

AURORA

Written by

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FADE IN:

**EXT. BABYLON BEACH - DAY**

White sands. Backed by a beautiful forest.

A tribe of gorgeous, mythical elvish-type people stand along the treeline. Dressed in simple, yet elegant forest tunics.

ALVIN (V.O.)

With the evil Erlking vanquished,  
and hope restored to the Gardens of  
Babylon, it was time for Durian to  
go.

Where the water meets the shore, floats a twenty foot wooden boat. And its owner,

DURIAN (30), handsome, tall, strong. Sword on his hip. With him,

PRINCESS FREYA (25), gorgeous, fair-skinned. Long, purple hair.

ALVIN (V.O.)

Even the restless sea stood still that day. As Princess Freya approached him, she had but one question in her heart, "Where will you go?" It was not the real question she wanted to ask. And Durian knew that. With his easy smile, he replied, "Everywhere." With a touch gentler than his seafaring hands should allow, Durian tilted Freya's lips to his.

Durian gently kisses Freya.

ALVIN (V.O.)

He gazed into her eyes one last time. More was said in this silence than could ever hope to be described. Then Durian turned back to the only home he has ever known.

Durian boards his vessel. Raises the sail. Departs.

Tribesmen line a long, rickety dock. Waving. As Durian departs, the people transform into tiny specks of light.

ALVIN (V.O.)

The Babylonian fairy tribe lined the dock, waving in salute to the man who had done so much for them. Touched though Durian was, his mind could only think of one. And the never ending what-if's and could-have-been's.

Freya fades in the distance. Remains in human form.

ALVIN (V.O.)

But those what-if's and could-have-been's were exactly like the girl standing on the beach...they were only dreams.

At last, Freya transforms into a speck of light and flies away.

**EXT. OCEAN/SAILBOAT - DAY**

Calm waters. Clear morning sky.

ALVIN ANDERS (mid-20s) scrawny. Nerdy. Always dresses business casual. Even on a boat. Types his story on a laptop. Closes the computer upon finishing.

He takes in the view. He's calm. And satisfied.

...But only for a moment. His peaceful expression turns to one of longing as he gazes out at the open ocean.

**EXT. DOCKS - LATER**

Alvin steers his boat into a slip. Waiting on the dock is--

ROY (mid-20s) very outspoken. Obnoxious even.

MARCO (mid-20s) great looking. Jacked. Strong silent type. Loves women.

DAVID (mid-20s) wise beyond his years due to being very well-traveled. Professional camera hangs from his neck.

ROY

You're late, dick weed. I'm starving.

MARCO

Yeah, I'm losing muscle as we speak, bro.

DAVID  
So where are we going for  
breakfast?

ROY  
You mean brunch?

DAVID  
He's not that late guys.

ROY  
Tell that to Marco's poor shrinking  
biceps. Pretty soon they'll be as  
small as his steroid balls.

MARCO  
At least I use my balls.

Roy ignores the insult.

ROY  
Foood.

DAVID  
Burrito Barn?

ROY  
Yaaas.

ALVIN  
I don't know guys...that place is  
usually packed.

ROY  
Because the burritos there are  
delicious.

ALVIN  
How about Jalisco's?

Marco and David grimace a bit. Roy obnoxiously gags.

ALVIN  
What? They have breakfast burritos.

ROY  
I'd rather not have my ass glued to  
the toilet seat for the next three  
days.

ALVIN  
Stop exaggerating.

MARCO

Seeing as how we have to share a bathroom with Roy, I vote Burrito Barn.

ALVIN

But we could walk right into Jalisco's. No waiting.

ROY

Hm. I wonder why. Allow me to refer you to my previous ass glue comment.

ALVIN

Then let's just eat at home.

ROY

No way--I'm sick of eating your canned chicken.

ALVIN

You could always not eat my canned chicken.

ROY

You know I can't do that.

DAVID

Guys--let's check out the Barn. If it's too crowded, we'll go to Jalisco's. Deal?

The guys process. Nod. No one happy.

**EXT. BURRITO BARN - LATER**

Small, locally owned, beach-themed restaurant.

Roy happily chants.

ROY

BURR-IT-O! BURR-IT-O! BURR-IT-O!

Alvin opens the door--

**INT. BURRITO BARN - CONTINUOUS**

Packed. And deafening. Every table full. Twenty people crammed into a small waiting area.

Alvin takes one look and bails.

**EXT. BURRITO BARN - CONTINUOUS**

Alvin marches up the street.

ROY  
 Nooo! Wait! It's--it's not that  
 bad! We'll be seated in no time!

The pleas fall on deaf ears as Alvin walks further away. Roy turns to Marco and David.

ROY  
 Guys--help--please. It's been so  
 long since we've had a Barn  
 Burrito.

Marco and David sheepishly shrug.

DAVID  
 What are we gonna do?

Marco and David follow Alvin.

ROY  
 Guys--no--wait--it's--it's...God  
 damn it!

Roy stomps after the gang.

**INT. JALISCO'S - LATER**

Near empty. But quiet and peaceful.

The guys at a booth. All look at menus. Roy pouts.

ROY  
 Stupid burritos are stupid.

MARCO  
 What time do you leave, broseph?

DAVID  
 Seven.

MARCO  
 Ouch. I'll say my goodbyes now.  
 Have fun in...where ever you're  
 going.

DAVID  
 Borneo.

ROY  
That's not a place.

DAVID  
(to Alvin)  
So the Caribbean?

No response.

DAVID  
I know you've been thinking about it.

ROY  
He also thought about going to Burrito Barn, aaaand look where we are now.

DAVID  
I'm telling you--we take the boat and island hop. Fish along the way. Sell what we don't eat.

ROY  
That boat's never leaving sight of the Florida coast.

DAVID  
We can stay close to land. Follow the islands all the way down to South America. Think of the adventure.

ROY  
The adventure's the problem.

DAVID  
That's not true. I know Alvin wants to go.

ROY  
Too bad he's a scared little vagina flap.

A WAITER approaches.

ROY  
'Bout time asshole. I'm starving over here. I want three of your diarrhea-inducing breakfast burritos. Extra guac--extra hot sauce--extra black olives--

WAITER

(barely audible over Roy)  
Would you like some chips and  
salsa, sir?

Alvin unsure what was said. Roy continues to talk.

ROY

Jalepenos--six pancakes--maple  
syrup--blueberry syrup--strawberry  
syrup--

DAVID

Roy, shut up.

ROY

Don't tell me to shut up--you shut  
up.

DAVID

Alvin's trying to order.

ROY

Well he can wait till I'm done.

DAVID

How? He can't hear anything.

Arguing continues. Gets louder.

ALVIN

Uh...I'll have the breakfast  
burrito.

Waiter a bit confused. Says something inaudible.

ROY

I want my food now. I've  
waited all morning. I'm about  
to keel over. David I swear--  
keep coming at me with you  
holier than thou bullshit and  
I'm gonna burrito fart all  
over your face--

DAVID

Stop being a child. Roy--  
stop. You know Alvin has to  
order. Why do behave like  
this every time? This is why  
we can't go out anywhere.  
It's embarrassing.

ALVIN

Um...with hashbrowns and, uh, water  
to drink please.

The Waiter stares at Alvin. Totally confused.

DAVID

Marco, please help.



MARCO

On it.

ROY

Don't touch me small balls.

Marco reaches over with his giant arm and covers Roy's mouth. Roy fights, but to no avail.

Silence. Then--

MARCO

AHHH!

Marco pulls his hand away from Roy's mouth as if burned.

MARCO

He licked me.

ROY

That's what you get.

DAVID

Marco--

Marco grabs Roy--covers his mouth--makes disgusted faces as Roy licks his palm. But Marco holds tight.

At last, silence.

Alvin can't help but stare at the whole fiasco. The Waiter follows his gaze--

And SEES NOTHING. Alvin is the only one in the booth.

The Waiter examines Alvin.

WAITER

Sir...are you okay?

ALVIN

I'm sorry, what were you saying?

WAITER

...We stopped serving breakfast at ten...so...I don't have breakfast burritos...

ALVIN'S POV

Roy screams bloody murder through Marco's hand.

Alvin winces at the loud scream. Waiter sees him flinch for no reason.

WAITER

Are you sure you're okay?

ALVIN

Yeah. Sorry. I think I'm going to go.

Alvin awkwardly scrambles out of the booth. Waiter beyond confused.

**INT. DR. JACOBS' OFFICE - DAY**

Standard therapy room. Nice. Clean.

Alvin sits in a comfy chair. Opposite him sits--

DR. JACOBS (50s), calm, caring.

Roy and Marco meander about the room. Mess with books and nick-nacks on the desk.

DR. JACOBS

So did you complete your homework assignment?

ALVIN

Um...sort of.

DR. JACOBS

Sort of?

ALVIN

Sort of.

DR. JACOBS

Where did you go?

ALVIN

Jalisco's.

Roy gags in BG.

DR. JACOBS

I thought you liked Burrito Barn.

ALVIN

Jalisco's has good burritos too.

ROY

(fake cough)  
Bullshit.

DR. JACOBS

Did you go to Jalisco's because it was less crowded?

ALVIN

...Maybe.

DR. JACOBS

Well good. You went out to a restaurant. How did it go?

ROY

How did it go? I'll tell ya how it went.

(points to Marco)

This ham-fisted giant nearly choked me to death!

MARCO

You shouldn't have licked me.

ROY

Dick.

ALVIN

...It didn't go great.

DR. JACOBS

Yes?

ALVIN

Dr. Jacobs, I don't think this approach is working. My anxiety isn't going away--if anything it's worse.

ROY

Suck it up, bitch.

ALVIN

And anytime I actually manage to speak to someone, the roommates go crazy and I can't concentrate and then I look crazy.

ROY

You are crazy.

DR. JACOBS

Alvin, we've been over this. Your roommates are defense mechanisms. In a way, they're simply trying to look out for you.

ALVIN

I don't think Roy is looking out for anyone but himself.

ROY

Hey--I'm sitting right here asshole.

DR. JACOBS

We knew this wasn't going to be easy. But I promise you, if you keep trying to meet people, and pushing yourself outside of your comfort zone, eventually the roommates' voices will become quieter.

Roy laughs.

ROY

This guy doesn't know me at all.

DR. JACOBS

I have an idea I'd like you to try. Since you like to write, why don't you go online and find a small writers group and sit in on a few meetings.

Alvin squirms in his seat.

DR. JACOBS

Let it be something you can enjoy. Something you can learn from. Something fun.

ALVIN

...I'm not so good at fun.

ROY

Tell me about it.

MARCO

Roy do I need to shut your mouth again?

ROY

I will lick you so hard...

DR. JACOBS

Try this: maybe for now...don't view the people as people. View them as computers. Or databases.  
(MORE)

DR. JACOBS (CONT'D)

Databases full of writing knowledge. They're not going to judge you or ask anything of you. They're simply there to provide information to you so you can better improve your writing.

Alvin squirms as he considers.

**EXT. LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT**

Alvin checks his phone. This is the place.

**INT. LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL/HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER**

Lockers line the hall. Alvin creeps along. Roy and Marco behind him.

ROY

God. This brings back a lot crappy memories.

MARCO

Speak for yourself.

ROY

That's right, I forgot. You peaked in high school. And now you long for that lost adolescent glory.

Marco pushes Roy against a locker.

MARCO

You're right. I did long for that.

ROY

Dick.

Alvin enters the--

**ENGLISH CLASSROOM**

About fifteen people in the room. Various ages and backgrounds.

Chairs arranged in a circle. Alvin finds a free one and quickly sits. Roy and Marco behind him.

ROY

Don't worry about us. We'll just stand... Asshole.

Marco spots two CUTE GIRLS.

MARCO  
Later losers.

Marco approaches the girls.

MARCO  
'Sup girls. I'm Marco. I know. My  
muscles are huge. But my biggest  
muscle of all...is my--

ROY  
Penis!

Marco shoves Roy away.

MARCO  
My heart.

ROY  
Lame.

JUDY (40s-60s) the group organizer. Overly nice and  
welcoming.

JUDY  
Okay everyone. It's time to get  
started. Take a seat. There you go.

Judy unnecessarily helps people find their way to chairs.  
Wears a massive smile the entire time.

ROY  
Why's she smiling like that?

JUDY  
Tonight's a very special night.

ROY  
It's freaking me out.

JUDY  
We have a new member in the group.

ROY  
Hey lady--fix your face.

JUDY  
Welcome to our group. We are sooo  
glad to have you.

Alvin nervously nods "hi."

JUDY

Oh won't you please stand and tell us all a little about yourself.

Alvin hides his panic. Slowly stands.

ALVIN

Um...

Silence. Alvin tries to find his words.

ROY

Hey idiot--I'm actually being quiet. Maybe you wanna say something and not be a crazy person?

ALVIN

Um...I...

Alvin takes a deep breath, but can't seem to get any air.

ROY

You're off to a great start buddy.

ALVIN

I...I...

MARCO

Roy.

Roy hears the worry in Marco's voice. Examines Alvin. Sees him really struggling and starting to hyperventilate.

ROY

God dammit--Alvin--hey--look at me. Breeeeathe.

Alvin takes another deep breath. Gets some air this time.

ROY

Good. Now tell the dorks your name.

Alvin struggles to find words.

JUDY

Are you okay dear?

Alvin nods.

ALVIN

My--my name is...

ROY

Alvin. Your name is Alvin Anders.  
Holy ball sweat.

ALVIN

Alvin Anders.

ROY

Now tell them you like fantasy  
novels like a good little incel.

ALVIN

My favorite genre is fantasy.

ROY

There we go buddy. Now tell them  
about your book about the guy with  
the stupid name.

ALVIN

I've written three novels so  
far...about an explorer in ancient  
times...named Durian.

ROY

Very nice. Now sit down before you  
hurt yourself.

Alvin sits.

A moment of awkward silence.

Judy to the rescue. Super excited again.

JUDY

Well we are sooo happy you're here.

She smiles wide and claps enthusiastically. Some of the other  
members join in. More out of awkwardness than actual  
enthusiasm.

ROY

See? See what I did there? I care  
about people other than myself. You  
pathetic little wiener.

JUDY

Okay--last time we studied the  
works of Hemingway. Today we are  
going to review what we learned and  
see if we can apply it to our own  
writing...



As Judy takes back control, Alvin relaxes a little. His eyes scan the group members. Nervously darting for fear of making eye contact with anyone--

Oops. He makes eye contact with a girl. And quickly stares down at floor--then to Judy as she continues to speak.

Alvin's eyes wander back to the girl--

AURORA (mid-20s) brunette save a highlighted streak of purple hair. Witty. Queen of sarcasm. Tendency to ramble.

Aurora catches Alvin's eye again. Gives a hesitant smile. -- Alvin awkwardly whips his gaze back to Judy.

**EXT. LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL - LATER**

Class over. Alvin exits the school. Roy and Marco behind him.

ROY

Oh my God that was sooo boring.  
Tell me we're not ever going back  
there.

ALVIN

(discreetly)  
You don't have to come you know.

ROY

Please. You would be lost without  
me.

Alvin turns up the street as the rest of the class exits the building.

Aurora scrambles past people--

AURORA

Great meeting guys. Good stuff. You  
know Hemmingway blows his head off  
with a shotgun right? Super cool  
role model. All right. See you next  
week. Hey new guy!

Surprised, Alvin turns to see Aurora calling to him.

AURORA

Slow your roll.

Alvin, Roy, and Marco dumbfounded.

ROY

Is a girl talking to you?

Aurora beelines to Alvin.

ROY

Holy crap. She's coming this way--  
what do we do? Crap--all right--I'm  
okay--you okay? Whatever you do--  
DON'T PANIC!

MARCO

Roy calm down.

ROY

I am calm you big oaf. She's not  
even that hot--she's kinda weird  
looking actually--what's with the  
hair? But beggars can't be  
choosers. Listen up Alvin--I got  
this. Just repeat after me--

MARCO

Roy shut up.

Marco grabs Roy. Cover his mouth. Roy struggles for freedom  
as Aurora approaches.

AURORA

Hey man. Alvin, right?

MARCO

Okay bro listen up. Kiss the back  
of her hand, look deep in her eyes,  
and say "Why yes, and who might you  
be?"

ALVIN

Uh...yeah.

AURORA

Hey. I'm Aurora. From, you know,  
the writers group. Cool speech.  
Especially liked the part where I  
thought you were going to pass out.  
Riveting.

ALVIN

Uh...

AURORA

Just messing with ya. Came by to  
say I got pretty jazzed when you  
said you liked fantasy. It's my  
favorite genre because it's like  
obviously the best genre.

(MORE)

AURORA (CONT'D)

Unfortunately, no one else in group likes it. All the guys are into sci-fi. And all the girls wanna write are romance novels--ugh sorry your dad didn't love you but spare me your thirteen year old wet dreams, am I right? Sorry. Anyway. Just wanted to say hi and uh, you know maybe we could look at each other's work sometime and help each other out. If you're down.

Roy yanks Marco's hand off his mouth.

ROY

Tell her you want to have her babies!

Marco quickly re-covers Roy's mouth.

MARCO

Sorry. Get over here Roy.

Marco drags a fighting Roy away from the conversation.

ALVIN

Um...yeah...that...cool.

AURORA

Sweetness. Um...I guess let me know if you want me to read your stuff. I'd be happy to give notes.

ALVIN

Oh, uh...yeah. Yeah I have some stuff.

AURORA

Kick ass. My info's on the group's page. Send the electrons my way.

ALVIN

Like, uh...a whole book?

AURORA

I devour books faster than life devours dreams.

ALVIN

Um...okay.

AURORA

I work as a barista. After the rats in the race get their morning fix, time moves slower than grandpa's metabolism. I bet I'd have your book finished in a couple days.

ALVIN

Do you...want to do like a swap?

AURORA

I have several novels in the oven but nothing ready to dish out. Should probably focus on one--but man--my mind--it's like "ahh". But anyway let's look at your stuff first and hopefully I'll finish one of mine soon.

ALVIN

Okay.

AURORA

Sweetness. Well glad you joined our little group of misfits and uh, can't wait to read your brilliance.

ALVIN

Okay. Me too.

AURORA

Kick ass.

Aurora exits. Roy and Marco come back.

MARCO

Nice job bro.

ROY

What?! Nice job?! Psh. If this ogre would've let me talk, weird girl would be coming home with us right now!

**INT./EXT. ALVIN'S HOUSE/ROY'S ROOM - DAY**

Alvin peeks through a crack in the door.

Roy plays video games.

ROY

Oh you little piece of--boom! And now you don't have a head.

Alvin sneaks off to--

**MARCO'S ROOM**

Alvin peeks in.

Marco lifts weights. Finishes a set. Poses.

MARCO  
God I'm gorgeous.

Alvin backs away to--

**FOYER**

Alvin quietly opens the front door. Exits.

**EXT. ALVIN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS**

Alvin locks the door. Smiles. He did it. Turns--  
Directly into Roy and Marco.

ROY  
Going somewhere?

Alvin's face drops.

ROY  
Did you think about asking if we  
wanna go? Huh? Huh? Mr. Rude  
McRudeFace.

ALVIN  
You looked busy.

MARCO  
Never to busy to go out.

ROY  
It happens so rarely.

ALVIN  
Please guys...can I just...go  
somewhere alone for once?

Roy and Marco looks at each other. Consider.

ROY AND MARCO  
No.

Alvin sighs.

ROY  
So where're we going?

ALVIN  
You know where I'm going.

Roy thinks...

ROY  
Who's Aurora?

ALVIN  
The girl from my writers group.

ROY  
Oh yeah--weird girl. Hey you got a date with weird girl!

MARCO  
Nice bro.

ALVIN  
She's giving me notes on my novel.

ROY  
I'd like to give her some notes on my novel.

MARCO  
What?

ROY  
I don't know.

ALVIN  
Guys please. I would like to get through this without her thinking I'm crazy.

Roy snorts.

MARCO  
Might I suggest not talking to yourself in public? People are staring.

An Older Couple (80s) watches as Alvin talks to no one. He smiles awkwardly as they walk by.

OLD MAN  
(to wife)  
And I thought I was losing my mind.

Alvin heads down the street. Roy and Marco follow.

**EXT. PARK/SWING SET - DAY**

Small park. Basically deserted.

Alvin sits alone on a swing while Roy and Marco play on the jungle gym in the BG.

ROY  
I'm King of Castle! Bow to me  
peasant.

Marco flips Roy the bird.

Aurora enters.

AURORA (O.S.)  
What up, man?

Alvin turns. Aurora stands, sipping soda through a straw.

ALVIN  
Oh. Hi.

She sits on the swing next to him.

AURORA  
Sorry I'm late. Stopped to get a  
soda. Needed to feel the comfort of  
a burning esophagus. You ever think  
about that? Not like we evolved  
drinking carbonated corn syrup so  
why the hell do we like this fizzy  
crap?

ALVIN  
I don't know.

AURORA  
Mysteries of the universe I guess.  
Cool meeting spot. Very creative. I  
feel tapped into my inner child.

ALVIN  
Yeah I just...it's never really  
crowded. And it's...a good source  
of entertainment.

Alvin gazes over to Roy and Marco now on the seesaw. Marco holds Roy captive in the air.

ROY

Hey fat ass--you're doing it wrong!

Aurora swings a bit.

AURORA

Swings were always my favorite.

ALVIN

Mine too.

AURORA

I liked to swing higher than everyone else. Then see how far I could jump.

ALVIN

I wasn't a big jumper.

AURORA

Were you a kicker or a sitter?

ALVIN

What?

AURORA

Did you swing yourself by kicking or sit while someone pushed you?

ALVIN

Um...well...kind of both. Sometimes a friend would push.

AURORA

We moved around a lot when I was a youngling. Making friends could be hard. But I could always swing by myself.

ALVIN

Hm...now that I think about it, I always had a friend who would push. Guess I was a sitter.

AURORA

I'll try not to hold that against you.

ALVIN

Thanks.

Aurora stops swinging.



AURORA

So I have a lot of notes but overall I thought Durian was kick ass man.

ALVIN

Really?

AURORA

Hell yeah. I thought Freya was the shit. I like how you made her this fierce leader but also still a chick, you know? Like she's the best warrior the fairies have-- savagely decapitating redcap heads right? But then, she gets to know Durian and slowly lowers her bitch shield and she doesn't have to be the fairy princess anymore. With Durian, she's just Freya.

ALVIN

Yeah--exactly. I'm glad that was coming across okay.

AURORA

Hell yeah. I mean--the chapter where Durian and Freya get captured and end up alone in the Erlking's cell. Holy crap. Way to kick my heart in the nads. And I mean that in the best way possible. Kudos.

ALVIN

Um, thanks.

AURORA

So one thing I would suggest is to have Freya first meet Durian in her fairy form. So like Freya could be spying on this intruder and maybe Durian knows he's being watched and he ends up capturing her but only to tell her to stop being a creepy fairy stalker. And then later when Durian has his first run-in with the Erlking, Freya can go all fairy warrior princess--save Durian--and then later when Freya and Durian argue over battle strategies, Freya can be all--surprise bitch--I was the fairy that saved your punk ass from the elf king. Mic drop.

ALVIN

...That's...that's pretty good.

AURORA

I was just riffing off your premise. Do you always put mythicals in your stories?

ALVIN

Um, yeah. Mostly. I have one where Durian frees enslaved centaurs that build the Pyramids of Giza.

AURORA

Ooooh, kick ass.

ALVIN

Yeah. And another where he dives below the Lighthouse at Alexandria to discover a vicious race of mermen--then he becomes the first man to ride a griffin as they fight off an army of manticore.

Aurora smirks.

ALVIN

What?

AURORA

No nothing. You just...when you talk about your stories you get really animated.

ALVIN

Oh. Sorry.

AURORA

No it's a good thing.

Alvin slightly embarrassed. Shifts the focus off himself.

ALVIN

What about you? What do you write about?

AURORA

Similar shit. I love mythicals too. But I guess I lean more toward people finding magic within themselves. Damn, that sounded sappy.

ALVIN

I bet your stories are really good.

AURORA

My stories are kick ass. Full of crazy characters and reversals--I love reversals. You think we're going this way? Boom. Vagina punch. We're going this way instead bastardos.

Alvin laughs.

ALVIN

Be cool to read some of your stuff sometime. I bet I could learn a lot.

AURORA

...Yeah... Yeah we can totally do that sometime.

ALVIN

Sorry. You probably don't want beginners reading your work.

AURORA

I don't think you're a beginner.

ALVIN

Still...I shouldn't have asked. I didn't mean to make it awkward.

AURORA

It's not awkward. You should totally be able to read my stuff. It's only...

ALVIN

It's your work. It's personal. You don't have to--

AURORA

No--it's...it's not that...

Aurora considers.

AURORA

If I tell you something, you promise not to tell it to the judgemental hacks that comprise our writers group?

Alvin nods. Aurora studies him.

AURORA

...I've never written anything...  
Nothing. No novels. No short  
stories. Nothing.

ALVIN

I don't understand. You said you  
had stories.

AURORA

Oh I have a beluga whale's worth of  
stories. ...Just can't seem to get  
them down on paper... Thing is I  
have a pretty bad case of that uh,  
attention disorder, and uh, every  
time I try to sit down and actually  
write...I can't seem to focus.  
Other thoughts race into my head.  
Sometimes it's new stories.  
Sometimes it's the breakfast I had  
that morning. Sometimes it's who  
would win in a fight between a  
clurichaun and a pixie. In any  
case, the end result is me having a  
bunch of kick ass stories I can't  
get out of my head.

Aurora obviously pained.

AURORA

So yeah--don't...don't think I'm  
some kind of great writer. ...I'm  
not really a writer at all.

Alvin studies her.

ALVIN

...You know...I started writing  
because I discovered that sitting  
down and just putting thoughts on a  
page helped to make...

Alvin glances over to Roy and Marco playing on the monkey  
bars.

ALVIN

It helped to make the world  
disappear. I like that part. ...But  
I really don't think I'm very  
creative. And I definitely have a  
lot to learn about how to build a  
story...so I'm wondering if maybe  
we would...be a good fit? For  
writing, I mean.

AURORA  
...Like...writing partners?

ALVIN  
If...if you want.

Aurora speechless for once.

AURORA  
You...you'd want to write with me?

ALVIN  
Sure.

AURORA  
And like...you would handle the actual writing part? And I could just be all in my head--crazy story thoughts whizzing by faster than a cocaine jackalope?

Alvin laughs.

ALVIN  
Um...yeah.

AURORA  
That would be...stupendous. Alvin that would...that would be totally tits.

Alvin laughs again.

ALVIN  
Okay. Good. Then...this is a thing?

AURORA  
Yes yes yes yep. Oh--actually on one condition. You have to say this is going to be totally tits.

ALVIN  
What?

AURORA  
Totally tits. I want you to say totally tits. Totally tits.

Alvin laughs.

AURORA  
Say eeeet!

ALVIN

This is going to be...totally tits.

AURORA

Yes! He said it! Put her there  
writing compadre.

The two fist bump.

**INT. ALVIN'S HOUSE/ROY'S ROOM - DAY**

Roy plays video games. Alvin and Marco enter.

ROY

What up guys--grab a controller--  
kill with me.

ALVIN

Maybe later.

ROY

Come on. Let's rip into these  
zombie hordes and massacre our  
fellow survivors as we struggle to  
find diminishing resources and come  
to grips with our humanity.

MARCO

We're going out tonight, bro. Be  
ready by eight.

ROY

What? Really? How? Why? Where we  
going?

MARCO

We'll hit the bars around  
Northgate.

ROY

Awesome! Boys night out!

(to Alvin)

It's about time you venture out  
into the alcoholic night like a  
drunken Batman. Course it'll  
probably be more like a newborn  
baby sea turtle stumbling to the  
sea...but hey--you're doing it!

ALVIN

Actually I'm staying home.

ROY  
The shit dude?

MARCO  
You and me bro. We'll be each  
other's wing man. We'll kill it.

ROY  
...What's going on here?

ALVIN  
I would only slow you down.

ROY  
Well of course you would. But  
that's okay, dude. You're my best  
friend. I'm not leaving you behind.

ALVIN  
No really. It's fine. You two go  
and have fun.

ROY  
And leave you here by yourself?

ALVIN  
Yeah. It'll let me get some work  
done.

ROY  
Work?

ALVIN  
Yeah.

ROY  
What work?

ALVIN  
Writing.

ROY  
At night?

ALVIN  
Yeah.

ROY  
Are you lying to me?

ALVIN  
You know I can't lie to you.

ROY  
Exactly. So tell me the truth.

ALVIN  
I am. I'm going to work on Durian.

Roy skeptical. Closes his eyes. Thinks.

ALVIN  
Roy--you don't have to--there's no need--I'm going to write--

Roy GASPS.

ROY  
You're going to write with weird girl!

Alvin sighs.

ROY  
And you were trying to get rid of me!

ALVIN  
I wasn't trying to get rid of you-- I was trying to look out for you. You don't want to stay here and write. It's...

MARCO  
Boring.

ALVIN  
So boring.

MARCO  
We'll have way more fun going out with booze and babes.

Roy considers.

ROY  
Sorry. Can't do it.

ALVIN  
What? Why not?

ROY  
Why not? Isn't it obvious? I can't have you dating some rando girl without my approval.



ALVIN

Okay, it's not a date. And--

ROY

You can't lie to me stupid. I know you're digging on weird girl's weirdness. Now as best friend, I'm obligated to ask a series of questions to verify she's not a psycho stalker that's going to come over and murder us all in our sleep.

ALVIN

You're not obligated to do anything--and she can't even kill you in your sleep.

ROY

Well she can kill you in your sleep and then I'd be dead.

ALVIN

Roy. Please. I just...I don't want her to think I'm crazy, okay?

Roy considers.

ROY

You know, I'm starting to think you're ashamed of us.

ALVIN

Damn it, Roy.

ROY

Hey--I was extremely well behaved when we went to the park--mostly because I was too busy pushing small balls off my castle--but still--you didn't even have the common decency to introduce your friends to this chick. So I guess I'll have to do it myself.

Alvin exasperated.

ALVIN

Okay. Look. If you go out with Marco and stay out all night, I'll buy you that new video game you want.

Roy GASPS.

ROY  
Zombie Slayer Two: The Beheading?!

ALVIN  
Yeah.

ROY  
Bribery. Well played sir.

Roy struggles deciding.

ROY  
You better really for real buy the game.

ALVIN  
You would know if I'm lying.

Roy thinks. Knows Alvin is telling the truth.

ROY  
All right.

ALVIN  
(still exasperated)  
Great.

ROY  
But you can't hide weird girl from your friends forever.

ALVIN  
Yeah. Just stay gone tonight.

MARCO  
You know, I could really use some new dumbbells.

ALVIN  
Don't start Marco.

Alvin exits.

**INT. ALVIN'S HOUSE/FOYER - EVENING**

Alvin dressed in usual business casual attire. Stands fixated on the door...

Waiting...

And waiting...

KNOCK KNOCK.

Alvin nervously runs his fingers through his hair. Checks his suit. Checks his breath. Opens the door.

AURORA  
Sup compadre.

ALVIN  
H-hey Aurora. Come in.

Aurora enters. Scopes the place out.

AURORA  
Nice crib.

ALVIN  
Thanks.

AURORA  
Really clean. You live here yourself?

ALVIN  
Um...yeah.

AURORA  
Lucky. Get this: I have three roommates. You believe that? Freakin' nightmare.

ALVIN  
You don't say.

Aurora spots a large bookcase.

AURORA  
Hey right on. Let's see how many of these I've read. Read it. Read it. Read it. Read it. Haven't read it. Read it. Read it. Never heard of it. Read it. Read it. Wait a minute--are these--you alphabetized them? Whoa. So many questions. So like what the hell do you do if you get a new book? Does everything shift? What if the book starts with 'A'? Do all the rest of the books have to move? Holy crap. Sorry. You can tell me to shut my gob. I need to shut my gob. Shutting my gob now.

Aurora purses her lips.

ALVIN  
You don't have to shut your...gob.

AURORA

No I do. I talk way to much and it's way annoying. Seriously. If I go off on a rant you can just look at me and go "Hey Aurora. Gob." And I'll shut it.

ALVIN

I wouldn't do that.

Aurora sizes him up.

AURORA

...No...I don't think you would.

ALVIN

...I don't...I don't talk that much so...you can talk as much as you want.

Aurora smiles. A bit touched.

AURORA

...Right on.

ALVIN

...Um, can I get you something to drink?

AURORA

Uh, yeah. What do you got?

ALVIN

Um, you can, follow me to the dining room. I have some soda.

AURORA

Sweetness. No pun intended. Ha. I'm a such clever writer.

ALVIN

I know you said you like soda but I didn't know what kind of soda was your favorite so I...

Alvin and Aurora turn into the--

## DINING ROOM

A full-sized table filled with two-liter soda bottles aligned in a perfect grid.

ALVIN  
I kind of got all the soda.

This is odd. Even for Aurora.

AURORA  
...You sure did get all the soda...

ALVIN  
(proud)  
Yeah.

AURORA  
You didn't have to go through all  
the trouble.

ALVIN  
It's no trouble.

AURORA  
I would've pretty much drank  
anything.

ALVIN  
I know but...I just wanted to make  
sure you felt comfortable.

Aurora sees he is genuine.

AURORA  
Well. Mission accomplished.

ALVIN  
So what's your favorite?

AURORA  
Oh right. Um, root beer. My  
favorite is root beer.

ALVIN  
R... R...

Alvin searches.

AURORA  
You alphabetized them?

Alvin shrugs. Pulls out a root beer. Proceeds to pour two  
glasses.

AURORA  
(not necessarily a  
compliment)  
(MORE)

AURORA (CONT'D)

Man you may be the most organized person I've ever met.

ALVIN

Thanks.

AURORA

(sotto)

Out of curiosity...

Aurora removes one of the bottles from the grid. Sets it on the table.

Alvin confused.

ALVIN

Do you want some of that?

AURORA

No.

ALVIN

Oh... Okay... I'm just going to put it back then. That way we can find it if we need it.

Aurora playfully smiles.

AURORA

Good thinking.

Alvin hands Aurora a glass of root beer. Aurora raises it in a toast.

AURORA

Here's to our newfound partnership. May we have unlimited success without going completely insane like all of my favorite authors.

ALVIN

Cheers.

AURORA

Oh--so--I had thought about what we could write. But if you don't like the idea, you have to tell me.

ALVIN

Okay.

AURORA

Seriously. Just tell me you don't want to do it. I have a million other ideas.

ALVIN

Okay.

AURORA

All right so the thing is I really like Durian and Freya and I was thinking maybe we could work together on their story?

ALVIN

Really?

AURORA

Yeah. Is that okay? Or was it bad to ask? I know Durian is your baby and I'm asking you to share your baby and who wants to share a baby-- that's weird--so if you don't want me to mess with your story, I completely get it--

ALVIN

No, I--I think it's a great idea.

AURORA

Really? Because I have a ton of ideas--like the Erlking can escape his fairy banishment and take over all of Babylon and it'll be up to Durian and Freya to save everybody but they can't get along but then they do and sexual tension rises and Freya gets captured and Durian has to rescue her and it'll be a twisted Disney princess story that's totally tits--but you can say no. It's cool man. We can definitely write something else.

Alvin smiles.

ALVIN

Let me grab my laptop and start writing some of this down.

AURORA

Freakin' kick ass, compadre.

**INT. ALVIN'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT**

Alvin on the couch. Laptop on the coffee table. A spiral notebook next to it. Both perfectly aligned with the table edges.

The rest of the table littered with coffee house napkins with notes scribbled down.

Aurora paces.

AURORA

I don't have the exact ending yet but it's obviously going to be a sick battle where countless gallons of green elvish blood waters the Babylon Forest grass.

Alvin laughs.

ALVIN

Sounds perfect. I think we have enough for tonight.

AURORA

Good because my brain is running on fumes.

ALVIN

I'll start writing the chapters we know are going in the story while we figure the rest out.

AURORA

Sweetness. This went spectacularly boss right?

ALVIN

It did.

AURORA

Yeah. We're gonna be like super famous writers. For sure.

Alvin smiles and shrugs.

AURORA

All right, maybe not famous. But I bet if we keep at it we can get published one day.

ALVIN

Hm. Suppose that'd be cool.



AURORA

Cool!? Cool!? It'd be cooler than cool--it'd be frozen penguin poop cool.

ALVIN

I guess I never really thought about it.

AURORA

Never thought about it? Never--how have you never--what do you do for a living again? I never asked.

ALVIN

I'm a database engineer.

AURORA

Ooh. No idea what that means. Sounds smart.

ALVIN

I'll look at a company's database and find ways to make it more efficient both in speed and size.

AURORA

Wait a minute Mr. Soda Sorter. You're telling me your job is to organize data?

ALVIN

I never thought about it quite like that, but yes.

AURORA

That's perfect. You have a cool job. But it's not penguin poop cool. Just imagine your name on a book cover. Alvin Anders. Both our names actually. Under Alvin Anders: Aurora Belle.

ALVIN

I thought you said your last name was Brown.

AURORA

It is. But, Brown--yuck--Aurora Belle sounds so much better. Don't you think?

ALVIN

It has a ring to it.

AURORA

Exactly. Aurora Belle in big, bold font. Shove it in our pretentious writers group's faces.

ALVIN

...You don't seem to like the group very much.

AURORA

I mean they're fine--they're good people and all that. It's only...I don't really fit in there. I think I'm gonna stop going.

ALVIN

Oh. ...I, uh...was looking forward to actually knowing somebody next time the group met.

AURORA

Yeah...I just don't think it's working for me. But you know we kinda have our own group now. Right? Screw them. I mean I'm liking our group better anyway.

ALVIN

Yeah. Me too.

AURORA

Yeah. Screw those tools.

ALVIN

Yeah....screw them.

Aurora laughs.

AURORA

One day I'm going to get you to where you can casually curse.

Alvin smiles back.

BOOM.

The front door flies open. Roy and Marco pile in--crash on the floor--drunk. Laughing uncontrollably.

Alvin freezes. Aurora obviously oblivious.

ROY

I'm okay. I'm okay. I'm up.

Roy doesn't get up. Marco notices the date in progress.

MARCO

Oh shit. Date's not over. Roy--we gotta...gotta go--

ROY

Hey! Weird girrrrl!

MARCO

No--Roy.

Marco places a hand over Roy's mouth. He struggles to pull a fighting Roy out of the house.

AURORA

You all right?

Alvin frozen. Confused, Aurora follows his gaze. Sees nothing. Turns back to Alvin.

ALVIN

Huh? What? Yeah. Fine. Why?

ROY

Let me go.

MARCO

Stop it.

AURORA

You uh, kind of look like you jacked into the Matrix there.

ROY

I have to talk to weird girl.

MARCO

No you don't.

ROY

Yes I do.

MARCO

She doesn't want to talk to you.

ROY

Yes she does--everybody loves me.

ALVIN

What? No. Nooo. Sorry. I, uh, think I'm just getting a little tired.

AURORA

Saggy tits--it's almost two thirty.  
I can't believe we worked that  
long.

Roy finally escapes. Stumbles to Aurora.

ROY

Hey--hey--hey! Weird girl.  
Weird girl.

Marco lays on the ground. About to pass out.

MARCO

Sorry bro. I can't...do we have any  
bread?

ROY

Weird girl! Look at me when I'm  
shouting at you!

AURORA

Guess creating genius art takes  
time.

ROY

Hey. I'm Roy. I'm this asshole's  
best friend. So you'll be wanting  
to impress me so that you can  
receive my blessing.

Marco stumbles around the kitchen in the BG.

ALVIN

We were on a roll.

AURORA

Hell yeah we were.

ROY

What do you think of my dude here?  
Are you--are you gonna treat him  
right?

AURORA

Sweetness. I'm gonna bounce.

ROY

He's a sensitive guy. You can't be  
all...mean...and stuff...ya know?

ALVIN

Okay.

ROY  
Hey--where going? Wait for me...

They walk to the--

**FOYER**

Alvin moves rather quickly. Opens the front door. Roy stumbles after them.

AURORA  
God, I'm gonna be the living dead tomorrow. Totally all "gwaaaaa".

ROY  
Let's--let's cut to the chase. You--you wanna have this guy's babies right?

AURORA  
Good thing I work at a coffee shop huh?

Alvin nervously laughs.

ALVIN  
Yeah...that...that helps.

ROY  
I know he's not much to look at. But he's...smart...and stuff...

AURORA  
All right man. Text me when you wanna have another writing sesh. Later.

ALVIN  
Bye.

ROY  
Hey--where going? You didn't answer my questions!

Aurora exits.

ROY  
This wasn't a good first impression, missy! You're gonna--gonna have to do a lot more to win my approval if you want my buddy's baby gravy!

Alvin closes the door.

ROY

I'm not so sure about weird girl.  
She's kinda...weird. ...But we'll  
discuss this later...I'm...I'm  
going to...floor.

Roy lays down and passes out next to a passed-out Marco  
clutching a loaf of bread.

**INT. DR. JACOB'S OFFICE - DAY**

Alvin and Dr. Jacobs seated. Roy meanders around.

ALVIN

Then Roy comes barging inside--

ROY

I quietly entered the premises.

ALVIN

Completely wasted.

ROY

A little tipsy.

ALVIN

And proceeds to yell at my date.

ROY

And politely introduced myself.

ALVIN

He completely ruined everything.

ROY

I was a perfect gentleman.

DR. JACOBS

Roy can't ruin anything unless you  
allow him to.

ALVIN

Yeah yeah, I get it. He's in my  
head so it's all my fault. Except  
for the fact that it's all his  
fault.

ROY  
(mock serious)  
You can't blame others for how you  
feel. Only you control how you  
feel.

DR. JACOBS  
You can't blame others for how you  
feel. Only you control how you  
feel.

Roy laughs.

ROY  
How much are we paying this guy?

DR. JACOBS  
You don't have to let him get to  
you.

ROY  
I swear, it's like he doesn't know  
me at all.

DR. JACOBS  
So tell me more about Aurora.

ALVIN  
She's great.

DR. JACOBS  
Yes?

ALVIN  
She's really cool. ...Really cool.  
And I don't think she thinks she's  
cool. Which makes her even more  
cool. And it's probably good she  
doesn't know because I don't think  
she'd talk to me if she knew.

DR. JACOBS  
I doubt that's true.

ROY  
I don't know. Seems pretty accurate  
to me doc.

DR. JACOBS  
You seem to really like her.

ALVIN  
Yeah, but not like that.

ROY  
(coughs)  
Bullshit.

DR. JACOBS  
I didn't necessarily mean it like that. If there is a bit of a romantic spark that's great. But a plutonic relationship is fantastic too. That's been our goal for a while, correct? Getting you to meet new people. Make real friends.

ROY  
Hey--he has real friends jackass.

DR. JACOBS  
So when are you seeing her again?

Alvin shrugs.

DR. JACOBS  
You seem apprehensive.

ALVIN  
...So far I've managed to keep the roommates under control.

ROY  
Pssh. Control this.

Roy flips Alvin the bird.

ALVIN  
But it's only a matter of time before something bad happens.

DR. JACOBS  
Have you considered telling Aurora about the roommates?

ROY  
That's what I said.

ALVIN  
Yeah right.

ROY  
But this dill hole's ashamed of us.

DR. JACOBS  
You should think about it. There's nothing to be embarrassed about.



ROY

That's what I'm saying, doc. I mean, who wouldn't want to know me?

DR. JACOBS

And it's usually better to be honest up front about these things.

ROY

Good point doc. Plus I'm an absolute joy to be around. I really don't see what the problem is here.

ALVIN

That's easy for you to say. I'm already awkward and anxious as it is. And the moment I tell her, "Hey, just FYI: I'm a little schizophrenic. But not the all out crazy kind of schizophrenic. Just a little schizophrenic. Like the kind where right now there's a drunk guy shouting questions at you to verify your baby making potential." How do you think she'll react to that?

DR. JACOBS

I suspect she will have some questions.

ALVIN

Yeah... None of them good.

**INT. ALVIN'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY**

Alvin on couch. Looks over notes. Aurora paces.

Periodic, muffled video game explosions and gunfire that Alvin tries to ignore.

AURORA

All right. So. If the impish little redcaps capture Freya and all of the fairies, then that means Durian is on his own. So he either fights the Erlking or rescues the fairies first.

ALVIN

Durian's good. But I don't think he's take on an entire evil elvish army good.

AURORA

Right...

Video SFX grow louder as an OS bedroom door opens. Roy darts in. Grabs some chips and soda from the kitchen.

ROY

Oh my GOD--this new game is brutal! I'm gonna have nightmares about zombie hordes ripping my face off. You should definitely get in on this. What are you guys doing? Writing? Ugh--boring. Look--I'm sure you want my creative genius but I don't have time for your little nerd stories right now. I have to kill a lot of zombies and save humanity so...yeah my hands are kinda tied. Come join if you decide to quit being lame.

Roy exits to his room.

AURORA

So he rescues the fairy army. Except...they're all locked a mile deep in the Erlking's dungeon guarded by elves, trolls, and a fire-breathing dragon.

ALVIN

Kind of hard to believe Durian getting through all of that. Even for a fantasy story.

AURORA

It definitely feels squishy.

Doorbell RINGS.

AURORA

Expecting company?

ALVIN

No it's...it's food.

AURORA

Nourishment? Sweetness I'm starving. Mind if I nom on something? I'll pay ya back.

Alvin opens the door. Grabs a box. Brings it inside.

ALVIN  
Um...I'm not sure you'll like it.

AURORA  
What is it?

ALVIN  
...Chicken.

AURORA  
I like chicken.

ALVIN  
In a can.

AURORA  
...What?

Alvin walks to the--

#### **KITCHEN**

Aurora follows. Alvin unpacks the cans. Puts them in perfect order in a cabinet.

ALVIN  
Chicken in a can.

AURORA  
Not gonna lie. That pretty much sounds like grossness.

ALVIN  
It's better than it sounds.

AURORA  
Is it though?

ALVIN  
Not really.

Aurora laughs.

AURORA  
Then why do you eat it dummy?

ALVIN  
It's healthy. And easy.

AURORA  
And makes you not wanna live.

ALVIN  
Pros and cons.

AURORA  
All right food masochist. I say we take a break from our Durian problem and grab some grub.

ALVIN  
Um, how about we order in?

AURORA  
Naw, man. We can't chow down where we throw down.

ALVIN  
What?

AURORA  
I'm saying we gotta refuel our minds as well as our bodies. And to refresh our minds we have to go out and do some living and have some fun.

ALVIN  
We can't do some living here? That sounds fun.

Aurora laughs.

AURORA  
Hey you know the Burrito Barn right? Their breakfast burritos are tits. Ya down?

ALVIN  
Um...you go ahead. I just got all this chicken and uh, we can write again in a couple hours?

AURORA  
Whoa--you really don't want to go out, do you?

ALVIN  
Um...yeah, I don't...really go out much.

AURORA  
Really? But I've seen you go out several times.

ALVIN

Yeah...it's not so much the out as it is the...people...that are out.

AURORA

Psh. I've seen you talk to people.

ALVIN

When?

AURORA

Uh... Oh--you stood up and introduced yourself to the writers group.

ALVIN

Yeah, and I almost puked on Miss Judy.

AURORA

Damn, I kinda forgot about that. All right. I know what we need. We need a game.

ALVIN

A game?

AURORA

Yeah. A kick ass game. I played this when I was a kid. See you're problem is you're stifled.

ALVIN

I'm stifled?

AURORA

So stifled. So to get you un-stifled, we have to pretend to be the most confident--fun loving--don't give a shit what people think--suck my balls--I'm doing what I want--when I want--all the time--mother suckers on the planet.

Alvin has no clue what she's talking about.

AURORA

We have to be rock stars.

ALVIN

Oh...but--

AURORA

Here.

Aurora moves to the counter. Pretends to open a guitar case and pull out a guitar with extreme reverence.

AURORA  
This is Geneva.

ALVIN  
Uh...Geneva?

AURORA  
You can call her Ginny. She's the best air guitar I've ever owned. Here.

Aurora places the "guitar" over Alvin's head. He holds it. Aurora beams.

AURORA  
How's it feel?

ALVIN  
Good?

AURORA  
Hell yeah.

Aurora opens another "case" and pulls out another air guitar.

AURORA  
Now this battle axe is Dreamweaver. Oh yeah. The power of Poseidon's trident.

Aurora drags Alvin back to the--

## **LIVING ROOM**

Aurora plays a ROCK SONG on her phone.

AURORA  
Hell yeah. Time to rock out with our metaphorical cocks out.

Aurora shreds her air guitar. Alvin watches. Still a bit confused.

AURORA  
That air guitar's not gonna play itself, man.

ALVIN  
Oh.

Alvin awkwardly holds his guitar. Watches Aurora to see what to do. Begins to "play".

AURORA  
Like this. You gotta strum.

Alvin strums.

AURORA  
There you go. Now work on your fingering. Ginny loves to be fingered.

ALVIN  
You had to make it gross.

AURORA  
Shut up and finger Ginny.

Alvin mimics Aurora.

AURORA  
Hell yeah. You got the guitar down.  
Now you gotta work on the attitude.

Aurora bobs her head. Wears a "stank" face.

Alvin mimics her. Looks too funny to be cool. But he's trying.

AURORA  
Yeeeeeah! All right. Little more rock. Little less agitated baby panda.

ALVIN  
Hey--I know.

Alvin grabs Aurora's phone--turns on a sound system--plugs in an auxiliary cable--

The music BLASTS out of Alvin's entertainment center speakers.

AURORA  
Totally tits!

Aurora rocks even harder. Alvin tries to keep up.

She falls to the floor--still playing--gets up--shoves all her loose napkin notes on the floor.

Alvin moves to pick them up--

AURORA  
Don't you dare.

He stays.

Aurora steps up on the couch. Bounces. Calls for Alvin to join.

AURORA  
Come on.

Alvin not comfortable with this.

ALVIN  
Um...

AURORA  
You gotta join me up on stage man.

ALVIN  
Uh...

AURORA  
You can do it.

Aurora reaches out her hand...

Alvin takes it. Steps onto the couch.

AURORA  
Now shred!

The two play as if their lives depended on it. Attitude and everything.

AURORA  
WOOOOO!

Aurora unties her hair. Whips it wildly. Smiles ear to ear.

Alvin mesmerized...

As the two continue to shred.

**INT. BURRITO BARN/ENTRANCE - DAY**

Crowded. But no one waiting.

Alvin and Aurora enter.

AURORA  
You got this rock star.



Alvin doesn't look like he has it. But nods and approaches the HOSTESS.

ALVIN  
Um...table for two.

HOSTESS  
We're cleaning off some tables now.  
It'll be just a few minutes.

Alvin nods.

AURORA  
See? Piece of cake. Whoa--look--

Aurora points to a flyer.

AURORA  
The fourth of July carnival. This is like my favorite. I go every year. I freakin' love fireworks. Do you ever go to this--oh...

Alvin embarrassed.

AURORA  
You know, I don't really go every year. Sometimes I watch the Disney fireworks on TV. I mean, they have Tinkerbell. And Tink is the shit.

HOSTESS  
Your table is ready. Follow me.

AURORA  
Sweetness. Remember. Rock star.

Aurora plays a riff on her air guitar before following the hostess.

Alvin takes a deep breath. Then follows into--

### **BURRITO BARN**

A CACOPHONY OF CHATTER.

Tables close together. They weave through a path.

Alvin's heart POUNDS--

Takes long, slow breaths--

He focuses on solely on the back of Aurora's head. Tries to block out noise around him.

She turns to check on him.

AURORA  
You all right?

He can barely hear her. But nods.

They continue to weave through the dining area. Alvin squirms to avoid grazing the back of anyone's seated head.

Alvin's heart BEATS FASTER.

Meal finished, a Patron scoots his chair back--bumps into Alvin--

Avlin stumbles--pulse RACING--

He clutches his heart--beating a million miles a second--

Can't breath--

He hyperventilates--GASPING--

Aurora turns--

AURORA  
Alvin!

She races to him.

AURORA  
Calm down--breathe--

Alvin backs away--he can no longer breathe--has to get out--

Stumbles back--becomes dizzy--overwhelmed--

Turns at the last second to avoid hitting Aurora--

And vomits all over a MALE PATRON.

MALE PATRON  
What the hell?!

Male Patron pissed. Everyone in the restaurant freezes.

Patron shoves Alvin to the floor.

MALE PATRON  
What the hell is the matter with you?!

Patron towers over Alvin--

Aurora hovers over Alvin--intervening--

AURORA  
He didn't mean to.

MALE PATRON  
I'm gonna rip out your stomach and  
squeeze it's juices down your  
throat--

AURORA  
It was an accident.

PATRON'S WIFE  
Jim--

JIM/MALE PATRON grabs Alvin--lifts him up by the collar--

Patron's WIFE reaches out a calming hand to her husband.

PATRON'S WIFE  
Honey...

Patron still livid but restrains himself. Releases Alvin.  
Marches off to presumably the bathroom.

Aurora turns back to Alvin--

Only to find him fleeing out the door.

**EXT. BURRITO BARN - CONTINUOUS**

Aurora exits the Barn. Looks around. Spots Alvin a little  
ways up the--

**STREET**

Alvin hunched over a planter. He puked again.

He slowly catches his breath.

Aurora cautiously approaches.

AURORA  
...You all right?

Alvin slowly nods.

AURORA  
I, uh... I'm sorry... I didn't  
know...I mean, you told me  
but...I'm sorry. I didn't know.

ALVIN  
I want to go home.

AURORA  
Yeah... Okay.

The two walk in silence.

**EXT. ALVIN'S HOUSE - SHORTLY LATER**

Alvin unlocks his door. Aurora tries to ease the awkwardness.

AURORA  
Hey uh...you know what sounds good  
right now? Chicken in a can. How  
about I make some sandwiches while  
you clean up?

ALVIN  
I think I've had enough for today.

AURORA  
...Right. ...I guess uh, text me  
when you want to write again. Okay?

Alvin solemnly nods.

AURORA  
...Okay.

Aurora awkwardly exits. Alvin enters his house.

**INT. ALVIN'S HOUSE/FOYER - CONTINUOUS**

Alvin closes the door. Sinks to the floor. And sits there.  
Utterly humiliated.

**INT. DR. JACOB'S OFFICE - DAY**

Alvin and Dr. Jacobs sit in their usual spots.

DR. JACOBS  
I'm sorry that happened. But I am  
proud of you for pushing past your  
comfort zone.

No response.

DR. JACOBS  
How are you feeling now?

ALVIN  
...Humiliated.

DR. JACOBS  
That's understandable. But there's another way to look at it: you had an embarrassing episode, but you survived. You're still standing.

ALVIN  
Great.

DR. JACOBS  
I'm serious. In order to grow, we have to go through hard times. And other than a couple bad memories, I would say you got through this hard time relatively unscathed.

Alvin shakes his head.

DR. JACOBS  
You disagree?

ALVIN  
Things are different now.

DR. JACOBS  
What's different now?

ALVIN  
Everything.

DR. JACOBS  
What's everything?

ALVIN  
With Aurora.

DR. JACOBS  
From what you told me, I would say Aurora was there for you. If anything, you learned she's a good friend.

ALVIN  
She'll never look at me the same.

DR. JACOBS

Why's that?

ALVIN

I couldn't even walk through a restaurant and eat lunch like a normal person. I got pushed down. And threatened--almost beaten-- And she had to stand up for me. I'm weak in her eyes now. And I am weak. But at least for a while she didn't know that. Now it's over.

DR. JACOBS

You suffer from some very real health problems. That doesn't make you weak. And I'll bet Aurora is the type of person who understands that.

ALVIN

...You didn't see the way she looked at me... But I'll never forget it... She pities me now... And that'll always be there.

**INT. ALVIN'S HOUSE/ALVIN'S ROOM - DAY**

Alvin in bed. Blinds drawn.

Roy and Marco enter.

ROY

Hey buuddy. How ya feeling?

No response.

ROY

Good. Good. Glad to hear it. Hey-- guess who came to see you?

David enters.

ROY

Our slightly pompous, world traveling photographer.

DAVID

Hey Alvin.

No response.

DAVID  
Heard you had a bit of a moment.

ROY  
Ha. A moment? It was full on  
Exorcist. A fountain of bwaaaa.

DAVID  
Okay Roy--

ROY  
Right on this big dude that was all  
"I'm gonna crush you and eat your  
skull."

DAVID  
Okay--

ROY  
And Alvin was all "Nooooo."

DAVID  
I got it Roy.

ROY  
Jeez. Fine. Just filling you in on  
the details.

DAVID  
What do you say we take the boat  
out? I'll tell you about my travels  
and show you my pictures.

No response.

ROY  
Is that the best you got?

MARCO  
How about we all workout?

ROY  
Really? Your solution is lifting  
heavy shit?

MARCO  
I always feel better after a  
workout.

ROY  
The scrawny kid could use a  
workout. He's not buff like us.

Roy flexes non-existent muscles. No response from Alvin.

DAVID  
What's wrong Alvin? Talk to us.

MARCO  
It's obvious. He lost all  
confidence.

ROY  
Psh--he never had confidence.

MARCO  
There's only one way to get it  
back.

DAVID  
Hope everyone's hungry. We're going  
to the Barn.

ROY  
Yeah right. This vagina flap isn't  
going anywhere.

MARCO  
He doesn't have a choice.

DAVID  
Not if he wants gain back some  
sense of respect.

Roy blows wind through his lips.

ROY  
That's Alvin's flap blowing in the  
wind.

DAVID  
You need to be encouraging Roy.

ROY  
Fine. Hey! Get up you sad sack of  
flap!

DAVID  
Not what I meant.

Alvin stirs. Sits on the edge of the bed. Takes a deep  
breath.

ALVIN  
Okay...

Alvin exits.



ROY  
See? I can be encouraging.

**INT. BURRITO BARN/ENTRANCE - DAY**

Alvin and all the roommates enter. Alvin approaches the Hostess, same one as before. She recognizes him.

HOSTESS  
Oh...

ALVIN  
Alvin Anders. I called to reserve a table.

HOSTESS  
Um...

She checks her list.

HOSTESS  
Right. We have a table ready...

Alvin takes a deep breath. Nods.

HOSTESS  
Um, sir...I remember you from...the last time you were here...

ALVIN  
Oh.

HOSTESS  
...You caused quite the scene.

ALVIN  
I'm sorry.

HOSTESS  
Are you...sure you want to eat here?

ROY  
Back off lady. You don't know how long I've wanted this burrito.

DAVID  
You're okay Alvin. You can do this.

Alvin nods. Determined.

ALVIN  
I'm...ready this time.

HOSTESS

Okay...it's just that...I was the one who had to clean up the mess last time.

Alvin nods. Embarrassed.

MARCO

Easy guys. I'll handle this.

Marco steps up. Flashes a bright smile.

MARCO

Hey babe. How 'bout a table?

ALVIN

Please. It's important that I eat here. ...Maybe there's a...quiet table somewhere?

Hostess's expression says: "Are you serious?" The roar of the diners obvious.

ALVIN

Please.

Hostess softens.

HOSTESS

Let me check.

She runs off.

DAVID

You're doing good Alvin.

MARCO

Yeah we got your back.

ROY

I just want a burrito.

Alvin notices the Fourth of July carnival flyer that Aurora looked at last time. He becomes entranced by it. Pulls it off the wall. Deep in thought.

HOSTESS (O.S.)

Sir?

She breaks Alvin from his trance.

HOSTESS

Follow me.

Alvin takes a deep breath. Follows Hostess into--

### **DINING AREA**

Hostess keeps an eye Alvin as she quickly maneuvers through the maze of tables.

DAVID

Let's go guys. Marco, take point.  
Roy, left flank.

MARCO

On it.

ROY

Sir yes sir!

The roommates surround Alvin. Forming a human wall that forces people to keep their distance.

ROY

All right people. Just keep eating your slop. Nothing to see here. Sir if you don't finish that beautiful burrito you'll rot for eternity in hell.

DAVID

Roy! Back in formation.

ROY

Sorry.

The team makes it to the--

### **OUTSIDE DECK**

Hostess leads Alvin to a small table at the end. Still other tables nearby, but at least most of the table is surrounded by walls.

HOSTESS

This is best we have.

Alvin beelines to it. Puts his back against the wall. Seems to relax a bit.

ALVIN

No this is great. Thank you.

HOSTESS

Okay. Your server will be with you shortly.

ALVIN

Actually I ordered online already. If you could, maybe just, bring it?

HOSTESS

It doesn't really work like that... Actually, it's fine. I'll take care of it.

ALVIN

Thank you.

Hostess smiles and exits.

DAVID

You did it Alvin. You're here. Look at this--this is great. We can see the ocean and everything.

ALVIN

I still have to eat and get out.

DAVID

Yeah but that's easy--you know what to expect now.

Alvin nods. Trying to convince himself.

DAVID

Relax. The adventure part is over.

ROY

Yeah yeah great. You did a normal thing. Can I finally get my breakfast burrito? Hey! Service! Over here! Somebody! Burrito!

**INT. ALVIN'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY**

Alvin and Aurora write.

AURORA

God. This ending man. I swear. All right--what if...

Alvin looks at the clock. Noonish.

AURORA

Damn it. Come on brain--make with the clever story stuff.

Alvin glances at the clock.

AURORA

I don't freakin' know. Let's just have Durian knock Freya up and she can give birth to a litter of fairies that escape through prison walls.

Aurora collapses on the couch. Defeated by story.

ALVIN

How about we take a break and get some food?

AURORA

Best idea anyone's had all day. You like Chinese? I know a place that delivers.

ALVIN

I was thinking we could go out.

AURORA

What the what?

ALVIN

What?

AURORA

Um...nothing. Where did you have in mind?

ALVIN

How about the Burrito Barn?

AURORA

...I don't know if that's such a great idea.

ALVIN

Sure it is. They have awesome breakfast burritos.

AURORA

You don't have to-- We can stay in and eat. It's totally cool. Better than cool. It's totally tits actually.

ALVIN

We can stay in another time. I  
already made a reservation.

AURORA

Alvin--really--

ALVIN

Trust me.

Alvin opens the door. Aurora still skeptical. But exits.

**INT. BURRITO BARN/ENTRANCE - DAY**

Packed as usual. Alvin and Aurora enter. The Hostess greets Alvin.

HOSTESS

Hi Alvin. Your spot is open and  
your burritos are already on the  
table.

ALVIN

Thanks Sara.

Hostess/Sara smiles and turns to greet other customers.

Aurora can't process.

AURORA

...You have a spot?

ALVIN

Follow me.

Alvin leads the way. Aurora follows him through the--

**DINING AREA**

Aurora watches Alvin intently. But he seems perfectly fine.  
Glides through the table maze and out to the--

**OUTSIDE DECK**

Alvin presents Aurora his table in the back. Pulls out a  
chair for her. She sits. Still too confused to speak.

AURORA

What is...how did you...what in the  
name of Lord Chalupa is going on  
here?

(MORE)

AURORA (CONT'D)

Like two weeks ago I asked you to lunch and I almost manslaughtered you. Now you waltz in here like you own the place.

ALVIN

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

AURORA

No no no--don't do that--you don't get to be quiet right now. Spill.

ALVIN

I just...made myself come back. And I kept coming. And every day it got a bit easier.

Aurora a mix of shocked and impressed.

AURORA

I mean you were absolutely terrified the last time we were here.

Alvin shrugs.

AURORA

And now your...the opposite of terrified.

Alvin shrugs.

AURORA

Alvin that's amazing.

ALVIN

I'm just eating lunch.

AURORA

Yeah sure. Play it off Mr. Cool. No big deal. Just eating at the Burrito Barn.

Alvin smiles. Aurora laughs.

ALVIN

There's something else I'd like to show you.

Alvin digs in his pocket. Pulls out a piece of paper. Neatly unfolds it: it's the Fourth of July carnival at the pier flyer.

ALVIN  
I'd like to take you to the Fourth  
of July carnival.

Aurora grows concerned.

AURORA  
Oh...um...

Alvin picks up on the change in mood.

ALVIN  
...I thought you wanted to go.

AURORA  
No, yeah. Yeah I do...but...

ALVIN  
It'll be crowded. I know. But I can  
do it.

Aurora paints on a smile.

AURORA  
I know you can.

ALVIN  
So...you'll go?

AURORA  
...Can I ask you something... Did  
you...come back here and...do all  
this...so you could take me to the  
carnival?

ALVIN  
I...sorry, I don't understand.

AURORA  
I mean...if we went...it would be  
as friends...right?

ALVIN  
...Oh! Yeah. Absolutely. Oh you  
thought--no. I see. No.  
(MORE)



ALVIN (CONT'D)

So...I suppose in a way, I did come back here to ask you to the carnival, but I've been trying to get a handle on my anxiety for a long time now and...I think we've formed a really good friendship and it...really bothered me that I couldn't take my friend to Fourth of July on the pier, or even lunch for that matter, because I get freaked out. So...yeah, no.

Aurora relieved.

AURORA

Sweetness. Sorry I feel like a freakin' jerk now. I only wanted to--I feel the same way--like we're such good friends, ya know? Even though we haven't known each other all that long, we have a bond like James, ya know?

ALVIN

'Course.

AURORA

And we're writing compadres.

ALVIN

Absolutely.

AURORA

Sorry, I misread the situation--and now I feel like a conceited cameltoe--and I'd love to go the Fourth of July carnival with you. It'd be totally tits.

Alvin forces a smile.

**EXT. PIER - NIGHT**

Carnival games and rides line a huge pier.

And people. So many people.

Alvin tries to make himself as small as possible as to not touch anybody or anything. Aurora absorbed by the lights.

AURORA

Damn I always forget how rad this place is.

(MORE)

AURORA (CONT'D)

Oh--remind to kick your ass at the water squirt game. Also, I'm pretty much a pro at ring toss. That stuffed purple dragon is basically mine. And we gotta swing by the water tank and dunk whatever poor chode got roped into that.

Alvin nods as Roy, Marco, and David approach. Roy already with two sticks of cotton candy.

ROY

This is awesome! Hey! Let's check out the hammer game. I gotta show the chicas my mad strength. Let's go!

Alvin looks pleadingly to David.

DAVID

Uh...hey Roy. Why don't just the three of us manly men go?

Roy considers.

ROY

Good thinking. Alvin would only embarrass himself in front of his little girlfriend. Who he still won't introduce us to. But whatever. Some of us are simply better friends than others. I'ma go hammer something, pretending it's Alvin's rude face. March!

Roy marches off. David winks at Alvin who discreetly nods "thank you." David and Marco follow Roy.

AURORA

Oh shit--stop everything. There's a photobooth. Family portrait time engage.

She drags Alvin into the--

#### **INT. PHOTOBOOTH**

Aurora takes the controls.

AURORA

All right stone face. You better rubberize those facial muscles quick.

ALVIN

What?

AURORA

Just do what I do. We'll start with  
a classic: the blowfish.

Aurora puffs out her cheeks. Alvin still confused.

AURORA

You're not doing it. Like this.

She demonstrates while gently pinching his cheeks out.

AURORA

There you go. Don't forget the  
gills.

The booth BEEPS a countdown. Snaps the picture.

AURORA

Pigface! This one's easy. Yeah--  
right on!

Snap. Aurora having the time of her life. Alvin can't help  
but be infected by it.

Aurora calls out the faces as the machine snaps them off.

AURORA

Choke hold! Silly face! Dab! Put  
'em up! Ponder... Spock. Face off!

Alvin actually enjoys himself.

**EXT. PIER - SHORTLY LATER**

Alvin and Aurora walk along while examining the photo print  
out.

AURORA

What the hell is this?

ALVIN

What? I'm doing the same thing  
you're doing.

AURORA

That is not what I'm doing. I said  
silly face.

ALVIN

That's not a silly face?

AURORA  
You look constipated.

ALVIN  
Constipation is funny.

Aurora laughs. The two pass the--

#### **HAMMER STRENGTH BELL**

A "test your strength" gauge with a bell at the top.

Marco holds the hammer. Stands in front of a group of attractive YOUNG LADIES.

He flexes. Stretches. Spits in his hand for grip. Swings. Bell rings. Marco turns to the women.

MARCO  
Ladies please, form a line.

Alvin and Aurora continue happily along. Spot a--

#### **COTTON CANDY CART**

AURORA  
Cotton candy. In my stomach. Now.

ALVIN  
What flavor do you want?

AURORA  
Purple.

ALVIN  
Is that even a flavor--

AURORA  
Purple.

Alvin laughs.

ALVIN  
Okay. Purple.

Aurora gasps. Points to a Merry Go Round.

AURORA  
That'll have to wait--there's a blue-eyed stallion with my name on it.

They race to the--

**MERRY-GO-ROUND**

Ride quickly fills up. Aurora scrambles to find a blue-eyed horse. Hugs its neck.

AURORA  
Gotcha ya beautiful bastard. Quick.  
Take that one.

She points to the next horse as she climbs on.

ALVIN  
I'll just stand here with yours if  
that's okay.

AURORA  
Suit yourself. But that means  
you'll have to be my squire.

ALVIN  
Squire?

AURORA  
I'll be Lady Kailess. And this is  
my royal steed, Nebuchadnezzar.

The Merry-Go-Round CHIMES and starts.

AURORA  
Oh snap--hang on. We're racing head  
first into battle against a horde  
of nasty Ephesian trolls.

ALVIN  
Um...

AURORA  
They want to destroy the peaceful  
village of Onysius. We must stop  
them. Quickly squire, my Sabre of  
the Sages.

Alvin, not entirely comfortable, hesitates.

AURORA  
Quickly squire. My sword.

Alvin pulls out a make believe sword. Hands it to Aurora who admires it.

AURORA  
 Excellent. And your mithril  
 longsword. Hurry--the horde is  
 almost upon us.

Alvin half-heartedly pulls another sword.

AURORA  
 Steady...steady...attack.

Aurora slices the air wildly. Loving her game.

Alvin plays along, but lackluster. Glances around. People  
 point. Stare. Whisper.

Alvin very self conscious. Tries to maintain focus on his  
 breathing.

AURORA  
 Keep fighting. We're driving them  
 back. Onward Nebuchadnezzar.

Aurora locks eyes with a couple CHILDREN watching her game.  
 The kids smile wide. Enjoying the show.

Aurora smiles ear to ear. Glad the kids are having fun. She  
 turns to see if Alvin is watching...

He is. But he's not smiling. And not fighting. He's  
 embarrassed.

Aurora's smile disappears.

Alvin looks up at her...tries to cover his awkwardness with a  
 smile...

She smiles back... But stops playing.

**EXT. PIER/COTTON CANDY CART - SHORTLY LATER**

Aurora waits alone. Somber. Alvin emerges with cotton candy.

ALVIN  
 They didn't have purple so I got  
 blue.

AURORA  
 ...Thanks.

They quietly take a few bites.

ALVIN  
 So, uh...what next?

AURORA

I, uh...think I'm going to call it a night.

ALVIN

What?

AURORA

Yeah, it was a busy day at work and...I just got kind of tired all of a sudden.

ALVIN

But...you didn't even get to see the fireworks.

AURORA

I know. Just don't think I'm up for it.

Alvin speechless.

AURORA

I'll catch you later.

She turns to leave.

ALVIN

Are you...mad at me?

AURORA

I'm not mad at you.

ALVIN

But...then why are you leaving?

AURORA

I'm tired.

ALVIN

...Can't you at least stay until the fireworks? I had a spot I was going to show you with a really good view.

Aurora silent.

ALVIN

...You are mad at me.

AURORA

I'm not mad.

ALVIN  
Then let's watch the fireworks.

AURORA  
Alvin, you were embarrassed of me.

ALVIN  
...What?

AURORA  
You were embarrassed of me.

ALVIN  
I'm not embarrassed of you.

AURORA  
I saw the look on your face.

ALVIN  
That...you know I get anxious...

AURORA  
This wasn't anxiety. I know when you're anxious. And I know that look you had. I've seen it my whole life. ...Just never thought I'd see you wear it.

Silence.

ALVIN  
...You're right...I was embarrassed... But I was also jealous.

AURORA  
Yeah I'm sure you're jealous of a freakin' weirdo who constantly makes a fool of herself.

ALVIN  
I am jealous...I wish I could be that...fun-loving and carefree.

Aurora softens a bit.

ALVIN  
I'm sorry if I hurt your feelings. But don't let me ruin your night. I know you like the fireworks. Let me take you to a cool spot where you can enjoy them. You don't even have to talk to me if you don't want.



Aurora rolls her eyes. But caves.

AURORA

Let's go see the stupid fireworks  
at this super secret spot.

Alvin has to fight a smile of relief. Leads the way. Aurora follows. Fighting a smile of her own.

**EXT. DOCK - LATER**

Alvin leads Aurora down a line of sail boats, gently bobbing in their slips.

The pier not far in the BG.

ALVIN

Almost there.

AURORA

Almost where?

Alvin stops at twenty-two footer.

ALVIN

My boat.

AURORA

What?

ALVIN

This is my boat.

AURORA

Your boat? You have a boat? The hell you'd get a boat? I want a boat.

**EXT. SAILBOAT**

Alvin climbs on board. Helps Aurora. Leads her to the bow, with a clear view of the pier.

AURORA

This is so tits. Like you have major cool points that I didn't even know you had--you've been hiding cool points.

Alvin shrugs sheepishly.

ALVIN

Being on the water...calms me down.

AURORA

Captain Anders. Exploring the uncharted seas where most men dare not go.

ALVIN

I don't know about all that.

AURORA

So like what do you do when you--I don't know--take 'er out to sea, matey?

ALVIN

Mostly just sail around the bay.

AURORA

Sweetness.

ALVIN

Sometimes I think about taking a trip down the Keys.

AURORA

That'd be tits, man.

ALVIN

Yeah. And, if I wanted, I could keep going south along the ports in the Caribbean.

AURORA

(a la Jack Sparrow)

Why's the rum always gone?

ALVIN

And I keep hearing about some beautiful spots in South America.

AURORA

That'd be like the most epic of voyages. You could totally do that.

ALVIN

Yeah...

AURORA

No, you could. You work remotely anyway. Bring a laptop, do your nerd stuff in between searching for sunken treasure. Duh.

ALVIN  
There are ancient trade routes  
along the way.

AURORA  
Tits. Now all you need is a  
treasure map.

Alvin likes the idea. A smile rolls across his face.

ALVIN  
Hm...a real life treasure hunt.

AURORA  
You'd be a legit pirate.

ALVIN  
Yeah?

AURORA  
Yeah. And you could even learn to  
drink and then the rum really would  
be gone.

Alvin grins ear to ear. ...But the reality comes back. His  
smile disappears.

ALVIN  
It's a cool thought...

Aurora picks up on Alvin's unspoken sadness.

AURORA  
Anything anybody ever did started  
with a thought.

Alvin studies her. She's sincere. Really believes he could  
take a trip half way around the world.

AURORA  
Plus, I don't think you're taking  
into account the stupid amount of  
fun you would have. Like...you  
could spot trouble off the  
starboard bow.

ALVIN  
Oh...I hadn't thought of that.

AURORA  
Yeah. And you could swab the poop  
deck.

ALVIN  
That's always fun.

AURORA  
And give Polly a cracker.

ALVIN  
Wow. All of that?

AURORA  
All of that.

Alvin and Aurora lock eyes...

ALVIN  
I don't know... It's not all fun  
and games, you know. It's dangerous  
out there. You can get lost. Hit  
bad weather. Or worst of all: have  
a run-in with a sea monster.

Aurora looks at Alvin questioningly. Alvin mock hides a life  
saver behind his back. Creeps to the edge of the boat.

AURORA  
Sea monster?

ALVIN  
They're everywhere out there. I've  
heard stories that one even lives  
here in this bay.

Aurora picks up on where Alvin is going. She's surprised. In  
a good way. And plays along.

AURORA  
...What kind of monster?

ALVIN  
A ginormous, one-eyed, razor-  
beaked, sixteen-tentacled, man  
eater...the kraken.

Alvin nonchalantly drops the life saver overboard. It PLOPS  
in the water. Alvin whips to the sound.

ALVIN  
What was that?

Aurora loving this. It's right up her alley.

AURORA  
I don't know. What is it?

Alvin encouraged by her smile.

ALVIN  
I'm not sure...I hope it's  
not...no, it couldn't be.

AURORA  
What?

ALVIN  
But it is the right time of year...

AURORA  
The kraken?

ALVIN  
Get down!

Their imaginations take over:

An enormous octopus emerges from the water. The dock  
disappears.

**EXT. OCEAN/SAILBOAT - CONTINUOUS**

The boat now in open water.

ALVIN  
The kraken is on us!

AURORA  
What do we do?

ALVIN  
Take the helm. Hold us steady.

AURORA  
Aye aye, Cap'n.

Aurora races to the steering wheel--holds on. The ship tosses  
about in an angry sea.

ALVIN  
Keep her steady--I'm loading the  
cannons.

Alvin grabs a cannonball. Heaves it into the cannon.

AURORA  
Look out for the tentacle!

A tentacle crashes beside them. The boat rocks.

ALVIN  
Fire in the hole!

Alvin lights the fuse. Cannon FIRES--

Kraken SHRIEKS.

AURORA  
You got the SOB.

ALVIN  
We only pissed him off--hang on!

Another tentacles crashes in the water.

ALVIN  
Forget the helm. Man the second  
cannon. Fire at will.

Aurora rushes to another cannon. Rotates it. Fires. Hits the  
enemy.

Alvin fires. Kraken in pain. But not deterred.

AURORA  
It's too strong.

ALVIN  
Keep firing.

AURORA  
It's getting too close.

ALVIN  
Aurora!

Alvin grabs Aurora--they hang tight as the kraken's tentacles  
wrap around the boat.

AURORA  
It's got the boat.

ALVIN  
We have to attack the arms. Here--  
your Sabre of the Sages. And I have  
my mithril longsword.

AURORA  
Ready for kalamari on your order,  
Cap'n!

ALVIN  
Attack!

They slice--and stab--and thrust--

Some arms retreat. More emerge.

AURORA  
There's too many.

ALVIN  
Keep fighting.

The kraken squeezes--the ship SPLINTERS--CRACKS--

ALVIN  
The mast is falling.

AURORA  
Shit!

ALVIN  
Watch out.

Alvin and Aurora narrowly dodge as the mast CRASHES down--

ALVIN  
I have an idea. Follow me.

They run to a fallen piece of mast.

ALVIN  
Grab hold.

AURORA  
I see! Forget sliced kalamari--  
we'll have it skewered instead.

They pick it up--stare straight into the eye of the beast--

Alvin looks back at Aurora.

ALVIN  
Ready?

AURORA  
Aye, Cap'n.

ALVIN  
Charge!

Using the mast as a spear, they sprint to the kraken--

Run the jagged tip through its eye--

The kraken unleashes a hideous SQUEAL--

Releases the boat--tentacles flailing--

ALVIN

It's working. He's retreating back  
into the sea.

AURORA

Later, you sticky-armed ink sack.

Alvin and Aurora hang onto the bow for dear life as the  
creature sinks back below the surface.

The survivors stare at each other. Smile. Happy to be alive.

And then something happens...it's just a look...at first...

Until the gap slowly closes between them...and they kiss.  
Long. And slow.

Until--

BANG BANG BANG.

Fireworks light up the sky.

The two snap back to reality: the boat in one piece. The  
docks unharmed.

The pier puts on a dazzling display. Fireworks reflect in the  
water.

Aurora captivated. Alvin happy she's happy.

Aurora rests her head on Alvin's shoulder. And they watch the  
lights in the sky.

**INT. ALVIN'S HOUSE/ALVIN'S ROOM - MORNING**

Alvin in bed. Wakes. Stumbles to the--

**HALLWAY**

Roy, Marco, and David CHEER and CLAP the moment he opens the  
bedroom door.

ROY

There he is! My boy! Major lip  
lockage with weird girl. I knew you  
had it in ya. Come here you dog  
you.



MARCO

Hey I'm the one who taught him everything he knows.

ROY

God not everything's about you Marco. Will you let the kid have his moment here? Huh? So tell me all the juicy details. Was there tongue? Oh yeah there was tongue-- did you go full force--or play it cool and give a little lizard lick to see how she'd respond? I bet you went full force. You dog you!

ALVIN

Uh...k...

DAVID

I bet he was a perfect gentleman. I believe she really likes you Alvin.

ROY

Oh yeah. She totally wants your D.

DAVID

Jesus, Roy.

ROY

What?

DAVID

Nothing.

ROY

So when are you going to finally introduce us to this broad?

DAVID

Roy.

ROY

Seriously, you're swapping spit with this chick and she hasn't even met your friends.

DAVID

She doesn't need to meet us.

MARCO

Agreed. Keep that to yourself at least until you get laid.

DAVID  
Not what I meant.

ROY  
Hey if I'm gonna be best man at the wedding I have to meet the bride first.

ALVIN  
Okay! Everybody, thank you but I'm in a good mood and I'm not going to let you make me crazy today. Now if you'll excuse me.

ROY  
God. You try to give a guy props...

Alvin exits to the--

### **KITCHEN**

Roommates follow.

DAVID  
Later everybody. See ya in a month.

ALVIN  
Wait--you're leaving?

DAVID  
Got a gig off the coast of Cape Town diving with some great whites. Should get some great shots for the magazine.

ROY  
Jesus. Try not to die moron.

DAVID  
Impossible.

ALVIN  
But uh, what if I need help with...you know who?

DAVID  
Can't stay here forever roomie. The world beckons. You'll have to deal.

ROY  
I know you're talking about me you assholes.

DAVID  
Roy, try to behave.

ROY  
Yes mother.

DAVID  
Good luck Alvin.

Alvin rolls his eyes. David exits.

**INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY**

Standard coffee house. Aurora works behind the counter.

Alvin enters. Waves excitedly at Aurora. She doesn't return the enthusiasm.

Instead, she darts out from behind the counter and beelines to Alvin.

ALVIN  
Hey.

AURORA  
Hey, uh...what are you doing here?

ALVIN  
Well, uh...I just wanted to see you.

Aurora not exactly happy with this.

AURORA  
Oh...that's nice.

ALVIN  
And I, uh, figured your lunch break was coming up and maybe you wanted to go to the Barn?

AURORA  
I, uh...brought my own lunch today.

ALVIN  
Oh...okay...uh, maybe I can order a sandwich and we eat here?

AURORA  
I don't know. I was going to take a short lunch today and knock off early.

ALVIN

Oh. Okay. Uh...are we still writing tonight?

AURORA

Yeah.

ALVIN

Okay... I, uh...I'll see you later.

AURORA

Okay.

Alvin turns to leave. Stops.

ALVIN

Did I... I'll see you tonight.

Alvin turns to leave.

AURORA

Wait. ...Ugh--I'm so stupid.  
Alvin...that kiss...that never  
should have happened. I'm so sorry.

ALVIN

Oh.

AURORA

I mean we're friends--good friends.  
I don't know what happened--I  
got...caught up in a moment--I take  
full responsibility and I'm so  
sorry but everything I told you  
before is true. I don't want to  
mess up what we have going here.

ALVIN

Yeah.

AURORA

Yeah?

ALVIN

Yeah, no. You're right. It was  
...it was just a little kiss--it's  
not a big deal.

AURORA

Yeah. Exactly...

ALVIN

Okay. Well, uh...yeah, we're good.

AURORA

Okay.

ALVIN

I'll see you tonight to work on Durian?

AURORA

Yeah. Of course.

Alvin nods. Paints on a smile and exits.

**INT. ALVIN'S HOUSE/FOYER - EVENING**

Alvin opens the front door. Aurora stands on the threshold.

AURORA

Hey.

ALVIN

Hey.

Aurora enters. They make their way to the--

**LIVING ROOM**

They take their spots. Roy enters the kitchen in the BG.

ROY

Don't mind me losers. Just getting a snack. I'm not even here. Get it?

AURORA

So uh...where were we?

Alvin checks his laptop.

ALVIN

Uh...I think we're in pretty good shape other than the ending.

AURORA

Yeah that damn ending.

ALVIN

Yeah.

AURORA

All right brain. Do your stuff.

They fall silent. Thinking. Roy enters. Looks over Alvin's shoulder.

CRUNCH.

Alvin turns to face a munching Roy.

ROY  
Baby carrot?

Alvin ignores him.

ROY  
God is writing with you guys always  
this boring? I knew it'd be bad but  
this is torture. Fine. I've decided  
to lend you pathetics my creative  
genius. Struggling with the ending  
huh? Easy fix. Just add aliens.  
Aliens make everything awesome.  
You're welcome.

Alvin takes a deep breath. Tries to focus. Aurora not pacing  
for once. Thinking.

ROY  
And if aliens don't work, you can  
use zombies instead.

Roy gasps.

ROY  
Or aliens AND zombies!

AURORA  
Sorry compadre. Seems I'm not in  
the mood to write tonight.

ROY  
Don't worry about it weird girl.  
I'm on fire right now.

ALVIN  
Yeah. That's fine. I'm a little  
distracted as well.

AURORA  
Coolness. I'm gonna go chillax and  
give my brain a chance to reboot.

ALVIN  
Sounds like a good idea.

The two go to the door.

ROY  
 Hey you got the thing about the  
 aliens and zombies right?

**FOYER - CONTINUOUS**

Alvin opens the door for Aurora.

AURORA  
 Adios compadre.

ALVIN  
 A-adios.

Aurora exits. Alvin returns to the--

**LIVING ROOM**

Roy skims through the Durian story on Alvin's laptop.

ROY  
 God this is awful. I had no idea.  
 Don't worry buddy, I'll straighten  
 this out.

ALVIN  
 I'm not in the mood Roy.

ROY  
 Hey I'm only trying to save you and  
 your little girlfriend from  
 humiliating yourselves with a story  
 completely devoid of aliens and  
 zombies.

ALVIN  
 Beat it!

Roy gasps--deeply offended. Stands. Stares down Alvin.

ROY  
 You try to help a guy...

Roy storms off. Slams the door to his room.

Alvin mad. Probably at more than just Roy.

KNOCK KNOCK.

**FOYER - CONTINUOUS**

Alvin opens the door to find Aurora.

ALVIN  
Oh.

AURORA  
Hey.

ALVIN  
You forget something?

AURORA  
No. No I didn't forget--anything. I was uh...headed home. Thinking about what I wanted to do to chillax and uh...I didn't want to hang out by myself like a loser so I thought about who I could hang with and I realized the only person I wanted to hang with...was you--but then I thought maybe we're in a weird spot right now--and I shouldn't ask--but then I thought we're supposed to be friends and I should be able to ask my friends to hang out and if I couldn't ask you then what does that mean? Are we not friends? But we are friends so I thought I should ask but now I'm wondering if maybe it is weird and I shouldn't have asked--but again, not asking would have made it weird too so...I don't know. ...Can we hang?

It takes Alvin a minute to try to process all that...

ALVIN  
You want to go somewhere?

**EXT. OCEAN/SAILBOAT - NIGHT**

Alvin pulls down the main sail and joins Aurora at the bow.

ALVIN  
Water's calm. We can drift for a while.

AURORA  
(pirate impersonation)  
Arrrr.  
(MORE)



AURORA (CONT'D)

Like a leaf on a breeze, I go where  
the water takes me, the pirate life  
for me.

ALVIN

Something like that.

AURORA

If we get lost you can use the  
stars to get us back home right?

ALVIN

Uh, sure...or I can just use the  
GPS on my phone.

AURORA

What kind of pirate are you?

ALVIN

The kind that doesn't want to get  
lost at sea.

AURORA

Fair. But look at those things man.  
They're so...so...my brain can't  
even spit out the right word.

ALVIN

Yeah.

AURORA

We're like in between two great  
unknowns.

ALVIN

What do you mean?

AURORA

Talking about the far reaches of  
space. And the vast depths of the  
sea. I mean these are two entire  
worlds that we don't exist in. But  
we can see them. I mean those stars--  
they're take your breath away like  
a tit punch beautiful--and the  
ocean--

Aurora sniffs.

AURORA

I can smell so much salt off the  
wind it's seasoning my brain.

(MORE)

AURORA (CONT'D)

And yet both worlds are so far away they don't seem real. And here we are. Floating in between.

They sit with that a moment.

AURORA

I don't actually know what the hell any of that actually means.

ALVIN

I think I got it.

AURORA

Then could you explain it to me?

She chuckles at her own joke. Alvin smiles. Both silent as they stare at the sky.

Alvin makes microphone static noise--pretends to talk into a radio--

ALVIN

Uh, this is Mission Control to Commander Aurora Belle. Come in Aurora.

Aurora a bit surprised. Plays along.

AURORA

(brief static noise)

This is Commander Aurora. Go ahead.

ALVIN

We are one minute away from initiating the launch sequence. We need you to run through your final safety checklist.

AURORA

Oh, uh, copy that. Let's see--I am strapped in tight like an infant in a car seat with overprotective parents. Got my helmet on so that if something goes wrong I'll have just enough time to kiss my ass goodbye. I have my stuffed purple dragon so I don't freak out. And I have a second pair of pants for when I do freak out. We're good to go.

ALVIN  
Copy. T minus twelve. Eleven. Ten.  
Nine. Ignition sequence start.

ROCKETS FIRE.

AURORA  
Hang on dragon.

ALVIN  
Six. Five. Four.

The "ship" RUMBLES.

ALVIN  
Three. Two. One.

AURORA  
Shitshitshitshit.

ALVIN  
Zero. All engines running. Lift  
off. We have lift off. Twenty-two  
minutes past the hour.

Aurora playfully screams.

ALVIN  
Booster rockets detaching. Shuttle  
breaking the atmosphere. Thrusters  
off in three. Two. One. Zero.

Silence...

ON AURORA

She opens her eyes...and "sees" space. Eyes scan to take it  
all in.

ALVIN  
Commander?

Aurora doesn't answer...but wears a big smile...

ALVIN  
Commander, do you copy?

AURORA  
I copy.

ALVIN  
What's it like out in the unknown?

Aurora mesmerized...

Sees the billion stars that make up the Milky Way. Impossibly beautiful. It doesn't seem real. And not just because it isn't.

Alvin stays silent. Smiles along with her.

Aurora comes out of her daydream and faces Alvin.

AURORA

You've gotten pretty good at playing games.

ALVIN

Learned from the best.

AURORA

Now if I could only get you to curse more.

Alvin shrugs.

AURORA

Thanks for playing with me...

ALVIN

...What are friends for?

AURORA

Don't be dumb.

Alvin frozen. Locked in her gaze.

AURORA

...We're not friends...

Alvin moves in--Aurora meets him--they kiss--

Hard and passionately.

Friendship officially over...

Into something more.

ROY (O.S.)

Hey--what the hell asshole?!

Alvin peeks--Roy jumps on the boat. Marco hot on his heels.

MARCO

Roy--stop!

ROY

Break it up--don't make me get the hose--

MARCO

Roy!

Marco grabs Roy--Roy struggles--the fall to the deck mere feet from Alvin and Aurora causing Alvin to break the embrace.

ROY

Get off me needle dick!

AURORA

Whoa--you all right?

MARCO

You're the dick.

ALVIN

Uh...yeah...

ROY

You're lucky your steroid balls are nonexistent otherwise I'd kick them up into your throat.

ALVIN

I, uh, I'm just a little dizzy.

AURORA

I didn't realize my kisses were that overwhelming.

ALVIN

Yeah, no, I uh, have some seasick stuff in the cabin--just--give me--don't move.

Aurora looks at the ocean.

AURORA

(jokingly)

Where am I gonna go?

ALVIN

Yeah. Just uh, one second...

Alvin climbs into the--

### **CABIN**

Alvin shuts the door. Pretends to search for seasick pills.

Roy and Marco appear.

ROY  
You come at me again I'll rip your  
arm off and beat you with it.

MARCO  
Psh.

ALVIN  
Roy please don't mess this up for  
me.

ROY  
Mess this up for you?

ALVIN  
Just go--I'm begging you.

ROY  
I'm not going anywhere until you  
tell her about us.

ALVIN  
What?

ROY  
You heard me.

ALVIN  
You can't be serious. Now?!

ROY  
Yes now. You've been hiding us for  
way too long.

ALVIN  
This isn't the time.

ROY  
It's never the time. Do it now.

ALVIN  
Go home.

ROY  
No.

ALVIN  
I'm not kidding.

ROY  
Neither am I.

ALVIN  
Marco, drag him home.

MARCO

Gladly.

ROY

Go ahead and try--you'll never get me off this boat.

ALVIN

Why are you ruining this for me?

ROY

You're about to ruin this yourself with your constant lies.

ALVIN

I haven't lied about anything.

ROY

Every day you don't tell Aurora about us is a lie.

ALVIN

That's not lying.

ROY

Lying by omission is lying asshole.

ALVIN

She doesn't need to know about you.

ROY

Bullshit.

ALVIN

She doesn't---not now--

ROY

Yes now. Right. Now. Before you start something based on a lie.

ALVIN

There is no lie--you don't exist.

ROY

You sure do a lot of arguing with someone who doesn't exist.

ALVIN

You're right--I'm done.

ROY

Good luck trying to ignore me.

ALVIN

Roy--for once think about someone other than yourself.

ROY

You conceited prick--I'm doing this for you.

ALVIN

Don't give me that--you're just tired of being left out.

ROY

Get off your high horse. I'm the only one telling you to be honest.

ALVIN

Please--you're only doing this because you're a complete narcissist who can't stand to see anyone get more attention than you.

ROY

Hey asshole--

ALVIN

Shut up. You are the absolute worst. David doesn't cause problems--

ROY

He's never here--

ALVIN

Marco doesn't pull this crap either--

ROY

That bitch doesn't have the balls--

ALVIN

It's just you--you cause me nothing but pain--

ROY

Hey I'm the only one trying to--

ALVIN

And I want you out of my head!

Alvin pushes Roy. Roy stumbles back. And for once...is silent.



ROY  
 ...Is that how you see me?

Alvin fumes.

ALVIN  
 Get! Out!

AURORA (O.S.)  
 Alvin?

Alvin whips--

Aurora at the door. Petrified.

Alvin goes white.

**EXT. DOCKS - LATER**

Aurora waits on the docks. As do Roy and Marco.

Alvin finishes with the boat and joins Aurora.

Both silent.

AURORA  
 ...Are you okay?

Alvin glances at his roommates...

ALVIN  
 ...This isn't going to work.

AURORA  
 What isn't going to work?

ALVIN  
 Whatever's happening here.

AURORA  
 Tell me what's going on.

ALVIN  
 ...I can't see you anymore.

Aurora temporarily speechless. No idea where this is coming from.

AURORA  
 What?

ALVIN  
 I'm sorry.

Alvin marches off.

AURORA

Hey! You can't--Alvin! Get back here--you don't get to do that.

Aurora's voice cracks. Alvin keeps walking.

**INT. ALVIN'S BEDROOM - DAY**

Daylight seeps into an otherwise dark room.

Alvin in bed. Awake.

**INT./EXT. ALVIN'S HOUSE/ALVIN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Roy and Marco stand at the door.

ROY

You can't stay in there all day, ass wipe.

No response.

ROY

At least eat something. We, uh...we all kind of need you to stay alive.

Nothing.

David enters from the front door.

DAVID

Hey guys.

MARCO

Hey bro. Sorry to call you back.

ROY

He won't come out of the cave of sorrow.

MARCO

It felt like an all hands on deck situation.

DAVID

No, you did the right thing.

David knocks on Alvin's door.

DAVID  
Alvin? Hey roomie, it's David.  
Um...can we talk?

No answer.

DAVID  
You want something to eat? I know  
you're hungry.

No answer.

DAVID  
We're uh, all starting to get  
pretty worried about you.

No answer.

ROY  
See?

MARCO  
Should we call the doc?

ROY  
How you going to call the doc?

MARCO  
We--Alvin--you know what I mean.

ROY  
He doesn't want to talk to anybody.

MARCO  
But he knows he should.

ROY  
But he won't. Stubborn ass. I say  
we wait him out. He has to take a  
piss sometime.

MARCO  
You generally have to drink  
something first.

DAVID  
Guys.

The guys quiet. David tries the door again.

DAVID  
Alvin you really need to talk to  
someone. Will you please come out?

No answer.

DAVID  
We only want to talk.

No answer.

DAVID  
You know this door can't actually  
keep us out right?

No answer.

**INT. ALVIN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Alvin stares at texts from Aurora: "What the hell was that???" "Call me. Now." "Answer your phone!!!"

Roy, Marco, and David appear.

DAVID  
Hey Alvin.

Alvin turns away.

DAVID  
I, uh...heard what happened with  
Aurora.

No answer.

ROY  
You were supposed to tell her about  
us. Not dump her, you idiot.

DAVID  
Roy would you--I'll handle this.

ROY  
Yeah--fine--whatever. I don't care  
about the selfish prick anyway.  
Just tell him to eat something so  
we don't starve to death.

DAVID  
What happened, Alvin?

No answer.

DAVID  
Why do you want to stop seeing  
Aurora?

ROY  
Because he's a scared little bitch.

DAVID  
Roy.

ROY  
Weird girl finds out he's crazy and  
bye-bye weird girl.

DAVID  
Roy.

Roy falls silent.

DAVID  
Is that right Alvin?

No response.

DAVID  
Are you afraid that if you told her  
the truth about us, she would leave  
you?

No response.

DAVID  
You don't know how she would have  
reacted. And you didn't even give  
her the chance to choose.

No response.

MARCO  
It's not too late, bro. Just pick  
up the phone.

DAVID  
You can fix it Alvin. Call her.

Alvin slowly sits up...eyes the roommates...

ALVIN  
You're wrong. All of you... Aurora  
is the...coolest person I've ever  
met. If I tell her...I know exactly  
how she'll react. She'll say it's  
not a big deal. It's not who I am.  
And then months...maybe years from  
now...she'll slowly understand what  
it's like to be with someone like  
me. And she'll be stuck. Because  
she won't want to leave.

(MORE)

ALVIN (CONT'D)

And yet she will want to leave. And she'll just be stuck... So no. I'm not scared to lose her...I'm scared she'll stay.

Silence. No one knows how to respond.

Alvin lays back down.

**INT. DR. JACOB'S OFFICE - DAY**

Dr. Jacobs, Alvin and all three roommates in the room.

ALVIN

And I just left her there.

ROY

Left her there! And people call me an asshole. And let's back up to what he said about me. He called me a narcissist.

DR. JACOBS

Have you spoken to her since?

ROY

Hey! Focus doc. We're talking about me--try to keep up.

Alvin shakes his head.

ROY

I need to you to make this scrotum sack apologize for only thinking of himself--just like a narcissist!

DR. JACOBS

How are you feeling?

ROY

Stop changing the subject!

DAVID

Roy. Enough.

ROY

I'll tell you when it's enough.

DAVID

We're trying to talk with the doc.

ROY

Screw this overpaid throw pillow.

MARCO

Should I shut him up?

ROY

Don't you touch me hairy fists--I have no idea where those things have been.

MARCO

Then why do you always lick them?

ROY

Aah! God--sick--I need to guzzle some antiseptic stat.

DR. JACOBS

You seem distracted.

ROY

Wow. Thank you for that brilliant analysis doc.

ALVIN

Roy won't shut up.

ROY

Screw you dick wad.

DR. JACOBS

What's he saying?

ROY

Seriously doc--do you not listen to anything I say? This little piece of foreskin--

ALVIN

I don't care--

ROY

Is a shit friend--oh we know you don't care. You are the absolute worst! I can handle Marco. I can handle David. But you do nothing but cause everyone around you nothing but pain!

Roy finally stops. Both he and Alvin pissed off.

DR. JACOBS

I believe the wisest course of action may be to hold off on the breakup with Aurora and hear what Roy has to say.

ROY  
Forget it, I'm done talking.

DAVID  
Roy, you're finally given the floor  
and you're not going to speak?

ROY  
God damn right.

DAVID  
That's not helpful Roy.

ROY  
Don't give me that shit David--  
you're off gallivanting around the  
world half the time and then you  
come back and act like you're in  
charge. You don't know shit that  
goes on--Marco's an idiot--and I'm  
the only one left looking out for  
Alvin.

ALVIN  
Looking out for me?!

ROY  
Yeah stupid.

ALVIN  
You don't look out for anyone but  
yourself and you are the sole  
reason I can't be with Aurora.

ROY  
Hey I sat back and gave you two  
your space even though I knew you  
were falling for her.

ALVIN  
Wow you're such a saint.

ROY  
I was hoping she'd have the common  
sense not to fall for a jerkoff  
like you.

ALVIN  
But then she did and that's when  
you decided you weren't going to be  
left out.



ROY

That's when I knew I let it go too far.

ALVIN

Listen to yourself--who the hell are you to decide where my relationships go?

ROY

Apparently, I have to decide because I'm the only one arguing for the truth.

ALVIN

The truth is you don't exist.

ROY

The truth is when Aurora finally finds out you're completely insane she's gonna dump your ass and all I wanted to do was rip that band aid off before you got in too deep--but now you're in love with the chick all because I waited too long because I was too nice--I knew I should've forced the issue--but I laid back and watched you two grow closer--and I knew it was dumb--and I knew you needed to tell her about us--but for the first time in a very long time you were happy...

Alvin stunned.

ROY

So I kept shut...and now look at you...you don't eat--you don't sleep--and I have to sit here and watch my buddy hurt.

Roy genuinely hurt too.

Silence. Alvin doesn't know what to say. Roy takes a seat.

ROY

...It's my job to make the hard calls and I was too nice. ...I'm sorry.

And for once...maybe Alvin truly understands Roy.

**EXT. PARK/SWINGSET - EVENING**

Alvin sits on a swing. Aurora enters. Solemnly joins him on the nearby swing.

ALVIN  
...Thanks for coming.

AURORA  
I'm only here because my curiosity outweighs my pissed-offness.

Alvin nods.

ALVIN  
I just want you to know the truth...and maybe then you'll understand why I can't be with anyone.

Aurora waiting...

Alvin tries to speak. Doesn't know what to say...

ALVIN  
...I don't live alone...

AURORA  
The hell does that mean? Like you're married?

ALVIN  
No--that's not--I have roommates. Three of them.

Aurora very confused.

ALVIN  
Except I don't have any roommates. I live alone.

Aurora even more confused.

ALVIN  
There's people...that I see...that don't exist. They only live inside my mind. ...But I see them as clearly as I see you. They talk to me. Sometimes I talk to them. As if they were real people. Because to me they are.

Silence.

ALVIN

So you see, I can't...I'm not in a position to be...close to anyone--

Aurora processes...

AURORA

That's it?

ALVIN

...What?

AURORA

That was the big secret?

ALVIN

...I just told you I hear voices in my head.

AURORA

Yeah...well...so you're a little crazy. Like I'm not.

ALVIN

You aren't crazy.

AURORA

Neither are you.

ALVIN

Yes. I am.

AURORA

You think whatever you have going on is going to hurt me--

ALVIN

It will--

AURORA

Bring me down--wreck my life--

ALVIN

You don't know what it's like--

AURORA

Yeah and apparently you don't know what I'm like.

ALVIN

I shouldn't have told you.

AURORA

Shouldn't have told me--why--  
because you're so broken nobody  
could possibly ever love you--

ALVIN

Listen to me--just because I've  
managed to keep it together for the  
short amount of time I've known you  
don't pretend like I'm fine and  
nothing is wrong with me--you have  
no idea who I am.

Silence...

AURORA

...I know you're sweet. I know  
you're creative. I know you're  
smart. You're funny in a quiet,  
subtle way. I know you'll brave a  
crowd for me... I know you'll play  
silly make believe games with me  
even though you don't really want  
to... Maybe I don't everything  
about you. But I know enough.

Alvin holds back tears. Aurora fights off tears of her own  
but powers through.

AURORA

Now let me tell you something about  
me. I have never had more fun. Or  
felt more comfortable. Or safe.  
Than I feel when I'm with you. If  
you don't want to see me anymore,  
then fine. But don't for one second  
think you're doing me any favors.

Silence...

Both calm down...

Both processing...

ALVIN

Maybe, uh... We have book we need  
to finish... Maybe we finish... And  
go from there...

AURORA

There is an ending we have to  
figure out.

Hesitant smiles.

**EXT. BURRITO BARN/DECK TABLE - NIGHT**

Alvin and Aurora sit at Alvin's usual table.

ALVIN

My brain just...sends the right combination of signals to make me see people that aren't there... It's an extremely rare condition.

AURORA

These roommates...they have names?

ALVIN

I met David in college. Marco showed up in high school. And I've known Roy since I was five.

AURORA

So you've been crazy your whole life.

Alvin laughs.

ALVIN

At first, my parents didn't think anything of it. All kids have an imaginary friend I guess. But mine didn't go away.

AURORA

They're with you all the time? -- Are they here now?

ALVIN

No, they aren't here now. But they hang around more often than not.

AURORA

Well look on the bright side, you'll never be lonely.

Alvin rolls his eyes.

Sara, the hostess, enters with a burrito plate and one wrapped in foil.

SARA

Here you go.

ALVIN

Thanks, Sara.

SARA  
I figured you wanted one of these  
to go, so I wrapped it for you.

ALVIN  
Oh, uh, actually that one is for  
her.

Alvin nods to Aurora. Sara looks blankly at the spot.

SARA  
Who?

Alvin confused.

Searches Sara's face, looks for signs of a joke...

Then it hits.

Alvin frozen. Eyes wide. Breaths become hard.

He dares to look over at Aurora...

Aurora's terrified. As if caught red handed.

Alvin turns to Sara.

ALVIN  
...You...don't...see...her?

Sara stares right at Aurora.

And sees only an EMPTY CHAIR.

SARA  
Alvin are you okay?

Alvin devastated.

ALVIN  
Nononono...

Aurora's hands cover her mouth. As if she just learned the  
truth as well.

Alvin holds his head. Disoriented. Jumps up. Bumps the table.  
Knocks over the chair. Falls.

The commotion causes all nearby patrons to watch.

Breaths become hard. Alvin dizzy. Has to get out. Scrambles.  
Runs.

AURORA

Alvin--

**EXT. STREET - NIGHT**

Alvin sprints. Visibly distraught. Barely holds it together.

Has to stop at a--

**EXT. STOOP**

Alvin crumbles...

Falls to his knees...struggles for breath.

AURORA (O.S.)

Alvin?

Alvin freezes. Aurora stands a safe distance behind him.

He slowly faces her.

AURORA

...I didn't know...

Alvin struggles to his feet.

ALVIN

Stay--stay away from me...

AURORA

Alvin...please...

ALVIN

Stay away--

Alvin stumbles back--

SCREECH--

The DRIVER slams the breaks just in time. Shouts out the window.

DRIVER

Jesus Christ--watch where you're going!

Alvin sprints.

**INT. ALVIN'S HOUSE/FRONT DOOR - NIGHT**

Alvin barges in. Runs to the--

**KITCHEN**

Yanks open a cabinet full of canned chicken. Taped inside the door is the photo booth picture roll...

Aurora isn't there.

Only him. Making all the silly faces by himself.

ALVIN  
Nonono...no... NOOOO!

He rips down row after row of chicken--cans smash on the floor--launches into the wall--

Roy, Marco, and David run out of their room.

ROY  
What the holy hell--

DAVID  
Alvin?

Roy tries to intervene.

ROY  
Dude! What--calm down. What happened?

Alvin eventually runs out of steam...falls to the floor...

Roy confused. Searches for an answer...

Finds the picture roll...lifts it up to see...

ROY  
Oh shit...

Door bell rings.

Everyone freezes...

Rings again.

**INTERCUT BT INT./EXT. FRONT DOOR**

Aurora beyond distraught as well.



AURORA

A-Alvin?

Alvin walks right up to the door. Doesn't open it.

AURORA

C--Can we...please let me in...

No answer.

AURORA

Please...

Aurora places a hand on the door. As if to reach out to him.

Alvin feels it. Places his hand on the other side...

Yanks it back as if burned.

ALVIN

Go away.

AURORA

Don't...don't do that--

ALVIN

Go away!

AURORA

You don't mean that.

ALVIN

You aren't real!

AURORA

I...I...

ALVIN

Get out of my head!

He bangs on the door. Right where his hand previously was.

Aurora jumps back.

ALVIN

Get out! Get out!

AURORA

Please. I only--

ALVIN

Get! Out!

AURORA  
I don't want to lose you--

ALVIN  
Get! Out!

AURORA  
I love you--

ALVIN  
NOOOO! I hate you! I hate you!  
Don't you ever come back. Don't you  
ever come back! I don't ever want  
to see you again!

Aurora heart broken. Seeing the utter hopelessness, runs off.

Alvin collapses against the door. Slides to the floor.  
Completely broken.

The roommates in utter shock. Cast glances at each other. Not  
knowing what to do...

Roy approaches...searches for words...

Instead, sits beside Alvin...puts an arm around him...

Surprisingly, Alvin accepts it...turns into Roy's  
shoulder...and sobs.

For once...Roy remains silent.

Marco and David join...and console their friend.

DISSOLVE TO:

**INT. DR. JACOB'S OFFICE - DAY**

Alvin sits in a chair. Dr. Jacobs across from him.

ALVIN  
I, uh...started working again this  
week... Wake up. Make the bed.  
Clean the kitchen. Eat. Work...  
Then I try to sit down and write...  
But I can't stay inside...

**EXT. ALVIN'S HOUSE/FRONT DOOR - NIGHT**

Alvin locks the door. Walks down the street.

DR. JACOBS (V.O.)  
Where do you go?

ALVIN (V.O.)  
...Anywhere...doesn't matter...

INSERTS: Random streets.

**EXT. PIER OVERLOOK - NIGHT**

Alvin stopped. Looks out to the pier and the sea.

ALVIN (V.O.)  
...There are some places I can't  
go.

**EXT. PARK - NIGHT**

Alvin stares at the swing set in the distance.

ALVIN (V.O.)  
...So I just avoid them.

Alvin continues to walk along the park edge.

DR. JACOBS (V.O.)  
That's to be expected.

**INT. DR. JACOB'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS**

ALVIN  
What is?

DR. JACOBS  
When people go through a break up,  
they tend to avoid places that  
remind them of their significant  
other.

ALVIN  
I didn't go through a break up.

DR. JACOBS  
You've gone through the equivalent  
of one.

ALVIN  
She wasn't real.

DR. JACOBS  
Maybe not in a physical sense... Do  
you miss her?

No answer.

DR. JACOBS  
...You're not the first person to  
experience the loss of someone they  
care about. Give it time. One day  
you'll be able to look back and  
only dwell on the happy memories.

ALVIN  
That's the problem... All I have of  
her are happy memories.

**EXT. OCEAN/SAILBOAT - NIGHT**

Alvin sits at the bow. Laptop open beside him. He stares at  
the ocean.

ALVIN (V.O.)  
Durian gazed over the bow. Never  
feeling so lost. So alone. Not even  
the ocean could keep him company.

**EXT. PIER - NIGHT**

From a safe distance, Alvin stares at the pier.

ALVIN (V.O.)  
The Gardens were dark, poisoned,  
and dying. Durian could only stand  
by and watch. Helpless.

**EXT. PARK/SWINGSET - NIGHT**

Alvin mopes along...comes to the swing set. Stops. Stares at  
it.

ALVIN (V.O.)  
Freya was gone. Taken by forces  
more evil than one world should  
hold.

**INT. ALVIN'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Alvin sits on the couch. Stares at his laptop as if in a  
trance.

He lumbers up off the couch...zombie-walks to his stereo.  
Plugs in his phone.

ROCK MUSIC plays.

ALVIN (V.O.)  
Under cover of eternal darkness,  
Durian made his way to the  
Erlking's castle. He knew he  
couldn't win. But being without her  
was more devastating than anything  
the Erlking could do to him.

Alvin lays out his "guitar case." Opens it. Respectfully  
pulls out his air guitar and puts it on...

Strums a few chords... Tries to get into it... But can't.

ALVIN (V.O.)  
There she was. Freya. Chained  
beside the Erlking.

Tears form...

But Alvin fights them off--plays harder--

ALVIN (V.O.)  
Rage filled Durian's eyes. Not  
thinking, he leapt to the throne  
floor and attacked the evil fairy  
king.

Kicks couches--knocks over lamps--laptop--

ALVIN (V.O.)  
But the Erlking had grown too  
strong. From the ground he summoned  
an army of redcaps that surrounded  
Durian. Freya cried out. Though he  
fought like a man possessed, Durian  
knew this battle could not be won.  
He could not beat the darkness of  
the Erlking. With a last, longing  
stare toward Freya, Durian ran.

Alvin falls to his knees and silently cries...

Roy enters.

ROY  
Who the hell taught you how to play  
guitar? As usual, I'll show you how  
it's done.

Roy breaks out his own air guitar. Rocks out. Nudging Alvin to join.

And slowly...Alvin does.

Roy let's loose. Alvin warms up...

Eventually getting close to Roy's level.

Having heard the commotion, Marco and David enter. See the spectacle. Looks like fun.

Marco takes a seat on a chair. Begins "drumming."

David grabs a "mic." Wails with the music.

The four roommates rock out--

Jump--

Head bang--

Mosh--

Completely uninhibited--

Just fun.

As the song ends Alvin looks at his imaginary friends...

And smiles.

ALVIN (V.O.)

And in his greatest moment of defeat, Durian realized something... He did not have to beat the fairy king alone.

**INT. ROY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Roy plays video games.

ROY

Ahh--God damn it. I'm gonna shoot you in the dick.

Alvin enters.

ROY

Oh, shit--sorry dude. Let me grab a headset--

ALVIN

No it's--it's fine...I was actually just going to give you something.

Alvin holds up a new video game.

ROY

Whaaa!?! Alien Annihilation?! This is the best day ever--wait a minute--what's the catch?

ALVIN

No catch.

ROY

...You're jerking me off right?

ALVIN

I just, uh...you remember the playground when, uh... Well, I...realized I never said thanks for always pushing me on the swings.

Roy touched. But only for a minute.

ROY

You were a total swing hog. Never occurred to you until now that somebody else may want a turn. Gimme that. I guess this'll make up for it.

Roy excitedly puts in the game. Alvin smiles as he exits--

ROY

Hey asshole. It's multi-player...

Alvin smiles...

ROY

Come on. Come anal probe abducted rednecks with me.

Alvin caves. Roy giddy.

**EXT. PIER - DAY**

Plenty of activity. Games, rides all operating.

**EXT. RING TOSS GAME**

Alvin and his all his roommates play.

ATTENDANT

Winner!

ROY

Rigged! Rigged I tell you. This is such bullshit.

ATTENDANT hands Alvin the small stuffed, purple dragon.

**EXT. COTTON CANDY CART - CONTINUOUS**

The COTTON CANDY MAN hands Alvin a purple cotton candy. Alvin walks along. Roy still complaining.

ROY

My rings were smaller. Plus your elbow crossed over the line you dirty cheater.

Alvin just smiles.

ALVIN (V.O.)

Durian searched the forest and found what he was looking for.

He comes to the merry go round.

ALVIN (V.O.)

Nebuchadnezzar, the great winged horse of the Babylonian Gardens. At the speed of light they took to the sky. To the centaurs of Giza. The fishermen of Alexandria. The griffins at Rhodes.

**INT. MARCO'S ROOM - DAY**

Alvin works out on the home gym. Marco beside him. Shouting encouragements.

**INT. ALVIN'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY**

David excitedly shows Alvin pictures of his travels.

ALVIN (V.O.)

Everywhere Durian went, he found he had friends.

(MORE)



ALVIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 Friends Durian had unknowingly  
 built through his many trials and  
 tribulations.

**INT. ALVIN'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY**

Alvin furiously types on his laptop.

ALVIN (V.O.)  
 At last the time had come. Though  
 Durian had survived many  
 adventures....many battles...he was  
 unsure he'd win this one.

**EXT. DOCK/SAILBOAT - DAY**

Alvin and the roommates board the boat. Loaded with suitcases  
 and backpacks.

ALVIN (V.O.)  
 Setting fear aside, and armed with  
 powerful allies, Durian attacked  
 the Erlking.

**INT. SAILBOAT CABIN - DAY**

Alvin unpacks his clothes.

**EXT. DOCK/SAILBOAT - NIGHT**

Alvin sits on the bow.

ALVIN (V.O.)  
 The battle was long. The casualties  
 were great. But Durian's blade  
 pierced the dark soul of the  
 Erlking. And the despair over the  
 Gardens were washed from the land.

Alvin smiles as he watches the pier in the BG.

AURORA (O.S.)  
 That view is totally tits.

Alvin turns. Aurora sheepishly smiles from the dock.

ALVIN  
 I was wondering if you'd show up.

AURORA  
Wasn't sure you wanted to see me...

Alvin nods understandingly.

AURORA  
Permission to board?

He nods.

She tentatively climbs on. Makes her way to the bow...cautiously sits beside Alvin.

Both take in the view.

ALVIN  
I'm taking her out.

AURORA  
What?

ALVIN  
The boat. I'm finally taking her out to sea.

AURORA  
Yeah? That's awesome. Where to?

ALVIN  
The Keys...some ports along the Caribbean...then who knows?

AURORA  
That's freakin' awesome. Hey if you find hidden treasure I want my cut.

Alvin chuckles.

ALVIN  
Deal.

They stare back out at the pier.

ALVIN  
Oh, I, uh...wanted to show you something.

Alvin digs in a bag. Pulls out a book titled "Durian and the Fairies of Babylon. Written by Alvin Anders and Aurora Belle".

Aurora gasps. Speechless.

AURORA

Alvin...

ALVIN

I, uh, self published.

AURORA

This is the most fantastic thing  
I've ever seen.

She runs her hands over her name.

AURORA

Look...my name...

ALVIN

It's totally tits right?

Aurora laughs while fighting back tears.

AURORA

Yes...yes it's totally tits. ...You  
didn't have to--

ALVIN

As far as I'm concerned, we wrote  
that story together.

Aurora sincerely touched.

AURORA

...Thank you.

Alvin locks eyes with her...nods "of course". Both stare back  
out to sea.

AURORA

Well...I should bounce.

ALVIN

Wait... You don't have to go just  
yet.

AURORA

Really?

Alvin shakes his head. Aurora smiles. Sits.

The two take in the view.

**EXT. BABYLON BEACH - DAY**

Durian and Freya stand on the sand as before.

ALVIN (V.O.)

Durian brushed a strand of radiantly violet hair out of Freya's eyes. Here they were. After all this...nothing had changed. And yet somehow everything had. "Where will you go," she asked. Durian simply smiled. She knew the answer.

Durian kisses her forehead. Climbs on his boat. Sets sail.

Fairies on the pier wave good bye before transforming into tiny specks of light.

Only Freya remains in human form. Durian looks back. Gives a bitter sweet smile.

ALVIN (V.O.)

She would always be a dream. But one Durian would take with him. Always.

**EXT. SAILBOAT - DAY**

Alvin watches Aurora and the dock fade in the distance.

His roommates crew the boat.

ALVIN

Marco, put those muscles to use. Tighten that mainsheet--oh, here, let me do it. David, tell me you're getting a picture of this.

Roy steers the ship.

ROY

Arrr--where be I pointing her, cap'n?

MARCO

What?

ROY

Where do I turn, dumbass.

MARCO

Oh.

ROY

Arrr--your orders, cap'n. Where we be goin'?

Alvin runs up to the bow--gazes out to the open sea--  
Flashes an adventurous smile that would rival even Durian's.

ALVIN  
Everywhere.

FADE OUT.

**THE END.**