

OH MY GODS !



AN ORIGINAL COMEDY

BY

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Caption:

"This story is based on REAL mythological figures."

FADE IN:

INT. HEAVEN: THE THRONE ROOM - DAY

We see three thrones from behind. The middle, largest one is ornate with a big "G" on it, the left one, also ornate, has "HG", while the right one, a simple, plain home-made wooden affair, has "JC". Clouds billow around the floor. We hear SNORING.

CLARENCE, a short, somewhat portly angel, is fast asleep on the middle throne, legs over the arm. As a novice angel, his wings are small and under-developed. The place is a mess, clearly from the remains of a big party.

ST PETER enters, dressed in your standard angel attire, flowing white robes. He is always serene, bathed in the glow of his halo. He moves as if on wheels. He COUGHS politely when he sees Clarence.

Nothing.

He COUGHS louder.

Nothing.

He SIGHS. He grabs his halo and throws it like a boomerang at Clarence. It PINGS the sleeping angel and returns to St Peter. He blows on it, polishes it on his sleeve, then returns it above his head.

ST PETER

Best invention ever!

Clarence initially ignores the blow, but leaps off the throne when he sees St Peter, grabs his broom and resumes sweeping.

ST PETER (CONT'D)

Nice try, Clarence. What's wrong with you? You should have finished ages ago. You know G's gonna be back any day now, right?

CLARENCE

I know. I know. It's just those cherubim are disgusting.

ST PETER

That's as may be, but the place better be spotless.

Clarence SIGHS and points at the thrones.

CLARENCE

Are they ALL coming back this time?

ST PETER

Looks like it.

(shudders)

That Holy Ghost gives me the creeps.

CLARENCE

Where've they been all this time - must be over a hundred years by now?

ST PETER

You don't think this is their only planet, do you?

CLARENCE

'Course not. Er... do they know what's been going on down there since they...?

ST PETER

That's a problem for management, not the likes of you and me. Get this place cleaned up.

St Peter leaves. Clarence sweeps more vigorously. He accidentally knocks into G's throne. A secret drawer in the arm springs open. Inside there is a scarab, attached to a necklace. It has a slight ethereal glow.

Clarence is curious. He checks the coast is clear and picks it up gingerly. He SCREAMS with pain and drops it. He jumps up and down, shaking his hand and blowing on it like it's on fire.

CLARENCE

Holy shit!

The scarab sinks through the cloud floor. Clarence looks down, horrified. There is a hole in the cloud, and we can see the scarab falling towards the land far below.

St Peter rushes back in. Clarence quickly knocks the drawer shut with his hip as he kicks cloud over the hole.

CLARENCE (CONT'D)

Caught my hand.

St Peter shakes his head, turns and leaves. Clarence opens up the hole in the floor again and gazes down.

EXT. OLYMPUS (CO) - DAY

Wide view of a neat, pretty town with a majestic Rocky Mountains backdrop, all clad in snow - like a scene from a Swiss chocolate box. We see something fall from the sky, with a WHISTLING sound, followed by a cartoony THUD and an OUCH.

CLARENCE (O.S.)

Oh, oh!

INT. CAVE INNER SANCTUM - DAY

The cave looks very ancient Greek, with beautiful marble columns, amphora and nude statues.

The ancient gods, dressed in togas and laurel wreaths, have fallen asleep in front of a huge feast, barely touched. ZEUS and HERA are snoozing very regally at the head of the table on large thrones.

We hear the THUD sound again.

Zeus suddenly jerks up like a meerkat, and INHALES.

ZEUS

The key!

DISSOLVE TO:

BLACK SCREEN

ALEX (V.O.)

Wednesdays, eh? Aren't they the worst?

FADE IN:

EXT. JUMBO JET - DAY

CLOSE UP on ALEX, 17, bewildered. He dresses to be as inconspicuous as possible, but still looks the studious kid that he is. Clouds are whizzing passed. He is unruffled.

The camera slowly pulls back during the voiceover to reveal him sitting on the wing of a Jumbo jet.

ALEX (V.O.)

'Twere not always thus. If you'd told me a week ago I'd be vrooming off to Europe on the wing of a Jumbo jet at 30,000 feet, I *MAY* have been skeptical.

He looks towards the cockpit. The pilot does a double-take. Alex gives him a sheepish smile and a wave. The pilot, confused, gives him a little wave back.

ALEX (V.O.)

It all started a few days ago..

EXT. OLYMPUS (CO) - DAY

The camera glides down towards the pretty town we saw earlier, passed a sign on the outskirts:

Olympus, Colorado

Fit for the gods

Population: 32,500

Elevation: 3,500 ft

ALEX (V.O.)
 I mean, my life was nothing
 special, in a pleasant enough town
 in the boondocks...

The camera continues to Alex's modest house.

ALEX (V.O.)
 With all the thrills and spills
 that entails.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - ALEX'S BEDROOM - DAY

Alex lies in bed. The walls are covered with fantasy pictures, movie posters, and scantily clad actresses, models and singers.

ALEX (V.O.)
 I was just your normal teenager.

The camera pans around to show the other wall, covered floor to ceiling in books, with one shelf of academic awards. An impressive array.

ALEX (V.O.)
 Well, almost normal.

DIANE (O.S.)
 Alex, Sweetie. You're gonna be
 late for school.

Alex pulls the covers over his head with a GRUNT.

ALEX (V.O.)
 With parents who really haven't a
 clue what's going on in my life.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - DAY

Speech Day. Alex goes up to receive his academic prize in scroll form. His parents applaud, but his mother DIANE, mid-40s, looks especially proud.

ALEX (V.O.)
 My mother, bless her, couldn't be
 happier whenever I get these.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYM - DAY

Basketball game. The ball comes to Alex. It is an easy shot at the hoop. He misses. His team mates look pissed.

His father, GENE, 50, a physically impressive man, SLAPS his forehead. His mother smiles consolingly.

ALEX (V.O.)
 My dad, however - a complete
 sports nut. I guess, in his own
 way, he's proud of me, but...
 (shrugs)
 Me and sports? Like oil and water.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Alex sits at the table, reading. He moves the book out of the way as his mother places a breakfast tray in front of him. The scene is actually domestic bliss.

ALEX (V.O.)

Yea, I know, I know. Another whiny, self-absorbed brat. But that's the whole point of being a teenager, isn't it?

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - FRONT - DAY

Alex watches as a flock of school divas walk by. His gaze focuses in on HELEN, Queen of the Pack. She is picture perfect, absolutely gorgeous, like a model. He lusts after her forlornly. He SIGHS.

A group of jocks walk by and just nonchalantly push him aside. Frustration is written all over his face

EXT. OLYMPUS (CO) - STREET - DAY

Alex and HECTOR (17, latino) ride their bikes. They are very skilled, absent-mindedly doing "tricks" from time to time, such as balancing on one wheel, etc. Their interaction is very comfortable and warm.

ALEX (V.O.)

This, by the way, is my normal, more prosaic, mode of transportation. Oh, and this is my best friend, Hector, my virtual twin. He was born two days before me in the same clinic - and he's not afraid to play the age card.

HECTOR

Listen to your elders, young man.

ALEX (V.O.)

See what I mean?

They turn into the Fairground.

EXT. FAIRGROUND - DAY

Alex and Hector wander aimlessly around the attractions when ALISON, also 17, comes up behind them. She is a warm, sweet, intelligent girl, pretty but not a hottie.

ALEX (V.O.)

And this is Alison, the final member of our triumvirate. Yes, I know - it doesn't exactly help my street cred if I go around using words like that. I'd like to say we're The Three Musketeers, but, well, just look at us. Anyway, I guess that brings you up to speed now.

Hector gestures towards the roller-coaster.

ALEX (V.O.)
It was just another day in
paradise - or so it seemed.

HECTOR
Let's start here, guys.

Alex looks up at the SCREAMING passengers hurtling by.

ALEX
Wouldn't you rather have your
balls ripped out through your
nostrils?

Hector LAUGHS. Alex is visibly discomfited.

ALISON
Don't be such a wuss. Let's go!

ALEX
(to himself)
Shit!

There is a very easy familiarity between the three, but it is clear from the way Alison stays closer to Alex and frequently touches him that she has a latent crush on him.

INT. ROLLER-COASTER ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER

They join the queue for the roller-coaster. Alex looks very uneasy. He stares at the little girl standing with her mother in front of him. She is so excited about going on the ride, talking umpteen to the dozen.

The carriage arrives. The ROLLER-COASTER MAN, bored out of his mind, directs the flow. Mother and child go into the first row. Alex heads for the back, but the man directs him next to the girl.

ROLLER-COASTER MAN
Fill from the front. Fill from the
front.

Alex is horrified. The girl gives him an excited smile. He turns and sees Hector grinning sadistically behind him.

EXT. ROLLER-COASTER - NIGHT

The roller-coaster gyrates wildly. There is a bright flash and CLICK of a camera shutter.

FREEZE FRAME the picture. Hector and Alison (2nd row) and mother and daughter (1st row) look thrilled; Alex looks petrified, his eyes closed. All have their hair standing on end.

Alison is holding the photograph. They all LAUGH. She puts it meticulously in her purse.

The boys wave goodbye to Alison, and ride off on their bikes.

EXT. HILL OVERLOOKING OLYMPUS (CO) - NIGHT

The boys sit on the hill, staring at the small town twinkling below them.

HECTOR
Why're you so restless, man?

ALEX
It's all going so fast.

HECTOR
You sound like my abuelo.

ALEX
Doesn't it bother you we've never really done anything, or been anywhere, or... or... experienced life on the edge.

HECTOR
I missed breakfast this morning.

ALEX
Be still, my beating heart.

HECTOR
Relax. Besides, what adventures could YOU possibly want? You're scared shitless of a roller-coaster.

ALEX
Now without reason, I would say.
(sigh)
I guess, all I really want is to get laid.

They both LAUGH.

HECTOR
Now you're making sense!

ALEX
You can laugh. The way things are going, we're both gonna graduate virgins.

HECTOR
No. We're gonna DIE virgins.

EXT. OLYMPUS (CO) - STREET - NIGHT

They push their bikes along as they chat.

HECTOR
Stop worrying. Another year or so and we'll be off to college. Decadence and pure indulgence await.

ALEX
Easy for you to say. Your dad can afford it.

HECTOR
That's what the life-crippling
loans are for.

ALEX
There's always Plan B. Sperm
donor.

HECTOR
Hah! Well, you've certainly been
training hard. I'm surprised
you're not blind already.

They stop dead when they see Helen and the divas straight
ahead. They both SIGH.

ALEX
We're idiots. We are the invisible
lusting after the unattainable.
What have they got that could
possibly interest us?

HECTOR
You mean, besides their casual
moral attitude?

Alex CHUCKLES. Suddenly, there is a THUD as the scarab we
saw earlier hits him on the head.

ALEX
Ouch!

He loses control of his bike and falls head first over a
hedge. The divas LAUGH, then head off.

Alex lies mortified on the long grass. He rubs his head.

HECTOR
Yup. Virgin for life.

As Alex tries to get up, he feels the scarab caught in his
clothing. Its ethereal air captivates him. His reverie is
interrupted when Hector's helping hand comes into view.

HECTOR (CONT'D)
What you got there?

ALEX
Haven't a clue. It hit me.

Hector looks around. They are alone.

HECTOR
What do you mean it hit you?
There's no one here.

ALEX
I'm telling you it hit me.

He looks at it again. He thrusts it at Hector.

ALEX (CONT'D)
(menacingly)
Maybe it's the Eye of Mordor.

Hector looks at it closely.

HECTOR

The one dung beetle to control them all?

They walk away, Alex clutching his side painfully. He is about to drop the scarab in a trashcan when he has second thoughts, and puts it in his pocket.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - ALEX'S BATHROOM - DAY

Alex takes off his pajama top and looks at a huge bruise in the mirror. He winces. He returns to...

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - ALEX'S BEDROOM - DAY

He picks up the scarab from his bedside table, hesitates, then puts it around his neck. Immediately, and unbeknownst to him, the huge bruise fades to nothing.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Alex is having breakfast on a tray. His mother sits opposite as usual and picks up her sewing. She looks every inch the school librarian she is. She speaks with a slight BBC British accent.

DIANE

Gene, the Principal says Alex should aim for an Ivy League School.

GENE

Jesus, Diane. How're we gonna afford that?

Alex looks hurt. Diane gives him a reassuring, not-to-worry smile, and gives Gene a how-stupid-and-insensitive-can-you-be look! Gene looks back at her with that typical "What? What have I done?" expression.

DIANE

(to Alex)

Don't worry, dear, we'll manage - even if I have to sell BOTH your father's kidneys.

As Gene passes a mirror, he rubs what's left of his hair.

DIANE (CONT'D)

They say baldness makes a man look virile and handsome.

GENE

I'm not going bald!

DIANE

Well, that's one hell of a parting, dear!

Alex's brother VINCE, nearly 19, comes in, all rippling muscles. He sees the scarab. He shakes his head disapprovingly.

VINCE

Pressing flowers not enough for you, little bro? Now you're wearing jewelry. You going totally queer on us?

DIANE

Vince, dear, that's "ARE you going totally queer?" Grammar, please.

VINCE

Sorry, mom.
(to Alex)
You gotta get outta those... er...

Vince looks at his mother and corrects himself.

VINCE (CONT'D)

(awkwardly)
You need to get out of those books and do something manly for a change. Like a real sport.

DIANE

That's better.

Vince nods gratefully for this maternal validation.

GENE

Yea, Alex. Even Hector and Alison are more sporty than you. And...
(pointing to Vince proudly)
Football scholarship!

Gene puts his arm proudly around Vince and they leave.

ALEX

But he can hardly spell his own name!

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - FRONT - DAY

As the trio park their bikes, the School Divas arrive in a very nice car. The boys are immediately distracted. Alison looks on in disgust.

ALISON

Seriously, guys? If their brains were dynamite, they wouldn't have enough to blow their hair off.

She leaves. The divas don't even notice the boys' existence as they swan by. Hector rubs his own slightly-stubbed chin, then Alex's.

HECTOR

Forget it, dude. You're still as smooth as a baby's bum. You have no chance.

ALEX

And you do?

HECTOR
 (scoffs)
 'Course not!

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - LOCKERS - DAY

Alex, Hector and Alison are at their lockers when some bullies come by, hurling INSULTS at Alex: "Nerd" "Teacher's Pet" "Asshole". Their body language is hostile.

One of the bullies SLAMS Alex's locker shut, right on his fingers, and, cowards that they are, they run off LAUGHING.

They all wince, but Alex feels nothing. They look at his hand - no harm done. Instead, there are finger indentations in the door. They look at each other in disbelief.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - SPORTS FIELD - DAY

Hockey game. Alison ducks just in time as the ball whizzes past her head, swivels round to control it, and dribbles through the opposition to score a great goal. Her cheering team mates swamps her. Alex and Hector are impressed.

ALEX
 Nice one, Ali. Great goal.

She beams, and waves back.

HECTOR
 Cut through that field like
 butter. Got some balls, our Ali.

ALEX
 I'm amazed she's still got any
 teeth!

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - PLAYING FIELD - DAY

Intra-class soccer game. Hector plays well, but Alex is totally useless. His embarrassment and inadequacy are compounded when they walk off the field and he sees Helen watching. He slumps down next to Alison, clearly on edge.

ALEX
 Jesus, I'm crap. We lost 5-nil.

ALISON
 You were lucky to get nil!

ALEX
 Thanks!

ALISON
 Come on, it's-

She puts her hand on his shoulder, but he pulls away.

ALEX
 Just leave me alone, okay?

He sees Hector's disapproving look.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 Hey, Ali, I'm sorry. I...

He turns but she's gone.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - ENTRANCE - DAY

The boys are leaving the building.

INT. CAVE INNER SANCTUM - DAY

An excited Zeus has his arms in the air and his eyes closed. His hands make a come-to-me gesture.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - ENTRANCE - DAY

The scarab glows faintly under Alex's shirt.

ALEX
 Bummer of a day.

HECTOR
 Shit happens, man.

ALEX
 Alison?

HECTOR
 Still pissed. That wasn't cool, amigo. She cares for you, you know.

ALEX
 I know. She's always been there for us, since we were in diapers.

HECTOR
 (to himself)
 For someone so clever, you're not that bright.

ALEX
 What?

They are distracted by Helen's perfume as she wafts by. Suddenly, she stops, pauses, then turns back to Alex. They are startled from their reverie.

HELEN
 Hi, Alan.

Alex looks behind him, then realizes she's talking to him.

ALEX
 Oh, hi.

Helen is very seductive and "helpless" as she speaks.

HELEN
 Mr Ellis is so mean. He gave me an "F". Now I've gotta do it all over again. And I have plans for the holidays. I don't know what to do.

HECTOR
Try doing the work.

Helen ignores him, concentrating on Alex.

HELEN
I'm gonna flunk unless someone can help me... not flunk. You reckon you could help me, Alan? I'd be EVER so grateful.

ALEX
(trying to be cool)
Shhhhhure, Helen. It's ALEX, by the way.

She gives him a big fake smile and a small wave.

HELEN
I'll call you. Thanks, Alan.

As she turns, she gives Hector a superior, condescending look. She rejoins her pack. Alex is dumb-struck.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - FRONT - DAY

Alex looks dazed as they cycle out of the school grounds.

HECTOR
Didn't see that coming. Be careful, Alex. Don't get your hopes up - Helen is a goddess and we are but mere mortals.

ALEX
It's just a little homework, Hector.

HECTOR
Huh! How on earth are you gonna help her? I'll bet she thinks buffalos really do have wings.

ALEX
Is someone a little jealous?

HECTOR
Okay, I admit I wouldn't climb over her to get to you. But, come on, Alex, you've got nothing in common with her. You're thinking with your dick. You know it would just be sex, right?

ALEX
And the problem with that is...?

HECTOR
Okay. You got me. Ask her to bring a friend.

Alex makes a turn towards the snowy mountains.

HECTOR (CONT'D)
Hey. Where are you going?

Alex continues, oblivious. Hector shrugs and follows.

EXT. HILL ROAD ON MT OLYMPUS (CO) - DAY

The road gets steeper, and the boys have to stand up on the pedals to make progress. Alex's cell phone RINGS as he struggles to pedal.

ALEX
(inhaling rapidly)
Is that...?

As he fumbles to get it, he loses his balance and crashes the bike. The phone falls over the edge of the cliff.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Aaaagh! Shit!

He climbs down to get it. As he reaches it, he slips and knocks it down further into a cave. He follows it in.

INT. CAVE - DAY

The scarab around his neck starts to glow brightly. He picks up the phone and impatiently looks at the screen.

ANGLE ON CELL-PHONE

NO SIGNAL

ALEX
Damn!

He is about to leave, when he notices a faint blue light coming from deep within. Turning a corner, he stops in his tracks when he sees what looks like paradise - a wonderful, colorful world, clear blue sky, with a beautiful lake, lush land to one side, with an abundance of wildlife.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Holy Shit.
(shouting)
Hector! Get your ass down here.
You gotta see this.

He rushes out. The scarab is now glowing strongly.

Alex's shout awakens HERMES, dozing on a hammock. The shock causes him to upend the hammock and fall to the ground. He looks a little effeminate, with his winged cap and feet.

HERMES
Stop! Wait!

He rushes after Alex, but hits an invisible force field with a THUD, and slides to the ground.

INT. CAVE INNER SANCTUM - DAY

The ancient gods are bored out of their minds. Hera is on her throne at the head of the table. She looks around.

HERA

Zeusy, where are you, honey?

Nothing. Zeus is apart from the others, pacing nervously up and down.

HERA (CONT'D)

Someone, entertain us. Any volunteers? Aphrodite?

APHRODITE is truly gorgeous and sensual. She is prettying herself in front of a mirror.

CUPID is a child-like being with small wings, usually found flying around in Aphrodite's proximity with a bow and arrow.

ATHENA is another beautiful goddess, but looks more scholarly. She puts on a pair of glasses to read a scroll.

BACCHUS lounges comfortably in a mild alcoholic stupor, quaffing wine and scoffing grapes.

APOLLO keeps himself slightly apart, minding his own business. He is beautiful. Almost effeminate, he sits meticulously manicuring his nails. He discernibly glows.

POSEIDON is very powerfully built, with a permanent curmudgeonly expression. He casually throws his trident up and down like a baton-twirling cheerleader.

POSEIDON

Not HER again! For Chrissakes.

Everyone looks up in horror.

HERA

Wash your mouth-

Zeus CLICKS his fingers and appears instantaneously on his throne at Hera's side.

ZEUS

This is it, guys! The key is here!

Excited, he absentmindedly throws a thunderbolt here and there. Whatever it hits is burnt to a cinder, but immediately regenerates as new. His wandering eye catches the beautiful serving nymphs. Hera watches him carefully and gives the cold eye to any nymph who gets too close.

Zeus looks around at his disconsolate family. They haven't grasped the importance of this moment yet.

APOLLO

Eh?

ZEUS

What's the matter with you morons?
The key is here!

The penny finally drops. There is a palpable excitement.

Hermes rushes in, barely able to contain his emotion.

HERMES

He's here! The bearer of the key
is here! The scarab is outside!

They all look at him as if that's old news.

ZEUS

(to Hera)

What bloody good is a messenger
if...?

Hera makes a calm down gesture and smiles benignly at the
mystified Hermes.

POSEIDON

About bloody time too, if you ask
me.

ZEUS

Bring him in.

Hermes' expression turns from excitement to dread.

HERMES

Ah! He, er, left again, dad.

ZEUS

What?! Stupid boy!

Zeus throws a thunderbolt at Hermes but he ducks and it
hits a startled Apollo instead. Apollo lights up like a
Christmas Tree. Hermes slinks behind his father.

Poseidon is startled by the explosion - his trident lands
on Cupid, pinning him to the ground by the neck. He grabs
his trident back and threatens Hermes with it. Cupid rubs
his neck in relief.

POSEIDON

How could you let him get away?

HERA

(fuming)

We finally get a chance to leave
this...

(gesturing towards
paradise)

... dump, and you screw up. I don't
know. I blame your father.

She looks at Zeus angrily. Zeus gives her a bored "here-we-
go-again" look. The gods are all agitated and picking on
Hermes. There is so much bottled up tension.

INT. CAVE - DAY

Alex and Hector marvel at the miraculous world in front of
them. Hector crosses himself.

HECTOR

Wow! What is this? The Batcave?

ALEX

Isn't it awesome?

Cautiously, they walk forward.

HECTOR
What do we do now? Call the
police?

ALEX
And tell them what?

HECTOR
I dunno. Hey, look at your
necklace! It's on fire. What's
that all about?

The scarab is glowing brightly.

ALEX
It's a SCARAB, Hector.

HECTOR
Potato, po-tah-to.

Alex gingerly touches the scarab as if it were hot, but it isn't. He looks puzzled.

INT. CAVE INNER SANCTUM - DAY

Zeus magics up a huge virtual screen. Everyone concentrates on the giant image of the boys standing in the cave. As it zooms in on the scarab around Alex's neck, there is an audible GASP of excitement.

POSEIDON
That's it! The key!

ZEUS
Okay. Everyone stay calm. We don't
want to scare them off. Hmmm. How
are we going to get them to come
in?

ATHENA
You mean, two horny boys?

They all turn towards Aphrodite. She smiles seductively.

ZEUS
Good girl, Aphrodite. We need a
really good show here.

Zeus spots the permanently angry-looking ARES. He turns him into a statue, frozen in the act of protesting.

ZEUS (CONT'D)
Ares had better stay out of sight.

HERA
Zeus, he's our son!

ZEUS
I don't care. That boy gives me
the willies.

INT. CAVE - DAY

This image is from Botticelli's "The Birth of Venus".
Beautiful celestial MUSIC suddenly fills the cave.

The boys are alarmed and about to run when they see the voluptuous figure of a naked Aphrodite, a picture of loveliness, rise serenely from the lake on a huge shell, her hands strategically preserving her modesty. She is completely dry.

Two intertwined, semi-naked, winged spirits blow her towards the shore. She is joined by one of the Horae, goddesses of the seasons, dressed in medieval gown, who hands her a flowered cloak. Flowers float down from heaven.

For a moment, the boys stand in awe, jaws agape.

ALEX

It can't be. That looks like
Aphrodite, the goddess of love.

HECTOR

Wow! Pretty hot for all those
miles on the clock.

Aphrodite SNEEZES.

ALEX

Gesundheit.

Alex awkwardly offers her his jacket. She looks genuinely surprised and touched by the gesture, but declines.

APHRODITE

Thank you. Yes, I am Aphrodite.

ALEX

But you live in Greece, not
Colorado.

HECTOR

(to Alex)
THAT'S the only thing you find odd
here - her zipcode?

APHRODITE

(sadly)
Ah, that was such a long time ago.

INT. CAVE INNER SANCTUM - DAY

The gods are totally concentrated on the virtual screen.

POSEIDON

(impatiently)
Just grab them and bring them in!

ZEUS

Patience, brother. Patience. You
know we can't touch the bearer of
the scarab.

INT. CAVE - DAY

Aphrodite holds out her hand invitingly to the boys, but they stand rooted to the ground. She smiles radiantly.

APHRODITE

Don't be afraid. Let me show you around. It'll be so nice to have company again.

The boys WHISPER to one another.

ALEX

She LOOKS friendly enough.

HECTOR

Not to say, drop-dead gorgeous. Man, no wonder those Greeks worshipped her. I'd be her toy boy, any day.

APHRODITE

(smiling benignly)

I'm afraid that's not an option.

The kids look surprised.

APHRODITE (CONT'D)

But if you ask for anything reasonable.

HECTOR

What? Grant a wish? What is this? Aladdin's cave? I know-

Suddenly, Hector's face lights up as an enormous swelling appears in his pants. He keels over from the weight. Alex's face sprouts a foot of facial hair. He looks like a hermit.

HECTOR (CONT'D)

Aaagh! That was a joke - something else! Something else!

APHRODITE

Friendly word of advice - we can read minds!

She returns them to normal. They double check themselves.

ALEX

Useful trick. Doesn't it get deafening, though, hearing everyone's inner thoughts?

APHRODITE

We switch it on and off, as and when.

HECTOR

Here's your chance, Alex. Why don't you ask for Helen?

ALEX

Nah. That's cheating.

HECTOR

Hah! As if there's any other way!
What've you got to lose? Maybe
that'll get her out of your
system, once and for all. She'll
eat you alive!

APHRODITE

(yawns)
Shooting fish in a barrel.

She walks gracefully towards them. Suddenly, there is a BOINK sound as she hits the invisible force field. The boys look puzzled at each other.

APHRODITE (CONT'D)

Ouch!

Recovering her composure, she beckons to the boys to come forward. They look at each other indecisively.

APHRODITE (CONT'D)

(seductively)
Come. You won't be disappointed.

P.O.V. FROM BEHIND APHRODITE

Aphrodite gradually lets the cloak slip from her shoulder. It falls to the ground. She is stark naked once again. She raises her hands to rearrange her hair.

ALEX

(dreamily)
Ask for who?

INT. CAVE INNER SANCTUM - DAY

The gods are watching intently on Zeus' impromptu screen.

ZEUS

That's my girl! Now, reel them in.
Get everything ready. And
remember: behave... or else!

They all perform magic at the same time. Flowers spring up. Plates of food and goblets of wine fly around and crash into one another, spilling everywhere.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

Enough!

With a heavy SIGH, he waves his arm and order is restored.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

If you want a job done properly...

INT. CAVE - DAY

ETHEREAL MUSIC is playing. The boys' eyes are popping out of their heads. They are bathed in a warm light. Again, Aphrodite puts out her hand and beckons them forward.

HECTOR

(whispering)

That's quite a... carpet she's got there. And she's a bit... chunky, isn't she?

APHRODITE

I heard that!

ALEX

What's the matter with you? She's classically "full-figured".

HECTOR

(chuckling)

"Full-figured"? Listen to you.

ALEX

She's gorgeous.

Alex approaches her, trance-like. Hector reluctantly follows him. They pass through the invisible barrier easily, as if walking through a waterfall. The scarab is glowing very brightly.

THE GODS

They're in!

INT. CAVE INNER SANCTUM - DAY

Aphrodite leads the boys to the inner sanctum. When the gods see the scarab glowing around Alex's neck, they are enthralled, nervous, impatient. They sit the boys at the table, and treat them like royalty. The boys are amazed at the spectacle of the gods at home.

HECTOR

Who are all these people?

ALEX

It looks like a gaggle of Greek gods! Damn me. Maybe she really is Aphrodite. Amazing!

ZEUS

Smart boy, Alex.

ALEX

How do you know my name?

ZEUS

We are the gods.

HECTOR

Get outta here.

ZEUS

That's exactly what we intend to do.

Hector looks puzzled, but is then distracted as fantastic food appears before them. He tucks in enthusiastically; Alex is more cautious. Whenever they eat something, the plate is magically replenished.

HECTOR

Do you think they've got any
tortillas to go with this?

ALEX

You're thinking about food? Now?

Alex turns to Zeus.

ALEX (CONT'D)

If you are the ancient gods, how
come you speak English?

HECTOR

What are you talking about?
They're speaking Spanish.

ZEUS

We gods speak directly to the
brain. Everyone understands us -
even the Irish, occasionally.

Cupid is in the background excitedly practicing with his
bow and arrows. His aim is lousy.

ALEX

If you really are the gods, then,
er, who did Zeus rape in the form
of a swan to beget Helen of Troy?

Hector looks at Alex strangely and mouths the word
"beget!?".

Zeus looks very embarrassed; Hera looks very angry. Zeus
motions towards Hera with his thumb.

ZEUS

Hey, kid, you're killing me here.
(whispers)
Leda.

ALEX

Okay.

HECTOR

That doesn't prove anything. YOU
know that and you're not a god.

ALEX

(to Zeus)
Why are you here?

Zeus's face gets angry. There is a rumble of thunder. Then
he remembers the boys are there and calms down.

ZEUS

You know, everything was fine
until your God broke our deal.

ALEX

What deal?

ZEUS

I knew it!
 (to Hera)
 See? I told you we couldn't trust
 that one. They never heard about
 our deal.

EXT. CLOUDS - DAY

There is a sign overhead:

1,012th Annual Deity Conference

Cloud 9

The gods are all huddled around a table, along with deities
 from other parts of the world - Buddha, Brahma, Shiva, and
 so on. Mid-air above the table is a floating globe.

ZEUS (V.O.)

We agreed to carve up the world
 between us.

ANGLE ON GLOBE

A hand appears holding a knife. It carves up the globe.

ZEUS (V.O.)

It worked fine until your God got
 greedy and wanted it all. We were
 tricked into this imprisonment.

INT. CAVE INNER SANCTUM - DAY

Hector crosses himself.

HECTOR

Our God doesn't TRICK people.

ALEX

Why imprison you? Why not just
 kill you?

ZEUS

Duh! We're immortal. No one can
 kill us.

ALEX

So, what are you doing here?

POSEIDON

(angrily)
 Kicking our damn heels, that's
 what.

ZEUS

What my brother is trying to say
 is that we've been cooped up here
 for centuries, isolated. And we
 have not been enjoying what is
 rightfully ours.

HECTOR

And what would that be?

ZEUS

We want to be worshipped again.
That's what gods are for -
worshipping. Them's the rules.

Hector crosses himself again.

HECTOR

Holy mother of Jesus! That's gonna
really piss off my mom!

ALEX

Why do you need to be worshipped?

They look at him, stumped. They don't know what to say.

POSEIDON

That's what we do.

ALEX

And what do we get?

Again, they look stumped.

HECTOR

Alex, we should leave - this is
getting too weird. I don't trust
them. Come on, let's go.

He gets up, but his attention is diverted by the nymphs.

ZEUS

Alex, my friend, we mean no harm.

He gestures to Aphrodite to sit on the other side of the
boy. As Zeus continues to talk, Alex finds his gaze
seriously distracted by the careless way Aphrodite's toga
fails to cover her breasts properly.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

When we were in charge, the world
was a much simpler and more
tolerant place. We're not going to
cause any trouble.

ALEX

Didn't you throw Christians to the
lions?

POSEIDON

Wouldn't you?

Without taking his eyes off Alex, Zeus turns Poseidon into
The Man in the Iron Mask. Poseidon's protests are mute and
in vain.

ZEUS

Sure, maybe that was... a bit cruel...
to the lions. But these are
details, dear boy. Details.

HERA

Alex, will you be our guide to
this new world?

ALEX

Me?!?

HERA

We don't know what's happened
while we've been locked up here.

Smiling benignly, Aphrodite, in a masterful maneuver, turns ever so slightly, just enough to give Alex a full unencumbered view of her perfect breasts.

APHRODITE

We need someone smart like you,
Alex.

She caresses his arm. He crosses his legs, embarrassed.

APHRODITE (CONT'D)

You'll do this for us, won't you,
Alex?

Alex turns to Hector, but he is surrounded by gorgeous nymphs and couldn't care less!

HERA

We are very generous to our
friends, Alex. Whatever you want.

APHRODITE

I've already promised him Helen.

Alex fantasizes.

INT. STAPLES CENTER, LA - EVENING

The LA Lakers are playing the Houston Rockets. The score is LAKERS 100 ROCKETS 101. There are only seconds left to play. Alex, in Lakers strip, has possession of the ball. He launches it into the net from his own half. A fantastic shot. The BUZZER goes. All the players treat him like a hero.

ALEX (V.O.)

My dad would be so happy if I got
on the basketball team.

Gene has a front row seat and is jumping up and down ecstatically. He runs onto the court to hug his son. Vince remains seated, jealously watching from the side.

EXT. MONUMENT VALLEY - DAY

ALEX (V.O.)

Oh, and I've always wanted a
convertible.

CLOSE UP on Alex driving a beautiful 1960 Cadillac with the top down. He looks so cool with his shades on! The camera pulls back to reveal he has one arm around Helen - and his school backpack on the back seat.

INT. CAVE INNER SANCTUM - DAY

The gods look at each other, completely lost. Poseidon manages to rip the mask off. He is now calmer.

ZEUS
Okay. We'll figure out what they are.

ALEX
That easy?

ZEUS
Yes.

ALEX
If you can do all that, why can't you get yourselves out of here?

ZEUS
This force field is too strong, even for me - nothing can get in or out - except with the key.

Zeus points at the glowing scarab.

ZEUS (CONT'D)
But I do still have power, Alex. Look below you.

Alex SHRIEKS and suddenly grabs the table. They appear to be floating above a huge abyss, and at the bottom is the Underworld. HADES, a pallid, ghostly figure, dressed in black leather biker gear, waits on the bank of the River Styx for the ferryman bringing the souls of the dead. Hades gives a ghoulish thumbs up. Zeus acknowledges it.

The Underworld disappears.

Poseidon tries to get in closer to the conversation, but trips over Cupid, and accidentally lets fly his trident.

SLOW MOTION

The trident heads straight for Alex. Looks of horror on the faces of the gods. Alex turns to see the trident just as it reaches him. The scarab becomes incandescent.

Before Alex can react, there is a THUD sound as the trident hits a force field millimeters from his heart. The trident turns into rose petals that fall gently to the ground.

NORMAL MOTION

ALEX
Wow! Thanks. You saved my life.

Zeus, slightly out of Alex's sight line, shrugs to Hera, making it clear it wasn't him.

Poseidon, meanwhile, grabs Cupid angrily and dunks him in a huge amphora of wine, holding him under by the ankles.

POSEIDON

You're worse than a dog, runt.

APHRODITE

He didn't mean to, Uncle P.

Poseidon looks at her, then at Zeus. The message is clear. He pulls Cupid out and throws him into the air. He flies around VERY erratically, HICCUPING.

Alex watches this with wide-eyed wonder.

ALEX

Hector, these really are the Greek gods. Isn't this awesome?

Zeus is almost shaking with anticipation. He leans in, trying not to intimidate Alex.

ZEUS

You see that jewel over there?

Their gaze turns to a huge jewel atop a pedestal.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

Hold the scarab and point it at the jewel.

Alex is a little confused, but doesn't see any harm. He takes out the scarab.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

Good. Now rub it and say: "Black olives".

ALEX

Black olives?

ZEUS

You got something against black olives?

Alex rubs the scarab and points it at the jewel. Both glow incandescently.

ALEX

Black olives.

The moment the words escape his lips, there is a WHOOSHING sound, and a great flow of energy rushes to the scarab as it absorbs the force field. Alex is knocked backwards and momentarily winded by the force on the scarab.

Big FLASH.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - NIGHT

The gods are on the top of the mountain enjoying their sudden freedom. Zeus is standing with his arms raised high. Lightning flows from both. There is the Mother of all Storms. Poseidon is so pleased, he even hugs Cupid.

ZEUS

THIS... FEELS... GOOD!

Alex is happy, exhilarated and scared. The scarab around his neck is glowing brightly.

Hector stands next to him, looking very worried. He crosses himself again.

HECTOR

Oh, shit! What the hell have you done, Alex?

EXT. HEAVEN: CLOUDS - DAY

St Peter and ST MICHAEL, a much less serene saint than his friend, are playing a computer game in front of a giant image on a cloud. The WHOOSH from below reverberates.

ST PETER

That can't be good.

EXT. HEAVEN: CLOUDS - DAY

POV back of 3 thrones on a cloud. St Peter paces up and down nervously.

ST PETER

... so, it looks as though they've escaped.

JESUS stands up, halo over his head, looking very serene and divine.

JESUS

Holy Shit!

EXT. HEAVEN: PEARLY GATES - DAY

St Peter and St Michael are briefing Clarence.

ST PETER

Your mission, Clarence, is to neutralize the scarab before...
(he crosses himself)
... all Hell breaks loose.

CLARENCE

Why me?

ST PETER

Nobody else wants to do it.

ST MICHAEL

You got us into this mess, you'd better fix it - and quickly! G's gonna be VERY DISAPPOINTED!

Clarence GULPS.

CLARENCE

But how? We can't touch it. And I don't have my wings yet.

ST MICHAEL

Your problem. You figure it out.

CLARENCE

You won't regret it, chief. I
won't let you down.

Unconvinced, the saints smile weakly. Behind their backs,
they have ALL their fingers crossed.

EXT. HEAVEN: PEARLY GATES - DAY

Clarence is in a leather flying suit, white scarf and
goggles. He has a jet pack on his back. He salutes
awkwardly to St Peter, and fires up the jet pack. Out of
control, it flies up and up.

ST MICHAEL

(shouting)
You're going the wrong way!

Clarence flies into a cloud, out of sight.

EXT. CLOUDS - DAY

Resting on the clouds is a Quarter Moon, with a boy and a
fishing rod on it [it is the Dreamworks sign]. Suddenly,
Clarence appears through the cloud and CRASHES into the
moon. Startled, the boy slips off the moon and barely
manages to hang on by his fingertips. Clarence, meanwhile,
falls straight down and lands...

EXT. HEAVEN: PEARLY GATES - DAY

... at St Peter's feet. St Peter & St Michael do not hide
their exasperation. St Peter helps Clarence back onto his
feet, then lifts him up and launches him like a javelin
down to earth.

ST PETER

God help us!

St Michael crosses himself.

ST MICHAEL

Let's hope, for our sake, it
doesn't come to that!

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

With 9 full size gods all standing, huddled in the middle,
they keep bumping into each other or the furniture. Cupid
can't stand the crush and flies out through the wall.

HERA

Very, er, cosy!
(whispering to
Zeus)
Do something.

Zeus struggles to free his hand, then gives it a gentle
wave. The walls and furniture retreat in all directions.
Gene and Diane stand in amazement.

ALEX

Mom. Dad. These are, er, gods,
from Europe.

DIANE

If you say so, dear. Welcome to our humble abode.

GENE

(loudly and slowly)
Wel-come. Mi casa es su casa.

ALEX

Dad, please, they're foreign - not deaf... or stupid.

With a large friendly smile, Gene extends his hand to shake theirs. They raise their right hands in greeting.

GODS

Salve!

Gene feels rather awkward, but he can't help but be impressed by how fit and virile they look.

GENE

(to himself)
Please yourselves.

DIANE

Tea? Coffee?

The gods look at each other, perplexed. They shrug and nod, then wander about, touching anything and everything, completely relaxed. Alex tries to guide them towards chairs, but it's like herding cats.

ALEX

Where's Hector?

POSEIDON

Home. We don't need him.

Alex is momentarily disappointed, then shrugs it off - this is all just too exciting!

ZEUS

(to Alex)
So, this place is called "Olympus"? Nice touch. Your God's got a sense of humor.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - DAY

Clarence comes in to land, but bounces several times before coming to a complete stop, upside down, in a bush. He dusts himself down. He looks proud of himself.

CLARENCE

Getting better!

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Diane holds out a tray of cakes and cookies to Hera.

DIANE
 Europe, eh? That's nice. I do miss
 it sometimes - haven't been there
 for years. SOMEONE here never has
 the time.

(sighing)
 I'd love to see Paris and the
 Eiffel Tower again.

HERA
 Paris?

ALEX
 You would have known it as
 Lutetia, in Gaul.

Diane looks at him, impressed.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 (sotto voce)
 Asterix books.

Hera looks at Zeus, who gives a "why not?"-look back. He
 motions to Hermes to go. In an instant, he is gone.

Bacchus picks up a beer can.

GENE
 Help yourself.

Bacchus looks at it quizzically.

BACCHUS
 What does it do?

GENE
 Do? It's a beer can.

BACCHUS
 Ah! Beer!

Bacchus ignores the ring pull and simply pokes his finger
 straight into the can. It squirts out, startling all the
 gods. He swallows it all in one gulp. He puts the can down,
 and looks at Zeus.

BACCHUS (CONT'D)
 (disgusted)
 Bleagh!

Gene looks a little hurt. Hermes suddenly reappears, and
 nods to Zeus.

ZEUS
 Madam, please look outside.

Obligingly, Diane goes to the window. Startled, she lets go
 of the tray which CRASHES to the floor. Her jaw drops.

DIANE
 Oh, my goodness.

They all rush to the window to gawk at... the Eiffel Tower in
 the field behind the house. Zeus waves his hand.

INT. JULES VERNE RESTAURANT AT TOP OF EIFFEL TOWER - DAY

Alex's family look around as very startled and confused French waiters, all with cliché mustaches and white aprons, try to understand what just happened. They argue with each other in French and push each other around.

Zeus and Hera stand on one side, unimpressed.

Looking at the view, Diane's expression goes from excitement to disappointment.

DIANE
Of course, it's not really the same, in Colorado, is it?

ZEUS
(to Alex)
I see women haven't changed much in 2,000 years!

ALEX
Better send it back. The French - I mean, the Gauls - get pretty touchy about their stuff.

HERA
Why would they miss THIS?

Zeus waves his hand, and they are back in...

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

They see Gene looking at his balding head in the mirror.

ZEUS
Something wrong with your head?

GENE
No!

He looks jealously at the flowing locks on the gods.

GENE (CONT'D)
It's just, when I see your hair-

ZEUS
Oh, that. No problem.

Zeus waves his finger. Instantly, Gene's hair grows back. He checks it excitedly in the mirror with both hands.

GENE
Look, Diane. It's back.

DIANE
That's nice, dear.

GENE
Can you bottle this? We can make a fortune here.

HERMES
Really? Tell me more.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - TV SCREEN - DAY

The TV weather map shows clouds and storms over the whole USA - EXCEPT Olympus, Colorado.

WEATHERMAN

So, the whole lower 48 is covered by this freak stormy weather, with the exception of...

(points to the map)

... Olympus, Colorado here. I've never seen anything like it in all my 20 years-

The weather report is interrupted by a BREAKING NEWS sign.

We see images of a startled and angry Parisian mob where the Eiffel Tower used to stand.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

Reports are coming in that the Eiffel Tower has been stolen...

The scene changes to London. The tower is sitting in the middle of the Thames, in front of Parliament. The British look very bemused and confused.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

... by the British. President Camille Laurent has denounced this unprovoked hostile act and demanded an urgent meeting of the Security Council in New York. Messages of support are pouring in from all over the world.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

ALEX

(to Zeus)

You missed!

ZEUS

(mischievously)

I never miss.

Vince comes home, gives Alex a wedgie and laughs inanely.

VINCE

So, what's with all the fancy dress, runt? A toga party?

ATHENA

Who is this base specimen?

ALEX

(chuckling)

This retard is my brother, Vince.

Vince gives Alex a hard shove, almost knocking him over.

VINCE

Watch your mouth, nancy boy.

Zeus shakes his head disapprovingly and turns Vince into a gecko. Diane, who has not seen any of this as she has been serving her guests, turns round.

DIANE

(puzzled)

Oh. I thought I heard Vince. Cake anyone?

The door bell RINGS.

DIANE (CONT'D)

My goodness, who could that be? Do excuse me. I'll be right back.

Diane goes to answer it.

ALEX

(whispering to Zeus)

I know he's a jerk, but you gotta turn him back.

ZEUS

Got to!?! No one tells ME I got to do anything. He's lucky I didn't feed him to the Minotaur. Here, take this.

A small glass jar appears out of thin air in his outstretched hand. Inside it is a fly.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

When you think he's learned his lesson, feed him this magic fly. It will turn him back to normal - if that's really what you want.

Alex looks at the fly, then the gecko. He is about to free the fly, but the gecko is gesticulating angrily.

ALEX

You never let up, do you, Vince?

He pockets the jar, ignoring the gecko's protests.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - DAY

Clarence is standing at the door. He suddenly realizes he's still wearing leathers. He panics. He waves his hand and changes into a deep sea diving suit.

CLARENCE

Wrong!

He tries again. A ballet costume.

CLARENCE (CONT'D)

Ah, Jesus!

He covers his mouth in horror, realizing what he just said.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Bacchus and Apollo find the drinks cabinet. Apollo is intrigued by Alex's sunglasses lying on top. He strikes a David Caruso pose from CSI Miami as he puts on the shades. He looks in the mirror and nods approvingly. [From now on, Apollo is always wearing the sunglasses.]

He picks up an iPhone, looks at it puzzled.

GENE

That's Alex's iPhone.

APOLLO

What does it do?

GENE

Runs his whole life. They used to be just phones, but now they do everything.

Gene struggles to find a simple explanation for the confused god.

GENE (CONT'D)

A phone? Telephone? A communication device.

He hands Alex's wireless headphones to Apollo and gingerly gestures for him to put them on. He switches on some music.

Taken totally by surprise, Apollo leaps into the air, through the ceiling..., the next floor, the roof..

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - DAY

... high above the house. He pauses in the air, holding the headphones with his hands.

APOLLO

Cool.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Apollo floats back down. He looks at the iPhone, impressed.

APOLLO

(loudly)

Sure beats the interminable droning of those priestesses - miserable cows!

Alex motions to him to lower his voice.

Bacchus, impatient with the intricacies of the lock on the drinks cabinet, decides to push it right through with his finger. His eyes light up. He holds up a bottle of scotch.

GENE

30 year old single malt. You have a good eye.

Passing him a shot glass, he gestures to Bacchus to have some.

BACCHUS

Thanks.

Gene watches horrified as Bacchus holds up the near full bottle and quaffs the lot, finally wiping his mouth dry on his sleeve. Bacchus gives the bottle a nod of approval, then puts his hand to his chest.

BACCHUS (CONT'D)

Wow! Quite a kick!

He turns to look for another bottle in the cabinet, but Gene heads him off urgently.

GENE

You got a real problem there, fella.

(to himself)

Shit! A hundred bucks! What a schmuck!

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - DAY

Diane opens the door to a beggar - it is Clarence.

CLARENCE

(flustered)

Er... any old cans or plastic bottles, ma'am?

DIANE

Well, now's not a good time.

In the background, Cupid is practicing on a dart board. He fires an arrow, misses and hits Diane. She falls instantly in love with Clarence. Her demeanor morphs from kindly librarian to lustful vamp. She grabs him and pulls him in.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Come in.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Clarence is sitting at the table while Diane lays out all sorts of food and drink in front of him.

DIANE

More apple pie?

Embarrassed, Cupid flies back, through the wall, to...

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Cupid hides behind Aphrodite. Gene finds it hard to take his eyes off the voluptuous goddess. Bacchus is fast asleep on the floor in the corner. Apollo is lying on a sofa like a teenager, with his feet up over the arm, nodding and gyrating gently to the music from the iPhone.

ALEX

Things have changed a bit since you were... you know. Rome and Athens are, well, basically just tourist spots now.

ATHENA

What!? They were the center of the civilized world - thanks to us!

ALEX

Down the tubes, like many other great powers since then - Spain, France, Britain.

ATHENA

Britain?! But they were still swinging from the trees.

HERA

Zeus, honey, we've got to go back, see what's happened to Athens and Rome.

ZEUS

Okay, my sweet. You, too, Alex.

ALEX

Me? We've got a test tomorrow.

ZEUS

(waving his finger)
You just got 100%.

ALEX

Can Hector and Alison come as well? Er... also 100%?

ZEUS

If they must.

He nods to Hermes, who instantly vanishes.

EXT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Hector is getting Alison a coke.

HECTOR

... and there were these gorgeous waitresses... or whatever they were.

Alison touches his forehead.

ALISON

What have you been smoking, Hector?

Suddenly, Hermes appears. They are both startled. Hermes waves his hand and they all disappear.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

ALEX

So, how're you gonna do this? Will you beam us up?

Zeus looks at him puzzled.

ZEUS

We could do it like this.

He CLICKS his fingers.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

But, no, I've got a better idea.
Let's take a good look at this new
world, see what needs fixing.

Suddenly, Hector and Alison appear.

HECTOR

What the...?

ALEX

We're off to Greece. Wanna come?

Hector and Alison look at one another confused.

EXT. SKY - DAY

The gods and the kids are flying through the air. There is a faint protective air bubble visible around the kids.

ALISON

This is awesome. I thought Hector
was winding me up.

Hector edges closer to Aphrodite. He is besotted.

HECTOR

I don't feel safe. Can I hold your
hand?

Aphrodite raises an eyebrow, then holds his hand. He looks like the cat that got the cream.

EXT. NIAGARA FALLS - DAY

The gods pause to admire Niagara Falls. They dive in and out half way up, although they don't actually get wet. Onlookers are very confused. Alex is exhilarated.

Alison pulls out her iPhone and takes pictures.

Poseidon sees The Maid of the Mist sailing towards the falls. He raises his trident to throw it. Zeus intervenes.

ZEUS

Not yet, brother. Not yet.

EXT. SKY - DAY

The gods are fascinated by a jumbo jet. They sit on the wings, bouncing up and down.

Alex sits on the wing. He gives the pilot a sheepish smile and a wave. The pilot, confused, gives him a little wave back. Alex turns to the camera and shrugs.

Ares stands on the engine and bends down to look in.

ALEX

I wouldn't do that if I...

Ares suddenly gets sucked into the engine.

ALEX (CONT'D)

... were you.

Alex is horrified and looks back. Ares comes shooting out the back of the engine like a bullet before regaining his composure and flying back to the plane.

Ares stands next to Alex and looks around at the other gods. They never noticed what happened. He puts his forefinger to his mouth.

ARES

Not a word, mortal. Understood?

ALEX

(smirking)

My lips are sealed.

Zeus walks up to the window and peeks in.

INT. JUMBO - DAY

There is pandemonium in the plane as the gods walk through the walls.

EXT. JUMBO - DAY

Alex hesitates. Athena grabs him gently by the hand, while Apollo puts his arms round Hector and Alison and guides them through.

INT. JUMBO - DAY

The three friends are amazed, and pat themselves down to double check.

BACCHUS

(to Alex)

You travel in beer cans! Amazing!

The plane's few passengers are confused and panicking.

ZEUS

(to Alex)

What's the matter with these people? Haven't they seen gods before?

ALEX

Maybe they're not used to hitchhikers at 30,000 feet.

Zeus SHOUTS at the passengers.

ZEUS

QUIET!

Everything shakes like in an earthquake. Everyone is cowed into silence. Some WHIMPER.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

That's better.

(to Alex)

So, you mortals can fly now!

Impressive!

HERA

It's so cramped in here. How do they put up with it?

ARES

Yes. There isn't room to swing a Trojan.

A teenager looks puzzled, opens her purse and looks at a condom quizzically.

Zeus waves his arms and the fuselage expands considerably in all directions, then the center of the plane empties to be replaced with reclining couches.

ZEUS

(to Hera)

Is that more to your liking, my sweet?

HERA

I suppose it'll do.

Zeus rolls his eyes.

ZEUS

Why don't we ask the driver to take us home while we feast? Would you like that, my dear?

Hera nods grudgingly.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

(to Hermes)

Tell the driver to take us to Athens.

Hermes obediently rushes to the front of the plane.

INT. JUMBO COCKPIT - DAY

The two pilots are in a state of shock.

PILOT 1

You'd better take over, Bill. I'm seeing things. I could've sworn I just saw-

PILOT 2

No, no, Jim. I saw it too.

Hermes walks through the locked security door into the cockpit. The pilots are startled. Pilot 1 instinctively presses the emergency signal button.

HERMES

Dad wants to go to Athens.

INT. AIRPORT CONTROL TOWER - DAY

A red alarm light and SIREN suddenly start up. Everyone springs to attention. The CONTROLLER is startled and spills his coffee all over his pants. He grimaces and is about to explete when he sees his colleagues staring at him.

CONTROLLER
Hijacking! Emergency procedures.
NOW!

He dabs his pants with a cloth.

CONTROLLER (CONT'D)
(quietly)
Ow! Ow! Ow!

INT. JUMBO - DAY

Zeus beckons to the cabin crew.

ZEUS
Now, slaves, we are minded to
feast. You may serve us.

The cabin crew serve them from the trolley. Zeus looks at the food, tries a bite, then almost gags.

ZEUS (CONT'D)
What manner of poison is this?

A great CHEER and APPLAUSE go up from the passengers.

Suddenly, there is a wild boar roasting over a bonfire in the middle of the plane. The passengers start COUGHING as the cabin fills with smoke. Zeus smoothly pushes his hand through the roof to make a chimney.

ZEUS (CONT'D)
Okay. Let's get this party
started.

All the while, Alex and his friends watch events with wide-eyed wonder.

EXT. AIRFORCE BASE - DAY

Three war planes are being scrambled.

INT. JUMBO - DAY

ANGLE ON

The gods lying back and feasting.

PULL BACK

The two pilots have joined the gods and are very merry on the food and wine.

ZEUS
We need some dancing girls.

He looks at the stewardesses. Most of them are over 50, or even 60.

Pilot 1 looks at Zeus wistfully.

PILOT 1
This IS an American airline.
Unions, you know.

Zeus magics up a goblet with mist dripping over the side.

ZEUS
Ladies, try this.

They obediently pass around the goblet and drink from it.

ZEUS (CONT'D)
(to Pilot 1)
This will take 30 years off them.

As they drink, they morph (and shrink!) into gorgeous young women. Except the last, much younger stewardess. She becomes a 2 year-old baby.

ZEUS (CONT'D)
Oops!

The stewardesses start dancing, scantily clad, around the bonfire.

INT. AIRPORT CONTROL TOWER - DAY

The CONTROLLER is on the radio to the fighter planes.

CONTROLLER
Do you have a visual?

AIR FORCE PILOT
Affirmative. I can... wait... There's
someone sitting on the hood.

CONTROLLER
What?

The Controller looks at the others and smiles nervously.

CONTROLLER (CONT'D)
Am I being punk'd here?

INT. FIGHTER PLANE COCKPIT - DAY

The lead fighter pilot brings his plane up parallel with the airliner's cockpit. We see Hermes sitting cross-legged on the hood, enjoying the ride.

AIR FORCE PILOT
And there's no one in the cockpit.
Oh, and the plane...

INT. AIRPORT CONTROL TOWER - DAY

The Controller slumps in his chair.

AIR FORCE PILOT (O.S.)

(on radio)

It's, er, swollen in the middle,
with smoke coming out the top.
What do we do?

INT. JUMBO - DAY

Athena is deep in conversation with Alex. Alison watches jealously from afar. She turns to Hector.

ALISON

I think it's time to go back.

HECTOR

Are you kidding? This is awesome.

Hector rests his head on his hand as he stares adoringly at Aphrodite.

ATHENA

Stanford, eh? If that's what you want, do it.

ALEX

Huh! If only life were that simple. It costs an arm and a leg.

Athena holds out her hand. Suddenly a pouch materializes. She gives it to Alex.

ATHENA

This should help.

He takes out a gold coin and sees her picture on it.

ATHENA (CONT'D)

Not my best side, but...

ALEX

(disappointed)
They're not valid currency anymore.

ATHENA

You're a bright lad, Alex. I'm sure you'll figure out something.

She puts her hand reassuringly on his arm. Athena spots Alison's jealous reaction. She smiles benignly. Alex is distracted by the sight of the warplanes outside.

ALEX

Oh! Oh! We've got company.

INT. AIRPORT CONTROL TOWER - DAY

The Controller and several officials are debating what to do next.

CONTROLLER

Orders are clear.

INT. FIGHTER PLANE COCKPIT - DAY

CONTROLLER (O.S.)
 (on radio)
 If the plane poses any threat,
 shoot it down. Understood?

The pilot unlocks his weapons system.

AIR FORCE PILOT
 Affirmative.

INT. JUMBO - DAY

Alex goes up to Zeus and points out the window.

ZEUS
 Ares. Bring them in.

Ares walks out of the plane on to the wing, pointedly giving the engine a wide berth.

INT. FIGHTER PLANE COCKPIT - DAY

The air force pilot is stunned.

AIR FORCE PILOT
 Er..., control! Do you read me?
 There's someone walking on the...

He disappears from the cockpit. As do the other two pilots.

INT. AIRPORT CONTROL TOWER - DAY

CONTROLLER
 Reading you loud and clear.
 Walking where? Hello? Hello?

INT. JUMBO - DAY

The three pilots are lying on couches being fed and watered by the stewardesses.

ALEX
 What about the planes? And their
 base? They can send missiles.

ZEUS
 Relax, Alex. Ares, go fix this.

ALEX
 Please don't hurt any one.

Zeus looks at Alex, slightly miffed.

ZEUS
 Ok. Ares, stand down. Aphrodite.
 You handle this.

APHRODITE
 Okay, dad. Let me just get the
 info I need.

Aphrodite moves over to one of the pilots, who looks up at her, totally besotted. She gently touches his head, closes her eyes and concentrates for a moment. Suddenly, she opens her eyes and looks startled. She looks down at the pilot with a grin.

APHRODITE (CONT'D)

Naughty!

(to Zeus)

I've got what I need. Back soon.

ZEUS

Good girl!

EXT. JUMBO - DAY

Aphrodite is standing on the wing. She waves her hand and the 3 warplanes turn into doves.

INT. AIRPORT CONTROL TOWER - DAY

There is panic and consternation as the three jet fighters disappear from the screens. The ghostly image of Aphrodite appears in the background. She waves her hand and the atmosphere changes totally. Everything is calm. Nobody remembers a thing.

CONTROLLER

(yawning)

This is soooo boring. Nothing ever happens around here. How did my pants get wet?

INT. JUMBO - DAY

Zeus pushes the curtain aside to come out of the galley. He straightens his toga. He is followed by a very disheveled stewardess, with a contented smile on her face. Her hair is standing on end, and she is positively glowing.

ZEUS

Oh, it's good being me!

ATHENA

(to Alex)

Mom is going to be real pissed!

ALEX

Your dad does have a bit of a reputation for wandering hands!

ATHENA

Not just his hands, Alex!

Alex looks at the King and Queen of the gods. Zeus is totally happy and carefree; Hera is seething, strumming her fingers on the couch.

Alison is trying to ward off the drunken attention of Bacchus, while Hector enjoys the show.

Pilot 2 is puffing on a huge Cuban, with a semi-naked stewardess on his lap.

PILOT 2

Now THIS is what I call flying.

THE CAMERA PANS TO SHOW A VERY CONTENTED SCENE OF GODS AND HUMANS REVELING, THEN PULLS BACK THROUGH THE WINDOW...

EXT. JUMBO - DAY

... and continues out to show the plane, Hermes sitting astride the front, flying out of shot, totally misshapen, with a big bulge in the middle, smoke billowing from a hole in the main cabin roof.

EXT. ATHENS - THE PNYX HILL - DAY

POV from the Pnyx hill. Alex, Hector and Alison look awe-struck at the classic view of the Acropolis and Mount Lykabettos in the background.

The gods are in tears at the sight of their monuments in ruins. Each tear that drops on the ground turns into a flower. Athena and Apollo are particularly distraught.

ATHENA

Sure, the Athenians could be real windbags, but they were MY windbags.

APOLLO

That Socrates was the worst. What an ugly bugger! It offended me.

ATHENA

Remember the plays? Oh, the plays!

BACCHUS

And the piss ups we had!

APOLLO

What barbarism led to this?

HERA

(sniffing)

What's wrong with the air here? It stinks.

ALEX

Oh, that's gas fumes.

Zeus waves his hand in front of his face.

ZEUS

Gas? What sort of infernal beans are these people eating?

EXT. ROME - THE FORUM - DAY

Again, the gods are upset at all the beautiful temples and buildings in ruins.

ALEX

... and the Germanic hordes flooded into Western Europe and set the continent back a thousand years.

Bacchus is wearing a baseball cap with the Parthenon and "Athens, Greece" embroidered on it.

BACCHUS

This is terrible. The Romans were the best. They really knew how to party. How did they lose it all?

ALEX

Too many parties?

ZEUS

So, who's the most powerful now?

ALEX

Hard to say. There are zillions of Chinese, and they've gotten rich and powerful making everything for everyone, starting with crappy cocktail umbrellas, upto electric cars now.

ALISON

They've also got the biggest army.

HECTOR

And all the money.

ALEX

Yes, but "they" always tell us we're the only Superpower.

The gods look puzzled.

HECTOR

We've got better gadgets, apparently.

ZEUS

So, why don't you use them and rule the world like Rome did?

ALISON

It doesn't work that way any more. We have Human Rights now.

The gods look horrified.

ZEUS

HUMAN rights? What possible rights could you mortals have? Well, we have DIVINE RIGHTS - and that, dear girl, supersedes all else.

In the background a group of Japanese tourists get very excited when they spot the gods, thinking they're a tourist attraction. They all start CLICKING away with their phones.

ARES

The world's gone mad. What's that noise?

As they turn round, about half the Japanese tourists mix in with the gods, and start waving "V" signs to their camera-toting compatriots. The gods are bewildered by this strange new world.

EXT. NEW YORK - TIMES SQUARE - DAY

ALEX
Washington runs the country, but
New York owns it.

The gods are super impressed by the skyscrapers and lights. In the background, Cupid keeps letting loose arrows, but they always miss. No one bats an eyelid at the gods being dressed in togas in the middle of winter.

ZEUS
So you rebelled against the
British because of the taxes? How
did that work out?

ALEX
I didn't say the plan was perfect.

EXT. NEW YORK - ROCKEFELLER CENTER - DAY

They see the giant Christmas Tree overlooking the ice rink.

ZEUS
What's that for?

ALEX
To celebrate Jesus' birth.

ZEUS
A fir tree?!?! For Jesus of
Nazareth!? Why not an igloo?

He shakes his head in bewilderment.

ATHENA
So this place is Christian?

ALEX
Actually, Manhattan is pretty much
run by the Jews.

Zeus looks even more confused. His attention is drawn to events outside the nearby NBC Studios.

A beautiful celebrity, immaculately dressed for maximum impact - high slit skirt, plunging neckline barely containing her clearly fake boobs - gets out of her limo to be greeted by a fawning mob of media and fans. She stops for selfies with her fans.

APHRODITE
(horrified)
Who is that stick insect?

ZEUS
Why is she being worshipped?

ALEX
She's a celebrity.

HERA
What's that?

Alex, Hector and Alison look at one another.

ALISON
Someone who's famous for being famous.

ZEUS
That's it?

HECTOR
Sometimes there's a sex tape mixed in there as well... or rehab... or both.

ALEX
Are you going to cast a spell and make us worship you now?

ZEUS
We can turn pigs into warriors and jackasses into leaders-

ALEX
Someone's beaten you to that one!

ZEUS
... but you have free will - unfortunately. We can make you DO things, but we can't force you how to FEEL.

HERA
Except Cupid and his arrows, dear.

ZEUS
Well, yes, that goes without saying. But worship has to come from within.

ALEX
Well, nowadays nothing is real unless it's on TV or social media. So, if you want to get your message out there, that's the way to do it.

HERA
How?

ALEX
Clicks. Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Tiktok. Or you do the shows.

ZEUS
No idea what you're talking about, but shows I understand. Let's go.

ALEX

Well, it's not that easy.

ZEUS

Alex, dear boy. Yes it is!

They part security like Moses parting the Red Sea. The fans in the street, although confused, cheer wildly.

ONLOOKER 1

Who are they?

ONLOOKER 2

No idea, but they must be famous.

ONLOOKER 1

Is that Gucci she's wearing?

Aphrodite pauses and turns to the crowd. She poses and bathes in the adulation. A barrage of cameras flash excitedly at the beautiful image in front of them. A COCKNEY PAPARAZZI calls out.

COCKNEY PAPARAZZI

Take yer top off, luv!

INT. NBC STUDIO - DAY

Daytime TV Program in progress. TV PRESENTER (40s, immaculately coiffed and dressed) is talking with an oversized teenage woman. She is clearly TRAILER TRASH.

TV PRESENTER

Okay. So, when did you find out that you'd married your father?

TRAILER TRASH

My grandma's 30th birthday party.

The gods enter and walk around freely on stage. When he sees himself in a monitor, Poseidon thrusts his trident into it.

The TV Presenter looks puzzled at the producer. She puts her finger to her ear-piece. She is very professional and good-natured.

TV PRESENTER

(to the TV camera)

Hmm, seems we have a last-minute change to the schedule in today's program.

With a smile, but with a hint of frustration, she tosses her script into the air.

TV PRESENTER (CONT'D)

Looks like I don't need these any more.

(to producer)

Is this a promo for a new sitcom? Someone could have told me!

ALEX

(to Zeus)

You have to speak to the camera -
that thing there in front.

Zeus positions himself in front of the main camera.

TV PRESENTER

Can I help you?

Zeus ignores her and speaks directly to the camera. The TV
Presenter shrugs in confusion.

ZEUS

Mortals, you will be glad to know
we are back. I am Zeus, and this
is my family. It has greatly
saddened us to see how the world
has gone to the dogs in our
absence, but it's not too late. We
can fix this. All we want in
return is what is rightfully ours -
temples, sacrifices and worship.

POSEIDON

And priestesses. Don't forget the
priestesses.

ZEUS

And priestesses - lots of them.

POSEIDON

Decent ones, no skanks.

ZEUS

Give us what we want, and
everything will be fine.

The red light on the camera goes out. Zeus turns to Alex.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

Will that do it?

ALEX

God knows!

ZEUS

No, I don't. That's why I asked.

The intruders suddenly vanish.

TV PRESENTER

(forced laughter)

Those Saturday Night Live guys!

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - LOCKERS - DAY

Alex is talking animatedly with Hector and Alison.

ALEX

Wasn't that awesome?

ALISON

Rome was so beautiful.

HECTOR

I've still got a bad feeling about all this. They're loose cannons.

ALEX

I didn't hear you complaining when you were lost in Aphrodite's ample-

HECTOR

That would have been rude. But you should have got your wishes in while the going was good.

ALISON

What wishes?

ALEX

I forgot about those.

HECTOR

Too late now. They don't need you anymore.

ALISON

What wishes?

HECTOR

So, what's next?

ALEX

I think we've got History.

HECTOR

No, Bozo. With the Keystone Gods?

ALISON

WHAT wishes?

At this point, Helen comes up to them.

HELEN

Hi, Alan.

She grabs Alex intimately by the arm. He looks at the others, surprised, embarrassed, and not a little thrilled.

ALEX

Er, hi, Helen.

She kisses him on the cheek. He blushes.

ALISON

Hey! Do you mind? We were-

Alex is about to speak but Helen moves herself between him and Alison, and leads him away by the arm.

HELEN

I gotta talk to you, Alan.

Alison watches dumbfounded as Alex is led away. He looks back at her, but is propelled forward.

HECTOR
Eek! That may be my fault.

ALISON
What?

HECTOR
Nothing. Let's go.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY

As Helen leads Alex to the classroom by the arm, her hunk boyfriend KEN suddenly blocks their way.

KEN
Helen, get over here. You stay
away from her, nerd-boy.

Alex looks momentarily concerned, but Helen grabs his arm even tighter. Hector and Alison turn the corner in time to witness the scene.

ALEX
Don't you think the lady should
have a say?

Ken moves in closer.

KEN
(scoffing)
First, she ain't no lady. Second,
I'm warning you: keep away from my
girl.

He lunges at Alex with his fist. The scarab glows. The fist strikes the force field around Alex with a BOINK sound. Ken falls to the ground in agony, nursing his broken hand. No one looks more surprised than Alex. He holds the scarab tightly in his hand and glances at it with new respect. Everyone looks at Alex with a mixture of new-found admiration, fear and trepidation.

Alison turns to Hector.

ALISON
You haven't told me everything,
have you, Hector?

Hector shrugs guiltily, and disappears into a classroom. She grabs him by the collar, pulling him back into the corridor.

ALISON (CONT'D)
Not so fast, you!

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE - SITUATION ROOM - DAY

The full national security team is in session. There are monitors along the wall.

PRESIDENT
Anything else?

The Chief of Staff points to the monitors.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Well, sir, there's a lot of
chatter about this morning's Today
Show.

He scrolls upwards on his tablet, then presses play.
Several of the News Channels around the world are showing
the clip of the gods.

PRESIDENT

Oh, the SNL sketch? I didn't get
it. But, then again, who does?
What of it?

CHIEF OF STAFF

Our sources tell us it wasn't SNL.

PRESIDENT

So, who was it?

CHIEF OF STAFF

Probably just a prank... hopefully!

INT. VATICAN - POPE'S QUARTERS - EVENING

The Pope is sitting serenely with several cardinals. An old
television on a stand is in the middle, with an old VHS
machine on top. A Cardinal pauses the tape. It is the gods
on the Today Show.

THE POPE

Oh, oh!

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - DAY

In the drive is a beautiful horse and carriage, with the
roof folded back. Alex stands and admires it with Helen. He
strokes the horse's neck, and slides his hand along the
beautiful carriage. Helen is not impressed.

ALEX

I probably should have been more
specific about the convertible.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - DAY

The gods are feasting merrily. Zeus stands up, a big smile
on his face.

ZEUS

Let's have some fun. Let's stir
things up a bit!

EXT. VOLCANO - DAY

Zeus is standing on a mountain peak, arms up high. He sets
off a volcano with a huge thunderbolt and earthquake.

ZEUS

That should get their attention.

INT. SHOPPING MALL - DAY

The gods wander around, intrigued by the mall. In the background, Bacchus is propping up a bar, drinking. Apollo, cool as a mountain stream with his shades on, saunters into an electronics store.

INT. SHOPPING MALL - ELECTRONICS STORE - DAY

Apollo's curiosity is piqued when he sees a customer wearing Virtual Reality goggles, waving his arms around. He inspects a pair then casually tries them on.

Suddenly he is FREAKED out, his hair standing on end, and he zooms around the store like a pinball, bouncing off whatever he hits. Finally, lying in a heap in the corner, he manages to get them off. He is totally shaken.

APOLLO

What manner of sorcery is this?

INT. SHOPPING MALL - DAY

Zeus magics up a stage and a large sign:

"Kneel before your gods"

The gods try to intimidate people with their "magic tricks", turning men into stone, etc.

MAN 1

Hey, I saw you guys on TV! Look, Ethel, it's them!

The crowd gets excited. The people LAUGH and look for the hidden cameras. No one takes them seriously. Again Cupid misses with his arrow. In a rage, he breaks his bow and throws it in the garbage. Aphrodite passes a Victoria's Secret store and doubles back to go in.

INT. SHOPPING MALL - MOMENTS LATER

Aphrodite exits store with lots of shopping bags.

INT. GUN STORE - DAY

Cupid is being served by an ASSISTANT. There are many guns on the counter. Cupid points to one.

ASSISTANT

Can I see some ID?

EXT. ATLANTIC OCEAN - EVENING

Calm weather. A happy Poseidon whips up a huge storm. A ship is tossed this way and that on the giant waves.

INT. SHIP'S BRIDGE - DAY

The captain and crew struggle to control the ship, listening in stunned disbelief to the radio.

RADIO

North Atlantic, light winds,
becoming variable 2 or 3, then
southeast 3 or 4 later. Good.

EXT. VOLCANO - DAY

Zeus watches horrified as, instead of being afraid, tourists flock to the volcano to take pictures. The media arrive in droves, on land, by helicopter, drone and small plane.

ZEUS

I don't believe it! This isn't a
show!

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYM - DAY

New basketball trials. Alex is on the bench. Hector is already playing. The COACH, 50s, blows his whistle.

COACH

Ok, Alex. You're on. Jerry, take
five.

Alex and Jerry swap places. To his surprise, the divas CHEER and WHISTLE Alex on.

HECTOR

Good luck, amigo. It'd be awesome
if we both get on the team!

ALEX

Thanks, Hector.

Hector throws the ball to Alex, who is standing on the center line. Alex spins it on his finger, then tosses it effortlessly from there directly into the hoop, without touching the sides. The divas applaud wildly.

Hector's jaw drops.

Alex is passed another ball. This time he slams it down hard on to the ground. It bounces up and lands square in the hoop, again without touching the sides.

Finally, he is passed another ball. His back is to the hoop. He swings the ball down between his legs in a scooping motion, launching it high. It appears to be heading off target, but there is so much spin on the ball, it curves and goes straight into the hoop. Perfect!

The cognoscenti are stunned, but the divas are enthralled. They mob him as he comes back to the bench.

Hector and Alison look at each other in disbelief.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - NOTICE BOARD - DAY

The team list is amended by the coach. He takes down Hector's name and replaces it with Alex's.

Hector sees Alex walking away jubilant and is happy for him. Then he looks at the board, heart-broken.

HECTOR

What the...!?

Alison comforts Hector.

[The weather in Olympus is now like summer - warm, sunny, with all the flowers in bloom.]

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Alex sits at the table waiting for his breakfast, while Diane prepares a tray.

ALEX

You know, mom, I think I should quit school. What's the point?

DIANE

Just you forget it, young man. You're not too big to go over my knee. I never expected that attitude from you - your brother, maybe, but not you.

She stares at him.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Are we clear?

ALEX

Yes, mom.

DIANE

Good. I don't want to hear any more of this nonsense. You WILL finish school, and that's that. Speaking of your brother, where is he?

Alex gestures towards the gecko on the wall, but Diane's mind is elsewhere. The gecko makes a begging gesture to Alex, but he ignores it. Diane picks up the breakfast tray. Alex clears the table in front of him for the tray. Diane walks right passed. Alex is stunned.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Clarence is sitting up in bed. The TV is on. Diane lays the tray down on his lap. There is love in her eyes.

DIANE

Did you sleep well, Clarence, dear? If there's anything else you need, just let me know.

She fluffs the pillow up for him. Alex sticks his head in. He stares incredulously at the scene before him.

INT. STARBUCKS - DAY

The place is full. Alex and Hector are sitting with Helen's friend GILL, 17, also drop-dead gorgeous, immaculately turned out. They sit there silently, totally absorbed in their cellphones.

GILL
When did you join our school,
Alan? You must be very new.

ALEX
It's... never mind.

HECTOR
So, Gill, what do you do in your
free time?

GILL
I like going to parties, I guess.
And shopping. Oh, and I like sex.
I really like sex.

The boys blush brightly. They look around nervously. Alex desperately changes the subject.

ALEX
Don't you think it's exciting that
the ancient Greek gods have come
back? You know, the ones Homer
wrote about?

GILL
Homer Simpson wrote a book?!

Hector can't help LAUGHING.

Finally, to Alex's relief, a very fashionably-dressed Helen arrives. He stares at her, totally besotted. He tries hard not to stare at her perfect breasts, but it isn't easy. She blows kisses to everyone. Only we can see the ghostly figure of Cupid, floating in the air above her, bow and arrows at the ready.

HELEN
Sorry I'm late. New sponsor for my
Instagram page. Hey, Alan, shall
we go and get this homework
finished?

As she gets close, Cupid fires an arrow. It misses. It hits a dog, which immediately starts humping Hector's leg. He frantically reloads, takes aim, and bumps into the furniture just as he fires. The arrow goes right through her. Her demeanor changes from businesslike to seductress.

ALEX
Sure, Helen. Let me just finish my
coff-

HELEN
To hell with the coffee. Let's go
and make out.

Alex is stunned as she grabs him and virtually drags him out.

Hector, still trying to get the dog off his leg, spots Alison on the other side of the road, heading towards the cafe. He grabs Alex by the arm and whispers firmly.

HECTOR
Don't do it, man.

ALEX
It was YOUR idea!

HECTOR
It was only hypothetical then. I never thought it was actually on the cards.

ALEX
You're just jealous.

HECTOR
I'd be lying if I said there wasn't a grain of truth in that, but think through the consequences.

He glances again at Alison, getting ever closer.

ALEX
Consequences? What are you talking about? My goddam cherry's finally going to be plucked. We've dreamt of this for YEARS!

He turns towards where Hector is looking. He fidgets uncomfortably when he sees Alison, but fights it. He and Helen leave, just managing to avoid Alison.

Alison comes in, sees Hector, puts two and two together and is heartbroken. Hector comforts her. He looks angrily at Alex as they walk off into the distance.

Cupid flies around, ecstatically throwing his fists in the air like Rocky. He finally got a bullseye!

INT. HELEN'S HOUSE - HELEN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Very soft focus. A ghostly image of Cupid floats in the background. Helen leads Alex to the bed and they sit on the edge. She kisses him as she removes her blouse. She puts Alex's hand on her bare breasts. He is in seventh heaven, but nervous as hell.

ALEX
You're... you're so beautiful, Helen - and actually much nicer than I expected. I think you sell yourself short.

Helen isn't sure how to take that.

HELEN
I don't do it for money!

ALEX
No. No. Of course not. That's not what I meant.

He slaps his own face.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Focus, Alex. Focus.

HELEN
Stop talking.

She pushes him, wide-eyed, down onto the bed.

EXT. HEAVEN: CLOUDS - DAY

Clarence is reporting back to St Peter and St Michael.

CLARENCE
The boy never lets go of it,
chief.

ST MICHAEL
What are we going to do?

ST PETER
You're going to have to give the
Boss the bad news.

ST MICHAEL
Me? Why me?

ST PETER
It's your job.

ST MICHAEL
No, it isn't. It's yours.

They look at one another, then nod at each other and do
Rock, Paper, Scissors.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - GARDEN - DAY

Alex points the scarab at his bike.

ALEX
Clean, damn you! Blow up tires!

Nothing. He SIGHS, and pumps up the tires manually.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Useless thing!

Suddenly, a bush catches fire and GOD (QL) appears out of
it, in the guise of Queen Latifah (or similar). Her robe is
smoldering a bit, and has soot patches all over it. She
looks a little flustered and embarrassed.

She turns towards the burning bush, then waves her hand and
the fire goes out. She notices the smoke coming from her
robe and beats it out. Alex barely seems to notice.

QL
Yo! Haven't done that one for a
while. Bit out of practice.

ALEX
So, which one are you? A Nubian
goddess? It's getting so hard to
keep track.

He continues pumping up his tires. QL looks astounded.

QL
I thought you were the bright one.
Doesn't the burning bush tell you
anything?

ALEX
That's not much of a trick. All
you guys can do that.

QL
I don't believe this. You're
supposed to be awe-struck!

ALEX
We're not ignorant savages any
more.

QL
Huh! Scholars differ on that
point. I am YOUR god.

ALEX
MY g-? Oops.

He stands up straight, almost to attention.

ALEX (CONT'D)
But you're..., er... you're...

QL
Yes, I know - a little shorter
than you expected, right? I get
that a lot.

Alex trips and the handlebar goes straight into his groin.
He CRIES with pain.

ALEX
Ow! So much for intelligent
design. Why on Earth did you put
our balls there?

QL
Aw, come on, cut me some slack,
eh? It was late Saturday and I was
beat. They were the bits left over
after I made Adam. Nowhere else to
put them.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - GARDEN - DAY

Alex and QL are rocking gently on children's swings. From
time to time, QL spins the swing, and generally has fun
like a kid.

QL
Centuries since I've been on one
of these.

ALEX
Kids aren't allowed on them
anymore in case they fall off.

QL

I really don't know how you guys survived this long. Anyway, to the point at hand. What on earth have you done, boy?

ALEX

Hey, YOU were the one who broke the deal with these guys.

QL

Is that what they told you? And you never checked?

ALEX

How? Google? Siri?

QL

Yes, we had a deal, but THEY broke it. Your new friends sent the Romans in to destroy my temple in Jerusalem and persecute my Christians. Sorry, the gloves were off. They had to be stopped.

ALEX

So you flipped the Romans?

QL

Now you get it. And you've gone and ruined everything. They are wild, selfish and uncontrollable. You've got to fix this.

ALEX

Me?! Why me? Why can't you? You did it before.

QL

You have the scarab, Alex. Gods can't control each other. I had to trick them last time, to lock them up in that obscure cave. I thought they'd be safe there.

ALEX

What happened?

QL

What happened?! YOU happened. The scarab.

ALEX

How on earth did I end up with it?

QL

It fell from Heaven.

ALEX

From Heaven!?

QL

Someone dropped it.

Alex LAUGHS.

ALEX

Why don't you just take it back?

He holds it out.

QL

It's not that easy. We can't touch it.

ALEX

Hang on. If none of you can touch it, how did you get it to Heaven?

QL

Can't a girl have any secrets around here?

Alex gives her a "'fess-up" look.

INT. HEAVEN: THE THRONE ROOM - DAY

Suddenly, Alex finds himself standing in front of QL on Her throne. She motions towards the wooden thrones.

QL

Okay. Let's just say it helped having a carpenter in the family.

She points to St Peter and St Michael standing nearby.

QL (CONT'D)

Alex, this is St Peter, and this is St Michael. Pete, Mike, this is Alex.

They give polite waves to each other.

Alex casually waves the scarab around. QL and the saints flinch slightly whenever it gets near.

ALEX

So, what's with...

Alex rubs his hands together and sounds like Gollum.

ALEX (CONT'D)

... my precioussssss?

QL

Do you always behave like an idiot?

Alex looks chastened.

QL (CONT'D)

Well, if you MUST know, way back when, the universe was created by the supreme being. He then divvied up the planets for us to play with. After too many fights, he created the scarab to control us.

ALEX
They say YOU stole it.

QL
Well, they would, wouldn't they?

ALEX
Who is this supreme being?

QL
He's all-powerful.

ALEX
Stands to reason. But what's his name? Chronos? Ra?

QL
He whose name shall not be spoken.

ALEX
Voldemort?

QL
Who?

ALEX
Come on, he...
(off QL's look)
... or she... must have a name.

QL
I can't.

ALEX
Okay, if you don't want to level with me...

He starts to walk away until he realises he has nowhere to go.

QL
Okay. Okay.

She looks nervously at the saints. She urges him to come closer.

QL (CONT'D)
Not here.

She waves Her hand and they vanish, back to...

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - GARDEN - DAY

QL leans in to whisper. She is sweating.

QL
The Supreme Being's name is...
Cyril.

Alex bursts out LAUGHING.

ALEX
Cyril!?!?

QL
 (nervously)
 Shhhhh! Shhhhh!

Alex composes himself once more.

ALEX
 Look, I've got no argument with you, but I don't see what's wrong with the New World Order. I mean, the whole planet's been going to hell in a hand-basket for years.

QL
 Hey. It's not easy being a single parent!

ALEX
 You've got to face it - your brand's damaged goods.

QL
 Brand?

ALEX
 Yes. When the shit really hits the fan here - you know, floods, hurricanes, reality TV - we call it an Act of God. What's with that?

Patience exhausted, QL stares intently into Alex's eyes.

QL
 Fix this, Alex.

Alex looks puzzled for a moment.

ALEX
 Are you ordering me?

QL looks frustrated.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 You can't, can you?

QL
 Be careful, Alex. You're playing with fire.

QL waves her arm and disappears in a puff.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - LOCKERS - DAY

Alex and Hector are getting things from their lockers.

HECTOR
 Well?

ALEX
 A gentleman never tells.

Alison arrives and opens her locker. The atmosphere is palpably strained. After perfunctory GREETINGS, they all continue in silence.

A more demure Helen comes out of nowhere and hugs Alex.

HELEN
That was the best night I've ever
had. Let's do it again. Please.

Hector looks at Alex amazed/impressed. Alex goes bright red with embarrassment.

HECTOR
(sotto voce)
PLEASE?!?!

Hector then notices Alison is stunned and heartbroken. He is gutted for her.

Before anyone can say anything more, Hermes appears out of thin air.

HERMES
We got a problem. You gotta come.

Alex and Hermes disappear.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - DAY

Hermes takes Alex to the gods in their new home on top of the mountain. It is a building site, with all sorts of fabulous creatures doing their bit to put together a beautiful city of gold and marble, fit for the gods.

Alex turns on Hermes angrily.

ALEX
Your timing is shit, you know
that? Why are you guys always in
such a damn hurry? You were locked
up for centuries - surely a few
minutes wouldn't make a
difference!

The gods themselves are lounging around watching TV, a humongous virtual screen the size of a house. Zeus and Hera fight over the remote control. Zeus puts it on mute.

ZEUS
I'm not happy, Alex. I'm not
seeing any progress.

HERA
They're ignoring us. They really
don't want to get on Zeusy's bad
side.

ZEUS
(aside to Hera)
Stop calling me Zeusy!

ALEX

I guess everyone thought it was just a prank. You're gonna have to rethink your strategy. What are you after? Fear or love?

The gods look at each other.

ARES

Who cares?

ALEX

I still say TV is the most effective way to get your message across.

INT. NBC STUDIO - MORNING

The Today Show is in progress. Mid-sentence, the presenters suddenly find themselves, on their sofas, in the middle of...

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - CONTINUOUS

The New Mount Olympus. Zeus & Hera are on the sofa. Zeus addresses the camera.

ZEUS

We really don't want any trouble. We're prepared to sweeten the deal. If your king does what we ask, then we will give America global power like we did with the Romans.

HERA

You should do as he says. He's a bit unstable, you know. He has so many issues. He had a very troubled childhood. Talk about a dysfunctional family! His father ate all his brothers and sisters.

ZEUS

(to Hera)
Do you mind?!?

TV PRESENTER

But aren't you his sister AND his wife? Isn't that a bit Appalachian?

Hera looks away and fixes her hair. Zeus is upset.

ZEUS

Enough. I am a mild-mannered god...

The other gods roll their eyes.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

... but my patience is not infinite. We've made it very clear what we want. Your king should speak with Alex here.

He points to Alex, standing shocked in the background.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

To ensure you understand better, I
will show you what we can do.
Today, at noon, the sun and moon
will disappear for one hour.

There is LAUGHTER from one of the technicians. Now Zeus looks really angry. The technician is turned into a puppy.

INT. OLYMPUS (CO) - ELECTRICAL STORE - DAY

Hector sees the broadcast on a TV screen.

HECTOR

Whoa! That's Alex on The Today
Show!

He is overheard by a middle-aged JOURNALIST.

JOURNALIST

You know him?

Hector nods. The journalist pulls out his phone and presses record.

JOURNALIST (CONT'D)

Okay. Tell me more, starting with
your full name, for the record.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - DAY

The house is mobbed by reporters, and hordes of religious devotees of every stripe - Hare Krishnas, Moslems, Buddhist and Hindu monks, Evangelicals, and nutters carrying sandwich boards proclaiming "The end of the world is nigh. Friday, after lunch". They are very NOISY, and start pushing one another, until a full scale fracas ensues. Some choice UNHOLY WORDS are uttered.

EXT. NEW YORK - ROCKEFELLER CENTER - NOON

A street clock strikes noon. The wintry sun disappears and the clear sky goes pitch black. The street lights come hesitantly back on. People are stunned.

TAXI DRIVER

Get the [BEEP] off the [BEEP]
road.

EXT. MONTAGE - DAY

The blackout causes panic and accidents around the world.

Car accident in Tokyo - the drivers get out, bow to each other, and exchange papers.

Car accident in LA - the drivers get out and start shooting at each other.

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM - DAY

One wall is covered in TV screens. The Talking Heads are now taking the gods seriously and demanding the government do something. There is CNN, Fox, MSNBC, CNBC, BBC, Al-Jazeera. The Playboy Channel has a feature on nude portraits of Aphrodite "Miss Olympus, 1000 BC - the hottest goddess in history".

The President is surrounded by his National Security advisors, civilian, military and spook. He is on the phone.

PRESIDENT

Okay, make that a skinny Venti Decaff Latte to go.

He turns to his advisors.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

Are you sure this isn't the Russians, or the Chinese, or terrorists?

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

Yessir.

PRESIDENT

Is it the French?

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

No, sir.

PRESIDENT

Pity.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

Okay. Then who we gonna bomb?

Everyone shrugs.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Should we call the boy, Mr President? At least he's American.

PRESIDENT

Why?

CHIEF OF STAFF

(hesitantly)

Well, their offer, you know, that whole world power thing - would it really be so bad?

There is an uncomfortable pause for thought. Everyone goes quiet and looks at the President.

PRESIDENT

We couldn't... could we?

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Alex and his father are in the kitchen. A small TV, on mute, is showing a news item about the gods' broadcast.

ALEX

Hey, dad, I made the basketball team.

Gene is too busy opening a crate of Hermes Hair Restorer bottles. Slogan: "Gone Yesterday; Hair Today"

GENE

(absentmindedly)

What? Oh, good for you. This is gonna make us rich, boy!

Alex notices Vince the gecko on the wall in the background.

ALEX

I guess you've learned your lesson by now, right?

The gecko sits up, nodding and pleading.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I sure hope so.

The gecko nods even harder. Alex pulls the glass container with the magic fly from his pocket. The gecko stands up on his hind legs, very alert, ready to go.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Time to fix this.

As he gets up to take the container to the gecko, his father accidentally knocks it from his hand.

SLOW MOTION

Alex dives to stop it falling, but it crashes on the floor and shatters. The fly escapes. The gecko leaps in the air to catch the fly, but Gene walks in between. The gecko hits him in the face. Gene swats the gecko away, and it goes SPLAT on the wall, then slides slowly down. Alex tries to recapture the fly, but it disappears out the window.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - GARDEN - DAY

The fly is caught and eaten by a bird which suddenly turns into a very startled naked man. He hovers briefly mid-air, then falls to the ground with a THUD. Alex stands devastated at the window. Media cameras CLICK noisily.

INT. CABLE TV BROADCASTS

Contrast Fox and CNN.

CNN ANNOUNCER

Radical extremists are holding the world hostage.

FOX ANNOUNCER

(wrapped in an American flag)

Liberals have sold their souls to the devil, and are palling around with heathen gods.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - DAY

Zeus addresses Poseidon, Ares, Apollo, Bacchus, and Hermes.

ZEUS
Okay, boys. Time to ratchet this
thing up a bit.

EXT. MONTAGE - DAY

The gods switch off the oil and gas pipelines worldwide. We see Apollo gingerly turning the taps, then pulling out a wet towel and trying desperately to clean his hands.

Poseidon stops the ships.

Ares throws missiles at neighboring armies to provoke confrontation.

Hermes is floating above some cellphone towers. Suddenly they wilt and tie themselves in big pretty bows.

Bacchus is lying in a drunken stupor in a wine cellar. He briefly regains consciousness.

BACCHUS
What was I supposed to do again?

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - DAY

The gods are watching TV again. They look bored.

ATHENA
(sighs)
Thousands of channels; nothing but
crap.

There is a news item with pictures of a large scale army mobilization.

NEWS ANCHOR
The French Government is building
up troop concentrations along the
English Channel. They have given
London an ultimatum to return the
Eiffel Tower or face the
consequences. The British
meanwhile are mobilizing an
appropriate response.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHITE CLIFFS OF DOVER - DAY

Thousands of rabid football fans, itching for a fight. Many carry signs such as "Fuck off, Frogs", "No Garlic-munchers" and "Boo!"

CUT TO:

INT. NEWS STUDIO - DAY

The news anchor shivers, as if in the cold.

NEWS ANCHOR

Brrr! That's a pretty uneven contest, wouldn't you say so, Charles?

CUT TO:

EXT. PARIS - DAY

Reporter CHARLES MONTGOMERY is standing amidst a heaving throng of reporters in front of the Élysée Palace.

CHARLES

Absolutely, Bill. The French Cabinet has been in emergency session all day. Sources close to the government inform me that, in an effort to reassure a concerned populace, they are topping up the country's strategic stock of white flags.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - DAY

Alex suddenly appears with Hermes. Zeus mutes the TV.

ALEX

What are you doing? Not exactly a *nuanced* approach, is it?

ZEUS

We don't do nuance.

ALEX

I'll say. This was never part of the deal. No one was supposed to get hurt. You never said anything about starting wars.

ZEUS

That's what we do. Remember the Trojan War - all over a woman.
(*sotto voce*)
Wow, she was gorgeous!

ALEX

Why wars? I thought you were supposed to love and protect us.

Zeus and Hera LAUGH. Zeus wipes a tear from his eye.

ZEUS

Good one, Alex. Wars are great for business. Both sides start praying really hard.

ALEX

Don't you think you're maybe tightening the screws just a little too hard? Give them time to get their act together.

HERA

All they do is talk, talk, talk.
We thought the Greeks were bad
enough, but your politicians-

ALEX

It's called democracy.

Zeus points towards the screen, exasperated.

ZEUS

It's called crap, Alex. They're
not focusing.

ALEX

But, think about it. How are they
going to build you all those
temples?

ARES

Duh! Slaves, like you've always
done.

ALEX

What!?! We can't put the blacks
back into slavery.

ZEUS

Who said anything about the
blacks? We believe in equal
opportunity slavery, just like the
Romans.

ALEX

It takes time. That's how things
work now.

Zeus looks at him doubtfully.

ZEUS

All right, but they'd better
deliver - and soon! Okay?

Alex shrugs.

ALEX

By the way, I need another fly.

ZEUS

What!? Oh, for that half-wit
brother of yours.

ALEX

Yes. The last one got away.

Zeus is momentarily amused.

ZEUS

Finish the job, Alex. You help me,
I'll help you. Do we understand
each other?

Alex's face says it all: What the hell have I done?

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Hermes leaves Alex in the living room and disappears. Clarence has his head on Diane's lap. She strokes his head gently.

DIANE

We should move to Europe,
Clarence. We'll be so happy there.
There's nothing for me here any
more.

A weary Alex leaves for the kitchen.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

The kitchen is full of boxes of hair restorer. Alex goes to the sink and gets some water. Gene rushes in, holding a For Sale sign.

GENE

Great news, Alex! You're finally
getting what you wanted. We're
moving back East. You can't run a
business like this from here.

Alex is numb.

EXT. ALEX'S HOUSE - ALEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alex looks out the window. The coast is clear. He climbs out, into the garden, over the wall and away.

EXT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - NIGHT

HECTOR'S FATHER opens the door. He is very cold.

HECTOR'S FATHER

Oh, it's you. Hector isn't here.

ALEX

He's not picking up his phone. I
need to talk with him.

HECTOR'S FATHER

Leave him alone, Alex. How could
you do that to a friend?

ALEX

Do what?

HECTOR'S FATHER

You know what. You never earned
that place on the basketball team.
You don't even like sport!

ALEX

But-

He SLAMS the door on Alex.

EXT. ALISON'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Alex presses the doorbell, again and again.

ALEX

Come on, Alison. Answer, will you?

There are no lights on in the house. Despondent, he turns and leaves. As he goes, Alison pulls back a curtain and peeks through an upstairs window. Alex turns to look at the house once again. He sees Alison. He is shocked and devastated. He stands stunned for a moment, then, visibly upset, he runs home.

He runs under a street-lamp on a corner, splashing through a puddle. As he disappears, we see another kid walking from the side street to the same puddle. As he steps into it, he sinks up to his knees.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

A very worried Alex is soaking in the tub. The gecko sits on the edge.

ALEX

I'm really sorry, Vince. I've totally screwed up. I'll get you another fly, somehow, I promise.

The gecko is now much calmer. He shrugs sadly, and rests his head on his "hand".

Suddenly, QL WHOOSHES into the bathroom. There is a SCREECHING sound as She applies the brakes. The gecko is startled and falls in the bath. QL goes SPLAT against the wall.

QL

Damn Newton's Laws.

She regains Her composure, then turns to Alex.

QL (CONT'D)

Not used to coming down here any more.

She sits down on the closed WC. There is a CRACK sound. QL stands up to reveal a cracked toilet lid.

QL (CONT'D)

Cheap plastic crap!

Embarrassed, She sits on the edge of the bath instead.

Alex pushes a huge pile of bubbles over his private parts.

QL (CONT'D)

(smiling benignly)
You can't fool me!

This time Alex is not so sure of himself.

QL (CONT'D)

I don't want to say I told you so, but... well, I just did.

The gecko crawls out of the bath, covered in foam, and coughing bubbles.

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - LATER

Alex is still in the bath, while QL is now sitting on a chair with Her feet up. They are both drinking wine. The gecko lounges near the taps, forearms behind his head, as if sunbathing.

QL

Is this a Merlot? I might get me a case.

ALEX

Okay, you were right - they are somewhat... volatile. They don't understand how much the world has changed. It's just one big game to them.

QL

I hope for your sake, you find a solution before they blow you all up.

ALEX

I don't get it. None of this was supposed to happen. The world is in chaos, on the verge of world war. I've lost my two best friends. My father thinks he's Rockefeller, my mother wants to run off with a beggar, and my brother is a gecko.

QL

Did you really think life could be that easy? You just wave a hand and get everything you ever wanted, with no consequences? That's very disappointing, Alex.

QL takes an appreciative sip from the glass.

QL (CONT'D)

Do you have any olives to go with this?

Alex shakes his head.

QL (CONT'D)

Pity. Where were we? Oh, yes. No point in sugar-coating it. This is all your fault. You let them out with the scarab - you'll have to put them back.

ALEX

Can't you send Jesus? I thought saving us was kinda his thing.

QL

Alex, dear boy. If man needs saving, it's from himself. You're your own worst enemies.

ALEX

Okay, but WHO made man? Isn't that YOUR responsibility? Why didn't YOU make US better?

QL looks a little uncomfortable.

QL

If you must know, you were the BETA version. Anyway, it's up to you now. Good luck!

ALEX

But-

QL vanishes in a PUFF. The fallout blows the bubbles all over the place. Alex wipes the bubbles from his face. He looks very worried.

ALEX (CONT'D)

What the hell am I supposed to do, Vince? She's not exactly specific, is She? It's all help, short of actual assistance. Vince? Vince!?

He searches frantically for the gecko. It is floating in the water. He hauls it out and gives it mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. The gecko comes to, coughing and spluttering.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Yuk! Bad enough you're a gecko, but my brother as well.

He rinses out his mouth frantically.

INT. THE OVAL OFFICE, WHITE HOUSE - MORNING

The President is on the phone.

PRESIDENT

This is the President, er...

AIDE

(sotto voce)

Alex.

PRESIDENT

... Alex. We need to talk. So, what's the bottom line here?

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alex is gobsmacked. Despite all that's happened, this is the President of the USA! He stands up straight, out of respect, and his whole demeanor becomes both more deferential and more business-like.

ALEX

Good morning, Mr President, sir...
Yes, they really are the ancient
gods... No, I have no reason to
believe they wouldn't keep their
word... Yes, sir, I would say
Aphrodite IS all real.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

PRESIDENT

That's amazing!

CHIEF OF STAFF

The deal, Mr President? The deal?

PRESIDENT

Oh, yes. So, you think they would
guarantee us Top Nation if we play
ball? I gotta be able to sell this
to the media.

CHIEF OF STAFF

(exasperated)

To Congress, Mr President! To
Congress!

PRESIDENT

Oh, yea. Them, as well.

ALEX

You don't really have much choice,
sir. They have tremendous power.

PRESIDENT

Yes, we've noticed. Will they
share that technology with us?
Preferably before the Chinese
steal it. Just imagine what we
could do with that.

ALEX

They may. I can ask. But you know
they're not just talking America,
sir? They want the whole world.
And they expect you to deliver
that as part of the bargain.

PRESIDENT

Much as I'd love to tell the world
what to do, I can't. You know the
Middle East, boy. One side will
always do the opposite of whatever
the other side is doing.

(sighs)

I'll have to call a special
meeting of world leaders at the
United Nations. That part
shouldn't be difficult. I think
your friends have got everyone's
attention!

They hang up. Alex's expression morphs gradually from pride at being on the phone with the president, to mounting despair.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - FRONT - DAY

Alex waits outside the school for Hector and Alison to emerge. Their body language is very cold.

ALEX
Hector, Alison. I'm so glad I
found you. I-

ALISON
You've been a real jerk, Alex.

Alex feels like he's been stabbed. He physically recoils. He looks at her sadly for a moment, then remembers the bigger picture.

ALEX
Look, I'm sorry, but things are
getting way out of control. I just
had the President on my phone, for
chrissakes!

Hector gives him a stern look.

HECTOR
I told you to leave the cave. I
told you not to trust them. But,
no, you're the smart ass who knows
better.

ALEX
You were right, Hector, and I was
wrong. There! Happy now?

HECTOR
It's a start.

BEAT

HECTOR (CONT'D)
(impressed)
Really? The President? Wow!

ALEX
You know, they're really not that
bad - they're just a big family,
with some unresolved issues.

ALISON
You mean, like the Mafia?

Alex looks at Alison again with a deep sadness in his face.

ALEX
Look, I'm really sorry. I know
I've-

At this point, Hermes suddenly appears.

HERMES

Alex, we gotta go. Problem.

ALEX

Again?! Why can't you just leave me alone? I'm in the middle of something here with my friends.

ALISON

(coldly)

Friends? You think so?

Alex looks devastated.

HERMES

I said NOW.

HECTOR

Seems you always have more important things to do, Alex.

ALISON

Yes, Alex, go. You're on their team now.

Hermes & Alex disappear. Hector and Alison soften.

ALISON (CONT'D)

He did seem a bit worried, didn't he? Is he losing weight?

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - DAY

Alex and Hermes arrive at the mountain top. Alex wipes away a tear from his eye.

ALEX

Hey, I was busy there!

There is real strife between the gods. They are all arguing, except Athena who sits to the side, reading a scroll. She looks up and shakes her head disapprovingly at the others.

HERMES

They hate each other. You choose your friends, but you can't choose your family. They just want to do their own thing, but dad says no, so they fight.

Zeus walks over wearily.

ZEUS

I can't contain this much longer, Alex. We need our own temples, our own space, so we don't have to look at each other any more. Try to imagine it - a Thanksgiving Dinner that lasts NON-STOP for 2,000 years!

ALEX

Why not magic up, or whatever you do, the temples yourself?

ZEUS

You're supposed to do that as a sign of devotion. Why should we do it for ourselves? Where's the worship in that?

EXT. UN BUILDING, NY - DAY

Buzz of activity as limo after limo arrives with stringent security. All sorts of crackpot demonstrators strut their stuff, waving banners.

INT. UN BUILDING - ROOF - DAY

The gods are all waiting to go to the meeting. Athena is instructing them like a film director.

ATHENA

Okay, gods, this is going out live, so let's get it right first time! Shock and Awe. Let's show these mortals what we're made of.

Alex watches impassively, his mind elsewhere.

Some UN workers come on to the roof for a smoke, including some very fine young ladies. Zeus becomes distracted and eyes the girls. Hera's eyes follow his to the girls.

HERA

That's it! Enough is enough. I want a divorce.

She points at the girls who all suddenly age 30 years and add 40 pounds.

ZEUS

What?

HERA

It's bad enough you can't keep a knot in it when I'm not there, but to rub my face in it-

ZEUS

But, Hera, Honey-

HERA

Don't you "Hera, Honey" me, you ape. I should have listened to mummy - she said not to marry you.

ZEUS

Mummy said that?!

HERA

She said you're just like dad.

ZEUS

I resent that. I never ate my kids.

HERA

Details. Details. Details.

They argue. The others join in. They have to duck and weave to avoid the lightning bolts.

Athena turns to Alex. She looks very worried.

ATHENA

Is this really such a good idea? I despair sometimes, I really do. They squabble like kids. They're my family, and I love them, but... they really shouldn't be left in charge of a candy store.

Alex looks at her surprised.

ATHENA (CONT'D)

And they forget the past so quickly. We lost last time because your God tricked us into being altogether in the same place at the same time. So why are we risking it again?

ALEX

Sorry. Are you asking me?

ATHENA

There's a lot of weight on your shoulders, Alex. I hope you don't ever forget the magic phrase that set us free - and variations thereof.

ALEX

(puzzled)
Variations?

She looks at him disingenuously.

ATHENA

Just thinking out loud. What do we do now?

Alex turns to the arguing gods and SHOUTS.

ALEX

Hey, people... er... gods... whatever. Listen up!

They totally ignore him.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Will you please SHUT THE FUCK UP!

Stunned, they stop and turn towards him.

ALEX (CONT'D)

That's better. You guys need to be focused. What are you here for? A domestic dispute or - let's call a spade a spade - to blackmail the world?

Zeus, still seething, looks at the others. His eyes narrow. A strong glowing thunderbolt hovers over his hand, ready to go.

ZEUS

We'll come back to this later.
Anyone else want to argue?

Hera flicks the middle finger at Zeus behind his back.

ALEX

(to himself)
They're really going native.

INT. UN BUILDING - GENERAL ASSEMBLY - DAY

The heads of state are assembled. There is an empty podium in the front. The BUZZ of conversation fills the hall.

Suddenly there is a blinding light, accompanied by beautiful, serene MUSIC. Rose petals fall from above.

Alex suddenly materializes near the front in time to watch the magnificent spectacle of the gods appearing resplendent on gold thrones on the podium. They glow slightly, giving them an ethereal presence. Their expressions are really dour. Only Athena looks pleased with the show so far.

INT. UN BUILDING - GENERAL ASSEMBLY - VISITORS GALLERY - CONTINUOUS

Alex's parents, Hector and Alison suddenly appear in a heap on the floor. They all look very surprised. In Gene's top pocket is the gecko. They pick themselves up off the floor.

HECTOR

Hey! What's going on? I was watching the game. Where are we?

DIANE

Has anyone seen Clarence?

Suddenly, QL lands, flattening them all, with Clarence by Her side. QL jumps up quickly and dusts Herself down.

QL

Hmm. Sorry about that.

ALISON

Look! There's Alex. And the gods.

GENE

(wistfully)
Isn't Aphrodite gorgeous?

Gene and Hector stare longingly at Aphrodite.

HECTOR

I think she likes me.

INT. UN BUILDING - GENERAL ASSEMBLY - CONTINUOUS

Zeus raises his hand. He is in a foul mood.

ZEUS

Quiet! Let's get this over with.
You know why we're all here. Tell
us how you plan to deliver.

A BRITISH DIPLOMAT stands up, holding a pamphlet.

BRITISH DIPLOMAT

If it pleases the chair, point of
order. If I can refer you to
Chapter 7, Paragraph 6 of the-

Zeus rolls his eyes and waves his hand. The Brit is
forcibly and unceremoniously pushed back into his seat by
an invisible force. He continues to speak, but no sound
comes out. He looks crest-fallen.

Zeus leans forward menacingly on his throne. He points to
Alex standing on the edge of the podium.

ZEUS

You'd better continue, boy.

ALEX

Me!?

ZEUS

Yes, you. Better for everyone I
don't get wound up any more.

Alex clears his throat and looks at the assembly. He starts
sweating profusely. With a kindly smile, Athena mops his
brow.

ATHENA

Don't worry. You'll do fine.

ALEX

(nervously)
Thanks.

ATHENA

And, remember, you still have the
scarab.

ALEX

(puzzled)
What?

He composes himself and turns to the Hall.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I think you understand by now we
are talking here about ANCIENT
rights that predate human history.

PRESIDENT OF CHINA

What this got to do with us? These are Gweilo gods, not Chinese gods.

PRESIDENT OF INDIA

Indeed! We've already got so many gods - we don't need any more.

GERMAN CHANCELLOR

Ve vant Thor!

ARAB SHEIKH

If we change to you, will we still get the virgins?

The AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER, wearing a hat with dangling corks, joins in the debate.

AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER

Can we have the one with the great tits?

Everyone starts speaking at the same time. Why do the Americans get top position? What about this? What about that? Who's going to pay for...? Etc etc

The gods look at each other incredulously.

ARES

Let's destroy them all and start again. Just give the word.

The diminutive RUSSIAN PRESIDENT stands up with a swagger.

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT

We will not accept American imperialism. Never! This is Hollywood spectacle to intimidate us. We're leaving.

There is a chorus of agreement in the hall and many delegates get up to leave. Alex winces.

ALEX

What is wrong with these idiots?

ZEUS

(bellowing)

Did I say you can leave?

The room shakes, but they ignore him and head for the exits. The doors are locked, and the PROTESTS get louder.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

(even louder)

Enough! You will not leave until I say so. And just to make sure...

At this point, the walls and roof melt away to reveal a black sky with zillions of stars.

Zeus looks to Hera, who is still fuming.

INT. UN BUILDING, MOON - CONTINUOUS

The FRENCH PRESIDENT points to the sky.

FRENCH PRESIDENT
Merde alors! Ve are on ze moon!

The hall is now in an air bubble on the moon, and they can see the lunar surface in all its starkness around them. The delegates gaze in hushed awe at the spectacle of Earth hanging peacefully in the firmament. Alex is wide-eyed with excitement.

Hermes notices something outside and points it out to Zeus. Zeus follows his gaze. He is dumbfounded.

EXT. MOON - CONTINUOUS

There, not too far away, is an American flag on a pole.

INT. UN BUILDING, MOON - CONTINUOUS

Zeus looks questioningly at Alex. Alex nods.

Zeus CLAPS his hands. Everything shakes.

ZEUS
Back to your places. NOW.

They docilely return to their seats. Zeus nods to Alex and a scroll with a prepared script miraculously appears in his hands.

ALEX
Firstly, we demand the restoration of our temples, or the construction of new ones, to the same or better specification.

SPANISH AMBASSADOR
José Perez, Ambassador of Spain, speaking. We've got loads of churches we don't need any more. Can we convert them?

CUT TO:

INT. UN BUILDING - GENERAL ASSEMBLY - VISITORS GALLERY - CONTINUOUS

QL looks very pissed off with the question.

INT. UN BUILDING - GENERAL ASSEMBLY - CONTINUOUS

ZEUS
What?! Second-hand temples! No way, José!

Ares looks disapprovingly at Apollo.

ARES
Nor do we want to share. We're not Pizza Hut and KFC.

Another voice from the auditorium.

QUESTIONER

Who's gonna pay for all this?

ALEX

Look at this as an insurance premium. Do you really need to be reminded of the consequences?

P.O.V. ALEX - CONTINUOUS

Alex looks up towards Zeus, then scans the room. Suddenly he notices his family, Hector and Alison in the audience. He can just make out the gecko's head in his dad's top pocket, watching intently.

Diane gives him a little wave. He starts to hesitate.

INT. UN BUILDING - GENERAL ASSEMBLY - CONTINUOUS

Alex puts down the script. Everyone is looking at him.

ALEX

What on earth are we doing here?
All this bickering, fighting,
hostility - what for?

Zeus turns to Hera and Aphrodite.

ZEUS

What's going on?

Aphrodite concentrates on Alex, then spots Alison in the audience.

APHRODITE

Alison.

Alex turns to the gods.

ALEX

You're gods - you should be setting a better example. You're family, but you never stop fighting.

Zeus starts to protest. Alex raises his right hand. We see the scarab wrapped tight around it.

ALEX (CONT'D)

No. Now I'M speaking.

He turns to the world leaders.

ALEX (CONT'D)

And you lot are a disgrace!

He points to Earth in the sky above them.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Look at that beautiful planet of ours. So fragile.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)
 We're going to ruin it, if we
 don't change our selfish ways.

Alex addresses his family and friends directly.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 And I'm no better. I've been a
 selfish, ungrateful prick. I have
 a wonderful family, and two of the
 best friends in the universe, but
 it wasn't enough. I wanted more -
 stupid stuff, in the grand scheme
 of things. Did it make sense? No.
 And, deep down, I probably knew
 that the whole time. As my best
 friend so eloquently put it, I
 behaved like a jerk, and that's
 why we're in this mess today.

ANGLE ON ALEX'S FAMILY AND FRIENDS

ALEX (CONT'D)
 I only hope they can find it
 within themselves to forgive me.

Alison, Diane and Hector wipe away a tear. Gene is gushing,
 and blows his nose. The gecko wipes his eyes on Gene's
 pocket.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 So, what happens now? Our history
 is full of strife, wars,
 holocausts, you name it. We
 profess to believe in Peace and
 Love, and yet we pervert that into
 holy wars, inquisitions and
 jihads. The hypocrisy is
 phenomenal.

Alex addresses the leaders again, but more forcefully.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 Yes, we've screwed up royally, but
 we actually have the means to
 solve most of our problems, if
 only we have the collective will.
 Where is the vision? Where is the
 leadership? That's YOUR job, not
 mine!

ZEUS
 (to Aphrodite)
 He's backtracking. We need
 insurance. Get Alison.

In an instant, Alison is on the podium with the gods.

Alex is horrified. He rushes towards her. With the movement
 of his finger, Ares creates a chasm between him and the
 gods. He teeters over the edge, barely managing to prevent
 himself from falling.

ALEX
 Leave her alone!

ZEUS
Finish the job, Alex!

ALEX
Send her here to me first.

ZEUS
Oh, no, no, no! You don't get to set conditions. You do what you're supposed to do, and she'll be fine.

Zeus spins a finger and Alison becomes enveloped in a cocoon force field. She tries to get out, but can't.

ATHENA
Hey, dad, don't you think-?

ZEUS
Not now, Athena. You stay out of this.

Alex looks desperate. What to do?

ALEX
Alison, grab this!

SLOW MOTION

He hurls the scarab into the air. The gods all freeze in horror and watch it fly towards Alison.

Ares launches himself in its path, but it just pushes him out of the way. It continues its trajectory towards Alison, slicing through the force field and into her hands. The force field evaporates. She is free.

BACK TO NORMAL MOTION

ZEUS
Very noble, Alex - but very stupid!

He raises his hand and Alex is thrust violently backwards against the wall. He is almost knocked out.

ALISON
Stop!

Unconvincingly, she holds up the scarab.

ARES
Do not mess with us, little girl.

Alison rushes to help Alex. Poseidon wags his finger and a rock suddenly appears in front of her and she trips, letting go of the scarab which once again flies through the air and lands on the floor.

INT. UN BUILDING - GENERAL ASSEMBLY - VISITORS GALLERY - CONTINUOUS

Hector leaps into action and rushes towards the stage.

HECTOR

Hey, you leave my friends alone!

INT. UN BUILDING - GENERAL ASSEMBLY - CONTINUOUS

ZEUS

Hah! It's you again! Quite the little pest, aren't you?

Zeus forgets Alex, who slides down the wall to the floor, semi-conscious. He projects a force field against Hector, who is thrown hard against the wall near his friend.

QL

Enough, Zeus. Let them be. Your argument is with me, not them.

The gods look into the crowd where they heard QL's voice.

ZEUS

It's Her!!

ARES

Revenge, dad. Revenge!

Zeus releases Hector from the force field.

HECTOR

Ow! Dios mio! That hurt.

The gods stand up and grow in stature. Their expressions are very hostile. All except Athena. She remains calm, slightly to the side, looking very pensive.

QL stands firm.

QL

Zeus, my friend, you've had your fun, but your time has passed.

ZEUS

Get real. You know these worthless beings will follow whatever they're brainwashed to follow. And if you think I'm going back in that prison with...

(pointing to the others)

HER and THEM, you've got another think coming.

QL

Look. I'm sure we can reach an accommodation.

ZEUS

We don't do deals.

Zeus fires a thunderbolt at QL. A force field appears in front of Her to deflect it.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

Ares, left flank. Poseidon, take the right.

A divine battle ensues. QL can't defend all the mortals. The people outside Her protective shield are turned into various animals or mythological creatures.

Alex starts to come to. He sees Hector.

ALEX

Are you crazy? You attack these guys with... what? Your charm? They...

Suddenly he sees the scarab lying on the floor, but the chasm is still between him and it.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Look, I gotta get the scarab and finish this - but, hey, thanks!

He gets up and takes a running jump but falls short, barely managing to hold onto the edge by his fingertips. He looks down into the chasm and nearly faints. He looks up and sees a very concerned and frightened Alison, lying on the ground, nursing a painful leg.

Alex shakes his head to force himself to concentrate. Summoning all his strength, he tries to haul himself out of the chasm, but flails around unsuccessfully.

Suddenly a flock of owls arise from the chasm and carry him up onto the surface once more. He flashes a glance towards Athena. She smiles back almost imperceptibly.

He slithers next to Alison.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Alison! Are you okay? I am so sorry! I've been a real jerk.

ALISON

Yes you have, but now's not the time. Get the scarab!

He gets up. Poseidon sees him heading for the scarab. He raises his trident and is about to throw it when...

HECTOR

Hey, fish face. Pick on someone your own size.

Enraged, Poseidon turns and throws his trident at Hector. Out of nowhere, Clarence leaps in front, and is impaled by the trident. The force pushes them both against a wall.

Diane is grief-stricken.

DIANE

CLARENCE!!!

Alex and Alison are horrified. They freeze. Tears pour down their faces.

ALEX

Noooooo!

Clarence slides down to the floor. Hector collapses on top of him.

Alex remembers the scarab which is glowing brightly with all the celestial energy in the room. He grabs it, and jumps on Alison just in time to deflect a thunderbolt from Zeus.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Hold on to me tight, and, whatever
you do, don't let go.

He rubs the scarab furiously, and points it in this direction and that. Nothing. He waves his fist in exasperation.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Abraca-fucking-dabra!

He looks at Alison.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Shit! What am I supposed to do
now? I wish I'd never gone to that
cave. I wish I'd never released
these maniacs from..

He sees Athena quietly and serenely remaining apart from the fight. He remembers her words.

EXT. UN BUILDING - ROOF - DAY

ATHENA
I hope you don't ever forget the
magic phrase that set us free -
and variations thereof.

INT. UN BUILDING - GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ALEX
What did she mean?

He starts rubbing the scarab furiously again.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Black olives.

Nothing.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Olive oil.

Nothing.

He sees Athena rolling her eyes and shaking her head.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Green olives.

No sooner are the words out of his mouth than a bubble force field flows from the scarab and entraps the gods once again. Alex is thrown violently backwards by the force. The gods rise up to resist but it is too late. Only Athena gives him a benign smile.

INT. UN BUILDING - GENERAL ASSEMBLY - VISITORS GALLERY -
CONTINUOUS

The gecko, now standing on Gene's shoulder watching events, suddenly transforms back into Vince. Gene collapses under the sudden weight. Vince is startled, then ecstatic as he checks himself physically.

INT. UN BUILDING - GENERAL ASSEMBLY - CONTINUOUS

ZEUS

Hey, Alex, reverse the spell.

HERMES

Do it, Alex, do it.

Alex holds steady.

APHRODITE

Please, Alex. Whatever you want,
it's yours.

Alex visibly weakens at Aphrodite's blandishments. Surprised, he sees Athena shaking her head.

APHRODITE (CONT'D)

You can have Alison.

ALISON

He doesn't need you for that!

She gives Alex a beautiful smile. He feels a glow inside and smiles back. They turn to Hector. Hector is badly winded, but otherwise all right. He checks Clarence who starts to recover, despite having a trident in his abdomen.

Alex looks around, confused. QL turns all the animals back into delegates. She looks at Alex expectantly. The rest of the audience is clearly shaken.

QL

So, how's this to end, Alex?

He stands thoughtfully for a moment, then addresses the world leaders, very forcefully.

ALEX

I'm going to give you one more
chance to fix this planet. Don't
balls it up this time!

He turns to the gods.

ALEX (CONT'D)

As for you guys, I've grown
surprisingly fond of you, I must
say, but do you really want all
this? Have you any idea what war
means now? We're not talking
swords and shields any more. We're
talking whole cities disappearing
in seconds. Your religion was
based on superstition and it isn't
going to work any more.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

The human race is much more
(air quotes)
"sophisticated" now.
(looks at audience)
Well, let's just say, it's moved
on. And so must you. I don't want
to send you back, but what other
options are there?

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Breakfast at Alex's house. Alex clears the table in front of him so Diane can put his breakfast tray down. The scarab is around his neck. Gene ruffles Alex's hair as he passes.

GENE

Howya doin', son?

Gene (his head half bald again) passes a mirror, pauses and SIGHS. He kisses Diane on the head. She smiles contentedly back. Vince comes in. He is very polite now.

VINCE

Hi, Bro.

He puts his hand on Alex's shoulder in a friendly, non-aggressive way. A fly passes in front of him. A long tongue shoots out from his mouth. He eats it.

Diane looks around. Something's missing.

DIANE

Where's Clarence?

INT. HEAVEN: THE THRONE ROOM - DAY

QL is sitting on Her throne. Saints Peter and Michael solemnly bring Clarence in front of Her. There are three holes in his garment where the trident went in. He looks nervous.

QL arises and gently strokes each of his shoulders as she knights him with an olive branch. He jerks slightly as two large wings sprout on his back. He is overjoyed. He feels like he's gone to Heaven.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYM - DAY

Alex and Alison are sitting next to each other, watching a basketball game. They stand up and cheer as Hector sinks a great basket.

ALEX & ALISON

Way to go, Hector!

The WHISTLE blows, and the players head for the changing room.

ALEX

Nearly forgot. I got you a
souvenir of my misadventures.

He puts a necklace over her head. The pendant is one of Athena's gold coins.

ALISON
I love it. Thank you, Alex.

She kisses him on the cheek.

ALEX
It seems they're real collectors' items, so, college, here I come!

Alison looks down nervously.

ALISON
Alex, did you... I mean, did you and Helen... you know?

ALEX
Hah! It was quite a night, I can tell you, in more ways than one.

FLASHBACK

INT. HELEN'S HOUSE - HELEN'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Helen and Alex are naked, making out on the bed. The ghostly figure of Cupid, invisible to them, sits on top of the cupboard, admiring his handiwork.

ALEX (V.O.)
Everything was looking good.

But Alex keeps seeing an image of Alison as he last saw her, in the street. He stops. He sits up, exasperation writ large all over his face. Helen is confused, betrays insecurities.

HELEN
What's the matter?

ALEX
I don't know.

She looks at his crotch.

HELEN
Somebody wants to play.

ALEX
(frustrated)
I know. I know. But I can't.

HELEN
What's wrong? Is it me?

ALEX
Is it you?!?! Hell, no. It's... I can't. I just can't.

HELEN
(relieved)
Thank god for that.

A startled Cupid falls to the floor in shock - his spell has been broken. Helen flops back onto the bed. Alex goes from feeling frustrated (but virtuous) to hurt.

ALEX
Wait, what?

HELEN
Promise you won't tell anyone.
I've... I've never done it before.
Well, not ALL the way.

Alex GASPS.

ALEX
But you're... you're... YOU - the
hottest girl in school. I've seen
your social media posts.

HELEN
Trust me - keeping that up is
exhausting.

ALEX
So you've never-

HELEN
I've never felt ready. Everyone
wants me, but - you know what? -
all they *really* want are these.

She pushes up her breasts.

ALEX
You have been blessed with a
particularly pleasant pair.

HELEN
Thank you.

ALEX
I don't get it. I've heard the
neanderthals bragging about
"nailing" you (or worse), as they
so poetically put it. Why do you
let them get away with that?

HELEN
Alex, I'm an Influencer. It gets
me the clicks. How many Instagram
followers do you have?

ALEX
You've got so much more to offer,
Helen. You're actually very
bright.

HELEN
No one's ever said that to me
before.

ALEX
They're too busy staring at your
boobs. You just need to apply
yourself.

HELEN
It's not cool.

ALEX
There's your problem.

INT. HELEN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - LATER

Helen and Alex sit round a small table going over her homework. She is fully engaged. They LAUGH.

A very dejected Cupid sits in the corner, head in his hands.

END FLASHBACK

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYM - CONTINUOUS

ALEX
I couldn't do it. I just couldn't do it. It all felt so... empty, all of a sudden.

ALISON
Why couldn't you do it?

ALEX
You're gonna force me to say it, aren't you? All right.
(bracing himself)
Alison, you've ALWAYS been the ONE. I was just too stupid to see it.

Alison throws her arms around him and gives him a big kiss on the mouth. She holds him tight.

ALISON
I'm so glad everything is back to normal - better than normal.

Alex turns to the camera with a smile. The scene behind him freezes.

ALEX
Well, almost. You see, faced with being trapped together again for all eternity, the gods couldn't do a deal fast enough. In return for giving up most of their powers, they didn't have to go back to the cave. They got to live normal-ish lives like any other immortal.

Over the END CREDITS, we see the gods in their new occupations.

EXT. MILITARY TRAINING CAMP - DAY

Ares is a five star general directing war games.

INT. BRIDGE OF AIRCRAFT CARRIER - DAY

Poseidon looks resplendent and distinguished as the Admiral of the fleet.

INT. PHOTOGRAPHER'S STUDIO - EVENING

Apollo is modeling Armani underwear.

EXT. STREET - DAY

A UPS van pulls up outside a building. Hermes, in UPS uniform, gets out with a package and his hand-held control gadget. There is a smile of pure contentment on his face.

EXT. IRISH PUB - EVENING

Customers enter what is clearly a popular watering hole. The sign above the door:

The Bearded Clam

INT. IRISH PUB

Bacchus is behind the bar, serving customers - but also drinking the profits!

INT. BROADWAY THEATER - AFTERNOON

Athena is directing a production of Oedipus Rex.

ATHENA

No! No! No! That's not what
Sophocles meant.

EXT. LARGE HOUSE - NIGHT

The house has a red light over the door. There are girls in scanty nighties sitting at some of the windows.

INT. LARGE HOUSE FOYER

Girls in sexy lingerie are fawning over clients. We see Aphrodite. She is the Brothel Madam. Cupid is at the back minding the cash register.

INT. SENATE OFFICE - DAY

Zeus, in a beautiful Italian suit, is sitting behind a large mahogany desk. We can see the Mall and the Washington Monument through the window. His gorgeous SECRETARY enters, followed by Hera, dressed in classic Chanel.

SECRETARY

Your wife, senator.

HERA

Remember, Honey, dinner at the
White House tonight. I don't know
why that damn fool keeps inviting
us.

ZEUS

Don't worry, snookums. I haven't
forgotten.

As they talk, the camera pans round to reveal a stunning intern hiding under the desk.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - LIBRARY - NIGHT

A bespectacled Helen is studying hard. She sits up, yawns and stretches. A friendly hand touches her shoulder. She smiles gratefully as Hector puts a coffee down in front of her. She squeezes his hand affectionately.

Hector sits down and opens a book just as the dog from Starbucks breaks in and starts humping his leg again. He stares up at Hector adoringly.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Alex (still wearing the scarab) and Alison walk arm-in-arm through the park.

They come upon a basketball lying on the ground near a practice hoop. He casually picks it up and makes a total pig's ear of dribbling with it. Alison smiles.

ALISON

It was so noble of you, Alex, to give up all that the gods gave you. I'm so proud of you. Don't you miss it though, all that power?

ALEX

Nah. Omnipotence is over-rated. Besides, you're worth it.

ALISON

Awwww!

She swishes her hair in slow motion as in the L'Oréal adverts. She gives him a big hug.

Alex picks up the ball again, and they resume walking. Without looking back, Alex throws the ball underarm up and into the hoop, without touching the sides. He turns and kisses Alison on the cheek. She cuddles into him. He gives a knowing shrug to the camera. They walk off into the distance.

FADE OUT: