

JUST NO BEYOND

Written by

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Based on the script

*Almost By Design*

By Roberta M Roy

INT. FELIX'S CAR - DAY

ALYSSA MAY (20's-30's) an interior designer driven by her love of luxurious environments as well as environmentalist concerns and her new boyfriend FELIX (20's-30's) Alyssa is prepping for a big move from her home in Iowa to the Upper East Side of New York City where she has been accepted a position as an interior designer for upper class clientele. Felix sits beside Alyssa who is driving.

FELIX

Finally adjusting to the fact that you're leaving, Lys.

ALYSSA MAY

Gotta go, Felix. Can't help it.

FELIX

Any luck with your apartment search?

ALYSSA MAY

All good! One of the women in the office's lease is up in two months at which point she will be leaving. Getting married. So for the interim, I can room with her.

FELIX

Then what?

ALYSSA MAY

Well, by then I may have found a new housemate, at which point, I'll just assume the lease.

FELIX

Nice. Also offers you an option. In case you find better living arrangements.

ALYSSA MAY

Yeah. And how about you? Have you been looking? Still interested?

FELIX

Yeah. Interested. Like the thought of the big city. Like the thought of being close to you.

ALYSSA MAY

Just gotta find some work first, eh?

FELIX

Actually, no. A cousin whom I grew up with lives there with his family. We've been talking. He says I'm welcome to come stay with them for a while.

ALYSSA MAY

Wow. That's a plus!

FELIX

Yeah. Sure would make the job search easier. And meantime, I could search out some digs.

INT. ALYSSA'S FAMILY'S HOME KITCHEN - DAY

Alyssa May and her mother, FRAN (50's) are in the kitchen of their home. Alyssa is opening a foot-square box.

ALYSSA MAY

Did you know, Mom, that New York is one of the top 14 safest cities in the world? So happy to be moving there! Just imagine! Me. An interior designer working in posh homes on the Upper East Side!

FRAN

Really? Safer than here in Iowa?

ALYSSA MAY

Also, Felix says he's moving there, too.

Fran pauses before asking the question.

FRAN

So, you are going to live together?

ALYSSA MAY

Come on, Mom. We are just getting to know one another!

Alyssa pulls from the box a glass bottle with a stopper attached to its top and holds it up in admiration.

ALYSSA MAY (CONT'D)

Beautiful, Mom!

She digs out a second bottle and hands them both to her mother.

FRAN

For me?

Alyssa smiles broadly.

ALYSSA MAY

Yup! For you! No more plastic water bottles! For either of us!

FRAN

You mean for me to take to work?

Alyssa nods her head in assent

ALYSSA MAY

All you need now is a pitcher with a water filter!

Serious again, Alyssa turns her attention again to the box from which she removes the remaining two glass bottles after which she puts the box on the chair, and moves the bottles from the side of the table to its center. Fran gives the back of Alyssa's head a disbelieving, quizzical look.

FRAN

So now I need a pitcher with a water filter?

Alyssa turns back to Fran.

ALYSSA MAY

Yes, Mom. No more plastic bottles.

FRAN

But they are so convenient!

ALYSSA MAY

And they are also, very conveniently, chuck full of nano plastics.

FRAN

Nano plastics?

ALYSSA MAY

Look, Mom. Nano plastics have invaded everything. The air we breathe, the food we eat, the water we drink, and most especially water from plastic bottles.

FRAN

Really?

Alyssa throws up her hands.

ALYSSA MAY

And the thinner the plastic bottle,  
the more the plastic it releases.

FRAN

So if I use glass and filtered  
water, no nano plastics?

ALYSSA MAY

Sorry, Mom. Just fewer. Even most  
filtered tap water has nano  
plastics in it. But, hey, at least  
we're no longer using any of those  
carcinogenic black plastics!

FRAN

So now we give up plastic bottles?

ALYSSA MAY

And as for getting beyond nano  
plastics at this time, sorry, Mom,  
there just is no beyond.