive.

DAISY
I read the article. It was good. Really good. You captured the old goat. Warts and all. That's important. And the way you wrote about music and relationships... it was really beautiful. Which led me down an Alex Fletcher wormhole. Man, you must have seen some stuff on the road with Post Malone...

ALEX

Oh yeah... my eyes were burning on that one.

DAISY

Big fun?

ALEX

Not for me! I was married. Well, I'm still married. Just separated at the moment. Well, on the verge of divorce, actually. Just have to sign the papers.

DAISY

What's stopping you?

ALEX

Fear, mostly. Of failure. The unknown. Thinking if only I had just worked a little harder at it. And there's a kid. A teen boy who keeps telling me that rock is dead.

DAISY

Hey, them's fighting words!

ALEX

Tell me about it!

DAISY

Well, now the blue makes total sense...

ALEX

The blue?

Daisy reaches in her bag, pulls out a CD case, hands it to Alex. The cute, funky, homemade cover reads: "Songs In The Key Of Blue. For Alex Fletcher From Rolling Stone, Who Saved My Father's Life And All He Got Was This Lousy Mixtape."

DAISY

Okay, so I have this thing with music. When I hear songs, I see colors. It's actually not that unusual. Google it. But sometimes I see colors with people, too. And that night at the hospital, I saw all these crazy shades of blue with you. So I put together a bunch of songs I thought you might dig.

(MORE)

DAISY (CONT'D)

Which is apparently what you give the person who saves your father's life. I know it's not much...

ALEX

It's not much. It's everything.
(moved)
You made me a mixtape...

DAISY

Well, technically it's a mix-CD.
Hopefully you can actually play --

But before she can get that last bit out, Alex leans in and kisses her. It's short and sweet. As he pulls away...

ALEX

I'm so hoping that was okay...

DAISY

Well, as far as kisses go, it was aces. Unfortunately, I'm spoken for. I have a boyfriend...

ALEX

Of course you do! I'm so sorry!

DAISY

Hey, don't be sorry. I'm super flattered. And I promise I won't alert the media. Well, it was really nice seeing you again, Alex Fletcher from Rolling Stone of Planet Earth. Enjoy the mixtape...

She goes, leaving Alex all alone on the lip of the stage.

EXT. SUNSET MARQUIS - DAY

Alex walks up to Kate and Damon, who is keeping a wary fatherly eye on Nic and Claire.

ALEX

Guys, I assure you, he's a good kid. A bit of a dick sometimes, but basically a nerd at heart.

KATE

Oh please, you should've seen the last Jack Skellington wannabe she brought home. Nic is a huge upgrade.

DAMON

Alex, man, I'm more worried about
your girl and Teddy Devine...

Alex looks, sees Daisy chatting with an impossibly good-
looking and seriously tattooed pop/rock star named TEDDY
DEVINE (30s), an unholy combo of Adam Levine and John Mayer.

KATE

Did she not ever mention him...?
(off his look)
I guess not.

Alex smiles, makes his way over to Daisy and Teddy.

DAISY

Alex! I want you to meet --

ALEX

Teddy Devine. Great to meet you,
man. Big fan.

TEDDY

Well, that's very nice of you,
Alex, but I think we both know
that's not exactly true.

ALEX

We do...?

TEDDY

There was an Alex Fletcher who
reviewed my first album for Rolling
Stone...

(to Daisy)

Wait, you know what's hilarious? I
think we were together when that
review came out because I can
picture you reading it to me in a
hotel room somewhere!

DAISY

Oh my god -- that's amazing!

ALEX

Oh, so you guys were together-
together...

DAISY

Off and on...

TEDDY

Right up until your girl broke my
heart.

DAISY
Oh stop it...

TEDDY
But I did get a song out of it!

ALEX
Wait -- "Daisy Rain" was about you?

TEDDY
You just married a muse, dude!

ALEX
Fantastic!

TEDDY
Look, I'm so sorry to crash your big night. We just got back from playing the Forum and I ran into Nigel, who said he just married you guys onstage at the Greek. So I had to say congrats, and I wanted to meet the guy who got the girl. Well done, Alex. She's incredible.

ALEX
That she is.

TEDDY
Treat her right, man.

ALEX
That is certainly my intention.

TEDDY
Hey, is it cool if I get up with the band later?

DAISY
Of course!

Teddy puts his hands together in prayer, bows, and walks off.

DAISY (CONT'D)
How ya doing over there?

ALEX
Well, just found out my wife inspired a chart-topping love song. Soaking it all in with ya!

DAISY
You do seem a little jealous right now. Which is cute, I gotta say.

ALEX

How long might you guys have been together?

DAISY

Together is hardly the word for it. It was more like a lot of sex in a lot of hotel rooms.

ALEX

Oh what a relief!

DAISY

He was fun. Like a puppy with his head out of the window. But it wasn't some epic love story for the ages. Just a lot of great sex.

ALEX

Yep, you said that already. But you added great this time. Caught that.

DAISY

I wasn't keeping it from you, Alex. And hey, I'm sure there's stuff about you I don't know --

That's when Daisy gets a text. She looks down.

DAISY (CONT'D)

Oh. My. God...

Daisy hands Alex the phone. He reads a text from Grace to Daisy but clearly intended for someone else: "This is a shit show!!! I give them six months! Maybe six weeks!" Alex looks up, furious. Grace is standing nearby, on her phone, smiling.

ALEX

Mom!!!

GRACE

What is it, dear?

ALEX

Why on earth would you send this?

GRACE

What?

(looks at her phone)

Oh. Oh no. That was for Isabelle...

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

VIDEO BOOTH - ALEX

ALEX

On the surface, my mother is a lunatic. But here's the thing -- the woman was kicked in the teeth by love long ago. My father was a hopeless romantic who couldn't hang in there when things got real. So he bailed. Leaving behind a woman whose broken heart never healed and a kid who wasn't going to make his same mistakes. But eventually you realize that you can't move forward unless you deal with the past...

EXT. SUNSET MARQUIS - NIGHT

We pick up where we left off with Alex, Grace and Daisy and those guests who just can't look away:

ALEX

Why would you do that! And why are you texting my ex-wife on my wedding day?! What is wrong with you?!

GRACE

You know I'm not good with these things! And I can't help it if I adore Isabelle! What am I supposed to do? Cut her out of my life just because you got divorced?!

ALEX

We need to get you tested because you are definitely on the spectrum!

DAISY

Hey, don't talk to your mother like that!

ALEX

What are you talking about? She's been horrible to you!

DAISY

That's her problem. But she's your mother, and you should always treat her as such.

(to Grace)

(MORE)

DAISY (CONT'D)

Grace, I'm not offended by your text because I actually don't believe that you don't like me --

GRACE

It's not that I don't like you, Daisy. You're obviously a very sweet, very positive person, and maybe I just find that kind of personality type annoying --

ALEX

Mom!

DAISY

You know what's hilarious, Grace? We're going to laugh about this one day, the two of us. Because once you get past that which you find annoying, you are going to love me. Because I'm lovable. And I'm sorry that you can't find some joy on your son's wedding day. Second or otherwise. But until the day comes when all is good with us...

(firm)

Don't mess with MY wedding day!

Grace is flustered. She looks to Alex, who claps, impressed. Grace walks off in a huff.

ALEX

Nicely done!

DAISY

Too much?

ALEX

No way. Just right.

DAISY

Now I feel like I have to go make sure she's okay...

ALEX

Why?

DAISY

Because she's your mother and I love you and I want her to know that loving you means loving her and accepting her for all of her faults. However hellish they may be. Is that crazy?

ALEX

No, it's beautiful. Just like you.

Alex kisses her. She goes off. That's when Alex sees Nigel sitting off by himself somewhere, looking contemplative. He goes over to him, sits down...

ALEX (CONT'D)

Did you apologize yet?

NIGEL

I got close, but then I saw her flirting with that toothy douchebag friend of yours --

ALEX

He's actually a really good guy.

NIGEL

And I realized something. God as my witness, I still love that woman.

ALEX

Then why on earth did you leave her?!

NIGEL

My heart was telling me I had to roam free and spread my seed in exchange for melodic inspiration!

ALEX

Doesn't really sound like the heart's job.

NIGEL

Having said that, don't you dare ever leave my daughter. I will have your head. And your knob.

ALEX

Understood.

NIGEL

But it's possible I acted somewhat rashly. With Lily as my muse, I weaved timeless songs out of pure gossamer. Since the divorce, nothing. Not a single decent tune.

ALEX

What about Greta?

NIGEL

The sweetest, most beautiful of
angels. Sent from above to make an
old man feel young and vital again.
An epic shag. Yet oddly not a muse.

(then)

But it's rather impolite to make a
man compare the great loves of his
life. Every relationship is a
snowflake, Alex. No two alike.

EXT. NIGEL'S PLACE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Alex pulls up. Gets out. Rings. Knocks. Nada. Once again, he
hears music from the backyard. Goes around the side. This
time it's Daisy and an acoustic guitar. She's playing a cover
of Joni Mitchell's "Both Sides Now." Alex watches her,
impressed. But it's more than that. He's falling in love.

ALEX

And... she's talented.

DAISY

(starts)

Why do you keep scaring me?!

ALEX

I'm sorry -- I'm supposed to work
with your dad on the book...

DAISY

Yeah, and I'm supposed to entertain
you until he gets here. He's stuck
somewhere with the hideous new
model girlfriend.

ALEX

Are you staying here?

DAISY

Yeah, had a little dust-up with the
fella.

ALEX

Oh sorry to hear it.

DAISY

Nice try.

ALEX

I didn't know you were a musician.
(Daisy shakes her head)
Yeah, kinda sounds like you are...

DAISY

Hey, I'm not saying I never entertained the idea -- because I did get the gene and I was nothing if not a Young Lady of the Canyon -- but I realized pretty early on that the business of it all sickened me. So I started this non-profit that brings music education into public schools that need it the most.

ALEX

And she makes the world a better place... Good god, woman, where's your dark side?

Daisy smiles, charmed. Then she gets a text. Frowns.

DAISY

It's my dad. He's gonna be a while. He says you should interview me.

ALEX

Hey, that's a good idea...

DAISY

Hmmm, I guess I'm game, but if I have to dig deep about my father, I'm gonna need a drink or three...

INT. NIGEL'S PLACE - LATER (FLASHBACK)

Sipping bourbon and talking, cozy on the couch...

ALEX

What impact did your father's career have on your love life?

DAISY

Well, I've certainly dated my fair share of cheap imitations. I suppose I was trying to replicate what I saw at home. The artist and his muse. But the whole broke loser wannabe thing got old after a while and the idea of a guy with a job seemed super appealing. Why did your marriage fall apart?

ALEX

Hey, who's interviewing who? Probably because my entire view of love and relationships was shaped by movies and your father's music.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

Turns out real life is something else entirely. Who knew? But I guess the marriage didn't so much fall apart as simply trail off...

DAISY

But you thought she was the one?

ALEX

I was sure of it. But obviously I wasn't hers. So this whole concept of the one is shaky at best.

DAISY

I think the truth is we just crash into people and sometimes it sticks...

ALEX

Interesting. So you're more of a chaos theory kinda girl...

DAISY

Why did you kiss me that night?

ALEX

Why?! I'm not even sure that's possible to put into words...

DAISY

You're a writer. Try...

ALEX

Well, in addition to the fact that you're insanely beautiful and that your very presence is mood-altering in the best way possible --

DAISY

So far so good...

ALEX

You gave me hope.

DAISY

Hope?

ALEX

Yeah, I felt like a fraud and a failure for so long and then I met you and there it was -- hope. Quickly followed by the death of said hope when it was revealed that you were spoken for.

DAISY

Hey, like you're any less complicated, buddy! Married with a kid, no less!

ALEX

(squirms; uncomfortable)
What about you? Do you want kids?

DAISY

I used to, very much so, but lately I feel like that ship has sailed. Maybe it's because I work with kids all day long. Honestly, who would want to come home to them?

ALEX

Oh I know. Miserable little creatures. Terrible taxing burdens.

DAISY

Here's my problem, though. I keep thinking about this guy I crashed into recently. This guy who had the sheer audacity to kiss me onstage at my favorite venue on the planet. What do you suppose that means?

ALEX

In my professional opinion? You should probably --

DAISY

Do it again? I think you're probably right...

ALEX

That's not what I was going to say. And we are entering into dangerous territory here. Because you are far too beautiful for me to be a perfect gentleman about this...

DAISY

Well, nobody's perfect...

ALEX

I don't know what's hotter. You wanting me to kiss you again, or you quoting "Some Like It Hot."

DAISY

Can't you just enjoy both...?

They kiss. And one begets a great many. At some point, Alex's phone starts to blow up, distracting Daisy --

DAISY (CONT'D)
Do you need to get that?

He looks. It's Isabelle calling. And then it hits him --

ALEX
Crap!

DAISY
What?

ALEX
My son. He has his talent show tonight.

DAISY
Well, that's an annoyingly legit excuse. Hmmm, maybe the universe is trying to tell us something, Alex from Rolling Stone...

ALEX
I don't know about that, and you have no idea how much I want to spend the rest of the night in the middle of whatever this is, but I really do have to go...

DAISY
(sad smile)
Of course you do...

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Alex runs in just as the lights are dimming. He slides into a seat next to Isabelle.

ISABELLE
You're late! You almost missed him!

ALEX
But I didn't miss him.

That's when Nic walks out onto the stage, takes a seat at the piano. He adjusts the microphone, clears his throat.

NIC
So once upon a time, as legend has it, my father gave my mother a mix tape.

(MORE)

NIC (CONT'D)

She apparently laughed and threw it in the garbage and my dad had to fish it out and wipe all the ketchup off. There were a whole bunch of songs on the tape, all designed to win her over with his great taste in tunes and his great big, thumping heart, but this was the one that meant something to both of them. Once upon a time...

He starts playing a slow, bittersweet piano cover of Springsteen's "No Surrender." Alex and Isabelle are individually and collectively annihilated. At some point their hands find each other...

EXT. SUNSET MARQUIS - NIGHT

Alex and Nigel approach Lily and Julian, who are all over each other. Daisy and Poppy are nearby. And Greta, too. Alex nudges Nigel forward. Nigel clears his throat.

NIGEL

Lily, may I have a moment...?

Lily doesn't say yes, but she doesn't say no.

NIGEL (CONT'D)

I wanted to say I'm sorry. For hurting you. For making you feel less than. But I also want you to know that I never stopped loving you. Ever. Our love is immortal. What we shared was beautiful and unique and I just want us to get along tonight for the sake of these beautiful and unique creatures we created. Can we please do that?

LILY

I suppose...

NIGEL

Thank you.

Then Nigel whispers something in Julian's ear. Julian goes white and gulps. Nigel moves off. Meanwhile, Daisy throws her arms around Alex and kisses him.

DAISY

And thank you...

She moves off after Nigel. That's when Alex asks Julian:

ALEX
What was that?

JULIAN
He said if I kept it up he'd slice
my cheeks with a straight razor he
keeps in his boot. He said I'd
never hear him coming.

Alex is distracted by a nearby commotion. He sees Damon
yelling at Nic and Claire. Kate is trying to calm him down.
Alex rushes over. Daisy follows.

ALEX
Hey, why are you yelling at my son?
That's my job!

DAMON
I went back to our room and found
them hooking up and smoking pot!

CLAIRE
It wasn't his pot!

DAMON
Whose was it then?

CLAIRE
Yours, Dad -- it was yours.

DAMON
To whom the pot belongs is hardly
the issue here. What matters is the
doing of it. And the molesting of
underage girls!

ALEX
Relax, they're just kids --

DAMON
Exactly! Which is why I'd rather
not walk in on my daughter messing
around with some punk!

ALEX
Hey, that's my punk you're talking
about! And why aren't you more
concerned about hiding your drugs?

Things are starting to overheat when Daisy steps in --

DAISY
There will be no more fisticuffs on
my wedding night!

Kate drags Damon and Claire off. Claire looks back and cries out like a John Hughes teen girl version of Daniel Day-Lewis:

CLAIRE
I WILL FIND YOU!!!

DAISY
Well, Nic, you obviously made an impression on the girl...

ALEX
Which is good. But you think maybe you could be on your best behavior for one night? And when did you start smoking pot?

NIC
Tonight, actually. I mean, why not? It's a big party, right?

ALEX
It's my wedding night!

NIC
Second wedding night, but who's counting?

ALEX
I'll let that slide, but you shouldn't be rushing into any of this stuff. Drugs or girls.

NIC
That's funny, Dad. Because what is this whole night if not a celebration of rushing into things?

Nic walks off. Julian approaches...

JULIAN
Hey, I just wanted to alert you to a potentially inflammatory situation...
(off his look)
Isabelle is here.

Alex's eyes go wide. He turns to Daisy, who throws up her hands and walks off. Alex looks up, sees Isabelle standing on the fringes of the reception. She smiles, waves.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

VIDEO BOOTH - ALEX

ALEX

So there I was, the hopeless romantic, running around playing some weird combo of Cupid and Cyrano, trying to preserve some semblance of a perfect night, when suddenly I'm confronted with the ghosts of my own past, and you realize that nothing is ever fully resolved, and nothing is ever perfect. Except for you, Daisy...

EXT. SUNSET MARQUIS - NIGHT

Alex approaches Isabelle...

ALEX

What the hell, Iz...?

ISABELLE

I tried calling, you didn't pick up.

ALEX

Sorry, it is my wedding night, and I've been putting out fires left and right.

ISABELLE

Don't worry, Alex, I'm not crashing your wedding. And I know entirely too much about the fires. Your mother keeps texting me. She said Nic wanted me to pick him up early?

ALEX

She did?!

ISABELLE

Yeah, is everything okay? I texted him that I was here, but he never wrote back.

ALEX

Sounds like dear old mom was trying to drop a bomb in our lap. And I think Nic is probably too high to answer. He kinda got caught smoking pot...

ISABELLE

What?!

ALEX

But he did make out with a pretty interesting girl. So there's that.

ISABELLE

Wow, so what's the plan? Opioid addiction and loss of virginity by the time cake is served? Where is he? I'll get him out of your hair.

ALEX

No, just let him cool off.

ISABELLE

Look, clearly you're a little too busy worrying about other people's relationships to focus on your own kid..

ALEX

You make an annoyingly good point, Iz, but I want him here with me tonight. And who knows? Maybe this is the start of some great love story for him..

ISABELLE

He could sure use it. He's been down lately. That girl he liked ghosted him. And... he doesn't understand why you felt compelled to get remarried so quickly.

ALEX

And neither do you, I'm guessing...

ISABELLE

Hey, leave me out of it. Doesn't matter what I think. I just want the best for our kid. But I did tell him that his father has a good heart and he wouldn't get married unless he was truly, madly, deeply in love. Call me if you need me. And no more pot.

ALEX

No more pot.

She walks off. Alex watches her go. Which takes us back to:

EXT. -> INT. ISABELLE'S PLACE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Alex knocks. Grace opens the door, lets him in.

ALEX

What are you doing here?

GRACE

I'm taking my grandson to the movies. Is that okay with you?

ALEX

Where's Iz? She said she wanted to see me. Probably wants to videotape me signing the divorce papers right in front of her.

GRACE

If you ask me, I think you should rip them up and get back together. There's still a lot of love between you two. I can tell.

ALEX

Didn't ask you, Mom...

GRACE

And what are you going to do? Go out and find some new girl who will eventually want to start a family and then you'll have to tell her that your willy doesn't work?

ALEX

Mom! My willy works just fine, thank you very much!

GRACE

Then you wouldn't have adopted.

ALEX

There's nothing wrong with adopting! In fact, I wish was adopted!

That's when Isabelle and Nic enter --

GRACE

Let's go, Nicolas, we're going to be late! And your father is being quite rude!

Alex fist-bumps Nic, who sighs and heads off...

NIC

Later, non-creators...

And then there were two. Isabelle pours them some wine.

ISABELLE

We have to be adults about this.

ALEX

I don't disagree.

ISABELLE

Splitting up was my idea and it was the right thing to do. Because it allowed me to see things clearly. We weren't working. We were stuck in all the same old patterns. But maybe the only way out is through.

ALEX

I'm not sure what that means...

ISABELLE

I'm sorry. I'm a little nervous.

ALEX

It's okay, Iz. Take your time...

ISABELLE

I don't want to fight with you anymore...

ALEX

Neither do I.

ISABELLE

But I do want to fight. For us. For this family. Because I think we're worth it.

ALEX

What are you saying...?

ISABELLE

I don't want to go through with it. I don't want to get divorced.

ALEX

But you're the one who wanted to get divorced! I was all about fighting the good fight!

ISABELLE

I know. Which is why I love you, Alex. How could I not? You're still that same boy who made me mixtapes, wrote me a telephone book of love letters, and you always made me feel like I was worthy of a fairy tale romance. And I don't want to throw it all away just because real life didn't match up to the movies.

Alex takes it all in. Then he blinks.

ALEX

I met someone...

And the slow degree to which her face falls is perhaps the most heartbreaking thing you'll ever see. He moves to comfort her, but she stops him and gets herself under control.

ISABELLE

It's fine. I totally understand.

ALEX

Iz...

He moves to comfort her, but she leaves the room.

INT. SUNSET MARQUIS - HONEYMOON SUITE - NIGHT

Alex finds Daisy. She's been crying. Makeup streaked. She looks like a fabulous disaster. Alex walks over and sits down next to her. Takes her hand. A moment.

DAISY

Maybe we made a mistake...

ALEX

No, don't say that...

DAISY

What do you want me to say? This is insane! We've barely been married an hour. Your mother hates me, your son barely acknowledges me --

ALEX

And none of it matters. Only us.

EXT. NIGEL'S PLACE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Alex pulls up. Gets out. Man on a mission. Knocks on the door. No answer. Hears music from the backyard. Smiles. Heads around the side of the house to...

THE BACKYARD

Where he is shocked and embarrassed to discover that he has just crashed A SMALL WEDDING CEREMONY. Nigel's backyard has been transformed into a beautiful little wedding oasis.

Nigel and Greta are standing up front, and someone who looks suspiciously like RICK RUBIN is about to marry them. Everyone turns and looks at Alex. He starts to back away...

NIGEL

Alex, is that you? Why are you crashing my wedding? I like you, more or less, and you did save my life, but you weren't invited.

ALEX

I'm so sorry. I'll be on my way...

NIGEL

What do you want? Obviously it must be important.

ALEX

Not that important.

NIGEL

Important enough to show up unannounced.

ALEX

It can wait.

NIGEL

Well, now I have to know. What do you need from me so badly that you drove all the way over here?

ALEX

I actually kinda just wanted to ask you for Daisy's number. I don't know how to get in touch with her.

NIGEL

What do you need from my daughter?

ALEX

Well, nothing, sir. And just so you know, I wasn't planning on stalking her or anything. I just had something I wanted to tell her.

NIGEL

Well, no time like the present...

Nigel nods over at the small collection of seated guests. Daisy among them. Sitting next to her frowning sister Poppy. She stands.

DAISY

Can I help you, Alex...?

ALEX

Oh boy. This can totally wait. I feel awful for barging in like this. It's terrible of me.

NIGEL

Terrible would be coming all this way and letting the moment pass. You have the floor. Quickly!

Alex approaches Daisy. All eyes on him.

ALEX

Hi...

DAISY

Hello...

ALEX

Okay, so here's the thing. No matter what I do, no matter how hard I try to be rational about everything, I just can't stop thinking about you. Your eyes, that smile... you're like a bolt of pure... soulshine! Yes, that's it! Soulshine! Is that a word? No? Coining it! See, you just inspired a word.

Poppy makes a retching sound, disgusted. Daisy turns to her sister, vicious for a split-second:

DAISY

You be quiet, you bitter old spinster!

Then she turns back to Alex with a beatific smile.

DAISY (CONT'D)

Continue.

ALEX

And it's not just all the superficial beauty stuff and how you make me feel.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

I'm in love with how you're in love with changing the world through music. And I was thinking about your theory. That we just crash into each other and sometimes it sticks. Well, I find myself stuck on you, Daisy Valentine. In a big way. I'm done dancing with ghosts. I'm in love with you. Right here. Right now. And if you ever find yourself unspoken for, I'd like to take you on a proper date. And I'd like to do it sooner rather than later. Because as we know --

DAISY

Tomorrow is promised to no one...

Daisy smiles, taking it all in, thinks for a moment, starts to say something, stops herself and thinks some more. Then:

DAISY (CONT'D)

I hate to say this, Alex, but I kinda had to write you off...

ALEX

Of course you did!

DAISY

Because there was a moment, and then the moment passed, and you wonder, was that it? Because we humans have this funny way of overthinking and missing the moment that could've changed everything.

ALEX

You're so right...

DAISY

But here's the thing. My father. He's getting married. Again. Somewhat impulsively. And because of the whole near-death reconciliation thing, I promised him I'd be there. It's important to the old guy. So I kinda sorta need a date for his wedding.

ALEX

What about the boyfriend?

DAISY
Everything put together falls apart eventually...

ALEX
(smiles)
Paul Simon. Nice.

DAISY
He'll be fine. He should probably be with a gal who's not out there smooching other guys. So do you think you might be interested?

ALEX
I suppose I could make it work.

DAISY
Are you sure? Don't need to check your calendar or anything?

ALEX
Nope. Looking forward to it, actually.

DAISY
Look at that -- we're on a date.

ALEX
So we are...

That said, Alex kisses Daisy. Everyone applauds. Except for Poppy, of course. She sighs, disgusted. Lights a cigarette.

NIGEL
Okay, enough is enough! This is our wedding! You two get your own!

Daisy grabs Alex by the hand and leads him over to the chairs, forcing an irritated Poppy to move down one. And as Rick Rubin continues with the ceremony, we go back to...

INT. SUNSET MARQUIS - HONEYMOON SUITE - NIGHT

They're still sitting there. But both smiling now.

DAISY
That was a pretty great day...

ALEX
Yes, it was. And this one isn't over yet. The night is young. It's practically in diapers.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

I love you, and I don't regret a single thing about us. If we had to live this crazy year over again, I wouldn't change a thing.

DAISY

I love you too. How could I not? You've been running around all night trying to make everything perfect for me.

ALEX

Because you're my everything.

Daisy smiles, kisses Alex. Then she gets up, grabs his hand and leads him out...

EXT. SUNSET MARQUIS - RECEPTION AREA - DAY

Alex and Daisy are returning as well. Daisy sees Grace.

DAISY

Oh good, your mother's here. She should hear this.

ALEX

Hear what?

Daisy shushes him, grabs a glass, clinks it, getting everyone's attention. Everything gets nice and quiet.

DAISY

I want to thank all of you for coming out to spend the night with us. This has been an unusual start to a wedding reception, to say the least. But I guess all love stories are strange and unusual. It's truly amazing that anything ever works out for anyone anywhere. But I'm so happy to be here on this beautiful night with friends, family and this beautiful man I love so much who makes me feel so loved in return.

Alex beams. Feels the night turning around.

DAISY (CONT'D)

But I stand before you with good news and bad...

And now he's comically intrigued...

DAISY (CONT'D)

Alex and I are supposed to leave for Bali tomorrow. It's my dream honeymoon. But I can't go. I just don't think it's appropriate given the circumstances...

And now Alex is confused...

DAISY (CONT'D)

So that's the bad news. But here's the good: I'm pregnant...

Which is immediately met with CHEERS and APPLAUSE --

Half the assembled are utterly delighted. Of course they are. Why wouldn't they be? But the other half are looking at each other like: What. The. Fuck? Alex locks eyes with Julian.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Alex sits opposite Julian and his vainglorious diploma wall.

JULIAN

I'm really sorry, man. I know you were hoping something might have changed over the years, but you, my friend, remain 99% sterile.
(reads off a chart)
99.5 actually. Very high.

ALEX

So what you're saying is that there's an ever so slight chance I could get Daisy pregnant?

JULIAN

This is what I love about you. You're such a glass half full guy. But no -- zero chance. You'd have a better shot at impregnating yourself. Have you told her?

ALEX

Well, it's not something I would necessarily lead with, but it doesn't really matter in this case -
- she doesn't want kids.

JULIAN

Okay, so that's perfect! It's a win-win for everyone! And if anything ever changes, I'd be more than happy to knock Daisy up!

(MORE)

JULIAN (CONT'D)

(off his look)

What? I'm kidding! But I'd be happy to. Seriously. Kidding. Not really.

EXT. SUNSET MARQUIS - NIGHT

Where Daisy looks at Alex, all sweetness and light.

DAISY

Are you happy, my love...?

And he shines it on as best he can. Given the circumstances.

ALEX

Of course I'm happy...

As they celebrate with a kiss, the camera circles our ensemble, clocking their reactions, eventually landing on Alex's mother Grace, who is laughing uproariously as everyone around her cheers.

She picks up her phone and texts: "I knew she was a whore!!!" Followed by an eggplant emoji or three.

And as we reprise Nigel's rendition of "Let's Spend The Night Together," we FADE OUT.

But then, OVER BLACK, one word. A name: "Daisy"

VIDEO BOOTH - DAISY

DAISY

Okay, so I'm the first person in here. Alex, I love you for wanting to give me the perfect wedding night, but it's already perfect. Because I'm sharing it with you. I'm sure tonight will be filled with all manner of twists and turns and a whole bunch of other love stories because as we know, everyone here is the star of their very own romantic comedy. Also, by the time you watch this, you'll be fully aware that I'm carrying our love child. I know I said I didn't want kids, but I think it was because I hadn't met you yet. I'm so happy. I love you so much I'm going back outside to find you...

That said, she kisses the screen and exits the booth...

END OF PILOT