

GOOD GIRLS

by

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2/28/2008

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

WE SEE A GIRL, ALEX, (18) STANDING AT A PODIUM. SHE IS PRETTY, OR AT LEAST SHE WILL BE. SHE HASN'T QUITE GROWN INTO HER LOOKS. RIGHT NOW, SHE IS A BIT OF A DORK. SHE READS HER SPEECH IN AN AWKWARD MANNER.

ALEX

...and so as the valedictorian for the class of 2000, I'd like to close with a quote. "You cannot help but learn more as you take the world into your hands. Take it up reverently, for it is an old piece of clay, with millions of thumbprints on it".

ALEX PROUDLY LOOKS UP, EXPECTING TO BE MET WITH UPROARIOUS APPLAUSE. INSTEAD A SEA OF BORED, SLIGHTLY ANNOYED TEENAGERS IN THEIR CAPS AND GOWNS STARE AT HER. JUST THEN, A GIRL STANDS UP AND STARTS TO WHISTLE AND CHEER. THIS IS MEG, ALSO EIGHTEEN, ALEX'S BEST FRIEND. MEG IS QUIRKY AND DIFFERENT. SHE SPORTS A SHORT BOB HAIRCUT, ARMY BOOTS AND FISHNET TIGHTS. SHE WEARS A VERY EXPENSIVE CAMERA AROUND HER NECK.

MEG

Yeah! Go Alex! Thumbprints! Whoooo!
(THEN, AGGRESSIVELY TO CROWD) C'mon
people!

AS MEG CONTINUES TO CHEER AND WHISTLE, WE SEE ALEX SMILE AND WAVE AT HER.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MALL - NEXT DAY

MEG AND ALEX WALK LANGUIDLY. MEG OCCASIONALLY SNAPS SOME PHOTOGRAPHS WITH HER CAMERA.

ALEX

Are you sure they liked my speech?

MEG

What, are you kidding? They loved it!

ALEX

It felt like they didn't respond that much.

MEG

Well, you didn't have your glasses on so you couldn't see. They were moved. Moved into silence. That's the best kind of response.

ALEX

I guess. It's just that they cheered when Michelle Horton spoke.

MEG

Yeah, cuz Michelle Horton's speech was, "Let's party!" And then she turned around and flipped off the faculty. Kind of hard not to cheer that. (THEN) So, what are we going to do this summer?

ALEX

I was thinking we could take some college prep classes. You know, get a jump start on freshman year.

MEG

So...our vacation before going to college, is going to college? No wonder we're not popular.

ALEX

It'll be fun! I could take some pre-law classes, and they have a bunch of photography classes for you--

MEG

I'm a genius. I don't need classes. Here's my idea. We rent a house on the Cape, get drunk and fool around with boys. Like every other girl our age.

ALEX

That doesn't look so great on a resume.

MEG

Oh, come on! We've been good girls our whole lives! We deserve to have some fun! And I've already found us an amazing house to rent.

ALEX

Really?

MEG

Well, no. Not really. It doesn't have any furniture, or a kitchen...and there are two feral cats that live in one of the bedrooms. But it's like three blocks from the beach.

(SELLING) And Brody and his friends are renting a house there.

MEG MOTIONS TO TWO BOYS WHO ARE PLAYFULLY PUNCHING EACH OTHER. ONE OF THEM IS BRODY (18), A TYPICAL CUTE JOCK.

ALEX

So. I don't care about him.

MEG

Then why is your face all red?

ALEX LOOKS AT BRODY. HE GLANCES OVER AT HER AND GIVES HER A BIG GOOFY SMILE.

ALEX

(STARING AT BRODY) I guess one summer of fun wouldn't kill us.

MEG

No it would not!

THE GIRLS HIGH-FIVE.

SMASH CUT TO:

A CHYRON THAT READS, "NINE MONTHS LATER". WE SEE A PHOTO OF MEG AND ALEX, ARM AND ARM IN FRONT OF A CHEESY VEGAS-STYLE CHAPEL. MEG WEARS A WEDDING DRESS AND HOLDS A BEER. THERE IS A WEDDING RING ON HER FINGER AND SHE IS BEAMING. ALEX...IS EIGHT MONTHS PREGNANT. AND LOOKS A LITTLE STUNNED.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONEINT. LAW OFFICE - SEVEN YEARS LATER (DAY)

WE ARE IN A VERY PRESTIGIOUS BOSTON LAW FIRM. ALEX, NOW TWENTY-SIX, IS VERY BEAUTIFUL, DESPITE THE FACT THAT SHE DOES NOTHING TO ACCENTUATE IT. SHE STRUGGLES TO KEEP UP WITH ANOTHER YOUNG WOMAN KYLIE (20), WHO IS SHOWING HER AROUND. ALTHOUGH KYLIE IS JUST AN ASSISTANT, SHE HAS A SENSE OF ENTITLEMENT BASED ON ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.

KYLIE

...and that's the law library, over there is the conference room. Oh, and that's where the lawyers eat lunch.

ALEX LOOKS AT A ROOM WITH HUGE GLASS WINDOW AND SEES A BUNCH OF LAWYERS GATHERED THERE WHO ARE ABOUT HER AGE. WE CAN SEE THAT THIS AFFECTS HER.

KYLIE

But, don't go in there, cuz they get mad.

ALEX

So, where do we eat?

KYLIE

Well, you only get like 10 minutes for lunch so you probably should just eat at your desk. But don't spill anything on their papers, cuz they get mad.

ALEX

Boy, lawyers are kinda angry, huh?

KYLIE

Oh, yeah. They're always yelling at me about something.

KYLIE (CONT'D)

I mean, I'm sorry I didn't get your papers to the court on time and it affected your precious trial. I have a life too. (THEN) Here's your desk.

KYLIE HAS STOPPED IN FRONT OF A SAD LITTLE CUBICLE.

ALEX

Oh, it's...snug.

KYLIE

And you can't decorate it. Cuz the lawyers--

ALEX

Get mad?

KYLIE

They made me take down all my Justin Timberlake stuff. Can you believe that?

ALEX

Shocking.

KYLIE

(LOOKING OFF) Oooh, there's someone better to talk to. See you later.

KYLIE TROTS OFF AS ALEX SITS DOWN AT HER DESK AND GETS SITUATED. SHE TAKES A SMALL FRAMED PHOTO OF HER NOW SEVEN YEAR OLD SON AND PUTS IT ON HER DESK.

A WOMAN, MARISSA, APPROACHES. SHE IS A KNOCKOUT AND DRESSED IMPECCABLY. SHE'S THE TYPE OF WOMAN THAT YOU'D LOVE TO HATE, BUT CAN'T, BECAUSE SHE'S SO NICE.

MARISSA

What a cute little boy. Is that your nephew?

ALEX

No... actually it's my son.

MARISSA

(DOING THE MATH IN HER HEAD) Oh, uh...

ALEX

Let me help you, I had him when I was eighteen. (OFF HER LOOK) Yeah, I went a little crazy the summer after high school. You know how it is.

MARISSA

Actually I don't. I was one of those obnoxious types that went to summer school to get ready for college. I know, please don't hate me.

ALEX

I'm trying not to.

MARISSA

I'm Marissa. I'm one of the lawyers here.

ALEX

And now I hate you again. (THEN) I'm
Alex, by the way.

MARISSA

Look, I know you're getting settled,
but when you get a chance I have some
things for you to do.

ALEX

(EAGER) Oh, I can do it now. I'd be
happy to. I'm going to law school
part-time, so all this stuff is really
interesting to me.

MARISSA

(PUTTING PIECE OF PAPER DOWN) Well...
I just kind of need you to go on a
coffee run.

ALEX

(COVERING) Oh yeah coffee. That's
interesting to me, too.

MARISSA

We usually have it around ten o'clock.
But leave early, because the coffee
place is six blocks away and you have
to get about twenty cups.

A VERY ATTRACTIVE MAN, GRAYSON (28) PASSES BY. MARISSA STOPS
HIM.

MARISSA

Grayson, this is Andrea. She's going to be doing the coffee run.

GRAYSON

Oh great.

ALEX

Well, I hope to be doing more than that, and it's Alex, actually.

MARISSA

(SINCERE) God, I am so sorry. I'm usually so good with names. It won't happen again. (CHANTING TO HERSELF) Andrea. Andrea. Andrea.

SHE CROSSES OFF.

GRAYSON

You'll have to forgive her, she's wrapped up in a crazy trial. Welcome aboard, Alex.

ALEX

Well, glad to be aboard...Captain. Not that you're the captain of this firm. Or that law firms even have captains. I should probably just drop this whole ship analogy right now.

GRAYSON

It's okay, I started it.

ALEX

Well, anyway it's nice to be here.
And if there's anything I can help you
with just let me know.

GRAYSON

(SMILING) I have a trial next week,
you're going to be sorry you said
that.

HE WALKS OFF. ALEX WATCHES HIM GO. KYLIE RE-ENTERS.

KYLIE

Oh, my god, did you just get fired?

ALEX

What? No.

KYLIE

Then why is your face all red?

OFF ALEX'S LOOK WE...

CUT TO:

INT. LAW OFFICE - LATER

THERE IS A CARDBOARD TRAY WITH COFFEE CUPS ON ALEX'S DESK. SHE'S TRYING TO PASS THEM OUT.

ALEX

(READING NAME OFF CUP) Ted? Who's
Ted? (TO MEN PASSING BY) Excuse me,
non-fat latte Ted? Non-fat latte Ted?
(THEN) Oh screw it.

SHE STARTS TO DRINK THE COFFEE. HER CELL PHONE RINGS. SHE ANSWERS IT.

ALEX

(INTO PHONE) Hello? Hey Meg. I'm
kind of busy, what do you need? Well,
can we talk about it later? I have a
lot of work to do.

MEG STEPS OUT FROM BEHIND ALEX'S CUBICLE AND WAVES. SHE IS ON HER CELL. SHE IS PRETTY MUCH THE SAME MEG WE SAW AT EIGHTEEN.

MEG

You don't look that busy.

ALEX

What are you doing here?

MEG

I told you. I need to talk.

ALEX

I can't have visitors on my first day
of work and is that a pajama top?

MEG

Not technically, but I did sleep in
it. (THEN) This is important.

ALEX

Alright, come on.

SHE TAKES MEG BY THE ARM AND LEADS HER TO THE CONFERENCE
ROOM.

RESET TO:

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ALEX AND MEG ENTER.

ALEX

What is it? Quick.

MEG

My mom is getting remarried.

ALEX

Oh, no. To the Crypt Keeper?

MEG

Please explain to me why you would
marry a hundred year old man unless he
was loaded?

ALEX

Well, maybe he's really good in--

MEG

Don't finish that, I'll vomit. (THEN)
Do you understand what's happening?

MEG (CONT'D)

Skeletor is moving in with my mom, so
Buster and I can't live with her
anymore. My son and I are going to be
homeless!

ALEX

Okay, Drama, calm down.

MEG

I never should have gotten divorced.
Then I wouldn't have had to move in
with my mom in the first place!

ALEX

Your husband was having children with
different woman all up and down the
east coast.

MEG

So? Am I perfect?!

ALEX

God no. (THEN) Listen, why don't you
and Buster stay with us?

MEG

And have you ride my ass about getting
a job all the time? No thanks.

ALEX

You should get a job!

MEG

See? It started already.

ALEX

Well, I don't understand! You're a brilliant photographer. Why aren't you pursuing that?

MEG

Hello? I'm a single mom.

ALEX

Yeah, Meg. So am I.

MEG

God. I usually get so much more sympathy from other people with that. I got half off on a TV set once.

ALEX

Okay, this is the last time I'm going to ask. Do you want to move in with me or not?

MEG

Yes. (THEN) Do I get the big bedroom?

ALEX

Absolutely not.

MEG

Can I knock the wall down in the small
bedroom so it appears larger?

ALEX

No.

MEG

Please. I'm a single mom.

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - ONE WEEK LATER

IT IS A SMALL APARTMENT, BUT BRIGHT AND CHEERY. BIG BAY WINDOWS AND LOTS OF EXPOSED BRICK. JAMES (7) AND BUSTER (6) SIT AT A BREAKFAST TABLE. JAMES IS NEAT AS A PIN. BUSTER IS MORE ROUGH AND TUMBLE. ALEX IS SERVING THEM BREAKFAST.

JAMES

Mom, Buster and I had a burping contest last night. Guess who won?

ALEX

I'm going to go out on a limb here and say Buster.

BUSTER BURPS.

ALEX

You are your mother's son.

BRODY NOW TWENTY-SIX, ENTERS. HE IS STILL A TERRIFIC LOOKING GUY. HE WEARS MECHANIC OVERALLS. JAMES RUNS TO HIM.

JAMES

Daddy!

BRODY

There's my boy.

HE PICKS JAMES UP.

JAMES

Buster lives here now.

BRODY

I heard that. (THEN) Hey, I got here early so that we could all go throw the ball around a little before school. How's that sound, Buster?

BUSTER

Awesome!

JAMES

Or we could go to the library?

BRODY

Yeah, yeah. Library's good too. Why don't you guys go get ready for school?

JAMES AND BUSTER EXIT.

BRODY

When is my side of our kid gonna come out?

ALEX

(JOKING) Hopefully never?

BRODY CROSSES TO THE TABLE AND SITS.

BRODY

Hey, you look pretty today.

ALEX

Is that code for "can I have my own plate of french toast"?

BRODY

Exactly. No crust please.

ALEX

I don't know why that girlfriend of yours never makes you breakfast.

BRODY

Yeah, we broke up.

ALEX

Oh, I'm sorry. She was nice. In a big-boobed, bubble-headed way.

BRODY

Yeah, well. She didn't like that I hang out here so much. You know, cuz we're exes.

ALEX

We're hardly exes. We never married, never really dated except for the two weeks in Cape Cod. And I wouldn't even call that dating. The most you ever took me out for was french fries.

BRODY

I tried to tell her that we're just friends raising a kid together, but she's convinced that we're, you know...banging.

ALEX

Wow. I saw you search for the appropriate word and you came up with banging. Nice.

MEG COMES STUMBLING INTO THE ROOM, HAVING JUST WOKEN UP.

MEG

Oh good, the kids aren't up yet. I wanted to get up early to make them breakfast. (TO BRODY, CASUALLY) Hey Dick.

BRODY

(JUST AS CASUALLY BACK) Dick.

MEG

Okay. What can I make for them? How about eggs? Healthy. (TO ALEX) How do you make eggs?

ALEX

I've already fed them. Brody's taking them to school.

MEG

Well then what in the hell am I doing up? I'm going back to bed.

ALEX

Wait a minute, you promised you'd start looking for a job today.

MEG

Oh yeah, that's right. (TO BRODY) Hey, do they need anybody at your work? You know, down at the asshole factory?

BRODY

Yeah, you should come by. They're looking for a new president.

MEG AND BRODY CRACK UP AT THEIR "WIT". ALEX ROLLS HER EYES.

MEG

(TO ALEX) Oh, just so you know, I was getting the mail yesterday and a lot of people in the building think you're a lesbian.

ALEX

What? Why would they think that?

BRODY

Well you don't dress that great, don't wear a lot of make up...

MEG

She's got that butch walk.

BRODY

(TO ALEX) And you haven't really dated since James was born.

ALEX

Yeah, and I haven't made any new friends since he was born either, otherwise you two would be out.

MEG

Look, I know you have a lot going on. With James, and law school, and work. But you need to have some fun too.

MEG (CONT'D)

Adult fun, if you know what I mean.

ALEX

(ANNOYED) I know what you mean.

BRODY

(SINCERE) I don't.

MEG

Hey, I know it's hard with a kid, but I go out at least once a month. Every time Buster goes to stay with his dad I make sure I get my adult fun in. A lot.

ALEX

First of all, gross. And secondly, dating is just not important to me right now.

MEG

Oh really? So when you told me about that cute lawyer you met at work and your face turned all red, that wasn't important to you?

ALEX

I don't know who you're talking about.

MEG

You know, Greyhound, Greystoke, some snooty name like that.

ALEX

It's Grayson.

MEG

Okay, you're turning red again.

ALEX

I'm going to work. (TO BRODY)

You take the kids to school. (TO MEG)

You get a job.

SHE EXITS.

MEG

Wow, she just constantly tells us what to do.

BRODY

Yeah, no kidding. (THEN) I kinda like it.

MEG

Oh, I'd be lost without her.

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT

ALEX ENTERS AND SEES THE PLACE IS A MESS AND TOYS ARE EVERYWHERE.

ALEX

Hello? Anybody home?

JUST THEN, BUSTER, JAMES AND MEG POP UP FROM BEHIND FURNITURE AND THROW NERF BALLS AT ALEX.

MEG/BUSTER/JAMES

Go! Go! Get her!

JAMES

We're playing Bombardment!

ALEX

I see that! Fun! (THEN) Okay, don't throw that at my face again, seriously.

BUSTER/JAMES

(SUPER EXCITED) And we went to the playground! And made cookies!

ALEX

Wow. Busy day! Why don't you two go to your room while I talk to Aunt Meg for a little bit?

THE KIDS EXIT.

ALEX

So, how was the job search?

MEG

Good. (THEN, CHANGING SUBJECT) You wanna cookie?

ALEX

No. You went to look for a job,
right?

MEG

Oh, yeah. (CHANGING SUBJECT) They're
good cookies. No nuts, so your face
won't puff up.

ALEX

Did you really look for a job?

MEG

No.

ALEX

Meg!

MEG

Let me explain. I was going to, but
then I was having so much fun hanging
out with the kids that I got this
great idea.

ALEX

I can't wait to hear it.

MEG

What if...I'm your manny.

ALEX

Do you understand what a manny is?

MEG

Yeah, it's just a cute new way of
saying nanny.

MEG (CONT'D)

Anyway, I'll be your nanny. You know, take care of the kids, the house, and you get to concentrate on your career. It really works out for everyone!

ALEX

No, that doesn't work for me at all.

MEG

(SWITCHING GEARS) Alright, what if...I'm your interior decorator.

(WITH JUDGEMENT) This place doesn't look that great.

ALEX

Meg, you're a photographer. That's what you always wanted to do. Do that.

MEG

I don't know that I can anymore!

ALEX

What?

MEG

It's just...that was a dream, when I was young and ballsy. Before real life happened..Before I got married and divorced and had to raise a kid on my own. Now I'm not even sure who that old Meg was.

ALEX

She's a really talented photographer.
Who just got off track a little.

MEG

A little? I ate twelve cookies today.

ALEX

Where's your portfolio?

MEG

In the kitchen. I took it out to look
at it and since it was so terrible I
let Buster use it as a place-mat.

ALEX CROSSES AND GETS THE PORTFOLIO AND SITS NEXT TO MEG.

ALEX

Look at this. These pictures are
amazing. Anyone would be lucky to
hire you. Promise me you'll believe
that.

MEG

Okay. I promise. Thank you.

THEY SMILE AT EACH OTHER.

ALEX

(RE: PHOTO) Wow. I haven't seen this
one before. Artsy.

MEG

Which one?

ALEX

This kind of semi-nude woman sleeping
on the bed?

MEG

I think I should go check on the kids.

SHE EXITS.

ALEX

(LOOKING CLOSELY AT PICTURE) Oh my
God! Meg, this is me! And you got
side-boob!

CUT TO:

INT. LAW OFFICE - NEXT DAY

ALEX IS IN THE LAW LIBRARY HIGH-LIGHTING DOCUMENTS. KYLIE
ENTERS.

KYLIE

Hey, new girl. Do you want to come out with me and the other assistants tonight? We're going to go to a bar and get trashed. And then post it on the internet!

ALEX

Wow...fun. But I can't. I have to go home to be with my son.

KYLIE

Oh, right, I keep forgetting you have a kid. I mean, you're young like me, but your life is over!

KYLIE EXITS. ALEX CONTINUES HIGH-LIGHTING.

ALEX

(SELF-MOCKING) I'd hardly say it's over. I have a rich, full life.

MEG STICKS HER HEAD IN THE DOOR.

MEG

Aww, look at my little crazy friend. Sittin' in here talking to herself.

ALEX

Oh good, you got my message.

MEG

Yeah, why did you want me to bring my portfolio?

ALEX

Okay, don't get mad, but I think I may have gotten you a job. One of the partner's nieces is getting married this weekend. Their photographer got sick and they need someone to take the wedding photos. So I asked if they'd take a meeting with you.

MEG

Oh my God, I'm not mad at all, that's great. I mean really pushy and manipulative, but great.

ALEX

Here's the address for the interview. But, you might want to change before you go.

MEG

Why? I look awesome.

ALEX

Because that's a pajama top.

MEG

No it's not.

ALEX

I know it is. Because it's mine.

GRAYSON ENTERS.

GRAYSON

Hey, Alex. I just want to say nice catch on that brief today. You saved me from looking like an idiot.

ALEX

Oh, my pleasure.

GRAYSON

So, how do you know so much about law?

ALEX

Well, I go to law school. Part time. Very, very part time.

MEG

(SELLING) And she's an excellent dancer.

GRAYSON

(CONFUSED) Good to know.

GRAYSON EXITS.

ALEX

What is wrong with you?

MEG

I was helping you flirt. That guy is totally into you.

ALEX

You're crazy, he is not. Is he? Do you think he is, he's so cute.

MEG

He's a doll. Plus, men in suits.
Rwwrr. They're just asking to have
their clothes torn off. (THEN) So,
what are you going to do about this?

ALEX

Nothing. I don't have time to date,
I have this job and James--

MEG

Crapola. Ask him out.

ALEX

I can't. I'm an assistant. He's a
lawyer. It's...untoward.

MEG

Untoward? Who are you, frickin' Jane
Austen? This kind of thing happens
all the time. How do you think Donald
Trump met his new wife? She was a
cleaning lady in one of his buildings.

ALEX

Is that true?

MEG

I don't know. She looks like she
could have been. The point is you
should ask him out.

ALEX

Grayson could go out with anyone he wants, why would he be interested in a single mother?

MEG

Because she's smart, funny, beautiful. She's an okay dancer.

ALEX

You just said I was an excellent dancer.

MEG

Yeah, but you've got to move on from the cabbage patch. (DOING ALEX'S MOVE) It just makes people sad. (THEN) Look, I know this is hard, but life is about balance. It's okay to have some fun.

ALEX

Fun scares me.

MEG

Jobs scare me, and I'm doing it. (THEN, EARNEST) Alex, you need to do this. Come on, promise.

ALEX

Yeah, okay, I promise. I guess it wouldn't hurt to ask him out to lunch.

MEG

Or for a drink. (THEN) Speaking of
which, you wanna go get a beer?

ALEX

Interview.

MEG

(I FORGOT) Dammit!

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY/GRAYSON'S OFFICE - LATER THAT DAY

ALEX STANDS IN FRONT OF GRAYSON'S DOOR. SHE TAKES A DEEP BREATH AND KNOCKS.

GRAYSON (O.S.)

Come in.

RESET TO:

INT. GRAYSON'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

GRAYSON SITS AT HIS DESK. ALEX ENTERS.

ALEX

Hi. Do you have a second?

GRAYSON

Sure. What's up?

ALEX

Well, I know this is kind of out of the blue but...uh, maybe--

GRAYSON

I'm sorry. I can barely hear you.

ALEX

(WAY TO LOUD) Okay, I was wondering if--oh, now I'm screaming. Let's find a normal tone. There it is. So, I just wanted to know if maybe you'd want to...(LOSING HER NERVE) have another cup of coffee. I'm going on a run.

GRAYSON

You just brought me a cup a half hour ago.

ALEX

Yeah, I know. But some other people wanted more. You know, non-fat latte Ted... and others.

GRAYSON

Well, I'm fine. But thanks for asking.

ALEX

Okay, I'll leave you to your... lawyering.

SHE EXITS AND CLOSES THE DOOR BEHIND HER.

RESET TO:

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF GRAYSON'S OFFICE

ALEX CLOSES HER EYES IN DISGUST.

ALEX

Way to go. (THEN) Oh God, why did I promise Meg?

ALEX LEANS BACK AGAINST GRAYSON'S DOOR. THE DOOR FLINGS OPEN FROM HER WEIGHT AND SHE FALLS BACKWARD INTO HIS OFFICE. WITHOUT LOOKING AT HIM, SHE QUICKLY REGAINS HER COMPOSURE AND EXITS.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOINT. ALEX'S APARTMENT- THAT NIGHT

ALEX WALKS WEARILY DOWN THE HALL. SHE OPENS HER FRONT DOOR
AND ENTERS.

RESET TO:

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

THE APARTMENT IS SPOTLESS. THERE ARE FRESH FLOWERS ON THE
TABLE AND MEG IS IN THE KITCHEN. THE KIDS ARE AT THE TABLE.

MEG

Welcome home, Honey. How was your
day?

ALEX

Oh, my god. It's so clean in here.
And you're making dinner?

MEG

Don't sound so surprised. That's what
working moms do.

ALEX

What? You got the job?

MEG

Yes! They loved my pictures, and
they thought I was quirky and fun!
I'm going to shoot a wedding! For
rich people!

ALEX

I am so happy for you!

MEG

If you hadn't let me move in here, and pushed me to get going this wouldn't have happened. I'm excited! I'm really excited about my life!

MEG HUGS ALEX.

MEG

So, what happened with "sexy suit"? Did you ask him out?

ALEX

Uh...

MEG

Oh, you did, right?

ALEX

(LYING) Of course I did. But, he's not interested.

MEG

What, why? Oh God, did you dance?

ALEX

No. It's just...he's kind of a snob. He went to Harvard and...

MEG

He wouldn't go out with you because he went to Harvard? That's weird.

ALEX

Yeah, but that's not the real reason.

(SEARCHING) The real reason is... cuz
I'm a single mom. He did not like
that at all.

MEG

Well, what did he say?

ALEX

You know...I'm a woman with baggage...
good luck finding any guy who would
date someone with a seven year old,
stuff like that.

MEG

God, what an ass!

ALEX

Totally, right? So I'm just going to
drop that whole thing.

MEG

Uh, yeah! And the next time you see
him, you should punch him in the nuts
on behalf of single mothers
everywhere.

ALEX

I might!

MEG

Well, the important thing is that we both did something that scared the poop out of us. I got a job and you asked someone out. I mean, we should be proud of ourselves.

ALEX

(SMALL) Absolutely.

MEG

Now if you'll kindly dress for dinner, the Sloppy Joes should be ready momentarily.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL BANQUET ROOM - DAYS LATER

A WEDDING RECEPTION IS IN PROGRESS. MEG IS JUST FINISHED TAKING PICTURES OF THE BRIDAL PARTY.

MEG

Now just the bride and her parents.

Oh, hold on. I'm out of film.

MEG GOES TO HER BAG. A SERVER APPROACHES.

SERVER

Champagne?

MEG

(LOUDLY, SO SHE IS OVERHEARD) No, I'm sorry. I'm working. (SOTTO, TO SERVER) Leave a couple of glasses by my bag.

SHE STARTS TO LOOK THROUGH HER STUFF.

MEG

Oh God. Oh no.

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

BRODY, BUSTER AND JAMES SIT AT THE KITCHEN TABLE. BRODY IS HELPING THE BOYS WITH THEIR HOMEWORK. ALEX IS PREPARING DINNER.

BRODY

(READING) Okay, circle the adjectives and underline the adverbs.

(TO ALEX) This is too hard. Can't we just play Guitar Hero? I've been working on a new solo.

THE PHONE RINGS. ALEX ANSWERS IT.

ALEX

Hey, working girl!

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. BANQUET ROOM - CONTINUOUS

MEG IS HUDDLED IN THE CORNER ON HER CELL PHONE.

MEG

Listen, I think Buster may have taken
all my film!

ALEX

What? Why?

MEG

Because he uses the canisters to
collect bugs! I told him he had to
wait until they were empty, but he
must have snuck them out this morning
before I left, the little turd. Go
look in his backpack!

ALEX GOES AND LOOKS IN BUSTER'S BACKPACK.

ALEX

Yeah, here's the film. Oh, God! And
about five dead cock-roaches!

MEG

You have to bring it to me right now!
I'm at the Copley Hotel. Hurry!

END INTERCUT:

ALEX REACHES INTO THE BAG TO TAKE OUT THE FILM.

ALEX

(RE: DEAD BUGS) Gross, gross.

(THEN) Forget it, I'll just take the
whole bag.

CUT TO:

INT. BANQUET ROOM - LATER

MEG IS TALKING TO THE BRIDE.

BRIDE

I don't think you've taken any pictures of my grandparents yet.

MEG

Oh, I know. I'm just waiting for the light to change. You know, golden hour.

BRIDE

(CONFUSED) But we're inside.

MEG

(SUPER CHEERY) I have never seen a prettier bride!

WE HEAR ALEX'S VOICE OFFSTAGE.

ALEX (O.S.)

Meg!

MEG CROSSES TO ALEX WHO STANDS NEAR THE ENTRANCE. ALEX IS WEARING JEANS, A LARGE SWEATSHIRT AND HER HAIR IS IN A PONYTAIL. SHE IS COMPLETELY OUT OF PLACE IN THIS BLACK TIE EVENT.

MEG

Oh thank you so much! Gimmee!

ALEX

How's it going?

MEG

Really great. I'm getting some beautiful shots. (THEN, SOTTO) Or as good as I can, the bride's a little plain.

ALEX

Well, good luck. I'm going to take off.

MEG

Kiss Buster for me. And then put him in time-out for stealing my film.

MEG RUNS OFF. AS ALEX STARTS TO EXIT, A SERVER STOPS HER AND HANDS HER A SMALL PLATE OF APPETIZERS.

ALEX

Oh no, I'm not a guest.

HE WALKS OFF, LEAVING HER HOLDING THE PLATE. SHE PUTS A CRAB CAKE IN HER MOUTH AND STARTS TO GO. WE HEAR A MAN'S VOICE OFF STAGE.

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Alex?

ALEX

(SMALL) Yes.

GRAYSON APPROACHES. HE IS WEARING A TUX AND LOOKS EVEN MORE GORGEOUS THAN USUAL.

GRAYSON

I thought that was you. (RE: HER OUTFIT) Is this your black tie optional?

ALEX

No, no. My friend is the wedding photographer and I needed to bring her something, so--

GRAYSON

Crab cakes?

ALEX

What?

GRAYSON

Is the thing you're bringing her the crab cakes in your hand?

ALEX

I just want you to know something. I am not this kind of person. I don't fall into people's offices. I don't steal food from wedding receptions. I'm a good person. Really.

GRAYSON

Oh I know that. And I think you're a very smart person... and an interesting person.

ALEX

Thanks. You too.

THERE IS A BEAT AS THEY SMILE AT EACH OTHER.

GRAYSON

You're also a little messy. You got some food on your face there.

HE REACHES UP TO WIPE IT OFF. IT'S A NICE MOMENT. MEG RUNS UP.

MEG

Oh, no no no! You do not get to touch my friend.

ALEX

Meg, it's okay.

MEG

No, it's not okay. This guy totally insults you and then gets drunk at a wedding and tries to pick you up for a booty call? Uh,uh. No way.

GRAYSON

I don't think you understand the situation.

MEG

Oh, am I too dumb because I didn't go to Harvard?

GRAYSON

What?

ALEX

(TO MEG) Stop it, you don't understand!

A SMALL CROWD STARTS TO GATHER.

MEG

I understand that this guy is a jerk!
A jerk who won't date someone just cuz
they have a kid!

GRAYSON

Are you talking to me?

MEG

Do you know how much courage it took
for her to go in there and ask you
out? And then you turn her down
because she's a single mom?
What's so horrible about dating a
single mom? The kid, the mom?!
Either way you suck!

ALEX

(BURYING HER HEAD IN HER HANDS) I
want to die.

AN ELDERLY GENTLEMEN APPROACHES MEG.

MAN

Excuse me, the bride and groom are
about to start their first dance.

MEG

Good for them! I'm in the middle of
something here!

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT

BRODY IS THERE. ALEX AND MEG ENTER. THEY ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ARGUMENT.

MEG

I said I'm sorry! What more do you want me to do?

ALEX

You think that's enough? Honestly? You embarrassed me in front of the people I work with! And I'm never going to be able to face Grayson again!

BRODY

I take it everything went well?

MEG

(TO ALEX) Hey, I was going under the assumption that Grayson was a douche. Cuz that's what you told me!

ALEX

Are you saying this is my fault? (TO BRODY) Can you believe her?

BRODY

Yeah, I'm not exactly sure what's happening--

MEG

You know what I can't believe? That you lied to me. I never lie to you!

ALEX

You lie to me everyday!

MEG

About little things! Like, yes I recycle! Not about things that matter! If you weren't ready to ask that guy out then you should have just told me!

ALEX

I couldn't tell you. I was embarrassed.

MEG

Why?

ALEX

Because you did it! You did something that scared you and I couldn't.

MEG

Honey, it's not a contest. (TO BRODY) But if it was, I won.

ALEX

I feel like in most areas of my life, I know what I'm doing. But then, a simple thing like asking someone out and I'm terrified. How pathetic is that?

BRODY

Hey, asking people out isn't easy.
(RE: HIMSELF) And try doing it when
you live in a studio apartment and you
always have grease under your
fingernails. (DEPRESSED) I don't
know why any woman goes out with me.

MEG

Because you're hot.

BRODY

(TOUCHED) Thanks, Meg.

MEG

(TO ALEX) Look, it's going to get
easier. You just decided you wanted
to start dating again. You'll do it
in your own time. I shouldn't have
pushed you.

ALEX

Well, I shouldn't have pushed you
either.

MEG

No, you were right to. It was the
first time any one has believed in me
in a long time. And it felt really
good.

THEY HUG.

MEG

And you know what? I did it! It was my first professional job and I kicked ass.

ALEX

Uh, they tore your check up in front of you and escorted us from the party.

MEG

They'll change their minds when they see my photos.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE - NEXT DAY

ALEX IS AT HER CUBICLE. SHE HAS A TRAY OF COFFEE ON HER DESK AND IS HANDING TWO CUPS TO A MAN.

ALEX

Oh, hey. If you're going past Grayson's office, would you mind giving this to him?

GRAYSON

Or you could just give it to me now.

ALEX

Well, look at that. That was very easy. Don't have to worry about that any more.

GRAYSON

Maybe I'm being paranoid, but it seems like you've been avoiding me today.

ALEX

What? No! Why would I do that? Just because my friend humiliated me? I'm a grown woman. I'm simply going to move to a new town and start over.

GRAYSON

I don't think you have to go that far.

ALEX

I'm really sorry about last night. I kind of lied to my friend and told her I asked you out but you turned me down because--

GRAYSON

Because I hate single moms? Yeah, I got that part.

ALEX

I'm so sorry.

GRAYSON

It's okay. As weird as all that was, I'm actually flattered. And just so you know...my mom was a single mother. So, I think they're pretty great.

SHE SMILES AND MAKES A DECISION.

ALEX

Would you like to go out with me some time?

GRAYSON

Um...I'm actually dating someone.

ALEX

Oh.

GRAYSON

Yeah... Marissa.

ALEX

Oh, Marissa! Great. She's wonderful.

That's a good match for you.

Congratulations!

MARISSA AND SEVERAL OTHER LAWYERS COME UP TO GET THEIR COFFEES.

MARISSA

Hey Alex. (TO GRAYSON)

You ready to go to lunch?

GRAYSON

Yeah, I just need to stop by my office for a second.

MARISSA

I'll meet you by the elevators. (TO

ALEX) Thanks for the coffee.

THEY EXIT. ALEX PICKS UP HER CELL PHONE.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

MEG IS PARKED IN FRONT OF THE KID'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. SHE IS SOUND ASLEEP WHEN HER CELL PHONE RINGS.

MEG

Hello? I'm here. I'm on time. I'm not asleep, if that's what you're asking.

ALEX

(EXCITED) You're not going to believe what I just did.

MEG

What?

ALEX

I asked Grayson out!

MEG

Oh my God, and he said yes?

ALEX

No! He said no, and that really sucked, but I did it! I asked him out.

MEG

Way to go! I'm proud of you. (THEN)
Hang on, I'm in the bus lane and some yahoo's honking at me. (YELLING AT BUS DRIVER) What is your problem?

END INTERCUT:

INT. OFFICE - SIMULTANEOUS

GRAYSON CROSSES DOWN THE HALL TO THE ELEVATORS. HE SEES ALEX ON THE PHONE AND STOPS TO WATCH HER. HE STARES AT HER AND SMILES. ALEX LOOKS UP, SEES HIM AND THEY EXCHANGE A LOOK. MARISSA APPROACHES.

MARISSA

What are you looking at?

GRAYSON

Nothing. Let's go.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW

