

COFFEE BREAKS

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. SKYLINE VIEW AUSTIN, TEXAS - PRESENT DAY - NIGHT

INT. LOCAL COFFEE HOUSE - SAME NIGHT

BEGIN DREAM SEQUENCE:

Michael (mid-thirties), strikingly handsome under dark hair and glasses, hears the BUZZ and WHIR; and, sees the steam of coffee being brewed by the hands of ALISHA (early-thirties), physically fit and beautiful. So far, all he has focused on are her hands. Michael trips on the way up to the counter. He drops his glasses, can't see a thing, gets on his hands and knees to retrieve them. When he stands, he sees only Alisha's mouth (painted with coffee colored lipstick). She smiles.

ALISHA
May I help you, Sir?

Michael puts his glasses back on, stands, looks at the dessert case. It displays chocolate silk pie, butter pecan pie, and the like. Finally, he sees Alisha's beautiful face as she stands behind the case.

MICHAEL
Alisha?

ALISHA
What would you like?

Alisha leans forward on the counter, displays her ample bosom. Michael's eyes look like saucers.

ALISHA (CONT'D)
Would you care for some dessert?

MICHAEL
I, I, I --

END DREAM
SEQUENCE.

INT. MICHAEL'S BEDROOM - SAME NIGHT

Michael wakes up from his dream by the SOUNDS of Alisha making out with her boyfriend, SAMUEL (early thirties), a looker with blonde hair and blue eyes. Michael rolls his eyes.

MICHAEL (YELLS)
Are you getting close to closure?

INT. ALISHA'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Samuel hits the wall.

SAMUEL
Apparently, you'll know when we're
done.

ALISHA
Samuel!

Samuel kisses her hard.

INT. KELLY AND JUSTIN'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Alisha's sister KELLY (mid-thirties) tosses and turns, puts her pillow over her ears to block out the NOISE. She looks over at JUSTIN (mid-twenties) who is affected by a mental disability. He pretends to be asleep. Kelly's gaze falls on her amethyst crystal, then a book titled "Love in a bottle," and then a book titled "Are You an Alien?" Directly, she focuses on one book in particular titled, "How to Transport Yourself to an Alternate Reality." The bookcase begins to rock and that book falls to the floor.

KELLY
Why won't my space brothers and
sisters come and take me away?

INT. HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Kelly and Michael both storm out of their rooms and go to Alisha's door. They yell in unison.

KELLY AND MICHAEL
Get a room!

Kelly is dressed in a cute nightie. Embarrassed, Kelly goes back to her room. Michael watches her walk.

EXT. TOWN LAKE - HIKE AND BIKE TRAIL - NEXT DAY

Alisha jogs in the early morning sun. TWO OLDER MEN (forties) notice her. She stops for a drink of fountain water located next to a flower garden. The men approach her.

MAN #1

Excuse me, Miss, do you know what
type of flowers those are?

Alisha looks at the flower garden.

ALISHA

I'm sorry, I don't.

MAN #2

Open a book.

ALISHA

Do you see that building over
there? Do you know what place and
era is being replicated?

MAN #1

Well, Harry?

MAN #2

No.

ALISHA

France - 1800's. Have a nice day.

INT. COLLEGE CLASSROOM - SAME DAY

Alisha's PROFESSOR (fifties) hands her paper back to her.
There is a huge "A" written on it. Alisha smiles.

INT. PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO - SAME TIME

GABI (twenties), a beautiful plus-size woman, models a
stunning evening gown for a PHOTOGRAPHER (forties).

PHOTOGRAPHER

That's great, Gabi. One more. Got
it.

GABI

That was fun. I love this dress.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Have you thought anymore about
doing a swimsuit or lingerie Ad?

GABI (TENSE)

No, I'm not the girl for that.

The photographer hands her his business card.

PHOTOGRAPHER

If you change your mind, here's my
new number.

GABI

Thanks.

INT. HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Justin feeds the fish, then returns to the table to resume
working on his stunning painting of the fish.

INT. KELLY AND JUSTIN'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Kelly, dressed in a purple leggings, meditates in front of a
table filled with flowers. She then goes into a yoga pose.

INT. SEMI-CONDUCTOR COMPANY - WORK AREA - SAME TIME

Michael, in smock and glasses, works on a large piece of
equipment. His boss, MR. MILES (fifties), walks up behind
him.

MR. MILES

Michael...

Michael jumps, drops a piece of equipment, it shatters.
Michael's eyes widen.

MR. MILES (CONT'D)

That was only five thousand
dollars.

MICHAEL

Sorry.

INT. KELLY AND JUSTIN'S BEDROOM - LATER SAME DAY

Justin looks in the mirror, takes his shirt off, flexes his
muscles, and smiles.

INT. SEMI-CONDUCTOR COMPANY - BREAK ROOM - SAME TIME

Michael, on his lunch break, plays chess with his friend BRAD
(thirties). Michael takes a while to make his move.

BRAD

We only have thirty minutes.

Michael makes a move, changes his mind, makes another move.

MICHAEL
What should I do?

Brad makes a move.

BRAD
You need to tell her, man. You
need to make your move.

Michael makes another move.

BRAD (CONT'D)
But, not like that.

Brad makes another move.

BRAD (CONT'D)
Check mate.

INT. RESTAURANT/DINING AREA - THAT NIGHT

Kelly approaches a table. MR. SMITH (forties) picks up a
steak with his fork, drops it back into his plate.

KELLY
Yes, Sir, how can I help you?

MR. SMITH
I ordered it well done, not
leather.

KELLY
Let me take this away. I'll have
the cook make you another steak.

MR. SMITH
Great. In the meantime everyone
else is eating except me.

KELLY
How about another appetizer and a
bottle of wine on the house?

MR. SMITH
That's a start.

KELLY
I'll be right back.

INT. RESTAURANT WAIT STATION - SAME TIME

Kelly vents in seclusion.

KELLY

Mother scrucker, son of a female
dog, piece of feces!

INT. RESTAURANT DINING AREA - SAME TIME

Kelly smiles, returns with the appetizer and wine.

KELLY

Here we go. Your steak will be out
soon. Enjoy the rest of your
evening.

Kelly turns, rolls her eyes.

INT. HOUSE/KITCHEN - LATER SAME NIGHT

Michael, Kelly and Justin eat their dinner (spaghetti and
burned bread) in silence.

MICHAEL

They were especially loud last
night, weren't they?

Kelly raises her brows, looks over at Justin.

KELLY

I don't think that's a proper
subject for the dinner table.

MICHAEL

Oh, yeah. You're right.

JUSTIN

Are you talking about Alisha and
Samuel having sex last night? I
hear them all the time.

Kelly's eyes widen.

KELLY

Just what do you know about sex?

JUSTIN

I watch TV you know. People have
sex all the time on TV.

KELLY
Have you started the new reader I
got you, "Pilgrim's Progress?"

JUSTIN
Boring!

Gabi enters the room during this exchange.

GABI
And how is the most handsome man in
the universe doing tonight?

Gabi runs her fingers through Justin's hair, kisses him on
the cheek. Justin smiles from ear to ear, laughs.

JUSTIN
How did your photo shoot go?

GABI
It went well. Thanks for asking.

KELLY
Gabi, did you de-program Justin's
television again?

GABI
I may have added a few more
interesting channels. PBS and
Disney get boring after a while.

JUSTIN
Yeah, boring.

KELLY
I'm going to have some green tea.
I expect the channels to be
programmed correctly in the
morning.

Kelly leaves. Gabi looks at Michael as she pours her coffee.

GABI
Michael, would you like some more
coffee?

MICHAEL
I have enough, thank you.

GABI
How about a cigarette?

MICHAEL
No thanks.

Gabi turns, stares out the window.

GABI (WHISPERS)
How about me?

MICHAEL
Did you say something?

GABI
No, just talking to myself.

MICHAEL
I'll see you in the morning. I'm
going to turn in. Tomorrow is
Friday. What does that mean?

JUSTIN
Pizza night! Don't forget the
pineapple, but no little fish.
Okay? No little fish.

MICHAEL
You got it, buddy!

INT. HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Alisha enters the room. Places her back pack on the couch.
Justin feeds the fish.

JUSTIN
Hey, little fish. Come get your
food.

ALISHA
Don't feed them too much.

JUSTIN
I won't. Where is Samuel?

ALISHA
He's at home. He was tired
tonight.

JUSTIN
Are you going to marry him?

ALISHA
Why do you ask?

JUSTIN
I think somebody else wants to
marry you.

ALISHA
Oh yeah? Who?

JUSTIN
I can't say. I think it's a
secret.

ALISHA
A secret, huh? You are so sweet,
little brother. I'm glad you're
living with us now.

JUSTIN
Me, too.

ALISHA
Do you want to play a game of
cards?

JUSTIN
Go-Fish?

ALISHA
Okay.

INT. RESTAURANT/DINING AREA - NEXT NIGHT

Kelly seats a couple. Justin refills some wine for a patron,
CHARLES (fifties) and his wife, MILDRED, (fifties).

JUSTIN
Would you like some more wine?

CHARLES
Why, yes.

Justin spills the wine all over the man.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
You idiot! Look at what you have
done!

MILDRED
Charles, don't make a fuss.

JUSTIN
I'm sorry. Here, let me...

CHARLES
No! You've done enough!

Kelly walks over.

KELLY
Is everything okay, Sir?

CHARLES
This bus boy ruined my shirt!

KELLY
Sir, I'll pay for the dry cleaning bill.

CHARLES
That's the least you can do. But, now my plans for the evening are ruined. He needs to be fired.

KELLY
Justin, go ahead and go to the wait station.

Justin heads toward the wait station.

KELLY (CONT'D)
Sir, he is mentally handicapped.

CHARLES
So, why is he working here?

ALEK (late thirties), restaurant owner, walks over.

ALEK
Surely you've heard of the Non-Discriminatory Act.

CHARLES
Let's go, Mildred. We don't need to be harassed like this.

ALEK
I'll show you to the door.

INT. RESTAURANT/WAIT STATION - SAME TIME

Justin cries. Kelly walks in.

JUSTIN
I'm sorry, Kelly. I won't spill any more wine.

Kelly hugs Justin.

KELLY
It's okay.

Alek walks into the wait station.

ALEK

We all spill things sometimes.
It's no big deal. Dry your eyes
and get back to work. I'll have
Albert make your favorite dessert.
Sound good?

JUSTIN

Can I have some coffee too?

KELLY

Uhm, I don't think...

ALEK

Sure.

Justin exits the wait station.

ALEK (CONT'D)

How about I cash in that rain check
you gave me for dinner and drinks?

KELLY

I don't think I have time.

ALEK

You don't have time or you won't
make time?

KELLY

Alek, I just don't think it would
be wise of us to date. You are my
employer. And, my life is really
hectic. Justin has private
tutoring lessons, and I help him
review every night. And, on my
days off, I take him to visit our
parents.

ALEK

You need some rest. And, you need
to relax and enjoy yourself.

KELLY

Can we get together some other
time?

ALEK

Sure.

INT. HOUSE/KELLY AND JUSTIN'S BEDROOM - LATER SAME NIGHT

Kelly reads a book titled "Was Jesus an Alien?" She sips some green tea. There is a KNOCK at her door.

KELLY

Yes?

ALISHA (O.C.)

It's Alisha. May I come in?

KELLY

Yeah.

Alisha walks in.

ALISHA

What are you reading?

Kelly hides the book.

KELLY

Oh, just - you know.

ALISHA

May I borrow your turquoise sweater?

KELLY

Sure.

Alisha opens the closet, stuff falls everywhere.

ALISHA

Kelly, I thought you were going to clear this out.

KELLY

I am. I'm just not ready to let go of my memories yet.

Alisha picks up a baseball cap.

ALISHA

Honey, it's been years. He's with somebody else now.

KELLY

I know. I know.

ALISHA

We need to have that yard sale we keep talking about.

(MORE)

ALISHA (CONT'D)

Get rid of the clutter and make room for new experiences - okay?

KELLY

Okay.

Alisha grabs the sweater, heads out.

ALISHA

Thanks. By the way, do you really think Jesus was an alien?

KELLY

He'd have to be to think that he wanted to come to this world.

INT. HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NEXT NIGHT

Michael sleeps on the couch while the TV plays. Gabi comes out of her room, watches him sleep for a moment. She goes back to her room, then reemerges wearing a beautiful night gown. She babbles on her cell phone, which is turned off. Michael awakens.

GABI

No, Carl, I can't go out with you tonight. Because tonight is my evening to pamper myself, no men allowed. You just can't take no for an answer, can you? I'm hanging up now. Goodbye.

MICHAEL

Hey.

GABI

Hey, yourself. I didn't know you were in here. Just look at me. I'll go change.

MICHAEL

Alright.

Gabi turns around, sighs. She heads to her room. Michael switches channels. Gabi returns in her comfy, ugly pajamas.

GABI

So, what are you doing tonight?

MICHAEL

Not much - just relaxing. I must have dozed off.

GABI
Do you want to go out?

MICHAEL
Didn't you just tell your boyfriend
you were staying in tonight?

GABI
Who? Lucas? He's not my
boyfriend.

MICHAEL
I thought I heard you call him
"Carl."

GABI
Oh, it's Carl Lucas. He goes by
Lucas. I just call him "Carl" when
he's being pushy.

MICHAEL
Oh.

Gabi runs her hand through her hair.

GABI
So, do you want to go?

MICHAEL
Go where?

GABI
Out.

MICHAEL
I'm sorry. I'm out of it. Not
tonight.

GABI
Suit yourself.

MICHAEL
Maybe another time.

GABI (TO HERSELF)
Yeah, right.

MICHAEL
What?

GABI
Oh, nothing. I'm going to go to
bed.

MICHAEL
I'll see you in the morning.

GABI
Good night.

Alisha walks in.

ALISHA
Hey, Michael.

MICHAEL
How were your classes?

ALISHA
Exhausting. Do you want to go
outside and have some coffee on the
porch? I need to relax.

MICHAEL
That would be great.

INT. HOUSE/GABI'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Gabi leans against the door, listens. She cries, slides down
the door.

INT. HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NEXT DAY

Kelly returns home with some groceries.

KELLY
Justin, where are you?

JUSTIN (O.C.)
In here.

INT. HOUSE/KELLY AND JUSTIN'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Kelly opens the door and finds Justin in bed with a woman,
TAMARA (twenties) who also has a mental disability. Kelly's
eyes widen. She puts her hand over her mouth, then freaks
out.

KELLY
Oh my God! What are you doing?

JUSTIN
Hi, Kelly. This is Tamara. We
were playing Go-Fish.

KELLY
In bed!?!

JUSTIN
Yes.

KELLY
Where are your clothes?

JUSTIN
They're on the floor.

KELLY
I can see that.

Kelly shuts the door.

INT. HOUSE/HALLWAY - SAME DAY

Kelly freaks out.

KELLY
Oh my God! This is not happening.
It didn't happen, and it's not
going to happen. I'm going to make
myself some green tea; and, when I
walk back in that door, I will
realize that this was all just a
bad dream.

INT. HOUSE/KITCHEN - SAME DAY

Kelly makes some green tea. Gabi walks in with groceries,
sees her, looks worried.

GABI
Uh-oh. You're making green tea,
aren't you?

KELLY
Yes.
(beat)
Gabi, do you know a girl named
Tamara, who just happens to be
naked in Justin's bed, playing Go-
Fish after having had, after having
had, after having had their own
version of "Go-Fish"?

GABI
Kelly, calm down.

KELLY

Calm down? You want me to calm down? You planned this, didn't you?

Gabi places the grocery bags on the kitchen counter.

GABI

I didn't plan on them having sex on their first date - no. But, first of all, Tamara is not a "girl." She and Justin are both adults. They have needs and wants just like everyone else.

KELLY

That's just it. They aren't like everyone else!

Kelly takes a big swig of green tea.

GABI

And so much the better for them.

KELLY

I can't believe this is happening. What if she gets pregnant?

GABI

She's taking birth control.

Kelly runs her hands through her hair, rubs her forehead.

KELLY

He's not ready for a sexual relationship. He's too young to be able to process all of the feelings and responsibilities that go along with it.

GABI

He's twenty-five.

KELLY

He has the mind of a twelve year old.

GABI

And, with all of the tutoring that you have him involved in, he is growing more and more everyday. How old were you when you had your first sexual experience?

Kelly pours herself some more green tea.

KELLY

I was eighteen, but we aren't talking about me. We are talking about my mentally handicapped brother.

GABI

He is handicapped. He also has a good job and goes to school. The reason you moved him in with us is so that he could grow socially, right? You can't keep him in a bubble forever.

Kelly cries.

KELLY

He's my baby brother. I just don't want him to get hurt. Why did you leave them alone in the house?

GABI

We had a picnic at the park earlier and when we returned home they decided they wanted to watch a movie and have some popcorn.

(beat)

I was only gone for half an hour.

KELLY

You should have taken them with you.

Kelly places her hands on her hips, paces.

GABI

You want him to be happy, right?

KELLY

Yes.

GABI

Okay, then let's leave them alone and make some popcorn.

KELLY

Okay, it's just that...

GABI

I know. It will be alright. Drink your green tea.

INT. HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - THAT NIGHT

Alisha cries as she enters the house. Everyone is present.

KELLY
What did he do now?

ALISHA
He said he needs some time away
from me.

KELLY
Isn't this the third time?

ALISHA
Yeah.

Gabi's ears perk up, her eyes widen.

GABI
Girl, you need to go after him; or,
you'll lose him forever.

MICHAEL
Good riddance!

JUSTIN
Yeah, what he said.

Justin gives Michael a "high-five."

ALISHA
But, I love him. I want to marry
him.

MICHAEL
You want to marry someone who makes
you feel this bad? If I had a
woman like you, I'd...

GABI
Follow her around like a puppy the
way you do now?

JUSTIN
Uh-oh. The secret is out.

MICHAEL
Gabi, shut up!

KELLY
Okay, everybody calm down.

MICHAEL
I'm going out.

GABI
Aren't you going to take Alisha with you? Then you can comfort her in public for everyone and their dog to see! God forbid that you should be seen with the "Fat Chick!"

MICHAEL
I can't believe what just came out of your mouth!

Michael leaves, slams the door behind him.

INT. COFFEE HOUSE - LATER SAME NIGHT

Michael drinks a beer. Alisha arrives. She doesn't see Michael. He watches her find a table. The WAITER (twenties) walks over to where Alisha is seated.

ALISHA
I'll have the fried mushrooms, French fries, fried mozzarella sticks - just bring me everything you have on the menu that is fried.

WAITER
Okay.

Michael walks up behind Alisha during this exchange.

MICHAEL
Did you order yourself some comfort food?

ALISHA
Yeah. I'm going to have to go running in the morning.

MICHAEL
May I go with you?

ALISHA
You don't run.

MICHAEL
I know.

They laugh.

INT. THERAPISTS OFFICE - NEXT DAY

The therapist, DR. CLARK (early fifties), sips his coffee. Kelly fidgets.

DR. CLARK
So, when was the last time that you had sexual relations?

KELLY
December 31, 2006.

The therapist chokes on his coffee.

DR. CLARK
That's over ten years ago.

KELLY
Yep.

DR. CLARK
Why do you think it has been so long?

KELLY
My boyfriend at the time decided to sleep with my best friend.

Kelly takes two large knitting needles and yarn out of her hand bag, knits.

DR. CLARK
Oh. Still, don't you think enough time has gone by?

KELLY
My friend Veronica, you see, was after him from the get-go. I just didn't know it. Then, when she got him, she would go into magnificent detail with our mutual girlfriends about how they "had relations" all the time. One of them, Sarah, she was the only one who let me know about their affair. So, Veronica turned all of my beautiful memories into disgusting images of the two of them together. And that is why I cannot move on.

DR. CLARK
How is your job going?

KELLY

Irritating, as usual. The patrons come in, put on heirs, and throw tantrums.

DR. CLARK

Maybe you should find another job.

Dr. Clark leans forward.

KELLY

I can't. My brother works there with me, and I have to look out for him.

DR. CLARK

He's autistic, isn't he?

KELLY

Yes.

DR. CLARK

Have you thought about teaching? You did get your degree in education, after all.

Dr. Clark leans back in his chair.

KELLY

Teaching!?! Would you look at me. I'm a basket case! Do you really think that I would subject young children to my mania?

Dr. Clark looks at his watch.

DR. CLARK

Point taken. Look at the time. I'll see you next week.

KELLY

Have a good day.

DR. CLARK

You do the same.

INT. HOUSE/KITCHEN - THAT NIGHT

Kelly pulls out every bottle of liquor that she can get her hands on. She takes a swig out of each bottle. Michael walks in.

MICHAEL

Kelly?

Kelly whirls around.

KELLY

Oh, God. You scared me.

MICHAEL

What are you doing?

KELLY

I'm drinking.

MICHAEL

Why? You don't drink.

KELLY

Why? Why you ask? Because, I'm trying to get drunk.

Kelly takes another big swig.

MICHAEL

I think you've succeeded.

KELLY

Really? Good! Now, will you drive me downtown? But, first I'm going to change.

MICHAEL

Maybe you should stay here.

KELLY

If you don't take me, I'll just take a cab.

MICHAEL

Okay, I'll take you.

KELLY

Thank you ever so much.

Kelly sniffs the air.

KELLY (CONT'D)

Oh, you smell good. Oh, God. You're wearing what he used to wear!

MICHAEL

Edward?

Kelly sobs.

KELLY

Yes.

MICHAEL

I'll wash it off.

KELLY

Oh, thank you.

INT. HOUSE/BATHROOM - SAME TIME

Michael washes off the cologne. In the mirror, he sees articles of clothing flying all over the place through Kelly's bedroom door.

KELLY (O.S.)

I need your opinion.

MICHAEL

Okay.

INT. HOUSE/KELLY AND JUSTIN'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Michael enters the bedroom. Kelly is wearing only her undergarments. Michael puts his hands over his eyes.

KELLY

What are you doing?

MICHAEL

You're in your underwear.

Kelly looks down at herself, surprised.

KELLY

What? Am I that ugly? What is so wrong with me?

Kelly cries.

MICHAEL

Nothing. You're perfect.

Michael walks over to Kelly, embraces her.

KELLY

I'm sorry. I don't know what I'm doing anymore. I'm so tired of being alone.

MICHAEL
It's going to be alright.

KELLY
I think I'm going to be sick.

MICHAEL
Into the bathroom we go.

They make their way into the bathroom.

INT. HOUSE/BATHROOM - SAME TIME

Kelly sits in front of the bowl.

MICHAEL
Stay right here. I'm going to get
you some water and effervescent
tablets.

KELLY
Okay.

As Michael heads out, he hears Kelly WRETCH.

INT. HOUSE/KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Michael returns. Kelly is asleep on the floor. He picks her
up, heads toward her bedroom.

INT. HOUSE/KELLY AND JUSTIN'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Michael places Kelly in bed. She awakens.

MICHAEL
Here. Drink some of this.

She takes a drink.

KELLY
Why did he leave me? Why?

MICHAEL
Kelly, I don't know. I never knew
him and it was so long ago.

KELLY
I'm pathetic.

MICHAEL
No. He was a fool.

Kelly nods off. Michael brushes her hair out of her face, kisses her on the forehead.

INT. HOUSE/KELLY AND JUSTIN'S BEDROOM - NEXT DAY

Kelly awakens, rubs her head and belly. She heads for the bathroom.

INT. HOUSE/KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Kelly makes her way into the kitchen. Michael waits for her.

MICHAEL
Headache?

KELLY
Yeah.

Michael gives her two aspirins and a cup of coffee.

KELLY (CONT'D)
I don't drink coffee.

MICHAEL
I think you do today.

KELLY
Maybe you're right. Was I really...

MICHAEL
Yes.

KELLY
Did I get...

MICHAEL
Uh - huh.

Kelly looks down, notices she is still in her underwear.

KELLY
Did we...

MICHAEL
No.

KELLY
Thank God.

MICHAEL

Would it have been so bad if we had?

Kelly looks down, smiles.

KELLY

I'm going to get my robe.

Michael drinks his coffee. Kelly returns.

KELLY (CONT'D)

Look Michael, I know that you are in love with my sister.

MICHAEL

What do you mean?

KELLY

It's in the way you look at her and talk with her.

MICHAEL

She's with Samuel.

KELLY

That doesn't stop the way you feel about her, does it?

Michael looks down, swallows hard.

MICHAEL

No, it doesn't. Is it that obvious?

KELLY

Uhm, yeah.

(beat)

You know, it's just a matter of time before he breaks her heart again. Then she'll be on the lookout for the next jerk. So, if I were you, I'd be getting ready to move the knight.

MICHAEL

But, she's always attracted to the light-haired, light-eyed, pretty boys.

KELLY

Honey, you are tall, dark and lonesome. And, you could sail a thousand ships with just one look.

MICHAEL
Me?

KELLY
Yeah, you.

Michael grabs Kelly, kisses her. When they break away, Kelly smiles.

MICHAEL
I don't know why I did that. I'm sorry.

KELLY
Don't be.

INT. HOUSE/KELLY AND JUSTIN'S BEDROOM - THAT NIGHT

Kelly and Justin sit together.

JUSTIN
How do you say it again?

KELLY
Vasectomy. It's a surgery doctors perform to make sure that you don't, that you don't...

JUSTIN
Don't what?

KELLY
Make babies.

JUSTIN
You mean when I have sex with my girlfriend, Tamara?

Kelly takes a deep breathe.

KELLY
Yes.

JUSTIN
Tamara takes birth control.

KELLY
Well, it's just a precaution.

JUSTIN
A what?

KELLY

It's just for safety in case you and Tamara ever break up, and you meet a new girlfriend who isn't on birth control.

JUSTIN

You take that back! I will never break up with Tamara. I love her, and she loves me.

Justin storms out of the room, slams the door behind him. Kelly takes another deep breath.

INT. COFFEE HOUSE - SAME TIME

Alisha sits at a table alone, studying. Michael sees Alisha when he looks up from his text book. He starts to go over to her. Alisha looks up. Michael quickly hides behind a column. A WAITRESS (twenties) advances.

WAITRESS

May I help you, Sir?

MICHAEL

Oh, I was just admiring this column.

(beat)

Do you, by chance, know what time period is being replicated?

WAITRESS

No. I guess I'm falling behind in the whole knowledgeable employee thing what with my fifteen hour course load and two jobs. But, I'll jump right on that, Sir.

MICHAEL

Uh, could I have two Mocha Lattes? I'll be at the table where the woman is with the architecture books.

The waitress looks over at Alisha.

WAITRESS

Sure thing. By the way, you could care less about this column right?

MICHAEL

Could you add some cinnamon to the coffees?

WAITRESS
Sure thing. Just be yourself.

MICHAEL
Thank you. I think.

Michael approaches Alisha.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Hi, Alisha.

ALISHA
How are you? What are you doing here?

Michael holds up his book.

MICHAEL
I've got another certification tomorrow. So, I thought I'd do some reviewing.

ALISHA
Sit down. I'll order us a...

The waitress shows up with their coffee.

WAITRESS
Two Mocha Lattes with cinnamon.

ALISHA
Thank you.

MICHAEL
I just saw you a few minutes ago and I thought I'd order for us.

ALISHA
You're so sweet.

MICHAEL
Sweet. So, are you ready for your finals to be over?

ALISHA
Yes!

Alisha sighs, rubs her head.

MICHAEL
Another headache?

ALISHA

Yes. I haven't been this tired in a long time. And, I can't seem to remember what I just read.

Michael sits down.

MICHAEL

Are you alright?

ALISHA

I'll be fine.

MICHAEL

So, what drew you to architecture?

ALISHA

Oh, a lot of things. Ever since I was a little kid, I've been fascinated by structures. I think they are forms of communication.

MICHAEL

Really?

Alisha sits up straight, crosses her legs.

ALISHA

Yeah. If you think about it, millions of years ago, when we were "primitive," we didn't have tools to build shelter. So we did the best we could with our hands and the material that was naturally provided. And, then, what did we do?

MICHAEL

We communicated on the walls of the caves.

ALISHA

Exactly. Architecture is based on geometry, shapes and coordinate planes. I believe that energy from the micro and macrocosm lives, breathes and communicates within and about the walls of structures.

MICHAEL

Wow.

Alisha turns to a photo of Stonehenge in her textbook, shows it to Michael.

ALISHA

Look at Stonehenge. They placed natural stone pillars in very specific coordinates in order to communicate with God.

MICHAEL

You have no idea how beautiful you are.

ALISHA

You are so sweet.

MICHAEL

Sweet. There's that word again.

Alisha smiles, but her smile fades quickly.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

What's the matter?

ALISHA

Nothing.

MICHAEL

You can tell me. Whatever you say will be just between us.

ALISHA

I've babbled enough. Let's just enjoy the moment and our coffee.

INT. HOUSE/BATHROOM - NEXT NIGHT

Alisha combs her hair. Gabi walks in.

GABI

Do you have plans tonight?

ALISHA

Yeah. Sam and I are going to catch a movie and get a bite to eat.

GABI

And I suppose you'll be having your regular after dinner coffee with Michael.

ALISHA

Yeah, probably. He likes to talk.

GABI

He doesn't like to talk. He likes you.

ALISHA

He does?

GABI

You know, you're right. He doesn't like you, he's in love with you.

ALISHA

Oh. I uh... I guess I'll have to have a talk with him.

GABI

The sooner the better. That might give others of us around here half a chance.

EXT. HOUSE/FRONT PORCH - LATER SAME NIGHT

Michael walks up onto the porch, sees Alisha.

MICHAEL

You're home early. Did you go out with Samuel tonight?

ALISHA

Yeah.

MICHAEL

What, he didn't take you to dinner?

ALISHA

No. I wanted to come home early to talk to you.

MICHAEL

Yeah?

Michael sits next to Alisha.

ALISHA

Yeah. Michael, you know Sam and I have dated for a while now. And, we've had a lot of problems with...

MICHAEL

Is he breaking up with you again?

ALISHA

No.

MICHAEL

Oh.

ALISHA

Does that make you upset?

MICHAEL

In what respect?

ALISHA

In any respect.

MICHAEL

I just don't think he realizes what he's got.

ALISHA

We've had our problems, but I think we're going to make it.

MICHAEL

If I had a woman like you, I'd never let her go.

ALISHA

Michael, there's someone for everyone.

MICHAEL

Not like you. Well, I guess I'll go to Dream Land.

Michael gets up, walks toward the door.

ALISHA

And miss our coffee time together?

MICHAEL

That's just it. They're just coffee breaks.

EXT. HOUSE/FRONT PORCH - NEXT MORNING

Michael sits, drinks some coffee, rubs his eyes. Kelly drives up. She removes paintings from her car.

MICHAEL

Need some help?

KELLY

That's okay. I've got it.

MICHAEL
Are those yours?

KELLY
Yep.

MICHAEL
You paint?

KELLY
I used to. My therapist thinks it
would help me to work through some
things if I expressed myself
through art.

Michael stands up.

MICHAEL
Can I see?

KELLY
Nope.

MICHAEL
Please?

KELLY
They're private. I'm putting
everything in the attic so they
won't clutter the house.

Michael attempts to take a peep. Kelly presses the paintings
closer to her body.

MICHAEL
Are you sure I can't see them?

KELLY
I'm sure. You know what you can
do?

MICHAEL
Name it.

KELLY
Pour me a cup of coffee.

MICHAEL
You got it.

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - NEXT DAY

Dr. Clark sips his coffee. Kelly knits.

DR. CLARK
So, how are you feeling today?

KELLY
How am I feeling?

DR. CLARK
Yes. How are you feeling?

KELLY
If I asked you how you are feeling,
you wouldn't tell me, would you?

DR. CLARK
I and my feelings are not the issue
here.

KELLY
Right. You know, I'm a complete
and total basket case.

DR. CLARK
Why is that?

KELLY
It's safe here. I'm basically
paying you to be a sounding board.
My parents stopped listening years
ago.

(beat)
The issue here today is that my
roommate, who is a beautiful plus
size model, and I are both in love
with the same man. And, he is in
love with my sister who is in love
with another man.

DR. CLARK
That is not good.

Kelly puts her knitting project away.

KELLY
How very astute of you.
(beat)
Please pardon my cynicism.

DR. CLARK
That's quite alright.

KELLY
We're all just so isolated and
alone. We're trapped in these
shells.

Kelly hits her arm lightly with her hand.

KELLY (CONT'D)
And then we die, alone.

DR. CLARK
Are you feeling suicidal?

Kelly gets up, paces.

KELLY
No, you're missing my point.
There's this whole world out there.
And everyone and everything is
connected, but ninety five percent
of us don't realize it.

DR. CLARK
I think you just contradicted
yourself. Are you feeling
disconnected?

KELLY
I go to work. I do my job. All of
my interactions with patrons are
reserved and polite. And, all I
want to do is scream at people -
"WAKE UP!"

DR. CLARK
Are you getting enough sleep?

KELLY
Why don't we get some coffee during
the rest of the hour?

DR. CLARK
That would be inappropriate.
Besides, you don't drink coffee.

KELLY
I do now. And do you know what
event brought me to enjoy coffee?

Dr. Clark looks at his watch.

DR. CLARK
What?

Kelly hits Dr. Clark's desk with her fist.

KELLY
A drunken rage over my ex-
boyfriend.

DR. CLARK

The one from over ten years ago?

KELLY

Yes. The point is, I enjoyed that cup of coffee more than I enjoy thinking about my very first sexual encounter with him.

DR. CLARK

Really?

KELLY

And, I found out that coffee originated from outer space.

DR. CLARK

Uh - huh.

KELLY

No, really. I bought a book on the history of coffee. There is one theory, believed to be true, that explains a group of cave men were lost in a blizzard. They prayed to the sky people. Then aliens in a flying saucer, hence the use of a coffee cup and saucer, landed and gave them some coffee to drink. The aliens then transplanted the coffee bean onto earth. Then it hit me. Coffee literally saved my life.

Dr. Clark raises one brow.

DR. CLARK

So, you feel better.

Kelly raises her arms, whirls around, plops herself down in her chair.

KELLY

I feel free - free from all of my past sorrows and future longings. All there is, is now. And, that is why I asked you to have coffee with me; because, I won't be needing your services anymore.

DR. CLARK

I don't think...

KELLY

I know.

Kelly rises from her chair.

KELLY (CONT'D)

Thanks for listening to me rant and rave. You've been a great sounding board. Maybe I'll see you at a coffee house sometime. So long.

Dr. Clark has a quizzical look upon his face.

INT. HOUSE/KELLY AND JUSTIN'S BEDROOM - THAT NIGHT

Tamara and Justin are sitting on the bed.

JUSTIN

Do you want to play Go-Fish?

TAMARA

No.

JUSTIN

Checkers?

TAMARA

No.

JUSTIN

How about popcorn and a movie?

TAMARA

I don't want that either.

JUSTIN

What's wrong?

Tamara gets up.

TAMARA

I want to break up with you.

JUSTIN

I love you. I don't understand.

TAMARA

My old boyfriend wants me to be his girlfriend again. I still love him.

JUSTIN

Get out of my house!

INT. HOUSE/GABI'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Gabi hears Justin yell, heads out of her room.

INT. HOUSE/HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Gabi knocks on Kelly and Justin's bedroom door.

GABI
Is everything okay?

JUSTIN (O.C.)
Go away, Gabi!

INT. HOUSE/KELLY AND JUSTIN'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Gabi walks in.

JUSTIN
I said, "GO AWAY!"

GABI
Tamara, what is wrong?

TAMARA
My old boyfriend wants to be with
me again. I still love him.

GABI
Are you sure?

TAMARA
Yes.

Justin gets up off the bed.

JUSTIN
Both of you get out of my room.
Gabi, why did you introduce her to
me? I love her and now she is
going away. It's your fault.

TAMARA
Gabi, will you take me home?

GABI
Okay. Justin, I'll be back in a
few minutes. We'll talk then,
okay?

JUSTIN
I have nothing to say to you or
her. Get out!

Gabi and Tamara leave the bedroom. Justin throws a pillow at the door, cries.

INT. HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NEXT NIGHT

Alisha and Michael, wrapped in a blanket, drink some coffee. Kelly and Justin walk in. Kelly's smile fades.

JUSTIN
Secret's definitely out.

KELLY
Hi.

MICHAEL
We're uh...

KELLY
Having a cup of coffee? Well,
Michael, I see that you've finally
caught the big one. I need some
green tea. Anyone else care to
join me? I didn't think so.

INT. HOUSE/KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Kelly microwaves her water, angrily places the tea bag in the cup of water. She heads out the back door.

EXT. HOUSE/BACK PORCH - SAME NIGHT

Kelly sips her tea, takes a deep breath. She looks at her watch.

KELLY
Let's see. Today is Thursday,
after the 8 o'clock workout
session. The door should be
opening any minute, and 5,4,3,2,1.

GABI (O.C.)
What do you two think you're doing?

INT. HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - SAME NIGHT

Gabi glares at Michael and Alisha.

ALISHA

Michael, will you hand me my robe?

Alisha puts on her robe.

GABI

What is wrong with you? She doesn't love you. You're a rebound just like all the other guys that she consoles herself with after he dumps her.

MICHAEL

You don't understand. She left him for good.

Kelly walks back in. Gabi looks at Kelly's expression.

GABI

You're in love with him too, aren't you? I'm outta here!

KELLY

Justin and I are going to Mom's and Dad's to spend the night. You'll have the house to yourselves.

ALISHA

Kelly, I'm sorry. I didn't know.

KELLY

I know.

EXT. HOUSE/FRONT YARD - NEXT MORNING

Kelly works in the flower garden. Michael watches from the porch. Kelly injures her hand.

KELLY

Son of a bean dip, mother frito!

Michael bursts out laughing.

KELLY (CONT'D)

What are you laughing at and how long have you been sitting there?

MICHAEL

Your hyperbole and long enough.

KELLY

I'm gonna hyperbole you all the way into tomorrow in a minute.

Michael covers his ears.

MICHAEL
No, my virgin ears!

KELLY
Get your keaster over here and help me.

Michael walks over, sits beside Kelly.

MICHAEL
Do you hate me?

KELLY
No. You know, I've known about your feelings for Alisha longer than you have. I don't think, however, that Gabi is going to recover.

MICHAEL
I didn't mean to hurt either one of you.

KELLY
I know. Now quit your talking and start aerating.

Michael picks up a hand spade, helps with the aeration.

MICHAEL
How is your therapy going?

KELLY
Actually, I've decided that the only type of therapy that I need is sex therapy. So, at my last session, I informed my therapist that I no longer needed his services. Then, I promptly asked him out for coffee in hopes that it would turn into a mad love affair; however, he declined.

MICHAEL
Ouch.

KELLY
I'll live. I've survived this long.

EXT. HOUSE/FRONT PORCH - NEXT NIGHT

The sky turns black. Alisha and Michael cuddle on the porch.

ALISHA

I love it when it storms. There's the stillness in the air before the sky sheds its tears.

A look of sadness comes over Alisha.

MICHAEL

Why so sad?

ALISHA

I don't know.

MICHAEL

You can tell me.

ALISHA

It's just a mood. It'll pass.

MICHAEL

Like the storm.

Justin appears. He holds a tray with three cups of coffee.

JUSTIN

Coffee break.

ALISHA

Thank you so much, sunshine.

Justin gives Alisha and Michael their coffee.

MICHAEL

You did a great job, and you didn't spill any.

JUSTIN

I'm getting better.

ALISHA

Yes, you are.

JUSTIN

Guess what? Today I went fishing with my ex-girlfriend.

ALISHA

What?

Justin sits down.

JUSTIN

It was real fishing. We decided to stay friends.

MICHAEL

Justin, are you sure you can handle that?

JUSTIN

Yeah. Her boyfriend, Eric, and his sister went with us. She wants to be my girlfriend.

ALISHA

Is she special, like you?

JUSTIN

Yes.

Michael puts his hand on Justin's shoulder.

MICHAEL

I'm so proud of you and happy for you, Justin.

JUSTIN

Thank you.

MICHAEL

What's your girlfriend's name?

JUSTIN

Alisha. Isn't that funny? She has my sister's name.

Alisha looks away.

INT. HOUSE/KITCHEN - NEXT NIGHT

Kelly, Michael, and Justin arrive home with groceries. They hear someone RETCH. They all look at one another.

MICHAEL

I'll go.

INT. HOUSE/BATHROOM - SAME NIGHT

Michael knocks on the door, goes in and finds Gabi sobbing.

MICHAEL

Gabi, rough day?

GABI
They're all rough. What do you care?

MICHAEL
Well, number one, I'm concerned.
And, number two, this is my bathroom.

GABI
You're not concerned about me.
Your concerns only pertain to smart, skinny girls, you jerk!

MICHAEL
Okay, let's get you to the shower.

GABI
Where is she?

MICHAEL
Who?

Michael helps Gabi up onto her feet.

GABI
Alisha!

MICHAEL
She's studying at the coffee house.

GABI
Sure she is!

MICHAEL
Okay, Gabi, I'm going to help you get undressed so you can shower.
That will make you feel better.

Gabi staggers about, close to passing out. Michael takes off her shirt. He notices several cigarette burn marks on her body.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Who did this to you?

GABI
I did. I drank everything in the house.

MICHAEL
No, these cigarette burns.

Gabi looks down.

GABI

What? Get out of here! I'll take care of myself!

MICHAEL

Who did this to you?

GABI

It doesn't matter. Just leave me alone and get your hands off of me!

MICHAEL

Do you want Kelly to help you?

GABI

No. I said I'd do it my fucking self! Get out!

Michael leaves the bathroom. Gabi sits down in the tub, lets the water run. Tears stream down her face.

INT. HOUSE/KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Kelly and Justin put away the groceries. Kelly hears Michael APPROACH. She turns to him, a look of concern upon her face.

MICHAEL

I need to talk to you, Kelly.

INT. HOUSE/GABI'S BEDROOM - NEXT MORNING

Kelly opens Gabi's door, brings in a breakfast tray with coffee, scones and fruit.

KELLY

Gabi, are you awake?

GABI

Huh?

KELLY

I brought you some breakfast.

Gabi rubs her eyes.

GABI

Did you graduate from green tea?

KELLY

Not entirely. How are you feeling?

GABI
Like an idiot.

Gabi sits up in bed.

KELLY
You're not an idiot. You're female. It's part of our genetic makeup to go nuts every now and then.

(beat)
Do you remember Michael helping you in the shower last night?

GABI
Yes, and I don't want to talk about it.

KELLY
Gabi, who hurt you?

GABI
It was a long time ago.

KELLY
It obviously still upsets you.

Gabi looks out the window.

GABI
Look, I never knew my father. My mom hooked up with a loser. He was crazy. He'd get drunk and then, you know. He's dead now.

KELLY
Did your mom know?

GABI
Yeah, but he used to beat her. He threatened to kill her if she sought help from the police.

KELLY
What about doctor visits?

Gabi sighs.

GABI
Infrequent or none. Look, what's done is done. I don't want to go back to that place.

KELLY

I know you love Michael. And I know you're lonely and...

GABI

Every guy I've tried to have a relationship with, when I tell them what happened, they dump me.

Gabi takes a bite of her danish.

KELLY

Do you want to talk to the therapist that I used to see?

GABI

No.

KELLY

It might help you sort things out if you try to speak with him about it.

GABI

All that is going to do is make me think about it more.

KELLY

Do you want to talk to me?

GABI

Kelly, you have so much on your plate with Justin and your job. Besides, your therapist didn't help you. You helped yourself.

KELLY

My problems are miniscule compared to yours.

Gabi runs her finger over the top of her coffee cup.

GABI

It's just that I have a physical reminder of what happened everyday, when I shower, when I dress. I try not to think about it, but it's there all the time.

KELLY

Just know that I'm here if you ever need anything.

GABI
I appreciate it. Now, let's eat.
The porcelain god is not my friend.

They laugh.

INT. HOUSE/ATTIC - A FEW DAYS LATER

Kelly is painting. Alisha walks in.

ALISHA
What are you working on?

KELLY
Flowers. They are quite ugly.

Alisha looks sad.

ALISHA
I, uh... I need to talk to you.

KELLY
What's wrong? Is it Justin? Is he
playing Go-Fish again?

Alisha smiles.

ALISHA
No, but if he was it would be
alright.

KELLY
You're right. I can't keep him
under my wing forever.

ALISHA
I'll take over for you one day.

KELLY
You're not yourself. What's wrong?

Kelly puts her paintbrush down.

ALISHA
I need to tell you something.

KELLY
Tell me what?

ALISHA
Kelly, I have an inoperable brain
tumor.

KELLY

No, you don't. They must have made a mistake.

ALISHA

I've seen two different specialists.

KELLY

No.

ALISHA

I'm going to be getting my things in order. I need your help because my headaches are getting worse.

KELLY

They're just migraines. You've had them your whole life. They made a mistake.

ALISHA

I wish more than anything in the world that you were right. But, you're not.

Kelly grabs hold of Alisha. They embrace. Kelly pulls away looks into Alisha's eyes.

KELLY

How long?

ALISHA

Maybe a year at the most. You know, when we were young and Mom and Dad were always arguing, I used to pray for one of two things - either a divorce or my death. I guess one of my prayers is being answered. It's just the wrong time.

KELLY

Does Michael know? We'll take you to a different specialist.

Kelly holds Alisha's hand.

ALISHA

I told him last night. Promise me one thing. When I do go, don't be too over-protective with Justin.

KELLY
Should we tell him?

ALISHA
I want us to plan a special day.
Just the three of us; and that
evening, I want both of us to tell
him.

Kelly cups Alisha's face.

KELLY
I love you so much.

Alisha places her hands on top of Kelly's hands.

ALISHA
And you are my beautiful, quirky,
big sister. I will always love
you. And, when we all meet in the
afterlife, we'll throw a big party.
No alcohol, just coffee and
cookies. I hear that in heaven, no
one gains weight.

INT. HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NEXT DAY

Kelly, Alisha and Justin come in, laughing, through the front
door.

JUSTIN
That movie was so funny.

KELLY
It was, wasn't it?

They all sit on the couch.

ALISHA
Justin, I need to tell you
something.

JUSTIN
Are you going to marry Michael?

ALISHA
No.

JUSTIN
Why not? He told me he likes
playing Go-Fish with you.

Kelly and Alisha smile.

ALISHA

I like playing Go-Fish with him,
too.

(beat)

Justin, you know about those
headaches that I get, right?

JUSTIN

Yeah.

Justin plops down on the couch.

ALISHA

Well, I found out that there is
something growing in my brain.

JUSTIN

Does it make you smarter?

Justin leans forward.

ALISHA

No. Actually, sometimes it makes
me forget things. See, I have a
tumor; and, it keeps growing.

JUSTIN

What's a tumor?

ALISHA

Do you remember when Uncle Craig
had cancer?

JUSTIN

Yes.

ALISHA

That's what I have and the doctors
can't make it go away.

JUSTIN

Why not?

ALISHA

It's all over my brain.

JUSTIN

Are you going to die?

ALISHA

Yes.

Justin cries and screams. Alisha holds him in her arms, runs
her fingers through his hair.

JUSTIN

Why -- why -- why!?! You can't die. I'll be so lonely without you! Why -- why!?!

ALISHA

I don't know why. I wish I did. But, you know what? When I do go to heaven, I'll watch over you and protect you. And, someday, a long time from now, we'll all be together again because heaven is just a whisper away.

JUSTIN

When I pray at night, will you talk to me?

ALISHA

I'll talk to you in your dreams.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN: WINTER

INT. HOUSE/KITCHEN - CHRISTMAS TIME - DAY

Kelly organizes the kitchen. Stuff is everywhere. Michael walks in.

MICHAEL

What are you doing?

KELLY

I'm organizing.

MICHAEL

The spices?

KELLY

Spices, dishes, pots and pans - everything.

MICHAEL

Why?

KELLY

Someone's got to do it. Everything has its place.

MICHAEL

She's feeling pretty good right now. Why don't we...

Kelly throws a pan on the floor.

KELLY

Pretty good? That tumor is the size of a softball!

(beat)

I have to make everything perfect because the holidays are coming up and when Mom and Dad arrive, all hell is going to break loose!

Kelly runs her hand through her hair, picks the pan up.

MICHAEL

Hell is not going to break loose.

(beat)

You just cursed.

KELLY

Well excuse the fuck out of me! My sister is dying, and I can't do a damn thing about it!

Kelly breaks down. Michael tears up.

MICHAEL

Alisha hasn't told them yet, has she?

KELLY

No. We need to. It probably won't make any difference. They'll probably waltz in here and ruin Christmas the way they always do. Why is this happening?

MICHAEL

I don't know.

KELLY

Do you think you have it within you to stay with her for the duration?

MICHAEL

I've loved your sister fo so long. I'm not going to leave her alone now.

KELLY

I just want her to feel loved - everything, everyday, and every moment to be perfect. I have to finish organizing and then I'll -

MICHAEL
Shh, come here.

They hold each other. Kelly cries.

INT. HOUSE/KITCHEN - CHRISTMAS DAY

Mom (fifties) and Dad (fifties) arrive. Everyone is in the kitchen.

KELLY
Justin, are the rolls ready?

JUSTIN
Almost.

MOM
Here, Justin, let me help you with that.

KELLY
No, Mom, Justin can do it.

Kelly puts some icing on some cookies.

JUSTIN
Yeah, Mom, I got it. I can cook breakfast now.

MICHAEL
We all take turns, don't we?

MOM
You can cook?

Mom takes over the icing. Kelly rolls her eyes.

JUSTIN
It's really fun.

ALISHA
Mom, can you help me with the gravy?

MOM
I'd love to. Did you season it enough?

KELLY
Yes, Mom, she did.

ALISHA

Go ahead and try it. Just to make sure.

Mom tastes the gravy.

MOM

A little more salt and it'll be perfect.

Kelly rolls her eyes, takes a deep breath.

INT. HOUSE/DINING ROOM - CHRISTMAS DAY

Everyone is seated at the table.

DAD

Let's hold hands and I'll say grace. Heavenly Father, thank you for this food we are about to consume. Thank you for bringing us together on this day. Thank you for the health and happiness surrounding this table. Amen.

EVERYONE

Amen.

DAD

Justin, how are your studies coming along?

JUSTIN

Kelly says I'm on the fourth grade level.

Justin takes a roll, passes the basket to his Dad.

MOM

Already?

DAD

That's wonderful, Son.

MOM

Justin, don't you miss living at home with me and Dad?

JUSTIN

No, I have a girlfriend now. We play cards and have sex.

Mom spews her water.

MOM
What did you say?

JUSTIN
I have a girlfriend.

MOM
No, the other part.

JUSTIN
We play cards.

DAD
Laura, let it be.

Dad takes a helping of potatoes, passes the dish to Kelly.

MOM
Kelly, you are supposed to be caring for your brother. He isn't ready for...

ALISHA
Sex?

MOM
Don't say that word in front of him!

JUSTIN
Mom, I'm right here. Don't talk about me like I'm not here.

MOM
Young Man!

Alisha, in pain, rubs her head.

KELLY
Mom, I was upset at first, as you are now; but...

MOM
But, what? You let it continue?

JUSTIN
No, me and my first girlfriend broke up.

MOM
There's been more than one?

DAD
Laura, let's not ruin Christmas
dinner!

ALISHA
Please stop yelling.

A stream of blood flows out of Alisha's left nostril.
Michael rushes to her side.

MOM
Oh, my God!

INT. HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - CHRISTMAS EVENING

Kelly and Gabi sit by the fire, drink wine.

GABI
Your parents -- how did they take
it?

KELLY
Mom was hysterical. Dad just
stared into space.

GABI
I wish I hadn't been so mean to
Alisha. I was jealous.

KELLY
It's okay. I had feelings for him,
too.

Kelly traces her wine glass with her finger.

GABI
Is Justin here?

KELLY
He's at his girlfriend's house.

GABI
I'm glad he found someone to be
with.

KELLY
Me, too. Gabi, you are going to
find someone soon. You are.

GABI
So are you.

EXT. HOUSE/BACK PORCH - SAME TIME

Alisha and Michael cuddle.

MICHAEL
Did you enjoy dinner?

ALISHA
It had it's moments. I enjoyed
being with everyone until -- I
wish we had gotten together sooner.

MICHAEL
So do I.

The wind blows hard. Alisha rubs her arms.

ALISHA
The wind picked up.

MICHAEL
Here, take my jacket.

Michael places his jacket around her shoulders. They kiss.

ALISHA
When I was growing up; and, my Dad
was away on business trips, I used
to wear his jackets. It always
made me feel close to him.

MICHAEL
Yeah, I know what you mean. I wore
my Mom's dresses all the time.

ALISHA
No, you didn't.

MICHAEL
I had you going there for a second,
didn't I?

ALISHA
Maybe, for a second.

MICHAEL
I knew it.

ALISHA
Michael, do you think you could
help me disperse my personal
belongings?

Tears well up in Michael's eyes.

ALISHA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I shouldn't have asked you. I've ruined our evening.

MICHAEL

No, you didn't. I just don't want to let you go. I keep thinking that if I give all of my love to you then they won't take you away. Back when you were still with Samuel, I used to imagine us growing old together.

Alisha smiles. The sun is setting in brilliant hues of purple and orange.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Look at that sky.

ALISHA

It's so beautiful.

They kiss, then return their gaze to the fading sunset.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN: SPRING

EXT. HOUSE/FRONT YARD - DAY

People are lined up in the front yard.

INT. HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Justin peeps through the blinds.

JUSTIN

They're here.

Kelly goes to the window, looks out.

KELLY

I told you this was a bad idea, guys.

ALISHA

It'll be fun. We can make some extra bucks and meet some new people.

KELLY

There will be price haggling and fighting over merchandise.

Kelly places Edward's baseball cap in a box.

MICHAEL (TO ALISHA)

Are you sure you feel up to it?

ALISHA

I'm going to sit in the rocker and people watch.

MICHAEL

Okay, let's head 'em up and move 'em out.

EXT. HOUSE/FRONT YARD - SAME TIME

They go outside, boxes of merchandise in tow. TWO WOMEN (fifties) argue over a lamp shade.

WOMAN #1

That lamp shade is mine.

WOMAN #2

I saw it first.

WOMAN #1

You didn't claim it.

MICHAEL

Ladies we have two.

They smile, look at each other smugly.

ANOTHER WOMAN (forties) and her DAUGHTER (late teens) wander up onto the porch. The woman spots Kelly's 3-D picture of Jesus that is on the front wall of the house, close to the front door.

WOMAN #3

How much for Jesus?

KELLY

I can't sell Jesus.

DAUGHTER

Why not? The church does it all the time -- behind the pulpit, on TV and on candles at the market. Jesus is a hot commodity.

(MORE)

DAUGHTER (CONT'D)
He was a looker, too. That Mary
Magdalene was one lucky lady.

Kelly takes the 3-D picture of Jesus off the wall, turns it
around, holds it close to her heart.

KELLY
He's mine.

Kelly sees her ex EDWARD (thirties) pull up into the yard.
She drops the picture of Jesus. It shatters.

KELLY (CONT'D)
Oh, God.

DAUGHTER
Have you ever heard of Osiris?

Kelly cries, starts to pick up the broken pieces.

WOMAN #3 (TO HER DAUGHTER)
We'd better go.

Edward approaches tentatively.

EDWARD
Kelly...

KELLY
Edward, what are you doing here?

EDWARD
Can we talk?

KELLY
What do you want?

Kelly continues to pick up the pieces of the broken picture.

EDWARD
I want you. I want you back.

KELLY
I'm over you.

Kelly stands.

EDWARD
Remember what we had?

Michael advances.

MICHAEL
She wants to forget.

EDWARD
Who are you?

MICHAEL
I'm her's.

Kelly smiles. Edward takes a swing at Michael, who moves out of the way. Michael then hits Edward square in the jaw. Edward falls into some pottery. Everything shatters. THREE MEN (fifties) watch the fight.

MAN #1
I'm betting on the tall guy.

MAN #2
Me, too. Any takers?

MAN #3
I'm in.

Then, Samuel shows up. He approaches Alisha.

SAMUEL
Alisha.

ALISHA
Samuel, it's over. I'm with somebody else.

Michael hits Edward again.

MICHAEL (YELLS)
Yeah, she's with me.

Edward rubs his jaw.

EDWARD
I thought you were with Kelly.

MICHAEL
I am. Now both of you get out of here.

SAMUEL (TO ALISHA)
You never wanted to do that for me.

MICHAEL
And she still doesn't. You two idiots had your chance. Now leave.

Samuel and Edward lunge toward Michael. He butts their heads together, they pass out.

MAN #2 (TO MAN #3)
That'll be twenty bucks.

MAN #3
Damn it.

Michael joins the ladies on the porch.

KELLY
Wow.

ALISHA
Thank you.

MICHAEL
You're welcome.

An ART DEALER (forties) approaches Kelly.

ART DEALER
Excuse me, Miss, whose art work is
this?

KELLY
These paintings are mine and those
paintings were done by my brother.

ART DEALER
I'd like to put as many of your
brother's paintings as possible in
my art gallery downtown.

KELLY
Seriously?

ART DEALER
Yes.

KELLY
Let me get my brother, Justin.

INT. HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NEXT DAY

Michael waters the plants. He hears a LOUD NOISE coming from
the bathroom.

MICHAEL
Alisha, are you alright?

Michael hears Alisha CRYING. Michael goes to the door.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
I'm coming in.

INT. HOUSE/BATHROOM - SAME TIME

There is a pool of blood on the floor. Michael gives Alisha a towel, carries her toward her bedroom.

INT. HOUSE/ALISHA'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Michael places Alisha on the bed. Alisha cries.

MICHAEL

Here, tilt your head back.

The towel is covered with blood.

ALISHA

I don't want to go, Michael. I don't want to die.

MICHAEL

I'm taking you to the emergency room.

INT. HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - THAT NIGHT

Kelly and Michael sit on the couch.

MICHAEL

It doesn't look good. She has a couple of weeks at the most.

KELLY

A couple of weeks --

MICHAEL

They've arranged for a nurse to come and care for her. She wants to be at home.

ALISHA (O.S.)

Michael?

Michael heads toward Alisha's bedroom.

INT. HOUSE/ALISHA'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Alisha rests in bed. She looks very tired.

MICHAEL

Hey, beautiful.

ALISHA
You're a horrible liar. So, this
is it, huh?

Michael looks down.

ALISHA (CONT'D)
You know what I dreamed last night?
I dreamed we were all having dinner
in a field of flowers. We were all
so happy together. Kelly had her
easel. She started painting Gabi
and Justin as you and I watched.
But, when she was finished, it was
a painting of you and Gabi. You
were holding hands. Then, you
leaned in and whispered to me that
you would always love me. We
embraced. Then I walked toward the
sunset alone. I was in a field of
Lilies, and they were all red.
(beat)
Say something to make me laugh.

Tears stream down Michael's face.

MICHAEL
Uhm, do you remember the time that
we all went camping?

Alisha smiles.

ALISHA
Yes, I remember.

MICHAEL
And, that night we ended up with a
couple of raccoons in the tent.

ALISHA
We were all screaming and freaking
out.

MICHAEL
And Justin just laughed at us and
them, and sent them on their way.

ALISHA
Yeah. I think he has it together
better than the rest of us.

MICHAEL
He's always in the moment, no
matter what it brings.

ALISHA
Will you promise me something?

MICHAEL
Anything.

ALISHA
Will you stay with Justin and the girls? You can't blame them for being in love with you.

Michael holds Alisha's hand.

MICHAEL
They're my family.

ALISHA
Talk about disfunction junction.

Michael laughs. They look into each other's eyes, and kiss.

ALISHA (CONT'D)
Michael, will you make love to me?

MICHAEL
Is it alright for us to?

ALISHA
Yes, as long as we go slow. I checked with my doctor.

MICHAEL
I don't want to hurt you.

ALISHA
You could never hurt me.

They kiss passionately.

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - NEXT DAY

Kelly and Gabi wait for Dr. Clark to come in.

KELLY
I'll be right here with you. Don't be afraid. He's a good listener.

Dr. Clark walks in, shakes Gabi's hand.

DR. CLARK
Hello, Kelly. Gabi, it's nice to meet you.

GABI
I've never done this before. I'm a
little nervous.

DR. CLARK
Just take your time and start from
the beginning.

GABI
Basically...
(beat)
I can't do this.

Kelly grabs Gabi's hand.

KELLY
Gabi, just try.

GABI
Look, when I was a little girl, my
Mom's boyfriend used to molest me.
And, when he got drunk, he'd burn
me with his cigarettes.

DR. CLARK
Did your mother know?

GABI
She did; but, she was scared. He
would beat her.

DR. CLARK
Why didn't your mother leave and
take you with her?

Gabi takes a deep breath.

GABI
Look, I can see by the Ivey League
diplomas on your wall that you
don't know much about poor people.
My Mom was an only child. Her
parents died in a car accident.
The rest of the family didn't want
her. She was in the system from
the time she was eleven until she
was eighteen. She used to talk in
her sleep about all of the things
that were done to her. I do not
blame her.

DR. CLARK
So, this is generational?

GABI

Yeah, if you want to call it that. She did the best she could. She was an unwed mother at eighteen. That's when the system cuts you off.

DR. CLARK

So, she had a difficult time providing for you.

GABI

Yes. She worked as a waitress, and that didn't pay the bills. Then she tried to get an office job, but she had no experience. A friend of hers suggested that she become a dancer.

DR. CLARK

A dancer?

Gabi takes another deep breath.

GABI

As in strip dancer.

DR. CLARK

Oh.

GABI

My Mom was a beautiful woman. She met this guy, Bill, when I was ten. He beat her and scarred her so badly that she couldn't dance anymore. So, we were stuck with him.

DR. CLARK

Why didn't she call the police?

Gabi sighs.

GABI

She did once. They treated her like a whore. They took him for the night. Then he came back and beat her some more. She gave up. Finally, his drinking killed him.

DR. CLARK

How is your mother now?

GABI
She's dead. She killed herself.
Nobody else wanted her. She was
damaged goods. No one ever loved
her or cared for her. She was
treated like a piece of garbage and
thrown away.

Dr. Clark pauses for a moment.

DR. CLARK
Did you finish high school?

GABI
Yes.

DR. CLARK
Any college?

GABI
No.

DR. CLARK
What do you do now?

GABI
I'm a waitress.

KELLY
She's also a part-time plus size
model.

GABI
Kelly, I get like two print jobs a
year.

DR. CLARK
How old were you when your mother
passed?

Gabi looks down.

GABI
I was eighteen.

DR. CLARK
Just in time for the system to...

GABI
Turn me loose.

DR. CLARK

I think you need at least weekly sessions. Do you have any health insurance?

Gabi sighs again.

GABI

No.

Dr. Clark looks through the contacts on his cell phone.

DR. CLARK

I have a daughter about your age. She is also a model. She is taking college courses on line. I think she might be able to help you. She works in the Dallas and Chicago markets. Here's her number. Give her a call tomorrow. I'll phone her tonight.

GABI

Are you for real?

DR. CLARK

Yes. I'd like you to schedule an appointment with my office assistant for next week. In the meantime, get as much rest as possible.

(beat)

We have a lot of work to do. There will be no charge until you get on your feet.

GABI

Thank you.

DR. CLARK

Your welcome.

INT. HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - LATER SAME DAY

Alisha sits on the couch. Michael brings the two of them a cup of coffee.

ALISHA

Thank you.

Michael kisses Alisha on the forehead. She smiles, takes a sip of her coffee.

ALISHA (CONT'D)

You know, after I found out about my condition, the first three mornings when I woke up, I felt so happy and rested. And then, about three seconds later, I would remember that I was dying. It was like it wasn't real, like someone pulled up a big curtain and covered my sky. I thought about how much I was going to miss sitting on the porch with everyone in the crisp morning air. On the third day, I went outside by myself and just soaked everything in -- the crackle of the leaves, the reflection of the sun and the way the air caressed my face. Then I felt like I was trapped in one of those Christmas snow balls -- that when you shake it, it snows. But, all I could do was look at the snow. I couldn't feel it, or taste it or make snow angels.

Michael looks away as tears well up in his eyes.

ALISHA (CONT'D)

I know this must be very difficult for you. If I were you I don't know if I'd be able to handle it.

Michael grabs Alisha's hand.

MICHAEL

I would do anything for you.

Alisha puts her coffee down on the table.

ALISHA

Is Justin doing better, or is he just being brave?

MICHAEL

He's being brave. Every night, he cries himself to sleep in Kelly's arms.

ALISHA

How is Kelly?

MICHAEL

She's just about to a breaking point.

Alisha takes a deep breath. Michael cups her face.

ALISHA

Thank you for comforting me. Every time that we make love -- I just -- you make it really special, and I always think it's going to be the last time. It's always so beautiful.

Michael kisses Alisha. She cries. He holds her in his arms.

INT. HOUSE/KITCHEN - NIGHT

Justin makes dinner. Gabi walks in.

GABI

Justin, guess what. I got a three year contract with my favorite plus-size clothing company!

JUSTIN

Alright! High-five!

They do a high five.

GABI

Where's Kelly?

JUSTIN

She's at work, cashing in a rain check.

Gabi grabs a bottle of water out of the fridge.

GABI

Really? With who?

JUSTIN

Her boss.

GABI

Is it a date?

JUSTIN

She called it a coffee break. Do people dress all in black for a coffee break?

Gabi smiles.

GABI

Yes, Justin, sometimes they do.

INT. COFFEE HOUSE - SAME NIGHT

Kelly and Alek sit at a booth by a window.

KELLY
Here we are.

ALEK
You look beautiful.

KELLY
Thank you. So, what are you going to have?

ALEK
A Cafe Mocha.

KELLY
Those are my favorite.

The waitress walks over to the booth.

ALEK
Two Cafe Mochas, please.

WAITRESS
With cinnamon, like last time?

Kelly and Alek look at each other.

ALEK (TO KELLY)
I don't take cinnamon, do you?

KELLY
Yes, please. Thank you.

WAITRESS
You have a sister that comes in here, don't you?

KELLY
Yeah, we look a lot alike.

WAITRESS
The last time she was here, this guy followed her and hid behind a column, watching her.

KELLY
Dark hair and glasses?

WAITRESS
Yeah.

Kelly looks down.

KELLY
They're a couple now.

WAITRESS
That's good. I haven't seen anyone
that lovesick in a long time.
Anyway, your coffees will be right
out. And, the band starts in five
minutes.

ALEK
We'd also like a bottle of red
wine.

WAITRESS
You got it.

ALEK
We'll be at the booth, over there
in the corner.

The waitress heads for the wait station. Alek leans in,
kisses Kelly.

KELLY
Oh, I don't kiss in public.

INT. COFFEE HOUSE - A FEW MINUTES LATER

The band plays. The lights are low. Kelly and Alek are
going at it hot and heavy at their booth in the back. Kelly
pulls away, fills their glasses with the last of the wine.

KELLY
I think we need to go somewhere a
little more private.

ALEK
How about your place?

KELLY
I share a room with Justin.

ALEK
I have company in from out of town.

EXT. COFFEE HOUSE - PARKING LOT - INSIDE THE CAR - LATER SAME
NIGHT

Kelly and Alek make out in the back seat.

ALEK

God, you're beautiful.

KELLY

So are you.

Suddenly, a flashlight being held by a POLICE OFFICER (thirties) shines down on them through the window. Kelly scrambles around, adjusts her blouse. Alek rolls down the window.

ALEK

Yes Sir, Officer Sir.

POLICE OFFICER

Could I see some identification?

Alek hands him his driver's license.

POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)

Oh, you own the restaurant. I go there quite often. Do you remember me? My name is Kurt, and my wife is Daisy.

ALEK

Oh, yes. How are you?

POLICE OFFICER

Have you two had a bit to drink?

ALEK

Yes, but -- we're not driving.

POLICE OFFICER

You know, if you want to get a room, I could drive you over to the Plaza Hotel.

KELLY (INTOXICATED)

Officer, that would be wonderful. This is kind of an emergency. I haven't been laid in ten long years.

EXT. PLAZA HOTEL/PARKING LOT - LATER SAME NIGHT

They arrive, exit the patrol car.

ALEK

Officer, for the rest of your life, your dinner will be on the house.

POLICE OFFICER
Heck yeah! You kids have fun. Now
go get a room and get undercover.

INT. HOUSE/ALISHA'S BEDROOM - NEXT DAY

Alisha sleeps. Michael is there with her, holds her hand.
She awakens. The NURSE (forties) turns to Michael.

NURSE
I'll be out side. It's near.

Michael looks at the nurse, then back at Kelly.

ALISHA
Are Mom and Dad here yet?

MICHAEL
They're on their way.

ALISHA
I love you.

MICHAEL
I love you.

There is a KNOCK at the door. Kelly enters the room, goes to
Alisha's bedside. Michael leaves the room.

KELLY
Hey, baby.

ALISHA
My big sister. I heard you had a
little trist.

KELLY
Oh yeah?

ALISHA
Yeah.

KELLY
It was amazing.

ALISHA
It's about time.

Kelly breaks down.

ALISHA (CONT'D)
I'll be just a breath away. You've
got to be strong.
(MORE)

ALISHA (CONT'D)

Justin's going to need you and Gabi and Michael so much after I'm gone.

KELLY

You're not going anywhere. I made a deal with God. I told him I'd be nice to Mom no matter what daggers fly out of her mouth.

ALISHA

You know you won't be able to do that.

Kelly runs her fingers through Alisha's hair.

KELLY

Oh, yes I can. I'll just transport myself to a wonderful memory or to an alternate reality.

ALISHA

Where's Justin?

KELLY

He's waiting outside. I'll go get him. I love you.

Kelly and Alisha embrace. Kelly leaves. Justin enters the room.

ALISHA

Hey, big man. How are you?

Justin cries.

JUSTIN

Alisha, I want you to get better.

ALISHA

Honey, I'm not going to get better. I'm going to live with the angels.

JUSTIN

But, I want you here with all of us.

ALISHA

I'll tell you what. I'll ask God if I can be your guardian angel. And, if he says yes, I'll sit on your shoulder and whisper in your ear. Okay?

JUSTIN

Okay.

ALISHA

Justin, can you ask Michael to come back in.

JUSTIN

Okay.

Justin turns to leave.

ALISHA

Justin, give me a big hug.

They embrace.

JUSTIN

I love you.

ALISHA

I love you, too. And remember, I'll always be with you.

Justin leaves. Michael comes in.

Michael sits beside Alisha, kisses her slowly.

MICHAEL

Stay with me.

ALISHA

I can't.

(beat)

You know what I heard? I heard that everybody in Heaven stays around the age of thirty.

MICHAEL

Really?

ALISHA

Yeah, so I'll be sure to have some beautiful astral wear on when you get there -- a long time from now. However, right now you need to find someone to share your life with.

MICHAEL

Never.

ALISHA

You have to.

Michael holds Alisha's hand as she closes her eyes. She opens her eyes, looks at Michael, smiles.

ALISHA (CONT'D)

It's so beautiful there. There's music, and loved ones; and, geometric shapes made of light. I will always love you and remember you.

(beat)

Go to Gabi.

Alisha takes a deep breath. Her soul departs as a stream of white ether travels upward from her solar plexus. Michael cries, squeezes her hand and kisses her once more.

INT. HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Family and friends, dressed in black, visit in the house. Michael stares straight ahead. He heads toward the back door.

EXT. HOUSE/BACK PORCH - SAME TIME

Tears stream down Michael's face. He looks up at the stars. He grabs a plant, hurls it onto the ground. It shatters. He sits still for a moment, then goes back into the house.

INT. HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Gabi looks at Michael.

MICHAEL

I'm going for a drive.

GABI

Michael, don't go.

MICHAEL

I won't be long.

GABI

Please don't go.

MICHAEL

I'm just going to listen to the radio and get some fresh air.

Gabi approaches Michael, hugs him.

BEGIN FLASHBACK.

INT. HOUSE/ALISHA'S BEDROOM - DAY

ALISHA
Go to Gabi.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. MICHAEL'S CAR - SAME NIGHT

Michael cries as he drives. A dog darts out in front of him. He swerves to miss it.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - SAME TIME

Michael hits a tree head on. He sees an APPARITION of Alisha. She swings Michael's door open and pulls him from the car, unharmed.

MICHAEL
Alisha?

ALISHA
It's not your time. Go to Gabi.

Alisha's spirit touches Michael's forehead. His eyes widen.

ALISHA (CONT'D)
Can you see it?

MICHAEL
Yes.

Gabi drives up, sees Michael. She stops her car and runs toward him.

GABI
Michael, are you hurt?

MICHAEL
I'm okay.

They embrace. Michael kisses Gabi. She cries.

GABI
You have no idea -- I just wish it wasn't now.

MICHAEL
She showed me us -- our future.

Gabi and Michael stare into each other's eyes. Michael kisses Gabi again.

As they walk back to Gabi's car, they are engulfed in a white light. Michael looks back, sees Alisha's APPARITION again. She smiles, then fades away.

FADE OUT.