

VILLAGE PEOPLE

"Maybe Baby"

by
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TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. BLUEBIRD CAFE - NIGHT (D-1)

THIS IS NASHVILLE'S PREMIERE LISTENING ROOM. FAITH HILL, AMONG OTHERS, FOUND FAME ON THIS VERY STAGE. HAILEY HAMMOND, 25, GIRL NEXT DOOR, IS AT A PIANO SINGING. WHEN SHE FINISHES, THE CROWD BURSTS INTO APPLAUSE. ALEXA LANDON, SMART, APPROACHABLY BEAUTIFUL, ALWAYS TALKS AND MOVES A LITTLE FASTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE, CROSSES OVER.

ALEXA

See? That's why I brought you back here where you started. To remind you how much you love performing. That song is Grammy gold!

HAILEY

I'll never sing it again.

ALEXA

Oh, hon, you're heart broken and hurting. I've been there. Trust me, you'll feel better with a Grammy.

HAILEY

I'm sorry, Alexa, but I just can't finish my album now.

ALEXA

That's not the Hailey I know.

The Hailey I know was a hardworking farmer's daughter before her big break.

(MORE)

ALEXA (CONT'D)

So unless you're ready to go back to
slopping the hogs, my Hailey will be in
that studio tomorrow at nine A.M.

HAILEY

(BEAT) Ten thirty.

ALEXA

(SMILES) See you then.

ALEXA CROSSES TO HER FRIENDS: CANDACE, A SOUTHERN BELLE
WHO'S PACKING HOT SAUCE AND A .350 IN HER PURSE; AND THE
CHARMING REMY WHO STRADDLES THE LINE BETWEEN MR. RIGHT AND
MR. OH SO WRONG. HE POURS ALEXA A GLASS OF WINE.

REMY

Okay, you're off the clock. Have a
drink.

ALEXA

I've already had two. I've learned
vodka makes me nicer.

REMY

No, it doesn't.

ALEXA

Oh. Well, it makes me feel nicer.
Anyway, I have something important I
want to discuss with you guys.

CANDACE

I know, our trip. The travel agent called, we're all booked for Brazil.

ALEXA

Oh, I forgot all about New Years in Rio.

CANDACE

How could you forget your fortieth birthday? And for godssake, Remy, buy a gift! Giving her a card with five dollars like you're her me-maw won't cut it this year.

REMY

It's the thought that counts! Fine, what do you want, Lexa?

ALEXA

Actually that's what I wanted to talk to you about. I want a baby.

A LONG BEAT THEN:

REMY

I think I'm gonna get you a card.

ON REMY'S SHOCK, WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF COLD OPENING

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONESCENE 1

FADE IN:

INT. BLUEBIRD CAFE - MOMENTS LATER (D-1)

NO ONE HAS MOVED.

REMY

(BABBLING) I like kids, but not enough to be a father. At least not intentionally. We're really good friends, but having a kid would kinda blur that line. Not that I'm not happy to have sex with you...

ALEXA

Remy, relax. I'm not asking you for sperm. Unfortunately my hormone levels are too high for me to get pregnant.

REMY

Oh. Well, as long as you know if you needed it, I'd be there for you, right?

CANDACE

Alexa, we've talked this baby thing to death. You have to make peace with it. Buddha would say if you can't have a baby, it just wasn't meant to be.

ALEXA

Well, I say Buddha was a quitter.
There are other options. I thought
about foster care, but I've decided to
adopt.

CANDACE

Why oh why are you hell bent on messing
up your life with a loud, demanding
little brat who always wants to be the
center of attention?

REMY

(RE: CANDACE) Yeah, you already have
one of those.

ALEXA

My attorney's already set up a meeting.

REMY

What's the rush? Are you sure this
isn't a phase like your whole obsession
with that sparkly *Twilight* vampire?

CANDACE

First of all, that was me. Secondly, I
wouldn't call five years "a phase."

ALEXA

You guys, I want more for my life.
We're almost forty. How long are we
going to run around drinking, partying
and having meaningless sex?

REMY

Sex is never meaningless. If nothing else,
it means I have to come up with a good
excuse for why I can't stay the night.

CANDACE

I've found claiming any kind of stomach
disorder usually gets me ushered out
the door pretty quickly.

SHE AND REMY CHUCKLE.

ALEXA

Adopting a child is the biggest thing
I'll ever do in my life. I need to know
my best friends are with me.

REMY

Okay, I'm in -- except for diaper duty,
and three A.M. feedings. Oh, and puke
patrol. About what age do they go on
automatic? That's when Uncle Remy's
gonna shine.

ALEXA

Great. Candace, what about you?

CANDACE

Oh, I'm in, hon. I've been there for every humiliating, traumatizing mistake you've ever made in your life. Why on earth would I give away my front row seat to this one?

AS ALEXA LAUGHS RUEFULLY, WE:

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE 2

FADE IN:

ESTABLISHING SHOT OF HILLSBORO VILLAGE. A PICTURESQUE SUBURB OF NASHVILLE, IT'S THE SMALL TOWN WITHIN A BIG CITY WHERE ALEXA LIVES, WORKS AND HANGS OUT.

INT. ALEXA'S GREAT ROOM - A FEW DAYS LATER (D-2)

THE DECOR IS PREDOMINATELY WHITE AND FEMININE. ALEXA AND CANDACE ENTER AS PAUL LANDON, A STARCHY MAN IN HIS 60S, DROPS THROW PILLOWS ON THE FLOOR.

ALEXA

Uh, Dad? What are you doing?

PAUL

I want grandchildren.

ALEXA

I know. I'm about to meet a girl who's putting her baby up for adoption.

Remember?

PAUL

Of course, I remember. I'm not senile.

HE WIGGLES AROUND VIOLENTLY, CRUSHING THE SOFA PILLOWS.

CANDACE

My uncle Lenny said the same thing when he showed up at church, stark naked except for a pair of suspenders. You don't even want to know what they were hooked to.

PAUL

Alexa, I'm trying to help you make a good impression. This house is too uptight and sterile. You want to appear like you'll be a good mom and good moms know that kids are messy.

HE SCATTERS MAGAZINES ON THE TABLE. ALEXA NEATENS THEM.

CANDACE

Messy? Children are filthy little creatures who carry bacteria. Every one of them is a potential outbreak monkey!

ALEXA

I seem to recall that you gave me swine flu last year, Curious George.

PAUL

My greatest regret is that I spent more time digging fossils in the Galapagos than I did at home with my children. Alexa, nothing would make me happier than to help you with your own child.

ALEXA

Thanks, Dad.

CANDACE

Aw, that's sweet. Of course you know
nothing about this kid's gene pool.
What if you end up raising something
half wolf?

PAUL

That's ridiculous. That almost never
happens.

HE WINKS TO SHOW HE'S TEASING. THE DOOR BELL RINGS.

ALEXA

That's them. Just say hello, then go
upstairs. (TO CANDACE) Be nice!

ALEXA OPENS THE DOOR TO REVEAL IONE AND ERIC. IONE MAY ONLY
BE 15, BUT THIS KID HAS BEEN AROUND THE BLOCK. SHE'S SEVEN
MONTHS PREGNANT, BUT STILL DRESSED LIKE A TEENAGER: SKINNY
JEANS AND A BAGGY SHIRT. ERIC, 15, IS SWEET BUT CLUELESS.

ALEXA/PAUL

Hi.

IONE/ERIC

Hi.

CANDACE

(COOLLY) Hello.

ALEXA

I'm Alexa. Come in, sit down.

THE KIDS ENTER.

PAUL

I'm Alexa's father, Paul. And I just want you to know that my daughter is sweet, responsible and was on the Dean's List all four years of college.

CANDACE

Except for the semester she failed calculus.

PAUL

She did not.

CANDACE

He never found out you changed that grade?

PAUL

Not until now.

ALEXA

Okay, let's move this party wagon upstairs.

ALEXA HERDS CANDACE AND PAUL TO THE STAIRS.

ALEXA (CONT'D)

(SOTTO) I told you to be nice!

CANDACE

That wasn't nice?

ALEXA COVERTLY SHOVES CANDACE WHO STUMBLES.

CANDACE (CONT'D)

Now that really wasn't nice!

SHE FOLLOWS PAUL UPSTAIRS. ALEXA TAKES A DEEP BREATH AND TURNS TO THE KIDS.

ALEXA

So, where were we?

SHE NOTICES THAT THEY ARE SITTING VERY STIFFLY ON HER SOFA.

ALEXA (CONT'D)

Please, get comfortable.

SHE TOSSES A COUPLE OF PILLOWS ON THE FLOOR THEN PLOPS IN A CHAIR. THE KIDS VISIBLY RELAX. WHEN ERIC PUTS HIS FOOT ON THE COFFEE TABLE, ALEXA WINCES THROUGH HER SMILE.

ALEXA (CONT'D)

So, you guys are a really good looking couple.

ERIC

I know! You'd think we'd be more popular.

IONE

I keep telling him, he's a Mathlete, I'm in the book club, we're a match made in geek heaven.

ERIC

Which in high school is pure hell.

ALEXA

I hear you. I was in the marching band.

IONE/ERIC

(COMMISERATING) Oooh.

ERIC

My dad said it's in my blood. I come
from a long line of nerds.

IONE

Not me. My parents were voted best
looking and most likely to succeed. And
they were really successful... until
they got caught.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - FLASHBACK - DAY (FB/D-1)

A NINE-YEAR-OLD IONE IS IN THE BACK SEAT WHEN HER PARENTS
SUDDENLY JUMP IN -- THEY'VE JUST ROBBED A STORE.

IONE

Did you bring me some ice cream?

MOTHER

No. But we got you a whole lot of ice!

SHE TOSSES IONE A HANDFUL OF DIAMOND JEWELRY.

CUT TO:

INT. ALEXA'S GREAT ROOM - PRESENT

IONE

They both got eight years upstate and
I've been in foster care ever since.

ALEXA

Wow, you've had a tough time.

IONE

Not really. I can take care of myself.

ERIC

I can't.

ALEXA

Well, I understand that neither of you
is ready to take care of a baby.

IONE

About this... (PATS TUMMY) You probably
think I'm some dumb chick who sleeps
around. But I'm not.

CUT TO:

INT. ERIC'S BEDROOM - FLASHBACK - DAY (FB/D-2)

IONE IS HOLDING A POSITIVE HOME PREGNANCY TEST.

IONE

I don't understand how this happened.
You wore a condom.

ERIC

No. You wore a condom.

IONE

(BEAT) Oh. Now I'm starting to understand.

BACK TO:

INT. ALEXA'S GREAT ROOM - PRESENT

ALEXA

I'm sure this has been really difficult.

ERIC

You have no idea. I've missed soccer practice three times this week.

IONE

Yeah, and you've been a real trooper about the nonstop morning sickness. Oh, wait, that's me.

ERIC

I have had my share of queasiness too!

IONE ROLLS HER EYES AND TURNS BACK TO ALEXA.

IONE

Did the lawyer tell you it's a girl? I have a picture.

ALEXA

Ooh, little girls are so much fun! I
could dress her up and take her to
ballet classes...

IONE PULLS A PICTURE OUT OF HER PURSE AND HANDS IT TO ALEXA.

ALEXA (CONT'D)

Wow, it's so clear I can see her face.

ERIC

Uh, actually that's her butt.

ALEXA

And that's a relief. She's precious.

IONE

Thanks.

THERE'S AN AWKWARD PAUSE. THEY ALL SIP THEIR LEMONADE, THEN:

ALEXA

So, you probably want to know a little
about me.

IONE

Yeah, you have a nice house. What do
you do?

ALEXA

I'm a V.P. at Red Eye Records, but I'm
getting ahead of myself. I've prepared a
brief presentation.

SHE PRESSES A REMOTE. THE LIGHTS DIM AND A VIDEO STARTS TO PLAY ON THE TV SCREEN.

ALEXA (ON SCREEN) (CONT'D)

Hi, I'm Alexa Landon. I know a lot of people are going to tell you why they should be your child's mother. Well, I'm not going to do that.

THE CAMERA PANS TO REVEAL MILEY CYRUS (OR WHATEVER CELEBRITY IS AVAILABLE).

MILEY

I am! I've known Alexa since I was knee high to a grasshopper. She'll be a great mamma. In fact, if I wasn't already 19 years old and rich, I'd let her raise me!

ON IONE AND ERIC'S REACTIONS, WE:

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE 1

FADE IN:

INT. ALEXA'S GREAT ROOM - A LITTLE LATER (D-2)

ALEXA CLICKS OFF THE TV SCREEN AND TURNS UP THE LIGHTS.

ALEXA

Well, that wraps it up. Any questions?

ERIC

You got any more cookies?

ALEXA

Oh, God, did I bore you?

IONE

No. You've got a really great life.

ERIC

Yeah, and those were really great
cookies.

IONE

I guess we'd better be going.

ALEXA LEADS THEM TO THE DOOR.

ALEXA

I hope you'll seriously consider me. I
promise I'd take very good care of your
baby.

IONE

I think she'd like growing up here.

SHE AND ALEXA SMILE AT EACH OTHER, LIKING WHAT THEY SEE.
THEY AD-LIB GOODBYES THEN THE KIDS EXIT.

RESET TO:

INT./EXT. DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

IONE AND ERIC PAUSE ON THE DOOR STEP.

ERIC

Okay, pros and cons. Pro: she has
really good cookies. Con: She's kind of
stingy with them.

IONE

I really like her.

ERIC

Yeah, but what about the couple with
the four year old? It'd be really cool
for the baby to have a big brother.

IONE

Oh, yeah... that's true.

THEY WALK OFF.

RESET TO:

INT. ALEXA'S GREAT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ALEXA'S HEARD THEM THROUGH THE OPEN WINDOW; SHE'S DEVASTATED.
ANGLE ON UPSTAIRS: PAUL AND CANDACE ARE CAMPED OUT,
EAVESDROPPING.

CANDACE

(SOTTO) That's it. I'm going down.

PAUL

(SOTTO) No, let me.

ALEXA

Both of you come. And bring tissue.

AS THEY HURRY TO COMFORT HER, WE:

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWOSCENE 2INT. ALEXA'S OFFICE - LATER (D-2)

ALEXA IS WITH HAILEY AND RON JOHN, A GREASY, HEAVILY TATTOOED DEADBEAT.

ALEXA

So, after a food fight at the Waffle House that caused 26 thousand dollars worth of damage, a Twitter feud that involved terms like "skank whore" and "thieving bastard;" and three restraining orders: one to keep you away from her, one to keep you away from him and one to keep you both away from Waffle House, you two wind up getting back together?

RON JOHN

What can I say? It's a love story.

HAILEY

We're getting married next month.

ALEXA

Well, before you go honey-mooning at I.H.O.P., Hailey, I really need you to finish your album.

HAILEY

No problem, but you're gonna have to
cancel my tour.

ALEXA

Why?!

RON JOHN RUBS HAILEY'S SLIGHT TUMMY.

RON JOHN

We're having a baby.

ALEXA

You're pregnant? (THEN) Of course you
are.

HAILEY

Aren't you happy for me?

ALEXA REALIZES THAT HER PERSONAL PAIN HAS SHADOWED HER
RESPONSE. SHE GETS UP AND HUGS HAILEY.

ALEXA

I'm very happy for you. Congratulations.

HAILEY

We're so excited. Can you believe I'm
going to be a mommy?! It's the most
amazing feeling in the world.

HAILEY CHATTERS ON. OFF ALEXA'S PRIVATE SADNESS, WE:

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWOSCENE 3

EXT. HILLSBORO VILLAGE - STREET - A LITTLE LATER (D-2)

ALEXA IS TAKING A WALK. SHE PAUSES NEAR A PLAYGROUND WHERE CHILDREN ARE PLAYING. A BALL ROLLS TOWARD HER AND SHE GIVES IT BACK TO A SMALL BOY. SHE SMILES WISTFULLY AS HE RUNS OFF.

SHE CONTINUES ON, PASSING TWO PREGNANT WOMEN, EATING ICE CREAM CONES. ALEXA REACTS, THIS IS STARTING TO GET TO HER.

WOMAN (O.S.)

Excuse me.

ALEXA STEPS ASIDE TO ALLOW A WOMAN PUSHING TRIPLETS IN A HUGE STROLLER TO PASS.

ALEXA

(DEFIANT) I have a great life.

WOMAN

O-kay.

ALEXA

I'm going to Rio for New Years. (RE: TRIPLETS) With all of them, you may never make it to Rio.

WOMAN

Actually, I'm from Brazil.

ALEXA

Well, lucky you. I have a great life!

SHE MARCHES OFF.

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWOSCENE 4

INT. ALEXA'S GREAT ROOM - A LITTLE LATER (D-2)

ALEXA ENTERS FROM HER WALK. PAUL IS ON THE SOFA, READING.

PAUL

How are you feeling?

ALEXA

Better. You know, maybe it's for the best. My house and my friends aren't exactly kid friendly. And it's not like I even know how to take care of a baby. I'd probably screw the poor kid up. All of this happening is probably the universe's way of telling me that I'm not meant to be a mother.

PAUL

Well, in my opinion, the universe is full of crap.

ALEXA

Dad, it's not supposed to be this hard.

PAUL

This isn't hard. Hard is staying up five nights in a row because your newborn has colic.

(MORE)

PAUL (CONT'D)

Hard is letting your child go when it's time. Hard is finding out your daughter faked one of her college grades!

ALEXA

I knew that was going to come back up.

PAUL

And it won't be the last time. (THEN)
Alexa, you are warm and loving and accepting. You always take care of the artists on your label as well as your friends and neighbors. Now, I may not know a lot --

ALEXA

Dad, you have two Ph.D's.

PAUL

Okay, I do know a lot. And one thing I know for sure, is not only are you meant to be a mother, you are going to be a fantastic one.

ALEXA

You're right. I can't give this up. It's too important to me. Thank you, Daddy.

SHE HUGS HIM.

ALEXA (CONT'D)

And I'm sorry I lied about my calculus
grade.

PAUL

That's okay. I lied when I told you the
ice cream man only played music when he
was out of ice cream.

ALEXA

What?! That is so wrong. I cannot
believe you did that! (BEAT) I am so
going to use that on my kid.

AS THEY CHUCKLE, WE:

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE 5

INT. ALEXA'S GREAT ROOM/EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY (D-3)

ALEXA, REMY AND CANDACE ARE LOOKING AT THE VARIOUS ITEMS
PILED ON THE SOFA: CLOTHING, SHOES, ELECTRONIC ITEMS-- EVEN
A FLAT SCREEN TV.

REMY

Check this out, a remote controlled
helicopter.

CANDACE

No fifteen year old girl wants that.

HE TEARS A PIECE OF PLASTIC OFF THE BOX.

REMY

I wish you'd said something before I
opened it. Now I can't take it back.

ALEXA

You only tore a piece of plastic off
the box.

REMY

(QUICKLY) Open is open. Guess I've
gotta keep it.

NONA JAMISON, A BUBBLY, PRECOCIOUS FIFTEEN YEAR OLD, KNOCKS
ON THE SCREEN DOOR THEN ENTERS. THEY AD-LIB HELLOS.

ALEXA

Thanks for coming over, Nona. I need your help.

NONA

What's up?

ALEXA

Well, I'm trying to adopt a baby. I met a girl your age who's planning on giving her child up. I think she liked me but my attorney suggested I get her a gift to help sway her my way.

NONA

You know, I'm sort of adopted. My dads used a surrogate to create me.

REMY

Interesting. You have two dads. (TO CANDACE) Did you know she has two dads?

CANDACE

Charles and Hank have lived next door since Alexa moved here five years ago.

REMY

I know that. I just figured they were roommates. I didn't know they were...

ALEXA

Gay?

REMY

(TO NONA) She said, it not me.

CANDACE

You meant it, not her.

NONA

Alexa, I can totally help you pick something out. I have great taste.

SHE PICKS UP A SHOE BOX AND LOOKS INSIDE.

NONA (CONT'D)

Uh, not the Louboutins.

NONA TOSSES THE BOX ASIDE. CANDACE YELPS AND RESCUES IT. SHE CHECKS THE SHOES INSIDE AND HEAVES A SIGH OF RELIEF.

CANDACE

They're okay. They're okay.

REMY

What about a Nintendo Wii?

NONA

I don't think so.

REMY

(TEARING PLASTIC) Damn! And I just opened this too. Now I'm gonna have to stay up all night playing.

NONA

(GASPS) An iPad! I'd kill for this!

SHE SNATCHES THE BOX UP AND CRADLES IT. ALEXA LAUGHS.

ALEXA

But not your neighbor, right?

A HORN HONKS. ALEXA CROSSES TO THE DOOR AND LOOKS OUT.

RESET TO:

INT./EXT. DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

PAUL IS PULLING UP IN A SHINY MINI COOPER CONVERTIBLE.

RESET TO:

INT. ALEXA'S GREAT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ALEXA

What on earth?

SHE EXITS WITH THE OTHERS FOLLOWING.

RESET TO:

INT./EXT. DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

PAUL GETS OUT AS ALEXA, NONA, CANDACE AND REMY APPROACH.

PAUL

Isn't it perfect for Ione?

ALEXA

You bought her a car?

NONA HOPS BEHIND THE WHEEL AND POSES.

NONA

It totally gets my vote.

REMY

Mine too.

ALEXA

It's way too extravagant. I'm trying to sway her, not buy her.

CANDACE

You are competing against that other couple. No four year old is cute enough to trump this.

ALEXA

Ione isn't even old enough to drive.

NONA

That's never stopped me.

PAUL

Sweetheart, listen to us. We are the village that's going to help you raise your child.

ALEXA

(POINTING) Look out, Dad. One of the villagers is stealing your car.

NONA IS SLOWLY BACKING OUT OF THE DRIVEWAY. AS PAUL RUSHES TO STOP HER, WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT THREE

SCENE 1

ESTABLISHING SHOT OF A WORKING CLASS EAST NASHVILLE AREA.

CUT TO:

INT. FOSTER HOME FAMILY ROOM - EVENING (D-3)

A SEVEN YEAR OLD, DAISY, OPENS THE DOOR TO REVEAL ALEXA.

DAISY

Are you a dangerous stranger?

ALEXA

Uh, no.

DAISY

Good. Can I have some candy?

ALEXA

Candy's really not good for your teeth.

And you have a beautiful...

DAISY WALKS AWAY.

ALEXA (CONT'D)

O-kay. Hello?

UNCERTAIN, ALEXA ENTERS THE HOUSE. THE FURNITURE IS SHABBY AND THE PLACE IS A MESS. THERE'S A ROVING PACK OF SIX CHILDREN RUNNING FROM ROOM TO ROOM. IONE JOGS DOWN THE STAIRS, SURPRISINGLY LIGHT ON HER FEET.

IONE

Alexa, hi, I don't know you were here.

ALEXA

Sorry to barge in. I got you an iPad.

RICKY

Hey guys, another lady's giving away

Ipads!

THE KIDS CONVERGE ON ALEXA, BACKING HER AGAINST A WALL,
YELLING THEY WANT IPADS. PANICKED, ALEXA DIGS IN HER PURSE.

ALEXA

Look, candy!

SHE THROWS A HANDFUL ACROSS THE ROOM. THE KIDS CHASE IT.

IONE

Quick thinking.

ALEXA

I had to do something. They were like a
pack of piranhas.

RICKY

Ew, these are cough drops.

DAISY

Mmm, cherry flavor!

ALEXA

So, another lady was here with an Ipad?

I'm guessing the couple with the son

got you one?

IONE

Yeah, they did.

ALEXA

Does theirs have Wi-Fi?

IONE

Yes, and 3G.

ALEXA

Oh. (BEAT) You like convertibles?

IONE

Huh?

ALEXA

Nothing, bad joke.

TWO OF THE KIDS START FIGHTING OVER A TOY. RICKY GRABS THE TOY AND RUNS AROUND THE ROOM.

ALEXA (CONT'D)

It's certainly noisy around here.

Where are your foster parents?

IONE

Happy Hour. Two for one Margarita night.

DAISY SHRIEKS, ALEXA WINCES.

ALEXA

Is that within walking distance?

DAISY SCREAMS AGAIN.

ALEXA (CONT'D)

How about running?

IONE

I'm hungry. Want a peanut butter sandwich?

ALEXA

That's all you're having for dinner?

IONE

And milk. If there's any left.

ALEXA

How about I take you out?

IONE

Cool.

DAISY

I wanna go!

RICKY

Me too!

AS THE KIDS CONVERGE ON ALEXA AGAIN, WE:

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT THREE

SCENE 2

INT. FOSTER HOME LIVING ROOM - LATER (D-3)

ALEXA, IONE AND THE KIDS ARE EATING PIZZAS AND SALADS.

ALEXA

More salad?

IONE

Sure. With the baby, I eat a lot more
these days.

IONE SUDDENLY STARTS AND PUTS HER HAND ON HER BELLY.

IONE (CONT'D)

She's doing her Zumba workout. Feel.

ALEXA PUTS HER HAND ON IONE'S STOMACH, THEN SMILES.

ALEXA

That feels high impact. (BEAT) What's
it like -- being pregnant I mean?

IONE

Weird. It's like I've been taking over
by body snatchers. Lazy body snatchers
who want to sleep all the time.

ALEXA

Do you... do you ever think about
keeping it?

IONE

Hell no.

DAISY

Oooh, you said a bad word! I'm telling.

RICKY

What'd she say?

DAISY

(WHISPERS) Hell.

RICKY

Oooh, you said a bad word. I'm telling!

DAISY CHASES HIM OUT OF THE ROOM.

IONE

Sorry. But there's no way I can keep this baby. There's definitely no room around here. And I love Eric, but his fifteen dollars a week allowance isn't much child support.

ALEXA

That's true.

IONE

And I want to go to college, get a good job and travel and have nice clothes. Like you. You have a great life.

ALEXA

Yeah, I guess I do.

IONE

I want this kid to have a chance at all
that too. I want more -- for both of
us.

ALEXA

Of course. I get it.

THERE'S A SHRILL SCREAM OFF CAMERA. RICKY NONCHALANTLY
ENTERS.

RICKY

Wasn't me.

IONE

Okay, time to trap 'em and put 'em in
bed.

DAISY

Alexa, can you read us a bedtime story?

ALEXA

Sure.

RICKY HANDS HER A BOOK AND THE KIDS GATHER AROUND.

ALEXA (CONT'D)

The Saw, The Graphic Novel. Oh, this is
too scary. Let me tell you a story.

RICKY

Okay.

ALEXA

Once upon time there was a beautiful
princess who lived in a storybook
castle.

DAISY

(YAWNS) I'm going to bed.

RICKY

Me too.

THE KIDS FILE OUT.

IONE

You bored them to bed. Alexa, that was
brilliant.

ALEXA

(COVERING) Yes. That was my plan all
along.

ON HER SLIGHT CONFUSION, WE:

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT THREE

SCENE 3

INT. ALEXA'S OFFICE - DAY (D-4)

ALEXA IS WITH RON JOHN WHO'S HOLDING A GUITAR.

ALEXA

I thought you were a cook?

RON JOHN

Up until that whole Waffle House
restraining order. But at heart, I'm a
songwriter. And this tune would be
perfect for the last track on Hailey's
album.

ALEXA

(RELUCTANT) Right. Let's hear it.

RON JOHN STRUMS AND SINGS. ALEXA SITS UP. HE'S SHOCKINGLY
GOOD. THERE'S A KNOCK ON THE DOOR THEN JESSIE, ALEXA'S
OVERLY SENSITIVE ASSISTANT, POKES HER HEAD IN.

JESSIE

I know you said not to interrupt, but
your lawyer insisted I give you this
message immediately. So if you're mad,
blame him not me.

ALEXA

(ANNOYED) What's the message?

JESSIE

I'm detecting a lot of blame in your tone.

ALEXA

Jessie...

JESSIE

Ione Hilderbrandt has gone into labor early. Since she hasn't decided who's getting her baby yet, you need to get over to the hospital and rub her feet or something.

ALEXA JUMPS UP AND STARTS GATHERING HER THINGS.

ALEXA

Here's what I need you to do --

JESSIE

I don't like feet.

RON JOHN

I do.

ALEXA

Not surprised. Go ahead and record the song with Hailey as a duet. Jessie, cancel the rest of my day. You can go home.

JESSIE

Is that some sort of punishment?

ALEXA

Most people wouldn't think so. Where
are my keys? Geez! It's like I'm in
labor myself.

RON JOHN

Your ankles do look a little swollen.

ALEXA

Shut up before you're unemployed again.

ALEXA EXITS ON THE RUN.

JESSIE

Don't take it personally. She's
extremely sensitive. Between you and
me, she can be really hard to work
with.

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT THREESCENE 4

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - A LITTLE LATER (D-4)

IONE IS IN BED, ATTACHED TO SEVERAL BEEPING MONITORS WHICH A NURSE IS ADJUSTING. ALEXA ENTERS.

ALEXA

Hey, how are you?

IONE

Big, bloated, tired. I'm eight months pregnant, what'd you expect?

ALEXA

A little less attitude. Someone's a little cranky.

IONE

Of course I am! I have a volley ball with legs trying to get out of me. And the doctor slowed down the contractions. (TO NURSE) Which reminds me, I want to see his diploma!

ALEXA

Where's Eric?

IONE

Tallahasee. He freaked out about all of this and decided to go to Soccer Camp.

ALEXA

I'm so sorry, honey.

ALEXA TAKES HER HAND. IONE ALLOWS THE CONTACT FOR A MOMENT,
THEN WITHDRAWS.

IONE

It's okay, I'm used to being alone.

IONE'S BEING STOIC, BUT CLEARLY SHE'S DEEPLY HURT.

IONE (CONT'D)

Anyway, I've decided I want you to have
the baby.

ALEXA

Oh, Ione, thank you. I promise I'll
work really hard to be a good mother. I
may never have a husband or be able to
give her a big brother, but I will love
her so much.

IONE

I know.

THEY'RE QUIET FOR A FEW MOMENTS, THEN IONE SUDDENLY SITS UP:

IONE (CONT'D)

Uh-oh. Either I just had an "accident"
or my water broke.

ALEXA/NURSE

What?!

IONE GROANS AS THE MONITORS START BEEPING LOUDLY.

NURSE

The contractions are speeding up again.
I'll call the doctor. It looks like
this little one's too impatient to wait
a few more weeks.

SHE RUSHES OUT.

IONE

(MOANS) Alexa, I'm scared.

ALEXA

Breathe, Ione. Everything's going to be
okay.

IONE

Don't leave me.

ALEXA

Don't worry, I'm not going anywhere.

IONE CLUTCHES ALEXA'S HAND TIGHTLY. ALEXA WINCES IN PAIN.

ALEXA (CONT'D)

Ooooooh! And apparently you don't
believe me!

AS IONE CONTINUES TO SQUEEZE, WE:

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT THREE

SCENE 5

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY/HOSPITAL ROOM - HOURS LATER (D-4)

PAUL IS PEEKING INTO IONE'S ROOM WITH A VIDEO CAMERA.
CANDACE AND REMY APPROACH.

REMY

Anything happening in there yet?

PAUL

I can't see much. The damn doctor keeps
blocking my view. Like he's the most
important person here.

CANDACE

What is the hold up? It's been three
hours. It's a straight shot, kid, let's
get a move on!

PAUL

Wait, I see the head!

CANDACE

REMY

Move.

Let me see.

SHE SHOVES REMY ASIDE AND LOOKS, THEN BACKS AWAY, ASHEN.

CANDACE

Good Lord, that is the most
horrifyingly unnatural thing I've ever
seen.

REMY

Let me see!

RESET TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

IONE AND ALEXA BOTH LOOK LIKE THEY'VE BEEN THROUGH THE RINGER. IONE MOANS LOUDLY THEN THE BABY CRIES.

ALEXA

You did it! She's here!

DOCTOR

You mean, he's here.

HE HANDS THE BABY OFF TO A NURSE.

ALEXA

(THROWN) It's a boy? Let me see.

(LOOKS) Yep, it's definitely a boy.

PAUL, CANDACE AND REMY BURST IN AD-LIBBING CONGRATULATIONS. THEY QUIET WHEN THE NURSE GIVES IONE THE BABY. SHE STARES AT HIM INTENTLY.

IONE

Hey, buddy. I want you to know that I found you a really great mom. (KISSES HIM) Be happy.

SHE OFFERS THE BABY TO ALEXA, WHO DOESN'T REACH FOR HIM.

ALEXA

Ione, you do not have to give your baby up if you don't want to. Are you sure?

IONE

Positive. You can give him the life he
deserves.

SHE OFFERS ALEXA THE BABY AGAIN AND THIS TIME SHE TAKES HIM.

IONE (CONT'D)

Say hello to your son.

ALEXA IS OVERCOME WITH EMOTION. PAUL RECORDS THE MOMENT WITH
HIS CAMERA.

ALEXA

Hi there. Oh, you are the most
beautiful baby in the world. (TO IONE)
Thank you.

AN ORDERLY ENTERS.

ORDERLY

Ione, I have a message from your foster
parents. They can't make it today, but
they'll be here tomorrow to pick you
up.

IONE

Oh. Okay.

ALEXA FROWNS AT THIS NEWS. THE NURSE REACHES FOR THE BABY.

NURSE

I have to take him to the nursery for
awhile. You're welcome to come.

ALEXA RELUCTANTLY GIVES THE BABY TO HER. THE NURSE EXITS WITH PAUL IN FRONT OF HER RECORDING. REMY FOLLOWS. ALEXA STARTS OUT, THEN GLANCES BACK AT IONE WHO LOOKS INCREDIBLY YOUNG AND LONELY. ALEXA PAUSES, TROUBLED.

CANDACE

(SOTTO) Are you thinking what I'm thinking? Because it's not too late to change your mind.

ALEXA

Really? You're with me on this?

CANDACE

'Till the day I die.

ALEXA GOES BACK TO IONE.

ALEXA

Ione, you like me, right?

IONE

Duh, I just gave you my baby.

ALEXA

(LAUGHS) Smart ass. Well, I like you too. So much, that I'd still like you even if you hadn't given me the baby.

IONE

Is this going somewhere, 'cause I'm kinda tired. I just had a baby.

ALEXA

Okay. I have a pretty great life. And as someone who's looking to have a great life, I was thinking maybe you'd like to come and live with me and my new son.

IONE

Seriously? You'd want me around?

ALEXA

I would. And I have a feeling that all together, we'll have an amazing life.

IONE

I feel you might be right about that.

ALEXA LAUGHS AND GIVES HER A HUG. CANDACE IS STUNNED.

CANDACE

Just so you know, that's definitely not what I was thinking!

ON ALEXA'S HAPPINESS, WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW

TAG

FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - LATE THAT NIGHT (D-4)

IONE IS ASLEEP. NEARBY, ALEXA IS HOLDING THE BABY AND
HUMMING SOFTLY.

NO WORDS ARE NEEDED. OUR GIRL IS COMPLETE.

FADE OUT.

END OF TAG