

the only picture of us.

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Alex, Kyle, and Heather stand in the front doorway watching Aaron slur his words. PARTY EXTRAS are either sitting at a table with bowls of chips, pretzels, and red cups or walking to and from the kitchen. Some talk in small groups. The radio on the snack table is blaring too loudly for its little body to handle and is distorting.

AARON

(trying not to seem drunk
but failing horribly)
'Sup fuckers! So nice of you to
join us. You're putting in for the
keg. Uh, we have chips.

Aaron somewhat points in the direction of the table. A girl Party Extra stumbles under his arm. They try steadying each other. She whispers something into Aaron's ear. Alex, Kyle, and Heather stare speechless, amazed by Aaron.

Aaron and Extra leave the room, off down a hallway. Aaron waves to the room as they exit into a room. Kyle goes off, Heather trailing behind him, and Alex goes over to the snack table and grabs a few pretzels. A few EXTRAS are at the table, along with JENNY, who immediately notices Alex. Jenny is an attractive, dark haired late teen, with a fitted blouse and jeans.

JENNY

(laughs)
You know, Aaron's chips are so
stale.

Alex laughs.

ALEX

Yeah, I think he has the same bag
of chips out every time.

Jenny laughs lightly again, looking at Alex as she eats the chips. Alex looks around the room, awkward with the situation. He turns his back to her somewhat, looking shy.

Kyle comes up to Alex and hands him a cup. Alex shows relief at his friend coming up to him. Jenny walks away.

KYLE

To the end of high school and the
beginning of summer. Cheers mate.

ALEX

Hell fuckin' yeah.

Their cups collide, some beer spills.

DISSOLVE TO:

4 INT. AARON'S HOUSE. NIGHT 4

Many cups fill the table in front of the remaining Party Extras. The light is off now, just the glow from the television remains.

Kyle lays motionless on the floor near the TV. Heather is sitting Indian style next to Kyle, shaking him.

Alex wakes up on the couch, his hangover already setting in.

HEATHER

Kyle...Kyle...

ALEX

Kyle...dude...we need to go...we got work in the morning. We both open.

HEATHER

(still shaking him)

Walk me home Kyle...Kyle...

Kyle stares unblinking in horror at Heather who is still shaking him.

HEATHER

Kyle...Kyle...

CUT TO:

5 EXT. STREETS. NIGHT 5

Alex, Kyle, and Heather walk to Alex's car, passing under a yellow glow of a suburban street light. Kyle drops his board and skates ahead of them. Alex fumbles for his keys.

KYLE

Dude! You're drunk. We'll skate home.

Alex softly drops his head on the roof of his car.

ALEX

(drunken matter of factly)

I just want to sleep in my car.

KYLE

Can I crash at your place?

Alex doesn't respond and pulls his skateboard from the back seat. They start riding, fumbling slowly down the street. Heather catches up to Kyle.

HEATHER

You barely talked to me the whole night. I'll walk on my own.

She starts to walk away from them, Kyle shouts after her.

KYLE

Babe, I was with all my friends.

She stops and looks back at him.

HEATHER

You acted as if I wasn't even there.

Beat.

KYLE

I am waaaaaay too drunk to talk about this right now.

Beat.

KYLE

C'mon, Alex, let's go.

Heather looks at Kyle one last time, about to say something, then turns and walks away. Kyle watches her for a second, shrugs and rides off in the opposite direction. Alex, now standing in the middle of the street alone, looks over to Kyle as he skates off, then over to Heather as she passes under a streetlight, fading into darkness.

FADE OUT

6

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE. MORNING

6

Kyle sleeps on the floor of the family room in Alex's house, his skateboard next to him. Alex sleeps on the pull out bed from the couch. Alex's feet stick out into the air, hanging over his bed with his shoes still on. Sunlight illuminates the pulled orange drapes near the couch. A cell phone alarm goes off.

Kyle bolts up fast. Alex stays motionless, his mouth open wide.

KYLE
 (hoarse)
 Holy shit.

Kyle rubs his eyes.

KYLE
 Dude, wake up. I gotta shower.
 (Smiles)
 I won't piss while I'm in there, I
 promise.

Alex turns over and grunts into his pillow.

FADE TO:

7 EXT. STREETS. MORNING

7

The sound of strumming from a dissonant guitar begins. The sun is bright, the skies are a hot white. Sunlight peers between the branches of weeping willow tress, which shadow the streets.

TITLE: THE ONLY PICTURE OF US

Alex and Kyle walk up to Alex's car, the windows were left rolled down. Alex looks hung over, Kyle is doing a little better. They toss their skateboards in the backseat and jump in.

8 INT. ALEX'S WORK. MORNING

8

Alex stands off in the corner of a small rectangular room, computers lined up on a waist high bench with paperwork taped to them. His head rests against the wall. The lights overhead are an annoyingly over bright fluorescent. Kyle also rests his head on the bench, hunched over, facing away from the front door to the shop. They wear bright yellow polo shirts, tucked into black work pants. Kyle's shirt is untucked in the back, flopping over his ass. EXTRA enters through the door and comes up quickly to the counter. Kyle's head bolts up fast, his face inches from the wall in front of him. Alex doesn't move.

DISSOLVE TO:

9 INT. ALEX'S WORK. DAY

9

Kyle works, dealing with Extras as they come in. Alex is still in the corner with his head on the wall.

DISSOLVE TO:

10 INT. ALEX'S WORK. DAY

10

Aaron enters. Aaron tosses Kyle a plastic container and opens one that he has in his hand and pulls out a sticky stretch hand.

KYLE

Yes!

They attack Alex, waking him up, who is still in his position against the wall. Aaron humps Alex, which snaps him into reality. Alex fights back some, shoving Aaron off of him. The phone rings and Aaron takes it, getting serious. Alex turns to Kyle.

ALEX

So what's been going on with you and Heather?

KYLE

(shrugs)

No. She's too clingy, man.

Beat.

KYLE

I'm gonna dump her soon. She's too much.

ALEX

(surprised, laughs)

OK. How long you been with her? Like a year?

KYLE

Something like that.

(Beat)

hey, you get that girls number?

ALEX

(plays dumb)

Who?

KYLE

That hot dark haired girl you were talking to at Aaron's party.

ALEX

(laughs)

Oh no man, I didn't talk to her much.

KYLE

Are you serious? She was giving you thee ol eye the whole night! What's her name?

ALEX

I didn't ask her.

KYLE

She was cute man, you shoul da gone for it-

ALEX

(cutting him off, giving up)

dude, I don't know. I don't know what to do with-

KYLE

Dude, You could've-

ALEX

Hey, you need a ride? My shifts up.

KYLE

Heather's picking me up, I'm cool.

13 EXT. STREETS. MORNING 13

Alex drives his car. ALISON'S CAFE looms ahead as he rounds the corner. He grabs a few dollars and some change from his cup holder.

14 INT. ALISON'S CAFE. DAY 14

Alex walks in, wearing his yellow work polo from work that morning, untucked over his black work pants. A long line of CAFE EXTRAS is formed, a few CAFE WORKERS are behind the counter, most with their backs turned. Alex approaches the line.

Then he sees her (ALISON).

ALISON scrubs a spilled drink at the counter near the espresso machine.

ALEX

What, Mom.

ALEX'S MOTHER

Kyle spend the night again?

ALEX

(looks around)

Uh, no, Mom.

ALEX'S MOTHER

Your stinking up this place. Clean up this room. It's starting to look like your bedroom.

She leaves. Alex goes back to the phone conversation with Kyle.

ALEX

(sighs)

I stayed up so late last night.

KYLE

Dude you dropped me off at 2, what were you doing?

ALEX

Nothing, couldn't sleep.

Beat.

KYLE

That sucks.

ALEX

(more awake)

Let's grab some coffee on our way.

18

INT. ALISON'S CAFE. DAY

18

Alison and Cocky Cafe Worker are behind the counter preparing the orders. Alex and Kyle approach the counter.

COCKY CAFE WORKER

(flatly)

Yeah.

ALEX

Caramel latte. Large.

COCKY CAFE WORKER

You sure?

He glares at Alex.

Alison looks over her shoulder at Alex, smiles, then goes back to work.

Cocky Cafe Worker looks over to Kyle.

COCKY CAFE WORKER

You?

KYLE

(looking around,
distracted by all the
people)

Just a coffee man, large.

COCKY CAFE WORKER

(points towards Alex)

Four fifty

(then points to Kyle)

Two for the lady.

Alex and Kyle pull their money out and pay him. Kyle grabs a seat across from the pickup side of the counter. Alex walks down to the pickup area of the counter, making eye contact from time to time with Alison as he walks down the bar.

Alison hands him the drinks.

ALEX

Thanks.

Alison smiles at him. Alex looks at the drinks she gave him, this time avoiding eye contact. He takes the order and sits with Kyle.

Alex leans in to whisper to Kyle.

ALEX

Hey man, I'm thinking of asking
that girl for her number.

Kyle looks obviously over Alex's shoulder to Alison.

KYLE

(loudly)

Yeah man, go for it, I'd do her.
What you got to lose?

Alex gives up.

KYLE

Come on, it wouldn't be that bad if
she rejected you.

(MORE)

KYLE (cont'd)

(Beat)

Not like she would react like
that...she seems like a quiet type.

ALEX

Yeah, so then she would secretly be
terrified of me.

KYLE

(shrugs, giving up)

I don't know man, you brought it
up. I think you should go for it.
Stop thinking about it too much and
just do it.

They continue to drink.

ALEX

Fuck it.

He gets up.

ALEX

You got a pen?

KYLE

No.

ALEX

Shit.

EXTRA walks by as Alex turns to walk, throwing him off
balance for a second. Alex looks toward Alison, hoping she
didn't see him. Her back is turned. He approaches the
counter, grabs a napkin from the stack next to him.

ALEX

(unsure, polite)

Um, excuse me?

Alison turns around, immediately notices the napkin in his
hand.

ALEX

You got a pen?

ALISON

(surprised, knowing what
he's doing)

Yeah! Sure.

Alison hands Alex a pen. He scrawls a phone number down,
hands it to her.

ALEX
Here you go.

Beat.

ALISON
Thanks.

Alex walks back to Kyle and sits down, feeling confident.

KYLE
What did you do?

ALEX
I gave her my number.

KYLE
Cool.

Beat.

KYLE
Wait, you gave her *your* number?
Dude...

Kyle looks very obviously over Alex's shoulder, starts to laugh loudly, looks at Alex and laughs again. It echoes. Alex's excitement wears away as quickly as it came.

KYLE
Dude, you were supposed to ask for
HER number. Why would she call
some guy she doesn't even know?

ALEX
(getting worse)
Oh wait, I forgot to write my name
down.

He gets up, feeling responsible for it.

KYLE
(laughs)
Dude, forget it. Sit down.

He sits back down.

ALEX
Kyle, lets leave.

KYLE
I'm not done with my coffee...

ALEX
 (anxiety rising)
 Can't you drink it in the car? We
 have to leave for work.

KYLE
 No, I'm gonna make you sit this one
 out.

Kyle smiles at Alex then drinks.

22 INT. ALEX'S HOUSE. NIGHT 22

(overhead POV)

Alex lies on the floor, staring upwards. Kyle sleeps on the
 couch pull out bed, under some bed covers.

FADE TO:

23 INT. ALEX'S HOUSE. MORNING 23

Alex lies twisted in his bed sheets on the floor. His cell
 phone begins to vibrate and ring. We can hear Kyle groaning.
 The phone moves slightly from the vibrations. Alex finally
 answers, jolting his hand toward it after realizing it has
 been ringing.

ALEX
 Hello?

ALISON
 Hello.

ALEX
 (puzzled)
 Yeah?

Click.

ALISON
 This is Alison. You gave me your
 number?

ALEX
 Yeah!

ALISON
 I didn't wake you...

ALEX
(sitting up)
No! Not at all.

ALISON
Cool. So what are you doing today?

ALEX
(fumbles his words)
Um, ah, nothing.

ALISON
You want to get something to eat?

ALEX
Yeah! That would be awesome!

No one speaks for a second.

ALISON
Um, you want to know how to get to
my place?

ALEX
(laughs)
Uh sure...

Beat.

ALISON
(tone change)
Well, on second thought...you want
to just meet up at my work? You
live close, right?

ALEX
Oh yeah, I'm only a few minutes
away. What time?

ALISON
Around twelve?

Alex looks toward the clock, ten in the morning.

ALEX
Yeah that sounds good.

ALISON
I'll see you then.

24 INT. ALEX'S HOUSE. DAY

24

Alex hangs up the phone. Excited, he gets up, makes his way through the house to his bedroom and starts to get clothes from his dresser, a shirt from his closet. ALEX'S MOTHER enters.

ALEX'S MOTHER
Who was that?

ALEX
(sighs)
No one mom.

Beat.

ALEX'S MOTHER
Your graduation pictures came back!

She stops him and shows Alex shots of himself in front of his high school with his gown on with his mother. Another likewise standing in front of his house. The smiles were uncanny across them all.

ALEX
Their too... posed, Mom.

ALEX'S MOTHER
What's wrong with that?

ALEX
I don't know... life isn't posed.
There's nothing...random about it.

Alex's Mother, by the look on her face, has absolutely no idea what Alex is talking about.

ALEX'S MOTHER
(nodding)
Well I think you look very handsome
in this picture.

Alex marches past his mother, his mood distracted because of her.

25 INT. ALEX'S HOUSE. DAY

25

He enters the back room where Kyle lies sleeping on the couch. Alex quickly walks in, opens the curtains on his way to the bathroom.

KYLE
 (jolts up fast)
 Holy shit.

Without breaking a stride, Alex makes it into the bathroom and closes the door behind him.

26

INT. ALEX'S CAR. DAY

26

The skies are a beautiful blue, then they fade to a pale white when they touch the horizon. Alison's hair blows in the wind, music plays loudly in the car deck. Alex drives with one hand on the steering wheel, trying to look relaxed, but coming off nervous. He presses the automatic window and it doesn't move down. After messing with the button it lowers slightly then stops. He violently hits the window a few times with the side of his arm, then it lowers awkwardly. He rests his arm on the window, withdraws quickly, burning it.

ALEX
 I hate it when that happens.

ALISON
 (yelling over the stereo
 and the wind)
 What??

He rolls up the windows, the driver side barely making it. He turns down the stereo. Alison watches him in amusement.

ALEX
 Yeah.

ALISON
 So, you live with your folks?

ALEX
 Just my mom. My father passed when I was young.

ALISON
 I'm sorry.

ALEX
 Ah, don't worry. You have any other brothers or sisters?

ALISON
 My brother, Mike. He's my twin, actually.

ALEX

Are you two fraternal or whatever
the other one is called?

ALISON

(laughs)

You mean identical? Yeah were
identical.

Alex looks at the road, nods, a little unsure on what to say next. She looks at Alex, smiles again. Alison pulls out a pack of smokes from her sock, takes a lighter and a cigarette from it.

ALISON

Can I smoke?

ALEX

(rolling with it)

Yeah, sure.

She leans in and turns up the radio, lights up, and rolls the window down. She lets her arm hang freely in the wind, letting it float, extending her fingers.

27

INT. RESTAURANT. DAY

27

A HOSTESS seats them at a booth.

ALEX

(nervous, playing with his
napkin, tearing it a
little)

You still in high school?

Alison leans back, relaxed.

ALISON

No, just graduated.

ALEX

Yeah, me too. You going to college
this fall?

ALISON

Yeah, actually... really early
August.

ALEX

Sucks you'll miss some summer, what
are you going for?

ALISON
Graphic design I think, I'm not
sure.

ALEX
Crazy.

ALISON
You going to school?

ALEX
I'm not sure yet. I think I just
want to keep working or maybe
travel some. Haven't really
thought about it much yet. I don't
want to worry about that stuff now.

Alison looks over Alex's shoulder, quickly changes her
demeanor. MIKE approaches them. He is about six feet tall,
short black hair, dressed plain.

ALISON
(surprised)
Oh, this is my brother Mike. Mike
this is Alex.

ALEX
Oh, hey man.

Alex stands slightly to take his hand. Mike sits down next
to Alison, not taking his handshake. Alex sits.

MIKE
(to Alison)
You talk to Nathan today?

Alex adjusts his posture uncomfortably from time to time.

ALISON
(still looking at Alex)
No, I haven't. He's working right?

MIKE
Yeah, he gets off at seven.
(Beat, changes tone,
knocks on the table)
I'm getting my truck!

ALISON
(flicks her eyes to Alex
from time to time)
Cool stuff.

MIKE
Yeah, I'll be getting it in two
days. You like cars Alex?

ALEX
Ones that work.

28 EXT. RESTAURANT. DAY

28

The three of them exit, they stop in front of the door.

MIKE
(to Alison)
What are you doing after work
tonight?

Beat.

ALISON
(giving up)
Not sure, probably calling Nathan.

MIKE
OK, I'll be home.

Mike then nods toward Alex.

ALISON
Later Mike.

Mike exits, Alex and Alison watch him, then look at each other.

ALEX
What are you doing tomorrow?

ALISON
Nothing.

ALEX
We should do something.

ALISON
I'd love to.

ALEX
We can grab a bite to eat and catch
a movie.

Alison thinks for a second.

ALISON
Pick me up at noon.

29 EXT. ALISON'S STREET. LATE AFTERNOON 29

Alex drives slowly passing the road sign '74th AVE'. We see ALISON'S HOUSE between the trees through the wind shield of his car as he drives.

30 INT. ALISON'S HOUSE. LATE AFTERNOON 30

Alison lets Alex in. He stops at the doormat. The drapes are pulled on every window. Sunlight tries to peer through the pulled shades. The house is quiet except for a ticking clock somewhere off. A computer lays dismantled on the table near the door. The corners and walls are dark, it's hard to make out this place.

ALISON

I'll be back, gotta grab my things.

She exits. Alex looks around the room, then inspects the radio. A few moments pass, she returns.

ALEX

Who's fixing the computer?

ALISON

Oh, my father.

ALEX

(it's easy to talk to her)
You know, you can tell him that if he needs help, to let me know. That's what I do for a job.

ALISON

(laughs)
I'll tell him, but he likes to do things on his own.

As they go for the door, ALISON'S MOTHER enters from where Alison came. Alison seemed to have felt her enter, even without looking.

ALISON'S MOTHER

Alison, where are you going?

ALISON

(not looking back at her)
We're catching a movie.

ALEX

Hi, I'm Alex.

He walks over to her, extending his hand.

Her Mother does not accept his handshake. Alex puts his arm down.

HER MOTHER

Hello.

(To Alison)

What time will you be back?

ALISON

Not sure, we might get food on the way or something.

Alex walks back over to Alison, showing unease, wanting to leave.

ALISON

(cold look to her)

Bye Mom.

Alex and Alison exit the house. Alison's Mother's footsteps exit. Through the front window, a man's hand pulls back the shade and reveals the both of them getting into Alex's car.

Alex and Alison drive away. Heavy footsteps walk away, going deeper into the house.

FADE OUT.

31 INT. ALISON'S CAFE. DAY

31

The Cocky Cafe Worker sits behind the counter, reading a magazine. It's slow. Alex approaches him. Cocky Cafe Worker doesn't look up.

COCKY CAFE WORKER

Four fifty.

ALEX

Actually, is Alison around?

CASHIER

(shouts)

Alison!

Alison walks in from behind the counter with NATHAN, a late teen, hair parted down the middle, some of it hangs in his eyes.

ALISON

Hey.

ALEX

Hey! I had some time before work.

She starts to make a coffee for him. Nathan walks out from behind the counter, to a table with a brown bag and a drink on it.

ALISON
(looking at the drink shes
making)
Alex, this is Nathan.

Alex nods to him.

ALEX
Hey man.

NATHAN
Hey Alex, Alison's told me about
you. You fix computers?

ALEX
(shrugs)
Yeah. It's OK.

NATHAN
I keep getting kicked off line, I
think I have a virus. You think
you could look at it?

ALEX
(feeling obligated)
sure.

NATHAN
You should see my setup man, it's
pretty sweet.

Alison walks to the table, gives Alex the coffee, and sits down.

ALEX
(I hear that all the time,
numb to it)
Yeah, anytime.

Alex notices Alison and Nathan looking at each other. Sensing something, Alex takes his leave.

ALEX
Well, gotta get going.

NATHAN
Nice to finally meet you.

Alex begins to walk away, notices that Alison is looking at him. When Nathan is looking away-

ALISON
 (mouths)
 I'm sorry.

CUT TO:

32 INT. ALEX'S WORK. AFTERNOON

32

Aaron and Alex occupy the small room, yellow polos and all.
 Alex bursts through the door, knocking Alex back.

KYLE
 'Sup fucker.

They rough house for a bit, then a CUSTOMER enters.

KYLE
 (clears his throat,
 serious)
 Window.

Like the flip of a switch, Aaron begins to talk to the customer.

KYLE
 So what's up, man? We've been
 working opposite shifts.

ALEX
 I know. Nothing really I guess.
 (Beat)
 I've been hanging out with Alison
 lately.

A sticky hand whips at Alex's head, misses, and gets stuck on the wall. Aaron laughs obnoxiously. Alex doesn't flinch.

KYLE
 You mean
 (gestures with his pelvis)
 Hanging out?

ALEX
 No, not like that. But we have
 been seeing each other a lot
 lately.

KYLE
 Just you two?

Beat.

ALEX
Not every time.

KYLE
With other guys?

ALEX
Actually, yeah. Two of them. One
of them was her brother, though.

KYLE
She single?

ALEX
She's never told me.

KYLE
Careful man.

ALEX
Hey, she was the one who called me.

KYLE
True.

Beat.

ALEX
Yeah.

KYLE
Well, you never know.

ALEX
We're just hanging out though.

Kyle makes a grunt as he gets back to work. Alex's cell
phone rings. He looks at it before answering.

ALEX
Alison?

The guys in the room cheer at him, more things thrown in his
direction. Alex quickly runs to a back area, away from the
noise.

ALEX
What was that? Hard to hear you.

ALISON
You got a few minutes?

Beat.

ALEX
Yeah sure, what's up?

Alison sighs.

ALISON
I know I should have told you this
sooner-

Click.

ALEX
Yeah?

ALISON
But you know the guy that you met
today, Nathan?

ALEX
Yeah.

ALISON
Well, he's my boyfriend.

Beat.

ALEX
(business like, blank)
Okay.

ALISON
I'm sorry Alex, I should have told
you sooner.

ALEX
Hey, I understand.

ALISON
I told him we have just been
hanging out lately, nothing more.

ALEX
He trust you?

ALISON
Yeah, he does.
(Beat)
We've just been having some
problems lately.

Beat

ALEX

(slightly defensive)
Well, maybe you should spend more
time with him to figure those
things out.

ALISON

No, its OK, I think I might break
up with him soon anyway
(beat)
It's been this way for months now.

ALEX

How long have you been dating him
for?

ALISON

Almost a year.

Beat.

ALEX

(disappointed, gotta say
the right thing)
Yeah, well... Maybe you should
spend some time with him before you
make a decision like that.

ALISON

Yeah, I know.

Beat.

ALISON

(quieter)
wanna go for a walk later?

Beat.

ALEX

(excited reluctance)
Sure.

FADE TO:

35

EXT. ALISON'S HOUSE. AFTERNOON

35

Alex and Alison walk toward her house. They are getting more comfortable around each other, not as awkward anymore. Alison's expression turns blank when she sees Nathan sitting on the porch, under the glow of the light near the door. He solemnly looks back at her. Alex distances himself from her some, looking at Nathan and at the ground.

ALISON
(playing it cool)
Hey, what you up to?

She pulls out her pack of smokes from her sock and lights one up.

NATHAN
Just wanted to see if you were
hungry, but you weren't here.

ALISON
(obligated)
I'm sorry.

Alison walks over and sits beside him. Nathan pulls her in for a hug and kisses her on the lips. Alison catches Alex's uncomfortable stare. She gets up.

ALISON
(shrugs)
Well, you guys want to go inside?
I can make some food.

ALEX
I'm gonna take off, I got-

Alison opens her front door and begins to enter.

ALISON
I was thinking spaghetti.

She closes the door behind her.

Alex looks uncomfortable. Nathan notices and smiles at him. A car drives by down the road.

NATHAN
(genuinely inviting)
Hey, Alex, so how you been?

ALEX
(jumping into it)
Hey man, I'm going to be real
honest here. I know this might
sound weird, but I have to tell you
this.

NATHAN
(adjusts to Alex's
intensity)
OK. What's up?

ALEX

OK, well, you know I have been seeing Alison a lot lately.

NATHAN

(guard let down)

I know.

ALEX

And I just want you to know, Um...

Nathan lights up a cigarette.

ALEX

OK, I don't know how else to say it than to just say it but I like Alison. I like her a lot. And I know that you two are together and have been for some time and I feel shitty because she should be spending time with you, not me.

Nathan nods, smoking his cigarette more, shocked at his honesty.

ALEX

And I found out that she was dating you and still we saw each other and in the back of my mind I know that somewhere you're on your own, wondering where she might be and who she might be with-

NATHAN

Yeah we have, but I trust her. I know she wouldn't do anything behind my back.

Beat.

ALEX

Right.

NATHAN

And see, right here, I know I can trust her, because she's friends with a guy like you, who can be honest.

Alex is the first to look away.

NATHAN

It's been rough between me and her lately,

(MORE)

NATHAN (cont'd)

(beat)

But I know we'll get through it.
We have before. I know everything
will be alright.

Beat

ALEX

Yeah.

NATHAN

And I know she will always be
honest with me, tell me if there
are serious problems and all, so if
it was that serious, I would be
scared.

(Laughs)

But to think of it again, this
hasn't been like the other bad
times in our relationship.

(Beat)

She seems more distant. Something
else is on her mind when I see her.

ALEX

I kind of feel like I'm not helping
things between you two, seeing her-

Nathan looks at him and puts out his cigarette.

NATHAN

It's OK. It's been like this way
even before she met you.

Alison comes out of the front door, balancing three drinks in
her hands. She hands Nathan a different colored drink from
the other two.

ALISON

(sensing the slight
tension in the air)

Hey guys-

ALEX

Hey, I'm gonna get going.

Nathan gets up and walks inside the house.

ALEX

This is too weird for me.

ALISON

Alex-

Alison walks closer to him.

ALEX

Look Alison, I really like you. I mean... a lot. But I can't do this.

He begins to walk away.

ALEX

I'll see you around.

Alex gets into his car. Alison stares at Alex driving away. Alex stares at Alison in his rearview mirror.

DISSOLVE TO:

36 EXT. ALEX'S CAR. NIGHT 36

Alex has been driving for hours. We see the gas going from full to almost empty. He avoids busy streets, avoiding traffic.

DISSOLVE TO:

37 EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE. NIGHT 37

Alex sits on the hood of his car in his driveway, feet on the front bumper, things clearly on his mind.

DISSOLVE TO:

38 INT. ALEX'S HOUSE. KITCHEN. MORNING 38

Alex eats a bowl of cereal. His mother enters.

ALEX'S MOTHER

You were out late last night. Skateboarding?

ALEX

(distant)
Pretty much.

ALEX'S MOTHER

Got work today?

ALEX

Yeah, in an hour.

ALEX'S MOTHER

How come you sleep in the family room? Isn't your bedroom good enough for you?

ALEX

Mom, you won't let me have a TV in my room and the couch bed is bigger.

Beat.

ALEX'S MOTHER

(smiling)

Hey I fixed your lunch for you.

ALEX

(nicer)

Cool. Thanks.

Beat.

ALEX

(quieter)

You go to the doctor about those pills yet?

ALEX'S MOTHER

They had to give me a stronger prescription.

Alex stares at his cereal.

ALEX'S MOTHER

(smiling again)

I made burgers last night, I made extra if you are hungry later on.

ALEX

I gotta get to work.

He puts his empty cereal bowl in the sink, leaves the room.

ALEX'S MOTHER

(shouts after him)

Make sure you request the afternoon off for your birthday!

CUT TO:

39

INT. ALEX'S WORK. AFTERNOON

39

Kyle and Alex work alone in the room. It's slow. Not much work going on.

KYLE

I got a new board man.

Beat.

ALEX

Oh yeah? Finally.

KYLE

Yeah, they were having a clearance and I got lucky and got a good one, you gotta check it out..

ALEX

cool stuff.

Alex continues to work, Kyle stops to continue talking.

KYLE

I was practicing my Ollie. I'm gettin' better. I'm gonna try grinding soon. There's a train station that has a lot of rails...

Alex nods, uninterested.

KYLE

Hey man, what you up to tonight?

ALEX

I don't know, I think I'm staying in.

(Beat)

Sorry.

KYLE

It's cool.

Alex's cell phone vibrates in his pocket against his loose change.

ALEX

Hello?

ALISON

I broke up with him.

FADE OUT:

41 EXT. ALISON'S HOUSE. NIGHT 41

Black. Then car lights swing onto Alison's driveway, with her standing there.

42 EXT. ALEX'S CAR. NIGHT 42

They drive on an expressway. The city looms before them. Illuminated buildings with tall white antennas stretch the sky.

CUT TO:

43 EXT. STREETS. NIGHT 43

They walk between crowds. Bars are packed. Umbrella tables are set up in beer gardens. Some music can be heard off in the distance. Alex, holding Alison's hand, guides her through people walking down the street.

The music is coming from a nightclub down the street. They find a long line of people with a bouncer in front of the door checking ID's. A gate to the side opens, a BARBACK carrying an empty beer box tosses it into the nearby dumpster. He's talking to a few people outside in line, after a few moments they follow him inside.

Alex sees the opportunity, and takes Alison with him, blending with the small group that the barback let in through the side door. They enter the club. The place is filled. An old song is playing and everyone is dancing.

Alison takes the lead and goes to the dance floor. She lets Alex's hand go, dancing away from him. Her smile is wide, her always looking at him.

Alex works his way to the center of the dance floor. Alison moves toward him in the crowd. He pulls her close. They begin to slow dance in the middle of the crowd.

Alex pulls her in and kisses her. They sway to the song, the light shining down on them.

FADE OUT.

44 INT. ALEX'S HOUSE. DAY 44

Torn wrapping paper sits under a lit lamp on the end table next to the couch. A pie with a candle poked through the top crust can be seen through the doorway, sitting on the counter in the kitchen. Alex's mother lights the candle.

Alex holds a present in his lap and begins to open it. His mother catches him in the act.

ALEX'S MOM
Wait for the camera!

She hurries over to where he sits and picks up a camera sitting on the coffee table in front of him. She takes a photo of him as he continues to open it, him trying to ignore her. She leaves to go back to the kitchen and closes the door.

ALEX'S MOM
(through the closed
kitchen door)
OK, Alex!

Alex rolls his eyes and gets up from the couch and opens the sliding door.

Alex's Mother sings happy birthday.

ALEX'S MOM
Better make a wish this time.

Alex blows the candle out before she can finish. Alex sits down, his mother places the whole pie in front of him.

Alex's car door can be heard. Alex looks up to the window. Alison can be seen through the pulled drapes opening the back door.

We hear the breeze door slam shut.

ALEX'S MOM
Hello, just in time for pie!

ALISON
Hey, work didn't let me out till
now. We were pretty busy.

She sits down across from Alex. They smile at each other.

ALEX'S MOM
You want some pie?

ALISON
Actually, I think we were going to
head out.

They get up and exit. Alex's Mother, not expecting them to leave so quickly, grabs her camera and follows them.

CUT TO:

45 EXT. ALEX'S DRIVEWAY. DAY

45

Alex and Alison walk down the long driveway, coming up to his car. Alison hands Alex his keys.

Alex's Mother hurries out the door behind them, catching up.

ALEX'S MOM
Hey wait a minute.

Alex and Alison both turn around to her, Alison's hand still in Alex's.

Flash, snap, then a whirring sound follows.

ALEX'S MOM
Oh, ran out of film.

ALEX
Thanks Mom.

FADE TO:

46 EXT. BIG HILL. AFTERNOON

46

Alex and Alison lie on top of the hood of his car, laying on their sides, facing each other. A large hill is off to the side, the sun is setting, the shadows setting in. Music softly plays from Alex's car.

ALISON
You know, the mosquitos aren't out yet.

ALEX
The summers have been weird. Either it's really hot or really cold.

ALISON
Yeah, I swim as early as May sometimes, and then the fall comes all of a sudden.

ALEX
I haven't swam in so long.

ALISON
Since when?

ALEX
Jeez, junior high I think.

ALISON

You didn't have swimming in high school?

ALEX

Well, I did. But I got out of it for my allergies.

ALISON

How the fuck can you get out of swimming because of allergies?

ALEX

My allergist told me that I can get out of gym, and I asked her if I could write the reasons why. She said sure. So I said I was allergic to chlorine and rubber balls.

ALISON

You're retarded.

ALEX

I think I had at least two study halls every year in high school. Maybe even three for one semester.

ALISON

What did you do with yourself?

ALEX

Read magazines and slept.

ALISON

I worked my ass off in school. Took a lot of Honors Courses. I did really good though.

ALEX

And aren't you going to be taking the same classes this fall in college?

ALISON

Yeah.

ALEX

Man that hard work paid off.

ALISON

Schools over! Lets not talk about it.

Beat.

ALISON
So would you want to go swimming?

Beat.

ALEX
Where? It's cold out.

ALISON
(sighs)
Let's find a pool. Come on.

Alison gets up off the hood of the car and walks away. Alex sits up, laughs at her, then follows her to a bike trail.

The music is more distant now, coming from Alex's car, which is way behind them. Alex pauses for a moment, takes his keys from his pocket, looks back at his car, but then puts them back in his pocket and hurries up to her. They round some corners, down a beaten bike path.

ALEX
I used to ride my bike around here with a bunch of my buddies. It goes on for a real long time. I don't think I've ever seen all of it.

ALISON
Riding around on your little ten speed bike?

47 EXT. POOL. AFTERNOON

47

They come to a pool in someone's yard.

ALISON
Well, shall we?

ALEX
You serious? This isn't ours! We could get caught. It's too cold!

ALISON
Don't be such a pussy.

ALEX
Its like sixty out!

ALISON
Little Alex can't take it?

ALEX
You weigh more than me.

ALISON
What?
(Pushes him back)
What's that supposed to mean?

ALEX
Um, that you wouldn't be cold then?

She turns around and jumps in the pool with her clothes on.

ALEX
(while Alison is
completely underwater,
wide shot of the pool)
What if there's fish in here or
something?

Alison comes up for air.

ALISON
Come on! Its not so bad.

ALEX
Ah, fuck it.

He takes his wallet, cell phone and keys and sets them beside the pool and climbs in from the side, falling in the pool loudly and with water splashing everywhere.

The score fades out here, the sounds of the summer afternoon getting louder, the sound of nighttime insects are more noticeable.

ALISON
Can you open your eyes underwater?

ALEX
No, it feels weird.

ALISON
Its not so bad, once you get used
to it. Come on, try it.

Alex goes underwater, comes up for air, Alison waiting.

ALISON
Gettin' the hang of it?

ALEX
 (rubbing his eyes)
 Yeah, its not as bad as I thought
 it would be.

Beat.

ALISON
 Come here.

Leaves blow in the trees. An air conditioner turns on
 somewhere. A car passes by blasting music loudly.

He glides through the water toward her. Their arms go around
 each other.

ALISON
 Your warm.

ALEX
 So are you.

Their lips lock. Alison pulls away, some of her hair
 sticking to his face, then goes to get out of the pool. Alex
 stands there in the pool, his eyes still closed from the
 kiss, not wanting for it to end.

FADE OUT.

48 INT. COFFEE SHOP. DAY

48

Alex enters Alison's work. There are many CAFE EXTRAS
 waiting in line. He works his way through the line over to
 where she is serving off to the side.

ALEX
 (tugs on her shirt)
 Hey!

She turns around.

ALISON
 Oh man.
 (Laughs)
 You gotta hear this.

ALEX
 What, what's up?

ALISON

Well, my father asked where I was so I told them we went to Kyle's house and then came here after that. She kept insisting that I was lying and asking where we really were-

ALEX

(interrupting)

Why didn't you tell them the truth?

Beat

ALISON

My parents don't like you for some reason.

Beat

ALEX

(defensive)

OK, why?

ALISON

Whenever I ask, they never say why. It's like talking to a wall.

Alex looks uneasy.

ALEX

Well, how come you never have me come over? I've only met your mother once and I've never seen your father.

ALISON

My father didn't want you around even from the beginning. He says that you got in the way between Nathan and me. That's why I don't have you over.

ALEX

But they don't even know me! They have to give me a try.

ALISON

Well, I don't think that's going to be possible. They told me I can't go out now and that I have to come home when I'm done with work for a while.

ALEX
Wait, your grounded?

ALISON
I know! They still treat me like a kid. They said it could be all summer.

ALEX
What?

Cocky Cafe Worker walks over.

COCKY CAFE WORKER
Got some drinks for you to make.

ALISON
Sure.

He walks away.

ALISON
I'm not going to lose you over this.

ALISON
(cont'd...)
I mean, I'd understand if I did. Why should you put up with this?

ALEX
Alison...

ALISON
No, I'm serious Alex.

Beat.

ALEX
So am I.

Beat.

ALISON
Should I sneak out at night?

ALEX
Well,
(beat)
I don't want you to get in more trouble.

ALISON

(laughs)

The most they could do would be to kick me out, but then, there goes college.

Beat.

ALEX

I'll just hang out with you at work!

ALISON

They brought that up too. They'll be checking to see if your parked here.

ALEX

They'll be checking for my car?

ALISON

Yes, Alex.

Beat.

ALEX

OK, I'll walk then.

ALISON

What if they see you from the road?

Beat.

ALEX

I'll park at Kyle's place. He's not far from here. I can skate on the side roads.

ALISON

Well, sometimes they stop in.

ALEX

(frustrated)

Fine, I'll wait by the dumpster when you do your garbage run.

ALISON

Dude, it stinks back there.

ALEX

Whatever, I want to see you. You can make calls though right?

ALISON
Yeah, we'll see how long that lasts.
(Growing agitation)
This is so stupid! I'm out of high school! How long do I have to put up with this?

Alison reaches for a napkin and pulls out a pen. She begins writing.

ALISON
Here's my schedule.

She folds and slides it over to him.

ALISON
You sure you want to go through all of this? Its no joke, I've been grounded for months on end.

ALEX
(slight stern)
Alison, don't even ask that.

He takes the paper on the table.

ALEX
Hopefully things will blow over soon and go back to normal.

He turns around to go.

COCKY CAFE WORKER
(shouting)
Alison, the drinks!

ALISON
Alex-

He turns to her. Cafe Extras pass in front of him.

ALISON
(cont'd...)
It won't.

FADE TO:

49 INT. ALEX'S CAR. LATE AFTERNOON 49

Alex drives, the sun setting behind him. He looks down Alison's street (74th AVE) as he passes it.

FADE TO:

51 EXT. STREETS. NIGHT 51

Alex skates in the middle of an empty road. Music can be heard from an open garage door as he passes by. Tiki torches are lit in yards here and there. Alex passes under yellow street lights. He glances at his cell phone, looking at the time. He hurries, skating out of frame.

52 EXT. ALLEY BEHIND CAFE. NIGHT 52

Alex skates up to the alley, jumps off his board and jogs the rest of the way. He sits down on his skateboard next to the dumpster, under a yellow alley light. He looks at his cell phone for the time again.

FADE TO:

53 EXT. ALLEY BEHIND CAFE. NIGHT 53

Alex has his head back against the brick wall with his shirt pulled up over his nose, dozing off. Alison comes out of the cafe with a garbage bag.

ALISON

Alex?

She walks down the alley, looking around. She finds Alex, dozing off. She runs up to him.

ALISON

Wake up, fucker!

She smacks his head, Alex wakes up, alert.

ALEX

(laughs)

Hey!

She kneels down to him, getting close.

ALISON

Hey.

Beat.

ALISON
I can't stay long. We're pretty busy in there.

ALEX
Aren't you closed?

ALISON
Yeah, but they kept the door open, we have a pretty long line. I think something was going on somewhere tonight.

He pulls her in for a passionate kiss. He starts to feel around her body with his hands. After a few moments, she pulls away.

ALISON
(this is not the right time)
I've got to get going.

ALEX
OK. You work again tomorrow?

She gets up and walks to the door.

ALISON
Yeah, didn't you read the schedule I gave you?

ALEX
No.

ALISON
(laughs)
Bye Alex.

She closes the door, Alex looks disappointed.

CUT TO:

54 INT. ALEX'S ROOM. NIGHT

54

Alex walks in his house, all the lights off. He makes his way into his room and turns on the light. He climbs into his bed. He places his phone next to him on his night stand. He checks it and turns the lights off. His phone rings momentarily afterwards, he turns on the lights quickly.

ALEX
Hey!

Click.

ALISON
 (whispered)
 Hey. My folks went out with my
 brother so I have some time to
 talk.

ALEX
 I thought that you said that you
 could make calls.

ALISON
 Yeah, well, they like to change
 things.

ALEX
 So you can't call anymore?

ALISON
 Well, they didn't actually say...
 (beat)
 But I can tell just how they have
 been treating me lately.

ALEX
 We gotta get you a cell phone.

DISSOLVE TO:

55 INT. ALEX'S HOUSE. NIGHT

55

Alex lays on the side of his bed, with his cell phone on the
 pillow, laying his head on it.

ALISON
 I could see the sunset from behind
 the counter at work today. You know
 that time of day when your inside
 and the sun just set, but it's
 still light enough where you don't
 have to have the lights on?

ALEX
 Yeah, that's usually when street
 lights turn on.

ALISON
 It felt like a day off.

ALEX

At my work there's no windows, so I can't really see what's going on outside. I can only tell if the weather has changed by the rain on people's jackets.

She laughs.

ALEX

(nods)

I like to go out when there are no clouds and the skies are orange. I don't see it as much anymore, and I know it happens all the time. I just work so much.

Beat.

ALISON

Maybe one day we can watch it together, that would be beautiful.

ALEX

(mouths)

Your beautiful.

Some rustling can be heard from her end of the line.

ALISON

(whispered)

My father is coming.

She hangs up. Alex lays there for a moment, then turns off the light.

56 EXT. ALLEY. NIGHT 56

Alex crosses the street over to the cafe on his skateboard then walks over to the dumpster.

57 INT. CAR. NIGHT 57

Alison's Father sits in the driver side, his back to us. Alex can be seen approaching the dumpster and sitting down.

58 EXT. CAFE ALLEY. NIGHT 58

He pulls out his cell phone to check the time. A few moments pass, the sound of a noisier car passes by on the main street, seeming slower than the rest.

Alex peers from the dumpster trying to keep himself hidden. He sees green van drive by. It picks up speed as it passes.

Alison comes out from the door, holding garbage. She looks around.

ALEX
Hey, over here!

ALISON
What, what's up?

ALEX
a van drove by really slow just now.

ALISON
Shit, that was my father. Did he see you?

Beat.

ALEX
I don't think so.

ALISON
He was treating me like shit today.

ALEX
Like how?

ALISON
Just rude to me, its always a wonder with him.

Beat.

ALISON
He was practically standing over me all day. I didn't have a moment alone. Only when I was watching TV with my brother and Nathan-

ALEX
Nathan?

ALISON
Well, since he's Mike's friend he can come by.

Alex looks away.

ALISON
I've got to get back in.

ALEX
I'll be here tomorrow.

Beat.

ALISON
Go out with your friends! You
shouldn't be here all the time.

ALEX
Let's sneak you out.

ALISON
(please understand)
Alex.

ALEX
What are you doing after work?

ALISON
I have to stay in, you know that.

Alex solemnly looks down. Alison picks up his head for a
kiss.

DISSOLVE TO:

61 EXT. ALISON'S HOUSE. NIGHT 61

Alex skates down 74th Ave. And stops a few houses down from
Alison's and gets off his board. He approaches her house
cautiously. He comes to a stop. He crouches low as he walks
up to it. The light is on in a window on the second floor.
Alex walks around the side of the house, going through bushes
to cover him.

62 EXT. ALISON'S HOUSE. NIGHT 62

Alex rounds a corner to a window with the light on and the
drapes pulled. Alex's cell phone rings. The drapes pull back
and we see a male dark silhouette peering outside. Alex
quickly and silently bolts back against the wall next to the
glass door, silencing his phone.

63 INT. ALEX'S ROOM. NIGHT 63

Alex blankly watches TV in the family room while looking at his cell phone on the pull out couch, which is made.

CUT TO:

64 INT. ALEX'S KITCHEN. NIGHT 64

He pours milk into a bowl of cereal. His phone sitting on the table, facing him.

CUT TO:

65 INT. ALEX'S ROOM. NIGHT 65

Alex sits on the edge of the pull out couch, which is now pulled out, him ready for bed, his feet rest on his skateboard. His phone rings. He answers it right away.

ALEX

Hey.

ALISON

Hey.

Click.

ALEX

I don't know if you'll think this is weird...

ALISON

What?

ALEX

I was out skating and I was close to your house.

Beat.

ALISON

Okay.

ALEX

And so I went to your house.

Beat.

ALISON

(firm)
Why did you do that?

ALEX
Your front room light was on, it
was flashing.

ALISON
It was the TV. I was in there.

ALEX
Well, I walked around the house.

Beat.

ALISON
You really shouldn't have done
that.

ALEX
Sorry, I was curious.

ALISON
If my dad was to find out...
(beat)
I don't know.

ALEX
I didn't stick around long. It was
really dark. Didn't see much...

Beat.

ALEX
We need to see each other.

ALISON
(whispered)
How about tomorrow morning?

ALEX
How?

ALISON
(whispered)
*My mother works from seven to
twelve, my dad works all day. You
can come over in the morning.*

ALEX
Awesome. What time? I kinda need
to sleep some.

ALISON
(whispered)
You can sleep here.

ALEX

Oh.

(Beat)

OK.

ALISON

I'll see you at eight.

She hangs up.

66

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE. MORNING

66

Alex's Mother is in the kitchen making coffee. The windows are open. She goes to the refrigerator and grabs some cream. Alex enters, dressed for the day.

ALEX'S MOM

Don't you usually go to sleep around this time?

He gets a glass from the cupboard and fills it from the faucet.

ALEX

Alison wanted to meet up for breakfast.

ALEX'S MOM

Well I see her positive influence is rubbing off on you. I'm glad you finally have a girlfriend now, Alex.

He downs the glass and heads out the door.

67

EXT. STREETS. MORNING

67

The skies are a relentless white. Alex comes up to 74th Ave, turns. A song plays softly on his radio, not matching the tone of this scene. His phone rings.

ALEX

Hey, I'm down the block.

ALISON

Alex, don't come here.

Beat.

ALEX

What?

ALISON
My mother just pulled up.

Alison's house comes into view ahead of him. Alison's Mother's dark car slowly coming to a stop in front of the house. Alex quickly veers into the closest driveway.

ALEX
Holy shit, I can see her car.

ALISON
This is NOT normal. How did they know this? I have to figure out how.

A green work van drives slowly down the road, passing behind Alex sitting in his car. Alex freezes, watches as it passes by from his rearview mirror. It stops behind Alison's Mother's car.

ALISON
Alex, it's my father.

She hangs up the phone. Both cars begin to slowly drive away from Alison's house. Alex's radio still softly plays the out of place song, Alex still holding his phone to his ear in disbelief.

CUT TO: BLACK

68 EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE. NIGHT 68

The sky is black. Alex's car is parked in the driveway, illuminated by the light from the back room where Alex sleeps.

69 INT. ALEX'S HOUSE. AFTERNOON. 69

Alex faces his phone on the table in front of him, then lays on the couch and stares at it. He turns on his back, looking uncomfortable. Wind blows through trees outside the dark window. The inside lights reflect off the window pane. His cell phone rings. Alex answers.

ALISON
I'm trying something.

ALEX
What?

Click.

ALISON
 You ever hear that click sound when
 were on the phone?

ALEX
 Actually, yeah.

Beat.

ALISON
 (quieter)
 He couldn't be. I'll call you
 back.

She hangs up.

ALEX
 Alison?

He puts his phone down on the table and begins to pace around
 the room. Alex's Mother enters and opens the closet in the
 room, begins to grab things.

ALEX'S MOTHER
 You should invite Alison over for
 dinner, I'm making stuffed
 artichokes.

ALEX
 (other things on his mind)
 Mom, I told you, she's grounded.

ALEX'S MOTHER
 Well, maybe I could call her
 parents and let them know your the
 greatest guy she could ever have?

Alex's phone rings. Alex answers. Alex's Mother stands
 there watching.

ALEX
 Mom, I need to take this.
 (Beat)
 I'm sorry, just...

ALEX'S MOTHER
 Okay, okay.

Alex turns away from her and puts the phone to his ear.

ALEX
 Alison-

ALISON
Oh my god, this can't be real.

ALEX
Alison, what, what's going on?

Click.

ALISON
That click sound! Fucking asshole
I hope you hear this I fucking hate
you-

ALEX
ALISON

ALISON
I found my father's tape recorder.
He's been recording my phone calls
since I've been little.

ALEX
You have got to be kidding-

ALISON
Yes! The phone in his room is
connected to a recorder in a drawer
in his dresser. He even has the
tapes labeled. They have Nathan's
name on them, my friends, you-

ALEX
Alison, that's it, were getting you
out of there.

ALISON
(whispering)
I fucking hate you, I fucking hate
you.

ALEX
Grab your things, I'm picking you
up.

ALISON
No! I'm going to show him I found
them.

ALEX
NO!

ALISON
Shit, he just came home. I gotta
hide this, I'll call you back.

She hangs up again.

Alex paces around the room, frustrated. Alex's Mother enters again heading to the closet.

ALEX

MOM.

ALEX'S MOTHER

You need to stop being mean to me.

ALEX

(relaxes some)

I'm sorry, Mom, a lot of shit has been going on.

ALEX'S MOTHER

Don't swear. What's wrong?

She walks closer to him, her spirits supportive and caring.

ALEX

(keeping his distance)

Alison just found out her father has been recording her phone conversations.

ALEX'S MOTHER

Oh my.

ALEX

Can she sleep here for a while?

ALEX'S MOTHER

No, Alex, I don't want a girl spending the night here.

ALEX

(pleading)

Mom, this is serious. She'd sleep here and I'll be in my room. Opposite ends of the house.

ALEX'S MOTHER

No, Alex. That's final.

Alex's phone rings.

ALEX

Thanks, Mom.

He answers. Alison's voice seems more muffled.

ALISON
He can't find me here.

Alex glares at his mother.

ALEX'S MOTHER
(trying to lighten up
Alex's mood)
Dinner will be ready in a half
hour.

Alex waves her off violently and she leaves.

ALEX
What's going on?

Click.

ALISON
I'm in the closet next to my room.
I have a long phone cable that I
use to bring with me in here so I
can be alone.

ALEX
Is your father home?

ALISON
(mind off somewhere)
He's downstairs, but he's moving
around a lot-SHIT

ALEX
What.

ALISON
I had to move the dresser out some,
I think I didn't move it back.
Fuck it, I'm going to talk to him
about it anyway. I don't give a
shit anymore.

ALEX
Alison, you need to listen to me.
That's not a good idea.

ALISON
Wait. Ssshhh. He's coming up the
stairs. Don't hang up.

ALEX
I'm not going to hang up.

ALISON
Sshhh, just sit here with me.

Alex sits down, looking very nervous.

ALISON
Oh my god, he just went to his
room.

ALEX
Fuck this. I'm coming to get you.

Alex stands up.

We hear a door open on Alison's end of the line.

ALISON
Dad? DAD.

We hear a low voice and then Alison's scream. The line goes
dead.

ALEX
GODDAMNIT

Alex runs and looks for his car keys, gets frustrated,
finally finds them and runs out the door. Alex's Mother
enters, shouting after him.

ALEX'S MOTHER
Alex? ALEX!

Alex starts up his car and floors it in reverse out of his
driveway.

70 INT. ALEX'S CAR. NIGHT

70

Alex switches off the radio and barely stops at a stop signs.
He yells at traffic and almost runs a red light. He passes a
car in the oncoming traffic lane. Bright orange street
lights give way to dark side streets, tree branches blur by
in Alex's headlights. Rolling concrete and ditches. Alex
slams on the breaks in front of Alison's dark house, shrouded
by trees. The front door flies open with Alison running full
speed for Alex's car. He scrambles to unlock the back door.
A dark figure runs out to the driveway. Alison is hysterical
with tears as she jumps inside. Alex peels away.

71 INT. ALEX'S CAR. NIGHT

71

Alison has red marks on her neck, the top of her head is
bleeding.

ALEX
(shouting)
What the fuck was going on in
there? Are you OK?

ALISON
Drive!! FUCKING DRIVE!!!

Alison looks back. Her Father stands at the end of the driveway, outlined in darkness. Her hair is colored red on one side from her wound.

ALEX
What did he do to you?

ALISON
(between hysteria)
he hit me...his hands...

ALEX
We're going to the fucking cops.

ALISON
No...NO!

ALEX
ALISON! LOOK AT YOU! STOP FUCKING
AROUND! WERE GOING TO THE FUCKING
POLICE!

Alison hunches over, sliding down to the carpet. Alex looks back, pulls over and climbs into the backseat. He holds her. Her cries subside down to the hum of the motor. She breathes for a while, her breaths slowing down.

ALEX
Hey....its OK...your not going back
there anymore.

ALISON
(calming a bit)
I know.

ALEX
Your mother will probably look all
over for you, calling everybody you
know.

Alison nods.

ALEX
We're going to have to leave.

ALISON
You're coming with me?

ALEX
He's not going to win this.

She smiles at him, some fear showing, then looks back down.

ALISON
Are you ready to do this Alex?

DISSOLVE TO:

72 INT. ALEX'S CAR. NIGHT 72

Suburban houses blur past, silence surrounds the car and the air between them. The score makes an entrance, building.

[A shot from backseat of the car, their hands meet together between their seats.]

73 EXT. HIGHWAY. DAWN 73

Flat fields and highway. Alex's car flies past, the orange sun is rising, setting the sky on fire. The score reaches a climax.

74 EXT. MOTEL. PARKING LOT. NIGHT 74

Alex parks. They get out, walking quickly inside. Alex holds Alison protectively.

75 INT. MOTEL ROOM. NIGHT. 75

They both enter. They stand looking at each other, the door closing on its own. Alison moves toward him. They move toward the bed. Lightning comes, thunder in the distance. Alison pulls the covers of the bed down.

DISSOLVE TO:

76 INT. MOTEL ROOM. SILENCE. NIGHT. 76

Their kiss is slow, the bed sheets tight around them.

Flashes from the raining sky illuminate the bed, as sheets move with bodies. The sound of distant thunder, breathing, and movement.

Lights linger, then fade away.

77 INT. MOTEL ROOM SHOWER. MORNING 77

The tile of a shower wall, slightly blurred. Alex and Alison hold the backs of each others heads as they kiss long and slow, the shower stream pouring on their shoulders and faces.

78 INT. MOTEL ROOM. DAY 78

Alison sits at a table, talking on Alex's cell phone, drying her hair with a towel. Alex leans in the doorway, listening.

ALISON

You think I can stay at your place
for a while? Until things calm
down?

Beat.

ALISON

Tell your mother that I'll never
forget this.

Beat.

ALISON

(cont'd...)

You sure? OK, we should be at your
place tomorrow. Too bad I wont see
you, though. Thanks so much.

She hangs up.

ALISON

Awesome. My friend Joan is letting
me stay in her room while shes away
at school at her parents. I used
to spend the night there when I was
younger if things got tense at
home.

Beat.

ALEX

You know, I feel really shitty.

ALISON

(surprised)

Why?

ALEX
All this happened because of me.

ALISON
C'mon Alex, I chose to do this. I
know what I'm doing.

Beat.

ALISON
(thinking)
My house is really going to be
different after this.

ALEX
I know, I feel like I made it
worse.

ALISON
Something small was needed to push
him over the edge. Its been this
crazy since I was in high school
when I started dating guys.

79 INT. JOAN'S HOUSE. GARAGE. DAY

79

Alex and Alison walk through the door that connects to the
house from the garage.

ALEX
This place is huge!!

ALISON
I know, her parents are loaded.
All they do is work.

ALEX
Fuck that! But this place is really
nice.

They walk into the main living room where a few plastic
covered couches and many chairs fill the room with an
enormous television attracting the center of attention.

ALEX
Do they even sit on those?

ALISON
No, more for decoration.

ALEX
Where will you be staying?

Alison walks down a hall and into a bedroom. Alex follows.

ALISON

(O.C.)

Her parents wont be home till 7.

Alison's hand grabs his shirt and pulls him into the room.

DISSOLVE TO:

80

INT. JOANS BEDROOM. DAY

80

Alex sits on the side of the unmade bed and puts his shoes on. Alison is brushing her hair while looking in a mirror on the dresser. She brushes slower, then stops. He looks back at her. She stares at herself blankly. Bruises and tired eyes.

ALEX

Hey.

ALISON

(still staring at herself)

Nothing.

Alex turns away, looking troubled.

81

INT. JOAN'S HOUSE. NIGHT

81

Alex sits with Alison and across them is JOAN'S FATHER, and JOAN'S MOTHER, still wearing their suits from their day's work, buttoned down.

JOAN'S MOTHER

So what do you do Alex.

Joan's Mother sits at attention, sipping on wine, waiting for him to answer.

ALEX

Well, I fix computers. Not a bad job.

JOAN'S FATHER

Does it pay well?

ALEX

(looking at Alison for support, awkward)

For where I'm at in life, I would say.

ALISON

You've been doing it for, what,
three years now?

ALEX

Yeah about that.

JOAN'S MOTHER

Well, there is a lot of opportunity
with computers, Alex, some big
money in that field.

ALEX

Well, I don't know what I want to
do yet. I mean, this is good for
now, but I'm only 18, my feelings
might change, you know?

Joan's parents are showing signs of polite disapproval.

JOAN'S MOTHER

Where did you meet Alison?

ALEX

(slightly caught off guard
at the topic change)

At her work. I went there a lot
before I started talking to her.

Alex smiles at Alison. Alison smiles back.

JOAN'S MOTHER

Are you guys serious?

Alex shifts his posture.

ALEX

(knowing that's what
Alison wants to hear,
wanting to say something
else)

We're just taking it one day at a
time.

Beat.

ALEX

You know, its really great that
Alison has friends that would help
her out like this. It's a lot to
offer.

JOAN'S FATHER

It's no problem.

Alison gets up and gathers some of the plates and goes to the sink. Joan's Mother gets up and helps her.

JOAN'S MOTHER

You can stay for as long as you like, I don't want you to go back to that monster.

ALISON

Thanks. I don't want to impose. We're trying to find an apartment together. Were going to look tomorrow.

JOAN'S MOTHER

OK, Alison.

Alison smiles at her, then sits back down next to Alex. Alex watches Joan's Mother walk out of the room and dial a number on the phone in the hallway. She puts the receiver to her ear and glances over at Alex.

FADE OUT.

82

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE. NIGHT

82

Alex and Alison lay on their sides facing each other on the pull out bed in the family room, somewhat undressed. They look at each other for a while, an occasional smile grows on their faces. A bottle of rum and a two liter of soda sits on the table and they sip from cups.

ALISON

You know, my ex came in today.

ALEX

Nathan?

ALISON

No, Steve.

ALEX

(the good feeling from before has now gone away)
Who's Steve.

ALISON

Some guy I dated before Nathan.

ALEX

Oh.

Alex looks for words to say.

ALISON
He was really advancing at me. It
was kind of weird.

ALEX
Like, what kind of advances?

ALISON
Like he was saying things like how
come you didn't sleep with me and
did I want to meet up with him
later at his place-

ALEX
(are you kidding me?)
OK

Alison gets stern.

82 ALISON
I said no.

82

Alex sits up, facing away from her.

ALEX
Did you ever sleep with him?

ALISON
No.

ALEX
Well, what did you do?

ALISON
Things.

Beat.

ALEX
Oh.

ALISON
That a problem?

ALEX
(lying)
No, no.

ALEX
So, what's he look like?

ALISON
 (thinks for a second)
 Actually, I still have a picture of
 him.

ALEX
 (laughs)
 OK.

She goes into her purse, pulls out her wallet. She hands him
 a picture of Alison hugging an attractive dark skinned guy
 (STEVE).

ALEX
 Kind of weird you still have a
 picture of you two.

He throws it on the bed toward her.

ALEX
 So did you really like this guy?

ALISON
 No, he was an asshole.

She picks the picture up from the bed, crumples it up and
 throws it on the ground, getting frustrated.

ALEX
 So, what were these 'things' that
 you-

ALISON
 (at your limit)
 I blew him a few times, OK?

ALEX
 Why would you do that if he was an
 asshole?

ALISON
 I don't know, it just happened.

ALEX
 Did you lose your virginity to me?

ALISON
 No.

Alex looks disgusted.

ALEX
(do I really want to
know?)
Which number am I?

ALISON
Your my second.

ALEX
So...

Alison reaches over and pulls his face so she can look him in the eye.

ALISON
What Alex.

He pushes her hand away.

ALEX
Was he bigger than me?

Alison gets up from the bed, starts to head to the bathroom.

ALEX
Well?

Alison stops and turns around to Alex.

ALISON
(you win. I'll tell you
what you want to hear)
No, you are.

ALEX
All of them?

ALISON
Yeah, sure.

Alex nods, more confident, his worry fading. A car is heard pulling into the driveway. Alex gets up fast, grabbing his shirt and putting it on.

ALEX
Shit! My Mom is home, quick put
your clothes on.

Alison stands there motionless, staring at him, her thoughts still on the conversation they just had. Alex notices and just stands there, as motionless as she.

ALEX
Did I upset you?

Beat.

ALISON
Those things shouldn't matter.

86 EXT. JOAN'S HOUSE. DAY

86

Alex drives down Joan's block. Joan's house comes in view and the front door is open.

ALEX
What the fuck?

Alison and Mike tear out of the door into the front lawn, fighting. Alison screams out as Mike over powers her. Alex slams on the breaks and runs out his car toward them.

ALEX
HEY! HEY!

Mike pushes Alison down on the ground hard and runs toward Alex.

MIKE
Just the FUCK I wanted to see.

They start swinging at each other, but Alex's rage dominates. He jumps at him, tackling the both of them on the ground, Alex on top. Alex's trembling hand becomes a fist as it collides against Mike's unsuspecting face. Alex is a blur of swinging fists. His hands start to bleed. Alison is screaming.

A large fist flies up, Alex flies back. Mike crouches over Alex. His punches are slow and heavy. Alex's smaller frame buckles under his weight. He passes out as Mike continues to bring his weight down through his fist. Alison screams as she kicks Mike in the side. Mike gets up and grabs Alison by her hair and throws her.

Alex's eyes begin to open in a daze. The sound of Alison running down the street, Mike in pursuit. Their screams blend with feet running on pavement.

Alex's swollen and bleeding face lies motionless on the sidewalk.

FADE OUT:

88

INT. JOAN'S HOUSE. DAY

88

Alison is in the kitchen with Joan's Mother. Alex sits in the front room on one of the couches that's covered in plastic, listening in darkness.

ALISON

I'm really sorry about yesterday.
I really didn't want it to be
brought here.

Joan's Mother pours some coffee from the maker on the counter.

JOAN'S MOTHER

I know you didn't.

She sets the cup in front of Alison.

JOAN'S MOTHER

But it did.

Beat.

JOAN'S MOTHER

Did you go to the police station?

ALISON

Yeah, we got restraining orders.

JOAN'S MOTHER

Alison, you really shouldn't.

ALISON

What? You know my father, how he
is.

JOAN'S MOTHER

Maybe he doesn't know how to handle
this right now.

ALISON

He tried to strangle me! Mike
attacked us!

JOAN'S MOTHER

Look, you need to start mending
things back with your family.

ALISON

(a quiet panic)
No one will listen.

JOAN'S MOTHER

What I'm saying is that you should at least try to talk to them. Have you seen if it's OK to go back?

Beat.

ALISON

No, your saying-

JOAN'S MOTHER

You should go back.

ALISON

No, don't do this-

JOAN'S MOTHER

With all this commotion going on, we won't be able to sleep at night, thinking that something like today is going to happen again.

ALISON

I have nowhere else to go

JOAN'S MOTHER

I'm sorry, we just cant have you here anymore.

Beat.

ALISON

(accepting the truth)

OK.

JOAN'S MOTHER

Think you can be out tonight?

Alison's eyes widen.

ALISON

(you can't be serious.

Keep yourself together)

I'll call around.

Alison gets up, leaves the kitchen.

JOAN'S MOTHER

I'm sorry Alison.

Alison walks past Alex and walks out of the front door. He has to hurry to follow her.

89

EXT. ALEX'S CAR. LATE AFTERNOON

89

The backseat is filled with boxes. They drive.

ALEX
Is Nicole cool?

ALISON
(numb at this point)
Well,
(beat)
She's kind of a leech. Always
asking for things from me, and I
never get a thank you.

ALEX
(hoping her spirits
lighten)
Well, at least she's gonna take you
in.
(An inkling that this
isn't the right time)
Think we can have some alone time
soon?

ALISON
I don't know, I'm going to be even
busier you know.

ALEX
How come?

ALISON
Well...

She lights a cigarette, cracks the window.

ALISON
(don't be a burden like
everyone else)
For payment for me staying there, I
have to do work around the house,
and help with her school work.
She's taking summer classes.

ALEX
(you'll still have time,
right?)
Well, I guess that isn't so bad,
right?

ALISON
 (it sinks in)
 Well, with how she is, all needy
 and all, I can see it getting way
 worse than I bargained for.

Alex looks disappointed.

ALISON
 (brighter)
 Oh hey! Nicole was telling me that
 a friend of hers works with you. I
 think his name is Aaron?

ALEX
 Yeah? No shit. Yeah, Aaron works
 with me. He throws parties at his
 place all the time.

ALISON
 Cool. Yeah, she says they hang out
 here and there.

90

INT. NICOLE'S HOUSE. NIGHT

90

Alex and Alison, carrying boxes, enter a long breezeway, with many plants blocking their path. It looks like when someone put something down, the never planned to pick it up again. NICOLE, blue jeans, tight black T-shirt, an unashed cigarette in her hand, opens the door to the house, motioning them to her.

NICOLE
 Hey Alison. Hey Alex. Bring your
 stuff back here.

They follow Nicole through a kitchen, where NICOLE'S MOTHER, wearing pajamas, smoking, her hair pulled back with pins, is watching a very small TV on the kitchen table, which is covered with magazines, and other things. Another TV is on loud off somewhere, garbage is on the floor. It's hard to walk. The windows are drawn closed, a haze of smoke floats under the ceiling lights. They pass by a room, Alex glances over. The blaring TV gets louder.

NICOLE'S FATHER watches the loud television. An action film is playing. He smokes, resting his arm on a styrofoam take out container, holding a remote. He wears a dirty white shirt, brown khaki's.

NICOLE'S BABY SISTER sits faced away from the TV behind the chair. She is playing with something.

She turns her head and looks at Alex, her face dirty with food. Alex pauses for a moment, then continues to down the hall.

The three of them enter a bedroom.

NICOLE
You can either keep your stuff in
that corner over there...

She motions to a very small, cleared out section. The things near it seemed to be pushed away for her to put her things.

NICOLE
(couldn't care less)
Or you can keep it in the garage.

ALISON
OK.

NICOLE
We have this inflatable mattress,
but I think the pump is out.

ALISON
(I hope I'm not
inconveniencing you)
Its OK, I'll manage.

NICOLE
(to Alex)
Alison tells me you fix computers?

Alison begins to set things in the corner, shoots a look to Alex behind Nicole.

ALEX
Yes I do.

NICOLE
Mine keeps freezing all the time,
you think you could look at it?

Alison smiles over at Alex, asking for him to say yes.

ALEX
(expression glazes)
Yeah sure.

She takes him over to her shit ass computer, with stuff all over and around it. Alex has to move things to sit down.

NICOLE

It all started when my dad started
to use it.

ALEX

(feeling like your at
work)

OK.

ALISON

(just remembers)

Hey you remember Steve right?

NICOLE

Yeah. Why did you ever break up
with him?

ALISON

(laughs)

Well, he's been stopping in a lot-

ALEX

(turns around, last thing
you want to hear)

A lot?

ALISON

(ignoring his
interruption)

And he was totally hitting on me
like he always does.

NICOLE

I don't know, he was pretty hot!

ALISON

(laughs)

I know, right?

Alison goes on talking about Steve being at her work, Alex
listens on, uneasily beginning to type away.

DISSOLVE TO

91

INT. NICOLE'S HOUSE.

91

Alex sits at the dirty computer, with smoke stained on the
monitor, crap and things sit beside it. Nicole sits behind
Alex, talking to him about the computer problems. Alison is
behind them, vacuuming the floor.

Over time we see Alex still sitting at the computer, Alison is now cleaning the shelves.

DISSOLVE TO:

92 INT. ALEX'S HOUSE. NIGHT

92

The bed is pulled out of the couch, Alex's work clothes lay crumpled on the unmade bed. He sits at his computer, paying more attention to the clock than what he's doing. His phone rings, gets it out of his pocket.

ALEX

Thought you got out of work at ten.

ALISON

What, I have to tell you everything I do now?

ALEX

(fuck. I fucked up.)
No, I didn't mean it like that, just wondered what you were doing, thought you were going to call me.

ALISON

I was, Alex. I've been at Nicole's. She picked me up with Aaron.

ALEX

Oh, Aaron is with you guys?

ALISON

Yeah, he's helping us.

ALEX

Can I stop by?

The phone on her end muffles for a moment.

ALISON

Yeah. You can come over.

93 EXT. STREETS. NIGHT

93

Alex drives down the street where Nicole lives, and sees Aaron walking down the street. They meet each other's gaze. Alex smiles and nods at him, but Aaron already passed him by.

94

INT. NICOLE'S HOUSE. NIGHT

94

Alison and Nicole are at the kitchen table, open books in front of them with a few open beers.

ALEX

I saw Aaron drive down the block.

ALISON

Yeah he's a riot.

Alex takes the beer in front of Alison, take a sip.

ALISON

Yeah, Aaron said you're quite the lush.

ALEX

Yeah, I've been known to toss back a few.

ALISON

Man, Aaron was tanked the other night, he was puking and everything-

NICOLE

Yeah, right?

ALEX

He was here the other night?

ALISON

He says he's never seen you puke, Alex.

ALEX

Yeah, I haven't puked since I was in grade school.

ALISON

Yeah I hate the feeling.

Beat.

ALEX

(looking at her)
Tell me about it.

Beat.

ALEX

Hey Alison, wanna grab some food?

ALISON
(sensing something)
I'll be back Nicole.

19 EXT. TRAIN STATION. NIGHT

19

Alex parks his car in the Train Station lot, which is empty. He sits with Alison, they eat fast food from plastic bags.

ALEX
(light hearted)
For the first time, they didn't
screw up the order.

Alison opens her burrito.

ALISON
Mines all uneven. It's not mixed
well.

She looks off as she eats. Alex looks for words as he watches her jaw chew. The sound of crickets and nightlife fill the air. He looks out the windshield and see a road that steeps low. He turns to her and tries to say something and notices her still looking off. He tries again.

ALEX
I bet you can't run down that road.

She turns her head and looks where he looks.

ALISON
Bull shit. You watch.

Alison exits the car and walks quickly toward the road. Alex has to hurry to catch up to her.

ALEX
Here.

He extends his hand to her. She doesn't take it.

ALISON
I bet you'll fall down.

Alison starts to run down the road, kicking up gravel as she picks up speed. Alex starts to run down after her, his feet almost pointing straight down the road's so steep. Alison laughs as it becomes more difficult. Alex laughs with her. They make it to the bottom and catch their breath under the yellow glow of a street lamp. Something catches Alison's eye.

ALISON
Alex, let's check this out.

She starts to walk down a road to the side.

KYLE
I think there is an abandoned house
down here.

20 EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE. NIGHT

20

They come up to an abandoned house. They peer through a window. The walls are as bare as the floors, a few things left.

ALEX
I wonder if someone is moving out
or moving in.

ALISON
I'm going inside.

ALEX
You serious? We could get busted.

ALISON
Alex...

Beat.

ALEX
OK.

Using the heel of her hand, Alison jams it upward under the window sill, opening it. They go in.

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE. NIGHT

They enter. Shadows flicker from one empty room to another. Alex watches Alison walk off on her own, down a dark hallway. Alex goes the opposite direction, as the outside world begins to quiet. He opens a door and steps inside.

A single bed lay in the center of the room. All that's left is one mattress, a faded blue turning white. No light is attached to the dangling wires in the center of the ceiling. He walks toward the closet door, opens it. Inside is a lone wire hanger on a clothes rack, an empty shelf above. He closes the door and goes to leave. Something catches his eye between the bars of the bed fixture. He walks toward it.

A child's scrawl in pen. Alex bends down and reads it.

bye, ill miss you

Alex slowly gets up and turns to leave and stops. Alison stands in the doorway watching him. Alex approaches her and pulls her in for a kiss. She seems distant, but goes along with it. He guides her over to the bed.

96

INT. ALEX'S CAR. NIGHT

96

Alex drives, Alison sits shotgun.

ALEX

At least we don't have sex in a car.

ALISON

Yeah, it's not fun.

ALEX

You work tomorrow?

ALISON

(off somewhere)

No.

Beat.

ALEX

Got any plans?

ALISON

Me, Aaron and Nicole are hanging out.

Beat.

ALEX

Seeing more of Aaron lately?

Alison looks over to Alex, lights a smoke.

ALISON

What's gotten into you lately?
What's with these questions?

ALEX

I don't know, you seem different lately, more-

ALISON

(interrupting)

You seem different lately.

ALEX
(finishing)
Distant.

Alex looks into Alison's eyes.

ALEX
(hiding his worry)
I don't know...it seems harder to
read you I guess.

ALISON
I just want to be able to do what I
want to do.

ALEX
I let you! What gives you the
impression that I don't?

ALISON
How did you become so smothering?

ALEX
(put in the spotlight)
Now what would make you say
something like that?

Alison drags her cigarette.

ALISON
Lately you feel like a
responsibility. Can you tell me
why?

Alex's face expression doesn't move.

ALEX
I told you, you don't seem the
same.

Alison just looks out of the window.

ALEX
Is there someone else I don't know
about?

ALISON
(can't believe you said
that)
Oh my god.

ALEX
(pressing)
Is there?

ALISON

(glares)

Of course not. Why the fuck would you think that? It hurts that you would think that.

ALEX

Well, fuck Alison, whenever I see you, I either see you with a guy, or hear about them stopping in your work, or your always talking about guys you've dated. I can't even get them all straight!

ALISON

(rolls her eyes)

You always bringing up the past.

ALEX

(gives up)

Well! I don't know, Alison.

Beat.

ALISON

Stop being so jealous. You have nothing to worry about.

ALEX

well, your making plans with Nicole and Aaron and not me, I would like to see you and all.

ALISON

You know, I do have friends, and I would like to see them. Why don't you go hang out with Kyle or something? You haven't brought him up in forever.

ALEX

I'd rather see you now.

Alison looks off, going inside herself more, giving up.

ALISON

your seeing me now.

ALEX

Whatever.

ALISON
 (he's spreading me thin,
 like everyone else)
 This is the best I can do.

Something happens in her, she's now uncomfortable where she sits.

ALISON
 Stop the car.

ALEX
 What?

ALISON
 STOP THE CAR ALEX.

Alex glares at her and pulls over. She opens her door to get out.

ALEX
 (giving up)
 OK, OK, I'm sorry.

Alison stays inside and slams the door shut and looks out her window. Alex stares at her.

After a few moments, the interior light turns off.

FADE OUT.

97 INT. ALEX'S LIVING ROOM. MORNING

97

Alex wakes, taking a long while to rise from bed. He walks over to the phone and calls her.

ALEX
 Hey Alison.

ALISON
 Hey Alex.

ALEX
 What are you up to today?

ALISON
 I'm getting some food with Aaron
 tonight, downtown.

A few moments pass.

ALEX

Is it alright if I come with?

ALISON

(I don't want you to, but
I have to invite you, I
guess)

Yeah, sure.

DISSOLVE TO:

98 INT. AARON'S CAR. NIGHT 98

Alex stares off. Aaron drives with Alison sitting shotgun, the radio on loud, drowning the conversation to Alex's ears. Their laughter occasionally peaking above the blasting stereo. Alex turns his head, watching them here and there.

Alex sits low in his seat. The sound of many people out on a beautiful summer night.

Alison turns back and says something to Alex, who doesn't hear her over the music.

99 EXT. CITY STREET. DAY 99

Aaron and Alison walk down a city street, talking. Alex has to catch up to them.

101 INT. AARON'S CAR. NIGHT 101

The score is soft here. It blends with the hum of the motor. Passing streetlights shine down on the three of them through the sun roof window when they pass under them.

Alex's cries, trying to hide it. Alison looks back at him. Her feelings for him start to come back.

She extends her hand, Alex places his in hers.

She looks down at their touch, then at him, who has been staring at her, his face now perspiring, eyes reddening.

102 INT. AARON'S CAR. NIGHT 102

They pull up to Alex's house. The back porch light dimly lighting the driveway. Alex breaths faster, finally looking away from her, knowing this is it. Aaron wishes this wasn't happening in his car.

Alison climbs into the backseat next to him. Alex begins to cry, not hiding it anymore. He turns to her. Her dry eyes begin to tear at seeing him this way.

ALEX
(very slowly, broken)
I...think...we should...

He hugs her tight.

103 EXT. ALEX'S DRIVEWAY. NIGHT 103

The sounds of a summer night rumble on. Alex gets out of the car, Alison follows him. He stops in front of the car, headlights illuminating them. They face each other and embrace again. Dust floats in the headlights, falling and tumbling.

She pulls away from him, his arms falling dead at his sides. His glazed stare focuses down on the headlights. The sound of a car door opening, then closing. The car reverses, the light pulling away from him, Alex fades to darkness.

FADE TO BLACK.

104 INT. ALEX'S HOUSE. HIS ROOM. NIGHT 104

Alex lies on the floor, staring straight forward next to a window. The yellow street light from nearby illuminates half of his face. Something slowly catches his attention to the side. His phone begins to ring.

DISSOLVE TO:

105 INT. ALEX'S HOUSE. NIGHT 105

Alex lies on his side, eyes open. His phone rings.

DISSOLVE TO:

106 INT. ALEX'S LIVING ROOM. NIGHT 106

His phone rings. Alex now lays on the pulled out couch, he left his phone where he laid it before, lit by the street light. He finally gets up and answers it.

ALISON
(whispered)
Alex?

He stands quiet.

ALISON
Mind if I come over?

Alex breathes some, in reluctance.

ALISON
I'll see you in fifteen minutes.

FADE OUT.

107

INT. ALEX'S LIVING ROOM. SILENCE. NIGHT

107

A door opens, light entering on Alex sitting on the edge of the bed. Quiet, he looks in her direction, but not in her eyes, a dead gaze somewhat to the floor. Alison steps into view, facing toward Alex. She slips her shirt over her head, lets it fall down her arm and to the floor. She walks toward him. His gaze doesn't move. She sits down beside him. She pulls his face with her hand toward her, their eyes meet. She kisses him, his lips stay still. She kisses him again.

They slowly fall back, kissing soft, Alex not responding to her. They pull each other's pants down to their ankles.

Alex stares at her, she looks away. Alex moves unsteady while they have sex. Alison seems to be somewhere else.

Alex pauses.

ALEX
I'll get a condom.

Alison seems disappointed, tries not to show it. Alison stares at the ceiling. Alex rummages through something somewhere He gets on top of her and they resume. He goes faster.

ALISON
(low voice)
Slow down.

Alex freezes.

He slowly withdraws from her.

Alison continues to blankly look at the ceiling, laying on her back. Footsteps. Soft light turns on from the bathroom across the room, lighting the lower half of her face, not showing her eyes. She turns her head away from the light. A toilet flushes. Then the faucet. A towel being used.

The light goes to blackness, the natural light fading in as eyes would adjust to darkness from light.

The couch is empty.

His footsteps slowly come to a stop.

The sound of the back door closes softly.

FADE OUT.

108

INT. ALEX'S WORK. NIGHT

108

Alex and Kyle are alone. Alex is a mess. Kyle is concerned.

KYLE

And you haven't seen her since?

Alex shakes his head.

KYLE

Seems like you guys broke up quick.

Alex just stares ahead, not really looking at anything.

ALEX

How are you and Heather doing?

KYLE

We broke up a bit ago, she was crazy.

Alex laughs exhaustively.

ALEX

Kyle, I'm sorry I've been blowing you off.

Kyle shrugs.

ALEX

I forgot that I still had friends. I was too concerned with my own shit, and no one else.

KYLE

Dude, don't worry about it, I've been there too. I knew you had things on your mind.

ALEX

Thanks man.

Alex shakes his head.

ALEX
I felt like I didn't know her.

Beat.

ALEX
I really fucked this all up. It's
all my fault.

Kyle doesn't know what to say. Alex begins to cry.

KYLE
Alex.

Alex looks up.

KYLE
Aaron told me Alison is moving
back.
(Beat)
Tonight.

Alex stops crying, his expression slowly turns determined,
blank.

109 EXT. ALISON'S HOUSE. NIGHT

109

Aaron pulls into Alison's driveway. Alison gets out, taking
a box from the backseat with her. She closes the door. Aaron
drives away. She starts to make her way to the front door.

Alex, watching from behind a tree a few houses down,
skateboard in hand, runs down the street.

ALEX
ALISON!

She stops before the front door, turns and looks at him.

ALEX
DON'T FUCKING DO IT!

The door in front of her opens. Alison's Mother's arm
pushing it outward.

ALEX
ALISON!

She turns around and walks inside, dissolving into darkness.
The arm holding the door slowly closes it.

A light turns on from one of the windows on the second floor.

Alison's Father's silhouette stands at the window, his arm lowering from the switch on the tall lamp beside him.

Alex starts to run, constantly looking back. Alex continues to stare at him as his view of Alison's Father meshes with the trees.

FADE OUT.

- 110 INT. ALEX'S WORK. NIGHT 110
Alex paces slowly in the room, alone.
- 111 EXT. STREET. NIGHT 111
Alex walks down his street, the yellow street lights shining down on him.
- 112 INT. ALEX'S CAR. NIGHT 112
Alex drives, the road empty. Hand on wheel, he looks to the empty seat beside him. The window is cracked open, wind pushes itself inside.
- 113 INT. ALEX'S CAR. NIGHT 113
Intersections fly past. Streetlights fade to more empty suburban road.
- 114 INT. ALEX'S CAR. NIGHT 114
Sitting in his car. Engine off. The windows fogged, staring at nothing.
- 115 INT. ALEX'S CAR. DAYBREAK 115
Sunlight tries to break through his dirty windshield. Alex sleeps in the front seat. Sunlight begins to light his face, his eyes a wide open dead stare.
- 116 INT. PUBLIC. DAY 116
Alex passes through crowds, he thinks he sees her. He looks again at NOT ALISON's face.

117 INT. ALEX'S HOUSE. KITCHEN. NIGHT 117

No one is home but him. The kitchen light is the only one on. Alex sits at the empty table.

118 INT. ALEX'S HOUSE. NIGHT 118

Alex paces around the empty house. He seems nervous, almost afraid of something.

His walking comes to a slow stop.

119 INT. ALEX'S HOUSE. BATHROOM. NIGHT 119

Alex stands and looks at his reflection, only wearing his jeans. He opens the cabinet above the sink, takes a prescription bottle. He pulls the cap off, whips it against the wall next to him. Turns on the faucet, and fills the half empty bottle to the top, determined.

He brings it to his lips, looking at himself in the mirror one more time. He throws his head back. Attempting to crush the bottle, he throws it against the wall.

Standing, breathing, lips heavy with red. He walks out of the bathroom.

He enters back.

He looks at himself, not seeing anybody. Breathes out steady. He stands quiet.

He shoves his hand in his mouth. He gags, his back lurches, sweat beading down his spine. He struggles to vomit. White foam and plastic finally spray on the toilet. His hand clutches to white on the edge of the sink nearby, steadying himself. He hunches over again as he brings up what is left, gagging hard. He lays down on the tile floor.

Lines of white run from his nose and lips. They slide down to meet the hair and tile under his stare at the ceiling.

He breathes steady.

FADE TO:

- 120 INT. 120
The tile and Alex fade down to an off white. Eventually there is movement. His breathing continues.
- 121 INT. 121
White blends down to dark green, then washes over to a black rain cloud like color.
- DISSOLVE TO:
- 122 EXT. FIELD. NIGHT 122
Alex's breathing continues over baseball field lights shining down on the field. Trees surround green grass. Alison's hand slides up Alex's arm.

Alison wraps her arms slowly around Alex.

Beams from the field lights begin to peer through the gaps between their hair and arms, softly lighting their faces. Alex looks up at her.

The light dampens.
- 123 INT. ALEX'S CAR. DAY 123
The light continuing to fade, the sky rolling fast with dark clouds, Alison sits in the passenger seat, her arm hanging out the window, letting the wind hold it up. Her extended arm quickly withdraws as the skies continue to darken. She runs her hand through her hair awkwardly, then looks across the seat, her expression blank.
- 124 INT. ALISON'S CAFE. DUSK 124
The light, nearing it's end, is diminishing from the windows. The door chimes as Alex walks toward the door. Alison and Nathan, wearing summer coats, Nathan wearing a red baseball cap, enter as Alex approaches. She smiles at him, Alex looks away.
- 125 EXT. ALISON'S CAFE. NIGHT 125
Alex and Alison walk out of the shop, Alison's Mother's car whips around the corner, the high beams aimed on Alex. He drops his skateboard, holding his hands up, shielding the light from his eyes.

- 126 INT. ALEX'S LIVING ROOM. NIGHT 126
Alex lies on the couch, staring at his phone.
- 127 EXT. 74TH AVE. LATE AFTERNOON 127
- 128 EXT. ALISON'S CAFE. DUSK 128
Streetlights turn on as the sun sets, while the sky is still purple. Alex sits on the curb, drinking coffee. Alison walks out of the door of the parlor, holding a black garbage bag. Alex turns to her as she passes him.
- 129 EXT. ALLEY. NIGHT 129
(overhead POV). Alex is curled up in a ball, sleeping next to the dumpster. Alison walks over to him, throws her garbage in the dumpster, leans down next to him, and kisses his forehead. She gets up, and walks back inside. Alex still lies sleeping.
- 130 INT. NIGHTCLUB. NIGHT 130
Only a few workers remain, closing and cleaning up. Alex and Alison slow dance in the center of the dance floor.
- 131 INT. ALEX'S CAR. DAY 131
Alex drives, one hand on the wheel, the other holding Alison. She trembles and cries some, their faces swollen and beaten.
- 132 INT. MOTEL. SUNRISE 132
Alison sleeps on Alex's chest. He's looking down at her, running his hand through her hair. Sunlight lights their faces.
- 133 EXT. FIELD. DAY 133
Feet catch up over grass, stepping through it. Alison spins around as if someone just called her name, an angelic blur against grass and a fire orange sky.

134 EXT. ALEX'S DRIVEWAY. LATE AFTERNOON 134

(slowed down) Alex's mother lowers the camera, recently taking a picture. She waves and walks back toward the house.

135 EXT. ALEX'S DRIVEWAY. NIGHT 135

Alex stands in the driveway still looking at where Aaron's car was, half lit by the porch light, the other half in darkness.

136 INT. ALISON'S CAFE. DAY 136

Alison, not paying attention, knocks over a cup of coffee, spilling it on the counter near the espresso machine. She grabs a rag and begins to clean. A few moments later, Alex walks through the door and stands in line.

137 BLACK SCREEN 137

Alex still breaths.

137 END CREDITS ROLL OVER THE MAIN THEME OF THE SCORE. 137

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