

Big 4

written by

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INT. A LUXURY APARTMENT - ALISHA'S BEDROOM- NIGHT

Tall glass windows showcase the glowing lights of downtown Austin. Wrapped around the exquisitely decorated room of ALISHA THOMPSON, African American, 30s. Alisha admires her well-endowed petite frame in a mirror. Barely covered by a sexy lingerie. She picks up her phone. Deliberates a bit. Then makes a call.

ALISHA
(in the phone)
Hey. How far are you?

INT. ALISHA'S FRONT DOOR- MOMENTS LATER

Alisha opens the door. It's DAVID, 30s, rugged and manly. He sees her outfit and wastes no time.

INT. ALISHA'S BEDROOM -MOMENTS LATER

Alisha and David lie on their backs in bed basking in the pleasure they just experienced. Alisha rolls to him ready for a do over. But then--

DAVID
You heard anything more on being
Partner?

Alisha doesn't expect this shift.

ALISHA
No. Hopefully soon.

DAVID
The pay upgrade must be crazy. This
apartment is what like four grand a
month? And you get all-expense paid
vacations.

David shakes his head in disbelief. Then gets up and puts on his underwear. Alisha reacts instinctively.

ALISHA
Where are you going?

David looks around searches for something. Then moves to the kitchen.

DAVID
To look for my pants.

INT. ALISHA'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

He picks up his pants and puts it on. She's behind him.

ALISHA

David, can't someone else open early for you?

DAVID

Alisha, it's a new business and I need to stay on top of it myself.

ALISHA

What if I stay by you tonight?

He faces her and pulls her in.

DAVID

Then I definitely wouldn't get up early. Plus, my place is a mess.

He looks around for his shirt. He finds it's lodged in the sofa.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NEAR SOFA

She comes up behind and kisses his back. He waivers for a sec. Then breaks away to put on his shirt. She pouts.

DAVID

Tomorrow night?

She gives the best version of a smile and he's out.

EXT. BARNES ASSOCIATES AND CO.'S BUILDING - MORNING

We enter the main reception area of Number 5 of the Big 5 Accounting Firms. The space is open, punctured by two glass atriums, flooded by natural light. High end décor.

INT. HALLWAY OF BARNES ASSOCIATES AND CO.- MORNING

Alisha arrives to work. Each stride on top of her red Louboutin shoes has an extra bounce in it. She's in a very good mood. SHERRY, 20s, an Associate, approaches her.

SHERRY

Love the shoes. Looking like a chic... partner.

ALISHA
(a bit manic)
Wait. Have Wilbert said something?
Because I haven't heard anything.

SHERRY
Not yet. But it's the buzz around
the office.

Alisha smiles as she enters her office, but is stopped by...

MALE VOICE (O.S)
Alisha, can I run something by you?
It's for a client I'm working on.

Alisha turns to see KEVIN, 20S, a nerdy version of Taye Diggs.

ALISHA
Kevin. You're assigned to Wilbert's
group. Why not run it by him?

KEVIN
I did. But it didn't go anywhere.
And you've always been able to pick
up on red flags.

They head into her office.

INT. ALISHA'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Alisha reviews a file with Kevin in front of her.

ALISHA
This is PETCOM Corp.

KEVIN
Yea.

ALISHA
Our biggest client.

KEVIN
I know. But look at the figures.

MOMENTS LATER

Alisha looks at the file and then cross references it on her laptop.

ALISHA

There's a drastic increase in revenue. These numbers don't match the contracts. Is the audit finished?

KEVIN

Financials are being drafted as we speak.

ALISHA

I'm sure it's an oversight. I'll talk with Wilbert.

KEVIN

Thanks Alisha.

Kevin gets up to leave. But stops to say...

KEVIN (CONT'D)

(smiles)

By the way, we can't wait for you to make partner.

INT. WILBERT'S OFFICE- MOMENTS LATER

Custom furniture decorates the room. Expensive paintings hang on the wall. Money was spent on decorating this office. WILBERT BARNES, 50s, wearing an expensive suit, is on his phone.

WILBERT

(in phone)

Hey Brett. Just got the financials. Final figures show PETCOM Corp's stock price will double. Your company is will be the most sought-after stock on the market.

Wilbert looks to his right at an expensive art piece on the wall.

WILBERT (CONT'D)

(in phone)

Yeah. Looking at it now. Thanks, it's exceptional.

Alisha steps in the doorway. Wilbert sees her and finishes up his call quickly.

WILBERT (CONT'D)

(in phone)

Yeah. Ok. We'll talk later.

Hangs up.

WILBERT (CONT'D)

Alisha. Come on in. How's it going?

ALISHA

Wilbert. Good. I wanted to discuss something with you.

WILBERT

Sure. Shoot.

ALISHA

I had a look at the PETCOM Corp's files, and something doesn't--

WILBERT

Hold on a minute. That's not your client.

ALISHA

I know.

WILBERT

(sternly)

So why are you looking at their files?

ALISHA

I...er... wanted to use their file as reference for a client of mine. Which is when I saw that their revenue figures seem inflated.

WILBERT

(dismissive)

The figures are fine.

ALISHA

PETCOM Corp. recorded millions they won't earn until 5 years from now.

WILBERT

We've used the market-to-market accounting approach.

ALISHA

But--

WILBERT

(cuts her)

The file has been reviewed thoroughly by me.

(MORE)

WILBERT (CONT'D)

Alisha, I admire your keen eye to detail, but it's much better served on your clients. Now...if that's all?

She nods yes and makes her way out. He stops her with...

WILBERT (CONT'D)

You know...we're still considering our next partner.

ALISHA

I thought you already made a decision.

WILBERT

Not yet.

ALISHA

Oh.

WILBERT

Also something for you to remember. Our firm is number 5 of the BIG 5. And we have PETCOM Corp to thank for that.

TITLE CARD: **THE BIG 4**

END TEASER

ACT ONE

EXT. HIGH RISE BUILDING - MORNING

We travel up the exterior walls of Gordon Partners & Co. Number 1 of the BIG 5 accounting firms. We stop on the last floor. Then enter...

INT. GORDON PARTNERS & CO.- LOGAN'S OFFICE

LOGAN PETERSON, 30s, Manager, with cute boyish looks. Unassumingly smart. Sits at his desk buried in files. BARRY, 50s, a partner with humpy dumpty looks barges in.

BARRY

Logan. Please tell me you're finished with the report for tomorrow's meeting with the FBI.

LOGAN

Barry, I would move faster if I had help.

BARRY

Wish I could help. But as partner I'm bugged down myself.

LOGAN

(hint of sarcasm)
Of course, you are. I'm just putting the forensic evidence together. I'll send you when I'm done.

BARRY

Just send it off. I won't have time to read it. I have an important meeting with a client to get to.

INT. GORDON PARTNERS & CO.- CONFERENCE ROOM - LATER IN DAY

THREE CORPORATE EXECUTIVES sit across a well-polished conference table. Across from them, a young manager, CORRINE, intimidated, fidgets in her seat. As she checks her watch, she gauges the room's mood. It's restless and ready to erupt.

EXT. GOLF COURSE - SAME TIME

Barry drives the ball on the grounds of an exclusive country club. He marvels to himself as he watches his ball hits a distance. His phone rings and interrupts him.

BARRY
(annoyed)
Barry here.

INT. GORDON PARTNERS & CO.- HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Corrine is on the phone.

CORRINE
Barry? The Neil Massy Group are here for their 3 o'clock update meeting. Half an hour ago.

EXT. GOLF COURSE- - SAME TIME

Barry checks the time and slaps his forehead.

BARRY
I can't make it. I'm booking a huge client now.

We see no one around him.

BARRY (CONT'D)
I'll ask Logan to fill in for me.

CORRINE
But he's not-

Click. Hangs up.

CORRINE (CONT'D)
(to herself)
Lazy asshole.

EXT. GOLF COURSE - SAME TIME

Barry quickly makes a call.

INT. LOGAN'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Logan is reviewing files. His cell rings. He sees the name. Waits a moment. Then...

LOGAN

Barry.

INTERCUT-TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

BARRY

Logan, I need you to run the meeting with the Neil Massy Group.

LOGAN

What? That's your client not mine.

BARRY

Well, I'm double booked with a bigger client. So, you'll have to cover this.

LOGAN

I don't know the client. I've never even read their file.

BARRY

We know you don't need to.

LOGAN

I have the meeting with the Feds to finish up. Plus, I'm swamped with deadlines.

BARRY

I'm pulling rank. Get your ass in there. And don't think about billing it. There's no room in the budget.

Click. He hangs up.

LOGAN

Lazy Asshole!

INT. GORDON PARTNERS & CO.- CONFERENCE ROOM - SAME

MICHAEL CHIN, 50s, one of the executives loses his patience and yells at Corrine.

MICHAEL

Where is Barry?! We pay millions for your services. On top of that I now have to pay for your tardiness?

Corrine bucks on an appropriate response. Until Logan arrives. The cavalry is here. She quickly hands him the file. He takes command of the room.

LOGAN

Mr. Chin. You pay us the big bucks because we're number 1. Apologies for being late.

Logan reads the file over. Michael looks around for Barry.

MICHAEL

(to Logan)
Who the hell are you?
(to Corrine)
Who the hell is he? Where's Barry?

EXT. GOLF COURSE- SAME TIME

Barry is about to take a swing for the ball. He feels a sharp pain and clutches at his chest. He then drops to the floor in a crouched position.

INT. GORDON PARTNERS & CO.- CONFERENCE ROOM - SAME TIME

Logan looks up from the file to respond.

LOGAN

Unavoidably detained. I'm Logan Peterson. I'm Senior Manager.

Logan continues to soak in information from the file.

MICHAEL

And how in God's name do you expect to save me millions in this deal by spending only 2 minutes on it?

Logan puts down the file and looks Michael squarely in the eyes. Then says confidently...

LOGAN

You're looking to take over a company. We gave you three price options and suggested the best one. You then asked us to find a way to cut that price by a third. In the past two minutes I've found two.

Michael leans forward and looks at Logan with newfound respect.

MICHAEL
Ok. Let's hear it.

LOGAN
One of your subsidiaries is in the
transport business.

MICHAEL
Yea. So?

LOGAN
We won't include their vehicles in
the deal. Saves you US\$10m... And
then the receivables.

MICHAEL
We already discounted for the ones
over 60 days.

LOGAN
Yea. Well, I have it on good
authority that in a day or two a
lot more will be delinquent. I'd
say another \$60M to write off.

MICHAEL
What? Whose authority?

LOGAN
Client privileged information. Now,
I've saved you \$70 million in under
5 minutes. I'd say well worth the
extra hour we're going to bill you.

INT. ALISHA'S OFFICE

ALISHA reviews some financials at her desk and makes a call.

ALISHA
(in the phone)
Kevin. I found errors in the
financials. Fix them asap. The
financials have to go out today.

She hangs up. Sherry enters.

SHERRY
Alisha. Mr. Barnes needs you in his
office.

Sherry turns around to leave.

ALISHA
 (Nervous)
 Sherry.

Sherry turns back.

ALISHA (CONT'D)
 Did he say what for?... Of course
 not. I mean... did he seem upset or
 ...?

Sherry shrugs "I don't know".

INT. GORDON PARTNERS & CO - CONFERENCE ROOM

TWO FBI AGENTS sit across from Logan in a glass walled room. We see them from outside but can't hear them. There is a stack of files in front of them. Logan gestures to it while he speaks to them and they nod.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The agents leave Logan alone in the room. A SECRETARY enters the room. She's noticeably in a very good mood.

SECRETARY
 Logan, Mr. Gordon wants to see you.

INT. BARNES ASSOCIATE & CO.-WILBERT'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Alisha sits nervously in front of Wilbert.

WILBERT
 Alisha, you've been here for 8
 years. You worked hard and moved up
 the ranks. To say we have been
 pleased with your performance is an
 understatement.

INT. GORDON PARTNERS & CO. - RAPHAEL'S OFFICE- SAME TIME

The room is less impressive compared to Wilbert's. Logan sits in front of RAPHAEL GORDON, 50s, Managing Partner.

RAPHAEL
 Barry died from a heart attack.

LOGAN
 Oh my god.

RAPHAEL
Yes. Unfortunate.

LOGAN
Um...his absence...will be... felt.

RAPHAEL
Not by anyone in his department.
Listen, we're not heedless to the
fact that you've been doing all of
the leg work for him.

INT. WILBERT'S OFFICE- SAME TIME

Alisha smiles proudly.

ALISHA
Thanks. I've enjoyed coming to
work.

INT. RAPHAEL'S OFFICE- SAME TIME

Logan listens attentively to Raphael.

RAPHAEL (O.S.)

You've proven to be diligent and
competent. You're managing the
high-profile engagement single-
handedly. So, there was no doubt in
our minds when the other Partners
and I agreed that you should be
made Partner.

INT. WILBERT'S OFFICE- SAME TIME

Wilbert's smile disappears.

WILBERT
I hope your enthusiasm won't change
after today.

Alisha's face falls as she swallows.

ALISHA
Why is that?

INT. CARILLON CAFÉ- NIGHT

Alisha knocks cocktail glasses with STACI (30), tells it like it is BFF, in celebration.

STACI

To my BFF's promotion. And... to Barnes Associates & Co. for paying you so well that I too can benefit.

ALISHA

I had my doubts for a minute. Thanks. And since it's my night. How about you foot the bill?

STACI

Not on my meagre salary. Plus, tonight, I need to wallow in a lot more drinks.

ALISHA

Are you ok?

STACI

Not enough time to get into my problems. You on the other hand...have you told David?

ALISHA

I left a message. I'll see him later when he comes over.

STACI

So, you still haven't slept in his bed?

ALISHA

Staci, it's only been 2 months.

STACI

1 month 31 days too long to find out if he's married or homeless. You always do this.

ALISHA

Do what?

STACI

At work, you dig for red flags. In a relationship, you ignore them even when they come with bright neon signs.

Alisha downs another drink.

ALISHA
I need to pee.

She gets up and escapes to the restroom.

INT. NEAR RESTROOM AREA

Alisha, a million miles away, bumps into someone.

ALISHA
Sorry.

It's Logan and his head is down in his phone. Without looking up--

LOGAN
It's ok.

Then looks up. Sees her and is blown away.

LOGAN (CONT'D)
But I wouldn't mind if it happened again.

They have a moment. Alisha points to the ladies' room.

ALISHA
I'm going this way.

Logan isn't ready to let her go just yet. As she's about to enter...

LOGAN
I saw you and your friend celebrating.

Alisha turns back and flashes her dimples.

ALISHA
Oh. Yea. I got promoted to Partner today.

Logan is mesmerized by her smile.

LOGAN
Wow.
(shakes it off)
Congrats. Where?

ALISHA
Barnes Associates & Co.

Logan reacts negatively. Manages to hide it.

LOGAN
 Big 5 firm. They have a high-
 profile client.
 (feigning to remember)
 Umm...PETCOM Corp?

Alisha's urge is unbearable now. She has to go NOW.

ALISHA
 Yea. Sorry if you'll excuse me.

Logan gives her way unwillingly.

LOGAN
 Oh yea. Go ahead. Congrats again.

Alisha disappears through the doorway.

INT. ALISHA'S APARTMENT - LATER SAME EVENING

Alisha just gets through the front door and is on her phone.

ALISHA
 (in the phone)
 David didn't you get my messages?
 What? No... When? Yea I'm
 turning it on now.

Alisha turns on the TV and sees the headline across the screen "BREAKING NEWS BRETT DENNING arrested". She turns up the volume.

REPORTER O.S
 "...CEO of PETCOM Corp, Brett
 Denning was arrested by the FBI on
 charges of fraud. One of the
 charges is for insider trading and
 playing a central role in the
 accounting schemes that masked the
 company's debts and inflated their
 revenue..."

ALISHA
 Fuck me!

INT. LOGAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

VICTORIA, 30s, Logan's wife, is riveted by the breaking news on TV from the couch. Logan enters and goes to kiss her on her neck. She pulls away instinctively.

VICTORIA
 (Points to the TV)
 You worked hard on this with the
 FBI. You deserve the partnership.

He plops next to her and decides not to tell her yet.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)
 I know. It's not possible. Well...
 maybe if they fire that lazy fat
 fuck or he dies of a heart attack.
 (off Logan's look)
 What?

She turns her attention back to the TV screen.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)
 I can only imagine the shit storm
 coming tomorrow at Barnes
 Associates & Co.

Her words hit him hard. Logan stares at the TV screen and
 reflect on the lives he just ruined especially Alisha's.

INT. BARNES ASSOCIATES & CO.- OFFICE-NEXT DAY

Alisha stands in shock. Chaos ensues the atmosphere. A swarm
 of FBI AGENTS are commandeering laptops and files while staff
 gather their belongings. FBI AGENT #1, a tall muscular
 fellow, gives out an order to the room.

FBI AGENT #1
 Take only your personal items.
 Leave everything else.

Alisha stops at Sherry's desk who's shaken up and racing to
 pack.

ALISHA
 Hey. Have you seen Wilbert?

Sherry shrugs "no" and continues to pack up her things.
 Alisha sees Wilbert exiting a room, escorted by FBI AGENT #2,
 handcuffed.

Inside the room there are TWO MORE AGENTS arresting TWO STAFF
 standing next to an over-filled shredder. Alisha watches on
 helpless as her job and promotion quickly dissolves along
 with her firm.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. ALISHA'S BEDROOM- WEEKS LATER IN THE MORNING

Alisha sharply dressed in a suit takes a moment in the mirror. She lets out a heavy sigh then heads out.

INT. SMALL ACCOUNTING FIRM'S OFFICE - MORNING

Alisha feigning confidence sits in front of an INTERVIEWER. The office is small as a shoebox.

INTERVIEWER

Your resume is very impressive.

ALISHA

Thanks. I also have my CFA and experience in forensic accounting.

INTERVIEWER

Well, that's a moot point now.

ALISHA

Excuse me?

INTERVIEWER

I mean given your previous firm's questionable work ethics.

Alisha quickly pivots on a more positive note.

ALISHA

Well Barnes Associates & Co. has excellent training programs which I--

INTERVIEWER

Had. It's had. And our firm is recognized for its high level of standard.

ALISHA

As number 10?

INTERVIEWER

Now number 9. And the highest you'll ever get interviewed with, given your previous employer. Unfortunately, Ms. Thompson, we're unable to hire you at this time.

INT. GORDON PARTNERS & CO. - HALLWAY

Logan walks in cheerful. He's greeted by his secretary GEORGIA, 50s, a sweetheart but forgetful.

GEORGIA
Morning Logan.

LOGAN
Morning Georgia. The financials I left on your desk yesterday, have they been bound and delivered?

GEORGIA
Financials?

She turns and searches through the disorganized chaos on her desk. Then finds it. Below a stack of papers that should have been filed also.

GEORGIA (CONT'D)
Oh...these. I'll send them out today.

LOGAN
O-kay. I have a court meeting--

GEORGIA
Yes. At 4 tomorrow?

LOGAN
No. It's 2 today. There are some files I need to pull and carry. Just remind me before the meeting.

GEORGIA
Sure. I'll remind you for 4.

LOGAN
N-o. 2.

GEORGIA
(more confused)
Right 2. Tomorrow.

LOGAN
You know what. Don't worry about it. I'll just set it in my phone. Georgia, you must have been a great asset to Barry.

She smiles in ignorance as he heads into his office.

INT. LOGAN'S OFFICE

Logan enters his newly refurbished Partner's office. His name and the words "Junior Partner" stenciled on the glass door. Logan takes a seat. He sees today's newspaper with the Barnes Associates & Co.'s scandal in the headline on his desk. He dials on his intercom.

LOGAN

(in the phone)

Hey Corrine. I need your help. Could you check if any recently promoted Partner was ever involved on the PETCOM Corp audit? Just email me. Thanks.

INT. ALISHA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Alisha picks up the phone. Her laptop open to an accounting firm's website. She makes a call.

ALISHA

Hi. My name is Alisha Thompson. I'm following up on a resume I emailed.

CALLER # 1 (V.O)

Ms. Thompson? Sure. Hold on. Ah yes. I have it here. Impressive resume.

(Concerned tone)

Oh!

ALISHA

What is it?

CALLER # 1 (V.O)

I'm sorry we already filled the position.

ALISHA

(looks at her screen)

I don't understand. You extended the application deadline on your website. Just today.

CALLER # 1 (V.O.)

(dismissive)

A glitch we're working on. Thank you for applying. Do have yourself a great day.

Click.

INT. COURTROOM - LATER AFTERNOON

Court is in session. Logan sits on the stand ready to testify. The PROSECUTOR approaches him.

PROSECUTOR

Mr. Peterson, your firm conducted a forensic investigation on PETCOM Corp's books. Could you please tell us the results of your investigation?

LOGAN

Yes. Our investigation showed that PETCOM Corp. had a ten-year contract with MediaPlay worth half a Billion dollars. Instead of recognizing the earnings year by year PETCOM Corp recognized the entire amount in the current year. This fraudulently inflated their revenue and profits which caused their stock price to skyrocket.

PROSECUTOR

And could you tell the court the other findings in your investigation?

LOGAN

Sure. We also realized that...

EXT. COURTHOUSE - SAME TIME

Alisha is very late. Dashes up the stairs towards the entrance to enter...

INT. COURTHOUSE HALLWAY

Alisha searches for the courtroom as she glances at a paper in her hand for reference. She sees, a COURT BAILIFF, engaged in a heated conversation with another person. And no one else. She asks him for direction. The bailiff bothered and distracted points to a room. She hurries to it over the other side of the hallway, takes a moment and then opens the door.

INT. COURTROOM

Logan in the middle of his testimony stops abruptly. His eyes glued to the entrance of the door.

All eyes in the room turn towards his focus. A MIDDLE-AGED MAN in glasses enters and makes his way to a seat.

INT. COURTHOUSE HALLWAY

Alisha peers into an empty room. It's the wrong room. Logan exits on the opposite side of the hallway. He's finished and, on his way, out. Alisha turns his way. A few persons stand between them blocking their view of each other.

INT. CARILLON CAFÉ- NIGHT

Alisha downs her third shot. Staci stops her.

STACI

Woah. Hold on. I'm paying.
Remember?

ALISHA

Today I testified as a character witness for my ex-boss who is charged with obstruction of justice.

STACI

How did it go?

ALISHA

Not sure if I made a difference.

STACI

You think he's guilty?

ALISHA

I know he didn't want me working on PETCOM Corp because I asked questions. Right now, I have more important things to worry about. Like paying my mount of bills. And to do that I need a job.

STACI

How's the job hunt?

ALISHA

I've been blacklisted. In fact, my whole firm has been blacklisted.

STACI

Oh honey. It'll blow over. Just give it time.

ALISHA
 (panic)
 Give it time? To get evicted?

STACI
 No. But if you do you can stay with
 me. Indefinitely. And... while
 we're on the subject of housing,
 have you heard from David?

ALISHA
 I need to pee.

She escapes. A bit tipsy. Staci calls out to her.

STACI
 Don't call him.

INT. NEAR RESTROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Alisha's finger hovers over David's number. As she's about to dial it a bump saves her. It's Logan. His head down in his phone. Until he looks up. A smile takes over his face.

LOGAN
 You.

ALISHA
 (Bit slurred)
 You too.

She's surprised by her excitement. He notices her state.

LOGAN
 You've been drinking. More than
 last time.

She realizes something and chuckles.

LOGAN (CONT'D)
 What's so funny?

ALISHA
 Us. It's like Déjà vu. Mixed with
 opposite day.

He gets it.

LOGAN
 (a contrite tone)
 I saw the news. I'm really sorry
 about what happened.

She's confused by his remorse.

ALISHA
Thanks, but it's not like you're
responsible.

He gives an unsure nod.

LOGAN
How is the job hunt?

ALISHA
Let's see. One firm lied about
already filling the position. I got
job shamed at an interview with the
number 10 firm. My bad. Number 9.
And no one from the Big 5-er-4 has
called.

LOGAN
I'm sure your luck will change.
Soon. Any firm would be a fool not
to hire you. You'll be a valuable
asset.

They have a moment.

MOMENTS LATER

Alisha returns to the table in very high spirits. Staci picks
up on it.

STACI
You're happy. Very happy. Coming
from the rest--.
(Lightbulb goes off)
Wait...you saw Babyface again. Near
the restroom. Why can't the two of
you bump somewhere more hygienic?

Alisha marvels to herself at the happy coincidence.

INT. ALISHA'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Alisha makes some coffee then opens her mails. All bills.
Nearing their due date. She tosses them aside on the counter
in frustration. Pours a cup of coffee then sits on the sofa.
She then dials a number. It goes straight to voicemail.

ALISHA
(in the phone)
Hi.
(MORE)

ALISHA (CONT'D)

I haven't heard from you since you know. I lost my job. I'm worried that something or maybe your work has you wrapped up? I know running a new business must be really stressful for you. But I really need-- I just wish I could see you. I mean when you have time. Just give me a call or text--

She's prompted to save or delete the message. Delete. A call comes in almost immediately as she puts down her phone. She's startled. Answers it.

ALISHA (CONT'D)

David?

CALLER #2 (V.O.)

Hi. Is this Alisha Thompson?

ALISHA

Yes, it is.

CALLER # 2 (V.O.)

I'm calling from Gordon Partners & Co. We would like to have you in for an interview today. Are you available?

ALISHA

Yes. Of course.

CALLER #2 (V.O.)

How is 11am?

ALISHA

That's perfect. Ahm...I guess you know I worked for--

CALLER #2 (V.O.)

Barnes Associate & Co? Yes. Ms. Thompson, your resume is impressive. And we at Gordon Partners & Co. see you as an asset not a liability.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. ALISHA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Alisha stares in the mirror dressed in a cobalt blue pants suit over a white chiffon blouse. Perfection held up by a pair of snakeskin pumps. An exhale and she's off.

INT. GORDON PARTNERS & CO. RECEPTION -

Alisha enters the lobby. Not as impressive as Barnes Associate & Co. but it doesn't matter. It's number 1. She approaches the RECEPTIONIST confidently...

ALISHA

Hi. I just started. I'm looking for
Ann Downer?

RECEPTIONIST

And you are?

LADY'S VOICE (O.S.)

Alisha Thompson?

Alisha turns to see ANN DOWNER, little Miss Sunshine. Ann's lackadaisical attire plays havoc with Alisha's blood pressure.

ANN

(bubbly)

Hi I'm Ann. I'll be giving you your
orientation. I'm a Senior Manager
here.

Alisha tries not to sound bummed that her new job is a demotion.

ALISHA

(shakes hand)

Me too. Please to meet you.

ANN

We have a lot of ground to cover.
So, let's get to it.

ALISHA

Good thing I'm wearing comfortable
shoes.

Ann looks down. Compares her loafers to Alisha's snakeskin pumps. Then gives her a look "Yea right".

ANN

Ok. We'll start our way at the top
and work our way down.

INT. GORDON PARTNERS & CO. - CONFERENCE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Partners meeting is underway. Raphael, ROCHELLE, 30s, and Logan are present.

RAPHAEL

Today we have a new recruit from
Barnes Associate & Co.

ROCHELLE

I thought we weren't hiring from
them.

Logan and Raphael exchange glances.

RAPHAEL

She comes highly recommended.

Rochelle notices the exchange. Doesn't like it.

RAPHAEL (CONT'D)

And it's confirmed she never worked
on any of the PETCOM Corp
engagements. Therefore, her
integrity and ethics are not in
question.

RAPHAEL (CONT'D)

Rochelle, she's yours and you'll
supervise her.

ROCHELLE

But I don't need-

RAPHAEL

What you need is to get an improved
rating in the employee satisfaction
survey. I'm surprised you scored so
low.

Rochelle feigns a smile. Raphael moves on.

RAPHAEL (CONT'D)

(Turns to Logan)

Logan. I want to officially welcome
you to the big table. Hope you're
settled in your new office. What do
you have for us?

LOGAN

Thanks. The SEC wants us to investigate Big Mountain Coffeehouse. They think the company is manipulating their numbers to compete with the major store chain Bliss Coffeehouse on the stock market.

RAPHAEL

Their transaction numbers are high. Look at pulling additional staff to help you.

LOGAN

Ok.

INT. IN FRONT OF ALISHA'S OFFICE

Ann points to the office. Alisha peers in. It's a bit sterile and underwhelming but beggars can't be...

ANN

Welcome to home sweet home.

Ann sets off to leave but...

ANN (CONT'D)

Oh. I forgot to tell you.

ALISHA

What's that?

ANN

Work ends only after your assigned partner leaves for the day.

ALISHA

Oh. We didn't have that policy where—

A look of judgement from Ann.

ALISHA (CONT'D)

Never mind.

ANN

Just put in the hours and do your work. And try not to get on Dragon Lady's bad side.

She leaves Alisha with that.

ALISHA
Wait... Dragon who?

INT. ROCHELLE'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Alisha sits in front of Rochelle (aka Dragon Lady) and bears through her constant glaring and scrutiny. She drops a file in front of Alisha.

ROCHELLE
Your first engagement. The prior year files are on the server.

ALISHA
Ok. Who is it?

Alisha picks it up.

ROCHELLE
Robotix Tech. The company needs the financials to report up to their parent company.

ALISHA
What's the budget?

ROCHELLE
(annoyed)
Read the file.

Alisha, put in her place, takes a look. Then instinctively reacts to what she sees.

ALISHA
Isn't this too--

Rochelle purses her lips. Alisha rethinks finishing.

ALISHA (CONT'D)
I'll go work on it.

Alisha turns to leave. Rochelle stops her.

ROCHELLE
Oh Alisha? I'm not your babysitter. And I don't expect short cuts or oversights on any of my engagements. Our firm has a very low tolerance for those habits.

ALISHA
Understood.

INT. ALISHA'S OFFICE

Alisha works at her desk. Ann checks in.

ANN

What did she give you?

ALISHA

Robotix Tech.

ANN

You'll burst the budget with your rate.

ALISHA

I'm not sure why I got it.

ANN

To embarrass you. I got it when I was a Junior. Robotix is part of a huge billion-dollar group that we've been trying to get for years.

ALISHA

Who has it now?

ANN

Number 2.

Alisha reads over files. Scrolls through the server files on her laptop. She stops. Leans in. Something is off.

MOMENTS LATER

Ann pulls back from the laptop screen with Alisha.

ANN

Immaterial. Our tests wouldn't highlight it.

ALISHA

I know. I did an alternate test.

ANN

Great. Good luck telling Dragon Lady that.

INT. ROCHELLE'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Alisha enters with a file in hand.

ROCHELLE
You're finished?

ALISHA
No.

ROCHELLE
Oh. You're here for hand holding.

ALISHA
No.

ROCHELLE
Then why are you here?

ALISHA
I found a discrepancy in payroll.

ROCHELLE
Immaterial. A comparative analysis
with last year will suffice.

ALISHA
That would show that it's fine.

ROCHELLE
(annoyed)
So, what's the problem?

ALISHA
The problem is there is an amount
paid--

ROCHELLE
You're wasting the firm's time.

ALISHA
Isn't the whole point of an audit
to provide trust and confidence, in
the financials, to the shareholders
and owners?

ROCHELLE
(scoffs)
It's funny you're the one preaching
this to me. An audit provides
reasonable assurance not 100%
accuracy. Which means we don't jack
up unbillable hours by sifting
through the straggled amounts that
don't significantly impact the
overall figures.

Alisha stands her ground. Then confidently discloses...

ALISHA

Well, those straggle amounts are unauthorized payments that the CFO's been syphoning from the company. For three years.

INT. CARILLON CAFÉ - NIGHT

Alisha catches Staci up to speed on what happened.

STACI

Then what did she say?

ALISHA

She dismissed me from her office.

STACI

You think they're going to fire you?

ALISHA

Well Staci... I wasn't even thinking about that. But now that you put it in my head.

STACI

Don't worry. She reacted that way, not because you were wrong, but because you were right. She wanted to embarrass you and it backfired with shit all over her face.

Staci clocks Alisha's constant glances over the restroom.

STACI (CONT'D)

Honey you peed twice already. He's not here.

ALISHA

(coy)

What? I had a little too much to drink.

INT. ALISHA'S OFFICE-NEXT MORNING

Alisha busy at her desk answers her intercom.

ALISHA

Alisha here.

Alisha hangs up. Her face turns pale.

INT. PARTNER'S FLOOR- IN FRONT OF ELEVATOR- MINUTES LATER

The doors open. Alisha inside it, stalls for a minute. Then gets off. She approaches RECEPTIONIST #2. Receptionist #2 points to a glass walled room to her left. Slowly, she enters into uncertainty. We see Rochelle and Raphael seated. A mystery person has their back to her. HR? There are files on the table. Raphael greets her with a handshake as she enters.

RAPHAEL

Alisha. Welcome. Have a seat.

She goes left to take a seat next to the mystery person.

RAPHAEL (CONT'D)

(Points to mystery person)

This is Logan Peterson, Consultancy Partner.

Alisha sees Logan. Her mouth drops. Almost to floor level. She catches herself. Tries to play cool. Logan is amused. Rochelle clocks both their reactions. Doesn't like it. Raphael ignores it and moves on.

RAPHAEL (CONT'D)

(Sternly)

Robotix Tech is part of a multi-national group. Headed by Global Tech Group. A US\$2 Billion-dollar company. I understand you spent unbillable hours investigating immaterial amounts.

ALISHA

I-m sorry. I saw--

RAPHAEL

(holds up hand)

The extra money you cost us on this engagement...

He slides the stack of files on the table forward and cracks a smile.

RAPHAEL (CONT'D)

...just helped the firm gain the services of the entire group. Apparently, since we found one Executive padding her pockets, there must be more. The Board engaged us to find all of them.

(To Rochelle)

Rochelle, good work in supporting Alisha on this.

ROCHELLE
 (proudly)
 Happy to support my staff.

Alisha is confused by Rochelle's sudden team spirit.

RAPHAEL
 Alisha, I understand you were
 partner at your firm.

ALISHA
 I know it doesn't carry much weight
 now.

RAPHAEL
 Let me be the judge of that. Logan
 is working on a forensic case. He
 could use your help.

Alisha stares at Logan. Still reeling from the surprise.
 While Rochelle watches on.

INT. LOGAN'S OFFICE - MINUTES LATER

Alisha's eyes still lock on Logan. Tries to contain herself.

ALISHA
 Hi.

LOGAN
 Hi.

ALISHA
 So, you work here? As partner?

He nods.

ALISHA (CONT'D)
 And you couldn't have mentioned it
 before?

LOGAN
 And miss your reaction?

She flashes her dimples. Then catches herself.

ALISHA
 Um...What's the case about?

LOGAN
 Big Mountain Coffeehouse. Their
 profits have been rivalling their
 competitor Bliss Coffeehouse.

(MORE)

LOGAN (CONT'D)

A much bigger entity with a much stronger brand. We had a look at their expenses, and nothing jumped out at us. The sales also look legit in their books.

ALISHA

Well sales are the easiest place to manipulate. It's sometimes subjective.

Alisha does a bit of self-loathing.

ALISHA (CONT'D)

I should know.

LOGAN

Hey. Don't do that.

ALISHA

Do what?

LOGAN

Beat yourself up over something you weren't responsible for.

ALISHA

I know. I'm sorry about that.

LOGAN

No worries. Now, let's get to work.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM- LATER IN AFTERNOON

Files are scattered on the table. FOUR ASSOCIATES review them then type their notes on a laptop. Alisha exhausted and run down is on her laptop. Logan checks in.

LOGAN

How's it going?

ALISHA

Nothing. If Big Mountain Coffeehouse is padding sales, it's not showing up in the books.

Logan gets an idea.

LOGAN

Come on. Let's take a break.

INT. RAPHAEL'S OFFICE

Raphael is on the phone. Rochelle knocks and enters. He hangs up.

ROCHELLE

Hi. You wanted to see me?

RAPHAEL

Yes. Have a seat. The support shown to Alisha was a step in the right direction.

ROCHELLE

Thanks. I'm still not sure why my ratings are so low.

RAPHAEL

The employee satisfaction survey is a highly valued evaluation done at all our branches. You see, it's impossible to effectively run a firm if the staff sees the partners as unapproachable. Or unsupportive. I want you to change their perception of you. Or else, we have to make a change ourselves.

She gets exactly what he means.

ROCHELLE

(forced smile)

Of course.

INT. GORDON PARTNERS & CO.'S HALLWAY- LATER IN DAY

Rochelle makes her way to the kitchen. Ann dressed in an even more hideous suit than yesterday spots her. She takes a second to muster up the courage to approach. Then...

ANN

Rochelle. Can I ask your advice on something?

ROCHELLE

Yes, it's hideous.

ANN

What?

ROCHELLE

Never mind. What is it?

ANN
 (holds up file)
 I need your advice on this client.

ROCHELLE
 Try figuring it out by yourself.
 Because I'm busy and I need to grab
 some coffee.

ANN
 Oh. Ok.

As Ann retreats, Rochelle remembers Raphael's talk.

ROCHELLE
 Wait!

Ann stops and slowly turns back.

ROCHELLE (CONT'D)
 (sweetly)
 How can I help?

Ann is shocked by her welcoming tone.

INT. BIG MOUNTAIN COFFEEHOUSE

Inside, a fusion of tropics and contemporary. Filled with heavenly aroma and lovers of coffee. Alisha watches as Logan buys two cups of coffee at the cashier. He hands her a cup.

LOGAN
 Your Frappuccino.

ALISHA
 Thanks.

He leads them to a table. Clear view of the cashier. She notices Logan's cup of choice.

ALISHA (CONT'D)
 You're having just plain black
 coffee?

LOGAN
 I'm a simple guy.

ALISHA
 And thoughtful.

He raises his brow. Not understanding. But she's already put it together.

ALISHA (CONT'D)
You got me this job. Didn't you?

LOGAN
(coy)
Your resume got you the job.

ALISHA
And modest.

She admires him for a second. Then distracts herself by taking a look around the store.

ALISHA (CONT'D)
Why did we come here?

A CUSTOMER smiles at them as he passes. They watch as he places his order. He hands the cashier a piece of paper. A gift certificate. Another customer is behind him and pays with the same thing. Four more file up with the same paper in hand.

LOGAN
For that. I think we just found out how they padded sales.

INT. LOGAN'S OFFICE- EVENING

Alisha stops at the door. She takes in Logan while he works at his desk. He looks up and catches her stare.

LOGAN
Is the report ready?

A little embarrassed by her ogling, she raises her hand with the report.

ALISHA
Yes. I found there were millions of cups of coffee bought with the certificates across all branches. They were handed out to companies with ties to the Chairman and a controlling shareholder.

Logan gets out from around his desk and approaches her.

LOGAN
(holds up file)
And as soon as the Board gets this report, they'll convene and fire the Chairman. The SEC will also delist the company immediately.

ALISHA

So, that cup of coffee wasn't just
a cup of coffee.

He draws closer to her. His stare crippling.

LOGAN

No, it wasn't.

They have an intense moment. As if perfectly timed Rochelle interrupts them and locks eyes with Logan. He backs away and returns to his desk.

ROCHELLE

(to Alisha)

Your engagement went well?

ALISHA

Yes.

ROCHELLE

You know, I wasn't sure you'd want
to work with Logan.

Logan uncomfortably shifts in his chair.

ALISHA

Why is that?

ROCHELLE

(to Logan)

You didn't tell her?

Logan glares at her. Then slowly shakes his head "don't do it". Alisha looks at Rochelle clueless.

ALISHA

Tell me what?

ROCHELLE

That he spearheaded the case that
brought down your former employer.
Logan is the reason you lost your
job.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. ALISHA'S LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

Staci soaks it all in from Alisha.

STACI

Wow.

ALISHA

He lied to me!

STACI

To be fair. He just didn't tell you.

ALISHA

That's worse! It means I can't trust him.

STACI

Professionally or personally?

The question stumps Alisha for a bit.

STACI (CONT'D)

Didn't he get you the job? Seems like he felt bad and wanted to make amends for the cause of his actions.

ALISHA

I guess.

STACI

You said it yourself. Your boss was guilty. Alisha, Logan was just doing his job. Don't beat him down for it.

INT. LOGAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN- NIGHT

Logan arrives home. Beat and in need of pampering. He hears voices from the kitchen and follows them.

INT. KITCHEN

Victoria is around the counter having a drink with company. She sees Logan.

VICTORIA
Hi honey. Look who's here.

As he turns the corner, he sees...

LOGAN
Rochelle. Nice to see you again. So soon.

These two have a merry war between them.

ROCHELLE
Right back 'atcha. I wanted to catch up with my best friend.

He notes her subtle warning shot. Then heads to the fridge. He finds bread and other ingredients to make a sandwich. Victoria unconcerned with him pours herself another glass of wine.

VICTORIA
I didn't know the firm was taking on Barnes Associate & Co's employees.

He makes his sandwich.

LOGAN
Just one.

VICTORIA
When I was there, Raphael wouldn't think of taking on any of those types of ex-employees. Bad optics to the firm's clients.

LOGAN
Things have changed.

ROCHELLE
(Eyes Logan)
Yes, it has. And it seems she comes highly recommended.

She marks Logan's reaction as she continues to say...

ROCHELLE (CONT'D)
But don't worry Vicky, I'll keep an eye on her. Make sure she doesn't cross any lines she shouldn't.
(takes her stuff)
Well, it's late. I'll be going.

She gets up and hugs Victoria.

VICTORIA

So nice to see you. I'll call you.
We should have dinner soon.

Victoria walks her out.

INT. LOGAN'S OFFICE-NEXT DAY

Logan is on his intercom.

LOGAN

(in the phone)

Georgia. Please get me Weinz
Enterprise on the phone.

Alisha steps in the doorway with a cup of coffee and a sandwich bag in hand. Logan is relieved to see her.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

(to Alisha)

Just give me a minute. I'm waiting
on Georgia to connect me to a call.

ALISHA

Does she know that? Because I just
saw her head to the bathroom.

Logan sighs and hangs up. Then takes Alisha in for a bit.

LOGAN

Hi.

ALISHA

Hi.

LOGAN/

ALISHA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

They chuckle. She quickly realizes she still has the food in her hand. Hands it to him.

ALISHA (CONT'D)

Oh. This is for you. Plain black. I
thought you hadn't eaten yet, so I
got you a bagel sandwich.

Logan looks at the gesture. Dumfounded as he takes it and places it on his desk.

LOGAN

You bought me food.

Alisha surprised by his reaction but shakes it off.

ALISHA

Look, I shouldn't have berated you for doing your job. I was hurt. Your actions left me in a vulnerable state. I blamed you. Instead of my boss.

LOGAN

No. I should have told you up front. I don't want you to feel like I'm keeping secrets from you.

She smiles. He sounds sincere.

ALISHA

I know. You wouldn't intentionally keep anything from me.

INT. ROCHELLE'S OFFICE - LATER

Alisha hands over a file to Rochelle.

ALISHA

I'm finished.

ROCHELLE

(takes file)

I'm sorry if I caused tension between you and Logan.

ALISHA

We talked. It's fine.

ROCHELLE

Really? How forgiving of you.

ALISHA

Well, he was just doing his job. He's been open and honest with me.

ROCHELLE

Oh. Open and honest?

Alisha's feelings towards Logan shows on her face. Rochelle picks up on it as her phone rings. Rochelle sees the caller ID. A devilish smile comes over her face as she answers.

ROCHELLE (CONT'D)

(in the phone)

Vicky. How are you darling? Dinner with the Petersons on Saturday?

(MORE)

ROCHELLE (CONT'D)
 Sure. I'll tell Robert. Looking
 forward to an evening with you and
 Logan. Bye.

Alisha is stunned as Rochelle hangs up.

INT. ALISHA'S APARTMENT - LATER THAT NIGHT

Alisha enters the front door. Spent and drained. As she walks
 over to the couch she suddenly freezes.

ALISHA
 David.

David looks like he's been waiting a while for her.

DAVID
 Hi. I got your messages.

ALISHA
 All ten of them?

David gives Alisha a big smile. Nothing. He gets serious.

DAVID
 I'm sorry I didn't get back to you.

ALISHA
 Why didn't you get back to me? Did
 you get hurt?

DAVID
 No.

ALISHA
 Did a family member get hurt?

David shakes his head no.

ALISHA (CONT'D)
 Then what took you one fucking
 month to respond?

DAVID
 Alisha, I'm sorry. Work has been so
 crazy, and I got caught up—

ALISHA
 (voice cracks)
 Work? I lost my job!

Alisha is near boiling point. Now David tries a different
 approach. He goes for seduction. Moves closer.

DAVID

Hey. Hey. Hey. Baby. I'm sorry. I missed you. Let me make it up to you. I'll stay over and--

ALISHA

You'll stay over? Why can't I ever stay over?

DAVID

I told you. It's a mess. Boxes and stuff everywhere from my business.

ALISHA

Or there's somebody else.

DAVID

What? No.

ALISHA

Bullshit. I don't believe you. I'm not falling for this again.

Alisha holds the door open for David to leave.

DAVID

Again? Alisha, come on. You know you want me to stay.

ALISHA

(Cold)

Give me my key.

David waits to see if she changes her mind. She doesn't.

DAVID

(giving key, cajoling)

Alisha, come on, you know you don't want to do this.

ALISHA

I'm 100% sure. Now get the hell out.

Alisha slams the door. Crumbles against it.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH- MORNING

Logan stands at the altar with FATHER ALFRED, 60s, man of God with lips showing lover of tobacco. Alisha, purposefully chic, makes her way down the aisle. Eyes locked on Logan as she tries to keep a straight face. Logan smiles. His excitement mirrors an expectant groom as she gets closer. Father Alfred observes them.

LOGAN

Father Alfred this is Alisha Thompson. She's here to help with the investigation.

ALISHA

Hi. Nice to meet you.

FATHER ALFRED

Nice to meet you too.

LOGAN

(to Alisha)

We do charity work for the church. They recently hired a bookkeeper. It seems funds has been going missing from the books.

FATHER ALFRED

James, our bookkeeper is a good person. I don't think he would intentionally steal from the church.

ALISHA

(looks at Logan)

Well, sometimes a person you trust surprises you.

Logan is confused by Alisha's comment. He sees Father Alfred's concerns grow after hearing it and tries to alleviate it.

LOGAN

Well, we don't know if that's the case. Let's just first review the books before we draw a conclusion.

INT. CHURCH'S VESTRY- MOMENTS LATER

Logan and Alisha work in awkward silence. Logan takes quick glances at her as she ignores him by reviewing documents. He attempts to engage her.

LOGAN
Are you good?

Alisha keeps her head in a document.

ALISHA
Yea. Just great.

LOGAN
Just seems like you're angry. At me.

ALISHA
(without looking up)
Nah. We're good.

He takes a look around and decides to try a more pleasant topic.

LOGAN
You know I attended confirmation classes here. When I was 15. Father Alfred baptized me.

He points to an adjoining room.

LOGAN (CONT'D)
Right in the hall next door.

ALISHA
(looks up at him)
Did Father Alfred officiate your wedding here as well?

ALISHA (CONT'D)
(off Logan's look)
Yeah. I know. And we don't need to get into it.

She picks up bank statements and scrutinizes it.

LOGAN
I'm sorry.

ALISHA
(doesn't look up)
I'll add it to the pile.

LOGAN

It wasn't my intention to hide it from you.

Alisha continues to review the documents. She picks up on something.

ALISHA

It looks like you and James both have the same intentions. But I'm more inclined to believe James.

She hands him the documents. He looks them over.

INT. CHURCH - NEAR ALTAR - MOMENTS LATER

Logan and Alisha reveal their findings to Father Alfred.

ALISHA

Father Alfred, James didn't steal church funds.

FATHER ALFRED

I know he didn't. So, who did?

ALISHA

Nobody.

FATHER ALFRED

I don't understand.

LOGAN

The funds were mistakenly being lodged to one of the church's defunct bank account. I guess James didn't know about the account.

ALISHA

You'll just need to alert the bank and have the funds transferred to the proper account.

FATHER ALFRED

I'll tell James the good news. He was so worried.

ALISHA

I have to get back into office. It's nice meeting you Father Alfred.

(to Logan)

Logan.

FATHER ALFRED

Bye my child.

As she leaves Father Alfred notices Logan's lingering stare.
And leans into Logan.

FATHER ALFRED (CONT'D)

Son. I've known you since you were
born. And I've never seen you look
at any girl the way you look at
this one.

Logan smiles. It's true.

INT. GALLERY- EVENING

Alisha is at an exhibit. Staci hands her a complimentary
drink from a waiter and takes one for herself.

STACI

The exhibit captures the complex
nature of the human form and
emotion. There are some really
intense photos I think you would
enjoy.

ALISHA

Intense?

Staci looks across the room towards a group of people.

STACI

You can start anywhere. Let me know
which one is your favorite. I have
to go meet my Trustee and introduce
my photographers.

ALISHA

Ok.

As Staci leaves, Alisha heads far left. Drink in hand.

MOMENTS LATER

Alisha stares on a photo. Titled "Nymph with a Scorpion -
Lorenzo Bartolini". She fixates on the scorpion between the
woman's legs before finally noticing David standing beside
her.

ALISHA

David. What are you doing here?

DAVID

Staci told me you'd be here.

ALISHA

Staci?

Alisha looks around for Staci. And sees her across the room. Staci catches Alisha's glare and mouths "Talk to him". Staci turns back to David.

DAVID

Yea. We had a long talk.

ALISHA

You must have been saying the right things for it to be long.

DAVID

I share an apartment with a roommate. My best friend Eric.

ALISHA

Why are you telling me this?

DAVID

It's a shithole. I could never have you over.

ALISHA

It doesn't matter to me where you live.

DAVID

You had your life all set and together. I didn't think I was good enough to fit in.

ALISHA

I lost my job. I needed you there.

DAVID

I know. But I needed to be the bigger man. Get my life on track so I could properly be there. I got so wrapped up in trying to achieve that I ignored us and our beautiful relationship. I'm sorry.

ALISHA

I'm sorry too. I'm sorry it took you one month to say this. You'll need more than an apology and getting my best friend on your side to make up for what you did.

DAVID

I'm down to do anything. Just let me make it up to you.

INT. LOGAN'S OFFICE- NEXT EVENING

Alisha enters stoic. Logan observes her mood. She hands him some files.

ALISHA

Here you go.

LOGAN

Thanks. I haven't seen you whole day.

ALISHA

I've been busy.

He notices the cold shoulder. Approaches with caution.

LOGAN

Listen, I'm sorry I didn't tell you that I was married.

ALISHA

Don't apologize. It doesn't matter that you're.

LOGAN

I was going to tell-

ALISHA

(blurts)

I've a boyfriend.

LOGAN

(unconvincing)

Oh... Nice.

ALISHA

Yes. Sorry I didn't mention it sooner.

LOGAN

Nah. That's cool.

ALISHA

(checks the time)

In fact, I have to meet him at home. Now. And I'm late.

She waits for his permission to leave. He nods an OK. She then takes her stuff and leaves. He stops her.

LOGAN

Alisha?

Alisha freezes as she hears him call her by name for the first time. She turns to him. He weighs his next words before saying...

LOGAN (CONT'D)

See you tomorrow. Have a good night.