

WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

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INT. ARMSTRONG HOUSE/ KITCHEN- DAY

In a suburban home, ADRIENNE ARMSTRONG, an elegant, graceful, and poised woman in her mid-twenties, feeds her three-year-old daughter, BECCA. In front of her baby are baby utensils, organized. She is teaching her table manners or, in this case... high chair manners.

YOUNG ADRIENNE

Alright, let's go over this again. This is a fork. This is a spoon, and this is a knife. You always have to know when to use each utensil. It's essential, okay? First impressions are of utmost importance. Now, can you show me which one is the fork?

Becca is only interested in smashing some food in her hands and rubbing it in her face, leaving her mother mortified.

YOUNG ADRIENNE (CONT'D)

Becca! Oh, absolutely not! We do not rub food on our faces; that is a no-no! A lady has to be poised and eat like she has a secret in her cheeks. And if you do make a mess, that is what a napkin is for. Now, where is the napkin? Is it this one?

She points to the knife. Becca nods her head.

YOUNG ADRIENNE (CONT'D)

Okay, from the top. This is a fork.

TODDLER BECCA

Fo... fo..

YOUNG ADRIENNE

Yes! Fork.

TODDLER BECCA

Fooo...

YOUNG ADRIENNE

Yeah, we'll get there. Let's move on to your favorite friend, THE SPOON!

TODDLER BECCA

Spoon!

YOUNG ADRIENNE  
That's right! Good job!

INT. ARMSTRONG HOUSE/ BEDROOM- DAY

A few years have passed, and ten-year-old Becca is having a tea party in her bedroom with her friends. It's an exquisite tea party, with princess dresses and gloves involved. They are all standing next to her. Becca demonstrates how to use the different forks and spoons to an uninterested group.

TWEEN BECCA  
There are a variety of forks, and you have to know which one to use at the table. There is the salad fork, the table fork, and the dessert fork. Those are the main ones.

**HALLWAY**

Adrienne is listening to them behind the door, admiring her daughter as she passes on the lessons.

TWEEN BECCA (CONT'D)  
You must know these things; there is never a second chance for first impressions. Any questions?

TWEEN FRIEND  
Can your mom give me a ride home?

TWEEN FRIEND (CONT'D)  
Yeah, me too. I'm supposed to help my brother with his homework.

TWEEN BECCA  
But we haven't even had tea yet.

TWEEN FRIEND  
Maybe another time, plus I only drink green tea.

Her friends leave the room, giggling.

TWEEN BECCA  
It's decaf!

INT. ARMSTRONG HOUSE/ BEDROOM- DAY

Becca is now sixteen. She gets up and takes off her sleep mask. She grabs her journal and jots a few things down. Then she puts on her slippers and goes to the bathroom.

**BATHROOM**

She starts by washing her face and doing a whole skincare routine. Then she brushes her teeth, puts on a shower cap, and enters.

**BEDROOM**

Becca's uniform is perfectly laid out on her bed, with a few accessories on the side. She comes out, well put together.

**KITCHEN**

CARLOS ARMSTRONG, a down-to-earth, childlike man, eats cereal while enjoying some cartoons. Becca reads a fashion magazine while drinking a green smoothie. Carlos laughs too hard; he spits some food, landing close to Becca's plate.

TEEN BECCA

Dad!

She hears the school bus pull up. She grabs her things, kisses her dad on the cheek.

CARLOS

Have a good day sweetie!

TEEN BECCA

Bye Dad!

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX- NIGHT

KORA LAMINE, a free-spirited gypsy woman, is in the middle of an argument with David, an old flame, and her mother, Mrs Lamine.

MRS LAMINE

What are you doing here? I told you stay away from her!

DAVID

You told me to come. I cannot keep coming just to get humiliated every time; make up your mind, Kora. What do you want?

MRS LAMINE

What do you have to offer her, David? Your words will not feed her when you run out of money. Do you want her to beg for scraps and be a vagabond like you?

(MORE)

MRS LAMINE (CONT'D)  
And you, what do you think you are  
doing bringing him here? You are  
still a married woman.

DAVID  
Mrs Lamine, I did not come to cause  
trouble. I wanted to see her.

KORA  
Mother, please. Leave us alone.

Mrs Lamine leaves.

DAVID  
Your mother will never approve of  
me. And you will never stop seeking  
her approval. How do we win with  
that?

KORA  
She's all I have left, you are  
asking me to choose.

DAVID  
I would never ask you to choose. I  
am simply asking you to do what  
your heart desires. Be true to  
yourself, my darling. Take a chance  
this time. Marry me! What's  
stopping you now?

KORA  
David...

DAVID  
Marry me.

Kora is silent.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
I'm an idiot; I thought things had  
changed. I will never be good  
enough for you or your mother. I  
have made myself the fool Again!

David kisses her on the forehead. He leaves. Kora follows  
him.

KORA  
David wait!

EXT. APARTMENT/ PARKING LOT- CONTINUOUS

David walks away, with tears. It is raining heavy. He gets in his car, driving off.

Kora is too late; a group of girls are also coming down in the lot. A cab stops by to drop off someone. As she tries to get in, a girl pushes her away. It's Becca, now a young woman. She is tipsy, as well as her friends.

BECCA

I'm sorry, lady, do you mind? From your look, I don't think you're going anywhere important.

KORA

Please it's an emergency.

BECCA

No, sorry. We're trying to get my friend here laid, so I'm sure you can understand, or maybe not.

The girls laugh as they get in the cab.

BECCA (CONT'D)

Hotel Angeleno please.

Kora is pissed, before Becca closes the door... she stops her.

KORA

Careful with the moves you make in life, everything comes full circle. The universe never forgets and karma always gets even.

BECCA

Okay, Miss Cleo. Driver, can we leave here before this woman brings out her voodoo dolls?

The cab drives off, leaving Kora drenched in the rain.

INT. LEE FAMILY HOME- DINING ROOM

ANTHONY LEE is the son of business tycoon Jack Lee and philanthropist Anastacia Mehra Lee. He is a carefree, philanderer, eccentric young man. He arrives for breakfast.

ANTHONY

Greetings and good vibes. I sense it will be a lovely day today.

ANASTASIA  
Morning, Beta.

He greets his mother.

JACK  
If you can't respect anything else,  
can you be at the table on time?

ANTHONY  
My apologies Father. I am simply  
giving my temple plenty of time to  
rejuvenate and replenish so it will  
love me back.

JACK  
It's too early for this bullshit.  
We need to talk.

ANTHONY  
I am all ears.

JACK  
First of all, you're moving out.

ANTHONY  
I'm sorry I didn't hear that. What?

JACK  
I will get you a place, but you  
can't stay here anymore. Your  
mother found one of your little  
floozyies trying on her dresses. IN  
HER CLOSET! What kind of trash are  
you bringing into this house?

ANTHONY  
Oh Mom! I am so sorry.

ANASTASIA  
It was the one your grandmother  
left me.

ANTHONY  
We could get you another, it's  
fine.

JACK  
No, it's not.

ANASTASIA  
It was vintage.

JACK

You're almost in your thirties, Toni; if you want nothing to do with the business, that's fine. But then DO SOMETHING! Find something useful to occupy your time.

ANTHONY

I will Dad, I just need something that speaks to my inner child and makes my endorphins do cartwheels.

JACK

I'm not kidding, Toni; I know you're a non-conformist and all that BS, but you need some structure. Get your place, get a damn job, and stop chasing these shoplifters. That's all I'm going to say. I have to go. And I have to congratulate you on making the headlines.

Jack turns his tablet around to show Anthony something. He is in the tabloids, with his posterior showing... surrounded a bunch of women. by Jack kisses his wife.

JACK (CONT'D)

I'm just beaming with pride here!

Jack kisses his wife before leaving.

ANTHONY

Another day, another I should disown you speech. How original.

ANASTASIA

He didn't say that. He's right: you can't bring these girls here. That, I will back him up. What happened to Emily? I liked her.

ANTHONY

Who wants to get bullied whenever they run into their boyfriend's father?

ANASTASIA

Oh, honey... Listen, you can't find your true love humping every girl in our area code.



ANTHONY

What's the point? No single woman on earth can be good enough for Mr. Jack Lee! I mean, expect you, of course...

ANASTASIA

Aww, come here. It's alright, you'll find her.

She smothers him with kisses.

EXT. UCLA GROUNDS-AFTERNOON

It's graduation day, and Becca has just finished university. Many families are taking photos of the graduates. Becca looks to her side; her peers are taking silly and funny poses, just being themselves. Adrienne snaps at her to focus.

ADRIENNE

Chin up, Bec, you have a double chin. And honey, maybe suck in your gut a little; I can see your zipper hanging on for dear life.

CARLOS

Will you just take the damn picture?

Becca readjusts her posture. She flashes an elegant smile. The picture is taken. Adrienne times the camera on the tripod. She quickly runs to get the picture. Carlos throws a rock sign. Becca stops him.

ADRIENNE

This is not boys' night out Babe!

He puts on a stern and serious face; the timer goes off.

INT. ARMSTRONG HOUSE/ BECCA BEDROOM- NIGHT

Becca is on her laptop. She is applying for some jobs online. Most of them are interior design. She gets up to use the bathroom. Her mother comes in and takes a look at the application. She ups the salary. She leaves the room.

INT. C.A.D INTERIORS/ OFFICE- DAY

5 years later

Becca is now employed at C.A.D Interiors. She is in her office working on some templates. There is a knock on her door.

C.A.D STAFF MEMBER

Hey Becca! Would you come with me, please? There is someone I want you to meet.

BECCA

Sure!

RECEPTION- CONTINUOUS

Waiting for them at the reception is Anthony.

C.A.D STAFF MEMBER

Becca, I want you to meet Anthony Lee; he just bought a condo and wants to furnish it. Anthony, this is Becca Armstrong. She is one of our top designers, so you are in good hands.

BECCA

Hello Anthony! Good to meet you!

ANTHONY

Nice to meet you too!

C.A.D STAFF MEMBER

So, Becca will take good care of you; let me know if you need anything, alright?

Becca is too focused on his mismatched outfit and flip flops.

C.A.D STAFF MEMBER (CONT'D)

Becca!

BECCA

Oh sorry! Yes, I will certainly take care of Mr. Lee.

C.A.D STAFF MEMBER

So, I'll talk to you soon Anthony.

ANTHONY

Alright, good vibes and healing towards you.

C.A.D STAFF MEMBER

Okay then!

Becca and Anthony start walking back to her office.

BECCA  
So where's your new place?

ANTHONY  
Umm in Santa Barbara.

BECCA  
Impressive!` Yeah, Santa Barbara is very hot right now. All my recent clients are based there.

ANTHONY  
Meh... it's not my cup of tea. Too much "Hey, look at me! I wake up with the sound of waves and rubbing elbows with A-list celebrities! I'm hot shit!"

BECCA  
So why are you living there then?

ANTHONY  
It was a gift from my parents. I had no choice. Something about rehabbing my image and attracting the right woman, not the bimbos who want to take me for all I have.

BECCA  
Mmmmmmm.

BECCA'S OFFICE- CONTINUOUS

They enter her office.

BECCA  
Here we are. Please have a seat.

ANTHONY  
Oooh, pistachios. May I?

BECCA  
Sure!

Anthony rushes to her desk and grabs a handful. He starts chewing them loudly.

BECCA (CONT'D)  
Well, let's get started. First things first. What is your vision? What's your style?

ANTHONY

I like things that make me smile when I look at them, happy colors. I like knick-knacks from vintage stores; the 70s is a vibe I want to capture. I am a minimalist; I don't care for the price if something catches my eye... I'm going to get it. I want a little bit of every side of the planet in my home—a few tribal artifacts from Africa, a painting from Basquiat, and a Chinese dong bell. You get the idea.

As he is talking, a piece of food spits out. It lands on Becca's cheek. She brushes it off.

I don't like white spaces. Do you get what I'm throwing out there?

BECCA

Ummm.... I'm getting there.

ANTHONY

Sage burning in each room, I want people to feel like they're taking a walk in the royal botanical gardens. I want people to heal whatever is eating them inside and go home feeling refreshed and replenished. I didn't think it through, but that's the general idea.

BECCA

Right... so... excellent idea. Ummm, we can talk some more and, maybe, see what else we come up with. I'm sure the place is just breathtaking; you want to match the vibe and design of the house. We want to show Dad we appreciate the gift. And that we'll take care of it the right way.

ANTHONY

Yeah sure.

BECCA

So, first off, I would need to see your place for consultation and get an idea of what we are working with. When are you available?

ANTHONY  
How about Friday?

BECCA  
Sure! We can do Friday. Just give me a minute here. Let me add it to my calendar. What's your phone number? I'll shoot you a text.

ANTHONY  
Oh! One sec!

He reaches his back pocket, takes out a small notepad. He writes his number down. He tears it up and hands it to her.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)  
This is my home number. If you're calling with good news, I prefer late at night to avoid ruining my day. I like calls coming in at the exact hour. There's something mystical about it; it makes me feel like I'm in charge of my destiny.

BECCA  
Awesome! So, I'll text you a few days before I stop by. And here is my business card, too, if you want to look at my portfolio.

ANTHONY  
Sure thing.

BECCA  
So, I'll see you Friday then.

She extends her arms; he counters with a namaste. He gets up to leave, stops. He turns back around.

ANTHONY  
Can I?

BECCA  
Huh?

He points to the pistachios.

BECCA (CONT'D)  
Oh! Yeah! Help yourself.

ANTHONY  
Thanks! I can't get enough of these.

He pours them all in his pockets.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)  
Thanks again!

INT. ARMSTRONG HOUSE/ DINING ROOM-NIGHT

The family is having dinner that night. Adrienne smells something. She starts sniffing.

ADRIENNE  
What is that smell? My God!

CARLOS  
Oh sorry! I didn't have clean socks.

ADRIENNE  
Take them off, now.

CARLOS  
We're in the middle of dinner.

ADRIENNE  
And? I'm not about to pass out because of you.

CARLOS  
(chuckles)  
Yes Ma'am.

ADRIENNE  
I swear sometimes you just want to drive me off the rails.

CARLOS  
What's wrong honey? Why are you so quiet?

BECCA  
Ugh... It's one of those days. I got this new client I'm unsure I want to take on. He could use one of your table etiquette classes. He's sloppy and smells weird, like he hasn't showered in days. Then, he decorated my desk with chewed-out pistachios.

ADRIENNE  
Ew!

BECCA  
Yeah!

ADRIENNE

Are you even sure he can afford  
your services?

BECCA

Well, Kenya brought him to me. He's  
from a very affluent family.

ADRIENNE

What's the name?

BECCA

Anthony Lee.

ADRIENNE

Anthony Lee? As in the Lee family?  
Lee's Grocers? You're kidding!?  
Everyone knows the Lees! I have run  
into his family at the country club  
several times. I might have also  
met his grandfather when I applied  
at their company in my twenties.  
Didn't get the job. I never met  
their son, though.

BECCA

Well, I'm meeting him on Friday to  
look at his apartment. I know it's  
a disaster, but if he's pleased  
with my work... who knows?  
Connections with that guy could  
boost my clientele.

ADRIENNE

Absolutely. But what's he like? I  
mean, I've seen his father, good  
genes.

CARLOS

Last time I checked, my ears were  
still intact.

BECCA

Ma, all I cared about was his tax  
bracket. Besides, I couldn't get  
past the food, almost hitting my  
damn lips.

ADRIENNE

I don't know Bec, people don't come  
in your life for no reason.

BECCA

Why didn't you say that about Jerry?

ADRIENNE

Okay, now there's such a thing as believing in fate and being stupid and oblivious. The man couldn't even foot the bill for two when you went out? Yet claims his business was making six figures a year.

CARLOS

Mhmmm. Yeah, dude was mad shady.

BECCA

Okay, maybe he lied a bit; we all do. Or his business was struggling, and he was a bit embarrassed.

ADRIENNE

Oh, darling, so gullible and impressionable. It's a good thing mommy is here to help you make better choices. Isn't that right, my little munchkin?

BECCA

Yes Mother.

I/E ANTHONY HOUSE-DAY

### NEIGHBORHOOD

Becca is on her way to Anthony's. The house is right by the beach. She is passing luxurious homes on her way, gazing at them.

### DRIVEWAY

She enters a driveway. She takes a minute to let it all sink in. She does a last-minute makeup check.

She knocks on the door. Anthony opens.

ANTHONY

Hey! Wow, right on time. I like you already.

BECCA

Hello! I want to respect people's times just as I like mine respected.



ANTHONY

Come on in! Welcome to my humble abode.

BECCA

Thank you!

ANTHONY

Shoes off please.

BECCA

Okay.

### INSIDE

She takes off her shoes. Anthony's apartment is messy, with mismatched colors and different patterns. As soon as she enters, she is hit by a smell. She plays it off. There are socks on the floor and takeout food on the kitchen counter.

ANTHONY

Soo? And don't hold back; I can already tell it isn't good. Give it to me straight. I'm a big boy.

BECCA

Well... Yeah, you could use my help. From my first glance, you have a lot of white space. You said you didn't like that, we can get rid of them... the right way.

They walk around the hallway, to his bedroom.

BECCA (CONT'D)

You have open spaces as well; we can do a lot of things with it.

She opens the door. It's a blowup mattress on the floor.

BECCA (CONT'D)

Comfy bed.

ANTHONY

I told you, just the basic necessities are in here.

### BEDROOM

There is only a mattress on the floor. No nightstand, just a lamp and some cannabis products by the bed.

BECCA  
I can see that.

She opens his closet. There's barely anything. Anthony quickly hides his stash of weed.

ANTHONY  
So, what do you have in mind so far?

BECCA  
We need to start from scratch. This is an excellent home with lots of potential. It's beautiful, it's modern... the colors are just right. Watch and see what I do with it.

ANTHONY  
Just be gentle...

BECCA  
I'll try.

#### **BATHROOM**

ANTHONY  
And here's the bathroom.

There is a pair of panties on the floor, he quickly picks it up but she has already seen them.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)  
Sorry about that.

BECCA  
Hopefully she had another pair when she left.

ANTHONY  
(nervous chuckle)  
I mean sometimes you just gotta let it air out, you know?

He snorts as he laughs.

BECCA  
The vibe should be a bachelor pad and less white picket fence.

ANTHONY  
Absolutely. The white picket fence is not in the cards for me yet.

BECCA  
Okay so moving on.

BATHROOM

Becca opens the bathroom door; there's a lot of clutter. She notices the towels hung on the shower curtains. She points at a towel rack. He used it to turn his decorations.

BECCA (CONT'D)  
There is a towel rack here. That way, you won't have to hang them there.

ANTHONY  
I knew that, just an old habit of my college days.

DECK

They go outside. It's a beautiful view of the beach.

BECCA  
Oh now this is impeccable!

ANTHONY  
That we can agree on: I like to get up, make myself a smoothie, and read a book.

BECCA  
When do you go to work?

ANTHONY  
I have a small shop online where I sell antique stuff and collectibles. I work from home.

BECCA  
I hope you don't mind me saying this, but I would think you would be taking over your family's business or being like the CEO of your startup.

ANTHONY  
I'm not the suit type.

BECCA  
But wouldn't you want to be as successful as your parents? Like to keep the legacy going?

ANTHONY

I do, but in my way. Whatever my dad accomplished, that's for him. I have other goals, you know?

BECCA

Gotcha! Well, we're getting off track here. I'm sorry about that, where were we?

ANTHONY

The deck.

BECCA

Oh yeah! I think it needs a few accent pieces to make it more cozy. You can entertain people here once we're done. On those windy summer nights, it's perfect.

ANTHONY

Sounds good.

BECCA

And budget wise? What are you thinking?

ANTHONY

My dad said he will take care of it so, you just do your thing.

BECCA

That's what I like to hear. Okay then!

ANTHONY

So, what are the next steps?

BECCA

Next, we will schedule another meetup and start throwing ideas out there, from layout designs to lighting, color palettes, and more. But I'm already getting the concept and feel of the place.

ANTHONY

Well thank you for stopping by.

BECCA

Most certainly! Talk to you soon! I'll see myself out.

Becca leaves.

INT. C.A.D INTERIORS- AFTERNOON

Becca and her coworker ELISE RICHARDSON are working together on a project. They are exchanging photos of house interiors.

ELISE

That's the one I did last summer; I immediately regretted taking them on. I have never met such an indecisive in my life. But that pay, which...

BECCA

That's the business. Well, on another note, I just got a new client... Anthony Lee. PAYDAY! I mean, huge payday!

ELISE

Oh, Anthony? From the Lee family?

BECCA

Yeah.

ELISE

Yeah, we went to the same university. He's a cool guy; you couldn't even tell he came from money, really down to earth.

BECCA

Is he seeing anybody?

ELISE

Well, excuse me! Is this part of the new questionnaire I don't know about?

BECCA

No. So? What's his situation?

ELISE

From what I heard, his parents are trying to get him to settle down and start a family. I imagine it wouldn't be hard when girls are falling at your feet.

BECCA

So, he's a player.

ELISE

More like a serial monogamist. He's coming to our party on Thursday; you're still coming too, right?

BECCA

Yeah, I'll see if I can move some things around. As long as it's not with your friends who take shots off each other's belly buttons.

ELISE

Oh, stop it! I swear your mother sucked the fun out of you! All those teatime and table etiquettes got to your head, and now you think you are besties with the queen of England. Don't act like I forgot our college days. I know the real you, not this Audrey Hepburn front.

BECCA

There's nothing wrong with having a bit of class and manners.

ELISE

I never said there was, you're as exciting as a baked potato.

BECCA

Thank you, that is the sweetest thing I ever heard.

Elise looks at her phone.

ELISE

Dang it! I have to go, I got a meeting. And since I hear you are so interested in Anthony, word of advice... he's not really into boujee, stuck-up maintenance girls—just a little pointer.

BECCA

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

ELISE

Yeah girl, deny deny deny.

Becca starts googling Anthony Lee on her phone. His social media comes up. She clicks on it.

His posts are about traveling, spirituality, and embracing world cultures. She sees his vision board, with beautiful photos of Tuscany, some humanitarian work, and inspiring quotes. She even admires a few shirtless photos. She grabs a sticky note and starts writing things down.

INT. NAIL SALON- EVENING

Becca and her mother are getting their nails done. Adrienne is reading a magazine.

ADRIENNE

My Goodness! The things people wear these days! I mean, really! See-through skirts with thongs all showing are so edgy! What happened to class and leaving something for the imagination?

BECCA

Not everyone can dress as eloquently as you mother.

ADRIENNE

Well, I am certain of that! Any who, how is everything with Mr. Lee?

BECCA

I went to his place; it's a beautiful neighborhood, right by the beach, but...the interior. It's a horror house. The guy has no taste. I was trying to keep my composure and not be rude, but my God. He needs my help.

ADRIENNE

Anything else transpire?

BECCA

No, we just talked about the house and what I had in mind.

ADRIENNE

Bec, I don't want to be that kind of mom who pressures their daughter to get married to the next man she meets, but... come on! You're not even putting yourself out there! Here, you have this fine gentleman from a well-off family, probably looking to settle down, too. Do you want me to spell it out for you?

(MORE)

ADRIENNE (CONT'D)

I did a little homework and heard at our tennis session today that his mother has a few prospects for him in mind.

BECCA

Okay, where is this coming from?

ADRIENNE

Oh, don't mock me; I saw you researched almost his whole family last night when you left your phone in the bathroom.

BECCA

You're going through my phone really?!

ADRIENNE

I didn't! It was unlocked. But that's not the point! I have seen you try to hang on to these loser guys who have nothing to give but massive debt and a potential drinking problem. I never said anything because it's your life, but it's time to get serious.

BECCA

I'm not his type, and he's certainly not mine.

ADRIENNE

Then be his type! Who wouldn't want a successful, beautiful, intelligent, accomplished woman? And he's not too bad to look at, either. Ouch!

NAIL TECH

Stop moving!

ADRIENNE

(to Becca)

Well, there goes her tip.

I/E. ELISE HOUSE- NIGHT

DRIVEWAY

Cars are arriving at Elise's house for the party. Mostly luxurious vehicles, it's a black-tie event.



Becca comes out of her car wearing a beautiful long dress. She walks up the stairs to enter the house.

**LIVING ROOM**

Music is playing, people are conversing. Anthony is already inside. He is talking to a girl.

GOLD DIGGER GIRL  
I haven't seen you in a while,  
Anthony. You owe me dinner,  
remember?

ANTHONY  
Oh yeah, I remember. Is it your  
treat? Pops cut me off, so how's  
Friday?

GOLD DIGGER GIRL  
I almost forgot, I'm on shift on  
Friday.

ANTHONY  
Saturday then?

GOLD DIGGER GIRL  
Overtime. Okay See ya!

Becca enters the house. She looks around. Elise, Anthony, and a couple of others are having a discussion. She walks over to them.

ELISE  
Becca! You made it! Hi! Oh my! Look  
at you!

They hug.

ELISE (CONT'D)  
Guys! This is my best friend slash  
coworker Becca Armstrong!

BECCA  
Hello everybody!

ANTHONY  
And my new interior designer. Hey  
Becs!

BECCA  
Hello Anthony!

WAITER  
What can I get for you Ma'am?

BECCA  
I'll just get a juice or a  
smoothie. I'm quitting.

ELISE  
Dude! Stop playing. Get her a red  
wine.

BECCA  
No! A juice will be fine. Thank  
you!

WAITER  
Right away!

ELISE  
Since when?

BECCA  
A couple of months. My body is a  
temple. I want to treat it with  
respect.

ANTHONY  
Word.

ELISE  
Right. Babe, come on. It's time.

Elise and Dave stand in front of their guests. There is a  
glass clinking. There is silence.

ELISE (CONT'D)  
Everyone! Can I have your  
attention, please? We appreciate  
all of you for coming here tonight!  
You have all been a part of our  
lives, and we are so grateful for  
your support over the years. Now,  
this is a bit of a bittersweet  
announcement, but here it goes.  
Dave and I wanted to announce that  
we are MOVING TO PARIS next year!

There are gasps and little whisperings around.

DAVE  
That's right! We bought a little  
villa in southern France, and we're  
retiring!

People clap for them.

ELISE

You guys are welcome to visit when you can; our door will always be open. Now get those miles ready, and I hope you all like Coq au vin! I'm going to be living life à la Julia Childs!

Becca is shocked as others laugh at the speech.

DAVE

We hope to continue our friendships and know we are only one phone call away. We love you all; please have a good time. Servers! Keep those glasses full, and let's enjoy the night!

There are more claps.

BECCA

And there goes my dream.

ANTHONY

Right? They always find a way to one up us those bastards.

BECCA

I always saw myself retiring at forty, getting a small, cozy place in Tuscany... just in the middle of nowhere—just me, nature, and lots of pasta and gelato. Start the day with a nice walk, maybe some yoga and meditation, go home, read books, cook, and watch old movies. Maybe not in that exact order. And then spend the rest of my days, hopefully feeding the needy and doing my part to leave this place slightly better than I found it.

Anthony is speechless.

BECCA (CONT'D)

What?

ANTHONY

I'm just inspired.

Anthony notices a pregnant woman with her husband enter the party. His mood changes.

BECCA  
Something wrong?

ANTHONY  
I just... I just saw an ex of mine.

BECCA  
From your reaction I'm guessing she could be the one that got away.

ANTHONY  
Yeah.

BECCA  
What happened between you two?

ANTHONY  
My father. He was keen on making that girl's life miserable with me. Ultimately, I wasn't worth it, and she deserved better.

#### **HALLWAY**

Becca just came from the restroom. She passes a few friends discussing an event.

HALLWAY GIRL  
Yeah, Anthony's coming. I texted him last week. We could go to my house after; Mom will be making some bomb ass Chicken tandoori.

#### **DINING HALL**

Everyone is seated at the table. Becca is right next to Anthony. One of the guests, a young man in his thirties, is showing off.

FLEX GUY  
Yeah, so we will be wrapping up shooting next month. I'm not dropping any big names but she was like the hottest name in the industry in the nineties.

PARTY ATTENDEE #2  
Your first short film, you think it can get an Oscar?

FLEX GUY  
Oh absolutely! I believe the world needs this film!

## PARTY ATTENDEE #3

Two guys getting high and deciding to climb Mount Everest!

## FLEX GUY

Listen, you have to read the script for yourself. I can't just sell it with word of mouth. This is the next big thing; I already have a few producers ready to go. You have to get in on this.

## PARTY ATTENDEE #2

What's the name of the producers? Anybody I may know.

## FLEX GUY

Well, two of them are my cousins. They're just starting, so they're not that well known. But they're legit! And then my aunt has agreed to let us use her basement; this will be epic! These festivals won't know what hit them.

Becca is seated right next to Anthony.

## ANTHONY

So, what do you do when you're not judging people's decor?

## BECCA

Not too much; I read books, go on hikes, and volunteer at a soup kitchen if I'm not too busy.

Elise was eavesdropping. She nudges her under the table.

## ANTHONY

Oh wow, that's amazing. What's the name of the place you volunteer? I've been to quite a few of them.

## BECCA

Ummm, I just started. I go to a different one each time. I'm not good at remembering names.

Anthony admires her response.

**LIVING ROOM**

Becca got herself a dance with Anthony. They are having a good time.

**DRIVEWAY**

Anthony is escorting Becca out to her car. He gave her his jacket. They are waiting for her car to arrive.

ANTHONY

So, any plans this weekend?

BECCA

No, it's just a stay-in weekend and getting some work done. I could use a night out, but there's nothing fun happening this weekend.

ANTHONY

Well, you know my friends and I are going to the Holi event, you can tag along.

BECCA

Oh, I've never been. It's better than takeout and a Chick flick marathon.

ANTHONY

So is that a yes?

BECCA

Yeah, I'll come.

ANTHONY

Cool! I can come pick you up if you want.

BECCA

Sure.

ANTHONY

Well have a goodnight, and I'll see you Saturday.

BECCA

Bye.

Becca gets in her car. She waves goodbye to him.

INT. LEE FAMILY HOME- AFTERNOON

Anthony is visiting his family. He is having dinner with his parents.

JACK

How's everything going with the house?

ANTHONY

Good, umm... we are going shopping for furniture next week.

ANASTASIA

Why don't you host a housewarming party?

JACK

That's a good idea darling. And not with your flower child friends.

ANTHONY

Well, I just moved in, I'm still adjusting. I'll give it some thought, though.

JACK

What's there to think about? Why does everything have to be complicated with you? It's not like I just appointed you CEO. It's a party; how many times were you a no-show when you promised you would? Do you know how bad that made me look? It's a small party, invite a few people, network, and it's done. I'm sure you can handle at least that. Besides, there's this young lady, a daughter of a great friend... I would like you two to meet.

ANTHONY

Well, actually I just met someone.

JACK

Who?

ANTHONY

I wouldn't want to jinx it. We're getting to know each other and seeing where it goes.

JACK

At your age, there's no seeing where it goes... you either know they have potential or are just a waste of time.

ANTHONY

Well, the ones that had potential, you ran them away so...

JACK  
That's the best you could do? A  
single mother living in a van?

ANTHONY  
I loved her.

JACK  
Oh grow up! Make better use of your  
life.

ANTHONY  
How can I? You won't let me?!

ANASTASIA  
Okay that's enough!

ANTHONY  
I'm sorry Mom, I'm gonna go.

ANASTASIA  
You won't stay for dessert?

ANTHONY  
No, I'm full.

He kisses her goodbye.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)  
I love you.

ANASTASIA  
I love you too. Drive safe.

Anthony passes his father without saying a word.

I/E. ARMSTRONG HOUSE- AFTERNOON

**KITCHEN**

Adrienne is cooking in her kitchen. Someone rings the bell.

**DOOR**

She opens. It's Anthony. He is wearing jeans, a T-shirt, and  
a baseball cap. He is eating a slice of pizza.

ADRIENNE  
Hello! Can I help you?

ANTHONY  
Hi! I'm Anthony, I'm here for  
Becca. Is this the house?



ADRIENNE  
You're Anthony!?

She scans him from head to toe.

ANTHONY  
Yeah!

ADRIENNE  
Oh! HI! I'm Adrienne, Becca's mom.

ANTHONY  
Nice to meet you!

ADRIENNE  
Come in!

ANTHONY  
Thank you!

She takes a peek at his beat-up old car in the driveway.

ADRIENNE  
Sorry, I didn't recognize you.

ANTHONY  
Honest mistake, I just got a trim  
and some highlights.

ADRIENNE  
Okay. Just a sec, I'll go get her.

Adrienne goes to check on Becca.

BECCA BEDROOM'S BEDROOM- CONTINUOUS

She finds her finishing up. She closes the door.

ADRIENNE (CONT'D)  
That's Anthony?!

BECCA  
Yup! that's him!

ADRIENNE  
Hmmm. But the photos in the  
magazine... never mind. When have  
looks ever mattered?

BECCA  
They have mattered since the day I  
was born, remember?

ADRIENNE

Well, he seems like a nice guy.  
Now, remember, you can't act too  
desperate or too impressed. That's  
a no-no. You have to leave room for  
mystery. Make him want more. Hmmm?

BECCA

Got it.

ADRIENNE

Okay let's go!

BECCA

Can you just sip the back please?

Adrienne helps her daughter.

ADRIENNE

There. Come on!

BECCA

I need to tell you something! He  
didn't directly ask me out.

ADRIENNE

What?

BECCA

I kind of invited myself; we're  
going to this Indian festival. With  
his friends.

ADRIENNE

You had one job! You know what?  
It's fine. You better make the best  
of it and turn it into a date, my  
dear. This is the guy Bec! I just  
know it! You better not waste this!  
Okay?

BECCA

You really think he's the one?

ADRIENNE

A hundred percent, as mothers, we  
have an instinct for these things.  
Trust me.

BECCA

Okay!

Becca grabs her purse and exits the room.

**LIVING ROOM**

Becca finds Anthony looking at family photos.

BECCA (CONT'D)  
Hello there!

ANTHONY  
Hi! You look.... very dressed.

BECCA  
Thank you.

ANTHONY  
Oh! Are you sure you don't want to  
get into something comfier?

BECCA  
No, I'm okay like this.

ANTHONY  
If you say so. It was nice to meet  
you, Adrienne.

ADRIENNE  
Likewise.

BECCA  
See you Mother!

ADRIENNE  
Bye sweetie!

She closes the door.

I/E. ANTHONY CAR- MOMENTS LATER

The pair are driving, having small talk.

BECCA  
So, what pointers can you give me  
about Holi?

ANTHONY  
It's a festival of colors. It's  
like New Year's; people get to have  
a fresh start and set some goals.  
Super fun! Super colorful, it's  
like you're inside a Crayola box.  
It's my mom and I's favorite  
holiday.

BECCA  
You said your mom was Indian?

ANTHONY

Well, half. My grandfather is Irish. But I was raised with all Indian traditions.

BECCA

Oh, I see. So what does your mom do? I know your dad runs the businesses.

ANTHONY

She runs a few nonprofit organizations here and in India.

BECCA

But how does she make money?

ANTHONY

I mean she has made good investments and she's a shareholder in the family business so she's set.

BECCA

You two are on good terms though right?

ANTHONY

Absolutely. I can't even imagine life without her. She has the kindest and warmest spirit. Honestly, she is the most incredible woman I've ever met.

BECCA

Talk about a mama's boy huh?

ANTHONY

Mama's boy and I'm proud! Well, we're here!

EXT. SIKH TEMPLE- CONTINUOUS

They pull up to a crowded area at a temple. It's already crowded.

BECCA

Well good luck to the laundry machines tonight.

ANTHONY

I just throw mine out.

BECCA  
Is this safe? What if it gets in  
your eyes?

ANTHONY  
You just blink your eyes frequently  
and you'll be fine. Come on!

They get out of the car, struggling to maintain balance in  
her heels.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)  
Maybe you should take those off? I  
don't want you going home with one  
tooth missing.

BECCA  
Ha ! Ha!

Anthony's friends Imran and Meera come to greet them!

IMRAN  
Anthony! You guys made it! Aap  
kaise hain bhaee ?

ANTHONY  
Imran! How do you my friend?

IMRAN  
Good to see you, dost!

ANTHONY  
Meera! Hi sweetie! My goodness are  
you radiant!

MEERA  
Thank you! Where the hell have you  
been? You've been ditching us.

ANTHONY  
I know, I know! I just returned  
from the Philippines, and you know  
I don't like any distractions when  
I'm on vacation. I'm going to make  
it up to you, I promise.

MEERA  
You better.

Becca is just watching on the side. Imran signals Anthony to  
introduce her.

ANTHONY

Oh! My bad guys! This is Becca. My interior decorator. Becca, these are my good friends from college, Imran and Meera.

BECCA

Hello! Pleasure to meet you.

MEERA

Same here! Overly dressed, aren't we? Are you sure you want to ruin that beautiful dress?

BECCA

Yeah, it's not really one of my favorites anyways.

MEERA

You know what? I have an extra pair of T-shirts here! I brought it for my cousin, but she bailed on me. That dress is beautiful.

BECCA

Thank you!

Meera gives her the shirt. Becca wears it over the dress.

ANTHONY

There we go, ugh! You're always saving my ass Meer...

He kisses her on the head.

IMRAN

We should go. It's about to start.

ANTHONY

Come on Bec.

He grabs her hand. They all join the crowd.

- Music starts playing.

-Becca is being pushed around in the crowd.

- People are dancing, throwing colors at each other

- Becca is hit in the eye, she tries getting it off.

- Anthony playfully rubs some on her face, she is horrified.

- Eventually, she starts enjoying herself with Anthony.

- She takes off her shoes to be more comfortable.

LATER THAT EVENING

After the event, people are leaving. Imran and Meera are saying goodbye to Anthony and Becca.

IMRAN

So Becca, did you enjoy yourself?

BECCA

It was surprisingly enjoyable.  
Thank you for having us.

MEERA

So where are you headed to?

ANTHONY

Well, I'm taking her home, she has some work to catch up on.

BECCA

I'm kind of hungry. I wouldn't mind stopping by somewhere to get something to eat.

ANTHONY

Absolutely, I know a place.

IMRAN

Alright then, well, we have to head home before the sitter charges extra. It was lovely to meet you, Becca. Anthony, take good care of yourself.

ANTHONY

Say hi to my godson for me!

MEERA

Okay! Bye

BECCA

Bye!

They part ways.

ANTHONY

Well, let's get Becca something to munch on. Hmm? Come on! I could eat a horse myself.

BECCA

I have a feeling that's not just a saying coming from you.

ANTHONY

I did try it once, too sweet for my taste.

BECCA

I rest my case.

They both laugh as they walk back to the car.

EXT. TACO STAND- NIGHT

Anthony and Becca are at a taco stand. Anthony is getting another batch.

ANTHONY

Muchas gracias Ramos! Always coming through! I swear these tacos give me a foodgasm.

RAMOS

I got you Hermano! You're the one who keeps me in business.

Anthony goes back to Becca. They have put their plates on the car's hood; Becca is still in her colorful white tee from the festival.

ANTHONY

There's nothing like some good ass tacos to end the night.

BECCA

I never had a date on the streets eating atop a car. It's.... different.

ANTHONY

So, what's your situation? Are you seeing anybody?

BECCA

Umm... I have been single for a while. I've only been focused on my career. I'm ready to see what's out there, though it can't hurt.

ANTHONY

I was reading your LinkedIn profile, and it is pretty impressive.

(MORE)



ANTHONY (CONT'D)

The way you worked your way up in CAD in three years. Wow!

BECCA

I only kick my feet back when I get to where and what I want.

ANTHONY

You sure you're not Jack Allister Lee's daughter?

BECCA

I might have to ask my mother some tough questions when I get home. What I don't understand is having a father like yours and not inheriting or taking over the company.

ANTHONY

As unbelievable as it may sound, I tried climbing up the corporate ladder once. I thought that's what I wanted because of who I am. But then, as soon as I entered the building, it felt like my soul got sucked out. I started using it around that time; I don't know... I felt like it was my turn to sacrifice for my parents. It took me time to realize I was the sacrifice. When I had none of me left to give anymore, the approval of my dad didn't matter.

BECCA

I'm sorry, I shouldn't have...

ANTHONY

No! You're fine. If you can't open up to your decorator, who else?

BECCA

But you've got something going. You love what you're doing. I think that's admirable.

ANTHONY

Thank you, it doesn't hurt to hear from someone other than my mother.

Becca tries to lighten the mood.

BECCA  
Wow! These are good!

ANTHONY  
Listen, I know places. Whatever you need, I'll tell you a spot. Oh, you got something on your chin.

BECCA  
Where?

ANTHONY  
Here. Let me..

He grabs a napkin and wipes it off.

BECCA  
Thank you.

I/E. ARMSTRONG HOUSE/ DRIVEWAY-NIGHT

The pair pull up to her driveway. There is an awkward silence at first.

BECCA  
So, I had a good time.

ANTHONY  
Yeah? Or are you just saying that...

BECCA  
No, it was fun. I would say it was a fantastic time if I hadn't been uncomfortable with my shoes the whole time.

ANTHONY  
I'm glad.

BECCA  
Yeah. So... thanks again and goodnight.

She tries to pretend to be looking for something, leaning closer to him. She looks up.

ANTHONY  
Did you lose something?

BECCA  
No, I thought I did.

Nothing happens.

BECCA (CONT'D)  
Well goodnight then, thanks again.

ANTHONY  
Goodnight.

She gets out of the car. Anthony makes sure she makes it in. He waves at her.

**LIVING ROOM**

As soon as she opens the door, Adrienne is waiting for her. She scares her.

BECCA  
Geez! Mom!

ADRIENNE  
What happened to you? Did you guys get in a fight with Crayola's? You know what? It doesn't matter. I need to know everything. EVERY DETAIL!

BECCA  
Nothing happened if that's where you're hinting at—absolutely nothing. I tried to initiate a kiss, and that backfired.

ADRIENNE  
What? How?

BECCA  
The guy took me to eat tacos downtown, we had a therapy session, and that was that.

ADRIENNE  
Call him and ask him out again. Go to a club or something.

BECCA  
I don't do clubs. I'm gonna take a shower.

**INT. ANTHONY HOUSE- EVENING**

The furniture is being delivered to Anthony's condo. Becca is showing them where to place the new pieces.

BECCA

Let's get the chairs right here on the corner. And then the accent table goes right here. I'll get the centerpieces later. Thank you guys!

ANTHONY'S BEDROOM

Becca goes to check on Anthony; he's not in his room. She scans the room; there is a journal by the end of the bed. She is tempted to open it.

She decides not to, leaves the room.

She returns seconds later, she opens it.

It's a personal journal, she skims through. One page gets her attention. It's Anthony's view on a soulmate.

There's a bullet point of signs of his soulmate. Becca takes a photo of the page. The helpers call her.

FURNITUER HELPER

Ma'am?

BECCA

Coming!

She puts the journal where she found it, quickly runs out.

INT. CAD INTERIORS/ BECCA OFFICE- DAY

Becca is working on a color palette on her laptop. An ad pops up for cleaning up the beach. She clicks on it.

She grabs her phone, composes a text to Anthony.

" Hey! I wanted to ask if you wanted to come with me to this. Let me know. "

She shares the link and adds smiley faces at the end. She sends the text.

EXT. LOCAL BEACH- AFTERNOON

People are picking up trash on the beach. Anthony has joined Becca.

ANTHONY

It's a shame that we never seem to appreciate how blessed we are as a society.

(MORE)

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

Can you imagine how beautiful this was before the parasites and so-called humans existed?

BECCA

I can only imagine.

ANTHONY

True nirvana! We should have been at the bottom of the food chain, serving the other species who would appreciate the beauty of this planet and are not so damn clueless.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

I mean look at this.

He picks up something with a stick. It's a used condom.

BECCA

Please, just get it away from here.

ANTHONY

So, what do you do for our lovely planet, Becca?

BECCA

Well, I recycle...

ANTHONY

Good start.

BECCA

I volunteer sometimes.

ANTHONY

Oh nice! Where?

BECCA

At a soup kitchen.

ANTHONY

No way! which one?

BECCA

Most of them, I make rounds.

ANTHONY

Then you must know Eric Farmer, he owns a couple of them.

BECCA

Yeah, I know Eric. I ran into him a couple times.

ANTHONY

Don't you just feel so warm and good inside? Like drinking a cup of hot chocolate on the snowiest day of the year.

BECCA

Absolutely.

ANTHONY

Well tell him I said hi, I haven't seen him in months.

BECCA

Will do.

LATER

Later that afternoon, they finish the cleanup. The organizer of the event thanks every attendee.

EVENT ORGANIZER

Guys! We did it!

Everyone claps.

EVENT ORGANIZER (CONT'D)

I want to thank all of you for your work today! Before you leave, we have pamphlets for you; it has all our information and the schedule for our following events. Take as many as you can, share with your friends and family. The more, the better... let's all do our duty and clean up our mess while we still can. Alright! Again, thank you, guys, and hopefully, we'll see you at the next meetup! Great work today!

People get ready to leave.

ANTHONY

This was so awesome Becca! Really, thanks for the invite.

BECCA

Well it's not over yet.

ANTHONY

Oooh.

EVENING

Later there is a bonfire. There is some music, it's a chill night. Becca notices Anthony is quiet, pensive.

BECCA

Care to come back to earth?

ANTHONY

Sorry, this is my space, my happy place I mean.

BECCA

Can I ask you something?

ANTHONY

Yeah, shoot.

BECCA

I heard from the grapevine that you are some sort of serial monogamist.

ANTHONY

(chuckles)

I wouldn't put that title. Let's say I'm a passionate seeker for true love. Until I find what I'm looking for, I'll keep searching.

BECCA

I never pictured you as a romantic like that.

ANTHONY

There's a reputation about me that is not true, you know? How about you?

BECCA

I had a bad experience in college, haven't looked back since.

ANTHONY

I don't blame you. Love is a scary thing. I'm afraid of love, as contradictory as it may sound. You know you're putting yourself out there; it's like jumping out of a plane and hoping the person you love has their arms out waiting.

(MORE)

ANTHONY (CONT'D)  
My last breakup was a head-first  
into the pavement kind of crash.

BECCA  
The pregnant lady at Elise's party.

ANTHONY  
That's her ever since I started  
questioning if this thing called  
love is worth it in the end.

BECCA  
Anything in life is worth  
risking—anything good and not  
harming anyone. We're already  
living the most significant risk of  
our lives; tomorrow is not  
promised.

Becca puts her hand on his.

BECCA (CONT'D)  
Love is always worth the risk. It's  
a part of us as humans, so... why  
deny ourselves that essential  
birthright?

Anthony gets lost in her eyes. They can't take their eyes  
off each other. Becca pulls away her hand.

BECCA (CONT'D)  
There's this quote by Cara Lockwood  
that says, " True love is taking  
the risk that it won't be happily  
ever after.

Anthony pulls her face towards him, kisses her. Becca is  
unresponsive but gives in.

He pulls away.

ANTHONY  
I'm sorry, I don't know what I was  
thinking. I am so sorry.

BECCA  
I'm not.

Becca initiates the second kiss.

INT. ARMSTRONG HOUSE- NIGHT

It's a late-night conversation between Becca and her mother.



BECCA  
He kissed me!

Adrienne screams with joy.

ADRIENNE  
See now we're talking! Now, I can  
work with this.

BECCA  
Mother, I have it all under  
control.

ADRIENNE  
Well, a mother's input is always  
needed, dear! This is where it gets  
a bit tricky.

BECCA  
Huh?

ADRIENNE  
Now that we know there's interest  
on his part, you kind of have to  
play the field a bit.

BECCA  
English mother.

ADRIENNE  
Entice him, confuse him. Men like  
to work for things and earn them.  
My dear, they don't want anything  
that comes easily or on a silver  
platter; you give him a drop of  
water, and he'll enjoy the whole  
Nile River. Mystery, darling...  
that is the word for tonight.

Becca is intrigued.

INT. HOME FURNITURE STORE- DAY

Anthony has accompanied Becca to buy furniture for his  
condo. They are looking in the bedding section. Becca is  
acting distant.

BECCA  
I think this one will be perfect  
for the guest room. We could have  
fun with the colors and patterns.  
Every room doesn't need to have the  
same design. What do you think?

ANTHONY

Yeah, it's great. It's giving late sixties and early seventies.

BECCA

Good eye. So? Is that a yes, do we take it?

ANTHONY

Sure.

BECCA

Awesome, then let's start looking at some bedding. Any particular colors you like?

ANTHONY

Umm... You know what? Can we talk for a minute?

BECCA

You don't want the bed?

ANTHONY

No, I mean yes. It's not about this. Come here.

They go in a corner.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

Do we need to talk about last night?

BECCA

Why?

ANTHONY

I don't know the protocol for making out with your client, and don't want to interfere with your work.

BECCA

Oh, please stop it. Listen, we were just caught up in the moment. It happens. There's nothing more to it.

ANTHONY

Oh...

BECCA

Unless, there is something else on your mind?

ANTHONY

No, I.. It's nothing. I wanted to make sure we were good.

BECCA

We're excellent! Shall we continue?

ANTHONY

Absolutely. Lead away!

They continue their shopping.

INT. VINTAGE THRIFT STORE- DAY

INT. MEERA AND IMRAN HOUSE- NIGHT

Anthony is at Meera and Imran's house. They are watching an old Bollywood movie.

ANTHONY

Man, Shahrukh has always been that guy. This dude makes me fall in love with a woman who doesn't exist.

MEERA

That man holds a special place in my heart. He was the first guy to give me butterflies. The dreams I had about him... phew.

Meera realizes she has said too much.

IMRAN

Don't stop yourself, darling; the man you vowed to be with for the rest of your life surely wants to hear more.

MEERA

Oh, come on, you know you're the only Khan that matters to me.

IMRAN

It's alright; I've also had enchanted evenings with Kajol in my younger days.

MEERA

Sleep with one eye open tonight.

They all laugh.

ANTHONY  
Speaking of love. How did you two  
know you were soulmates?

MEERA  
We didn't.

ANTHONY  
What?

IMRAN  
Yeah, we just knew how we felt when  
we were together. The idea of  
soulmates doesn't make sense to us.  
Everything is a gamble.  
Relationships take work; it's not  
something fixed by a higher power  
or written in the stars.

ANTHONY  
That's so romantic.

MEERA  
Anything on your mind?

ANTHONY  
I'm not really into mixed signals.  
I like things to be clear.

IMRAN  
Elaborate.

ANTHONY  
You know my new decorator...

MEERA  
Becca?

ANTHONY  
Yeah, we had a moment. I mean, we  
kissed, and it was great. Then, the  
next day, she said it was no big  
deal and made it seem like one of  
those drunk, sloppy nights you want  
to erase from your memory. I don't  
know if I'm reading too much into  
it, or maybe I left a piece of  
celery in her mouth, and now she  
regrets the day I walked into her  
office. I don't know.

IMRAN  
Maybe she's afraid of compromising  
her integrity and her career.  
(MORE)

IMRAN (CONT'D)

News travels fast around here. I get it. You are in the public eye, and you are her client. Need I mention your father? Am I painting a clear picture here?

ANTHONY

Hmmm. It's a good thing we're almost down with the condo. I would have ghosted her.

MEERA

Sometimes a little confusion helps to make your desires clear.

ANTHONY

You lost me.

MEERA

How did you feel about her when she blew you off? There's your answer.

I/E. ANTHONY HOUSE- AFTERNOON

Anthony's condo is finally finished. They are walking through the house, for the final tour.

BECCA

Not to toot my own horn but I am good.

ANTHONY

Oh, you can toot till you blow your ears off. I have to admit, I quite like it. Thank you, you did a fantastic job. Father will be proud.

BECCA

Then I guess my job here is done.

Becca grabs her things.

ANTHONY

So, umm... about the payment.

BECCA

Oh, don't worry. Your father took care of that already. We're good.

ANTHONY

Well great.

BECCA

Yeah. I better get going, then.  
Maybe I'll see you around, or a  
phone call...when you want to  
retrieve your stuff.

ANTHONY

(chuckles)

Well, the swap meet is a few blocks  
away, it's just a quick run.

BECCA

I'm sure they have found a new home  
by now.

ANTHONY

Ugh, don't remind me.

BECCA

Okay! So again, thank you for  
taking me on, and I'll see you  
around.

They share an awkward hug.

ANTHONY

Keep in touch. You know my hours.

BECCA

Sure.

Becca closes the door behind her.

DRIVEWAY

As she walks to her car, Becca is praying something happens.  
She slowly opens her car.

BECCA (CONT'D)

Come on, come on.

She hears the door close. Anthony comes running out.

ANTHONY

Becca?

BECCA

Yes?

ANTHONY

Could I ask another favor?

Becca's face brightens.

INT. ARMSTRONG HOUSE/ BECCA BEDROOM- NIGHT

BEGIN MONTAGE

Becca is writing in her diary

- She checks off the box of "start dating A"
- She adds more, (engaged, married, Lee kids)

I/E. ARMSTRONG HOUSE- AFTERNOON

**Two months later**

INT. ANTHONY HOUSE/ LIVING ROOM- DAY

Becca is doing a meditation with Anthony. She struggles to sit comfortably.

- Anthony shows Becca how to sage the house
- They make some green smoothies

INT. MEN'S STORE- AFTERNOON

Becca is helping Anthony buy new clothes. She chooses, shirt, trousers... old money style.

- Anthony tries on a sweater, he starts itching.

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT- NIGHT

Becca, Anthony, Jack and Anastacia are having dinner with some friends. Jack refers them to Becca.

She hands them her business card.

EXT. MOVIE PREMIERE/ RED CARPET- NIGHT

Anthony and Becca attend a movie premiere. They get clicked together.

INT. ARMSTRONG HOUSE/ KITCHEN- DAY

Adrienne is scrolling through Instagram, there is a photo of Becca and Anthony from the premiere.

She immediately runs to her bedroom, to show Carlos... who is unimpressed.

INT. LEE FAMILY HOME- EVENING

Jack and Anastacia come to greet Carlos and Adrienne, who are meeting for the first time.

There is an awkward handshake between Carlos and Jack.

DINING ROOM

All eyes are on Adrienne, who cannot stop talking.

Carlos is annoyed with all the boring talk at the table, him and Anthony start a little side conversation of their own.

INT. TEA SHOP- AFTERNOON

Adrienne is having brunch with some friends. She proudly shows a picture of Becca and Anthony. She can't stop gushing over them.

EXT. ANTHONY HOUSE/ PATIO- AFTERNOON

It's a cozy afternoon, Becca enjoys a foot massage from Anthony as they relax on the patio.

She realizes she might have feelings for him.

She gets on top of him, they share a kiss.

EXT. FANCY YACHT- DAY

Carlos, Adrienne, Becca and Anthony are on a yacht with friends. The Lee family is also aboard.

Becca and her mother are busy planning something.

They are asked to be in a picture, Anthony is taking it.

He looks over at the table, Becca and Adrienne are looking at wedding dresses.

INT. INDIAN RESTAURANT- EVENING

Becca and Anthony have taken Meera and Imran out. A Bollywood song comes on.

- Anthony gets up, starts dancing

- Meera and Imran join him

- He tries to bring in Becca, she refuses. She sits there awkwardly watching them.

INT. ANTHONY HOUSE/ LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

Anthony and Becca are watching a true crime show. A

- Anthony is eating, chips, ice cream and cookies, wearing just his underwear.



- Becca is a bit envious while she is fine dining.

END MONTAGE

INT. ANTHONY HOUSE- NIGHT

A few people have gathered for Anthony's housewarming, including Becca's parents.

Carlos is mingling with some guests.

HOUSEWARMING GUEST

So, will you be going to Vail this year? Last year was quite the adventure.

CARLOS

No, that's not my kind of place. My buddies and I usually run down to Tijuana if we feel a bit adventurous and want to get some adrenaline going, and trust me... we get plenty.

They all laugh.

Adrienne has been listening to Carlos, she nudges him as she passes by.

Jack and Becca are having a private conversation.

JACK

I must say, you outdid yourself on this—quite a turnout. You did well.

BECCA

Thank you Mr. Lee. The place just needed a woman's touch.

JACK

So, any future plans? How are you two doing?

BECCA

We're good... we're still learning about each other. As for any plans, I have considered starting my own company. CAD has always been home, but I have so many ideas I want to explore, and I am just being an employee... I have no voice.

JACK  
So, what are you waiting for? If  
it's capital you need...

BECCA  
Oh no, I have the capital... I want  
to make sure the timing is right.

JACK  
I see.

Adrienne comes to get Becca.

ADRIENNE  
Excuse me Jack, mind if I steal her  
for a moment?

JACK  
Not a problem, go ahead.

ADRIENNE  
Thanks, there's someone I want you  
to meet.

Anthony joins his dad.

ANTHONY  
Hey Pops!

JACK  
The man of the hour!

ANTHONY  
I think I've done enough  
socializing for a year. When are  
these people leaving? They've seen  
the house, ate my food, and met  
Becca. Are they waiting to tuck me  
into bed?

JACK  
I'm proud of you, son; you finally  
listen to what I've been saying for  
a decade. *Stability and structure*  
works wonders. That's all I wanted  
for you.

ANTHONY  
Thank you, Dad.

JACK  
So, what are you waiting for?

ANTHONY

HUH?

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

With Becca? When are you asking the big question? You already have your parent's blessings, and I think hers too. We're all waiting.

Jack looks around the room, everyone is having a good time.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

Let's go talk.

### GUEST BEDROOM

They move to a bedroom.

JACK

You should propose tonight.

ANTHONY

What!? Dad.

JACK

Why not? Everyone who matters is here; you're in a suit for once. What else do you need?

ANTHONY

I don't know, a ring, the right setting, to actually be ready!

JACK

What makes you ready? You love her, she loves you.

ANTHONY

I don't...

JACK

Listen to me, women like Becca come once in a blue moon... like your mother. And when she's ready to get hitched, she will never mention it. Once her grace period is over, you will wake up with a text saying I can't do this anymore, and she'll marry the next guy. They don't have time to waste in a relationship. They have it all; you're disposable to them.

ANTHONY

But we never even talked about marriage.

JACK

Because she's waiting for you to make the first step. Of all the women you previously wanted to marry, how is this not clear to you? She would be a great addition to the family; she can hold her own. I like her.

Anthony walks around the room, pondering.

ANTHONY

I don't even have a ring.

JACK

Not a problem, hold on.

Jack pulls out a ring from his pocket.

ANTHONY

Dad, so you're going around carrying engagement rings now?

JACK

Well, I'm not too confident with your taste in fine jewelry. Plus, I figured out tonight would be the perfect occasion. So?

Anthony takes a moment.

#### LIVING ROOM

Anthony walks to the center of the room. Jack clinks his glass to get everyone's attention.

ANASTASIA

What is going on?

JACK

Shhh..

The room is silent.

ANTHONY

I want to thank every one of you for being here tonight. Having you in my new home has been an honor, and you are always welcome to visit.

(MORE)

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

I want to give a special thank you to a special lady in this room, the one who made all this possible. Becca, you are indeed one of a kind... thank you for making this place a home.

There are some awes.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

That said, this home needs one last thing to make it whole. This quote says a house rests not on the ground but upon a woman. Well, brace yourselves before we start lifting like that house in UP.

The guests laugh.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

No, this woman is impeccable, and I would be a fool if I didn't ask her one last favor.

He walks towards Becca.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

I know this is my fortieth favor, but I promise this is my last. Will you do me the honor of making me your husband?

People start recording, Adrienne is trying to play it cool.

Becca is stunned, she still hasn't answered. She looks at her mother, who urges her to say yes.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

Okay, I'm nervous. Bec?

BECCA

Oh, I'm sorry! YES! YES, I'll marry you.

The crowd erupts in cheer, as Anthony puts the ring on her finger. They share a quick peck and hug.

Adrienne comes to congratulate the couple, Jack, Anastacia and Carlos follow.

LATER

Adrienne and Becca are in a room, gushing over the ring and what just happened.

ADRIENNE

This looks like Princess Diana's ring. Oh my! I can't believe it; it happened. You did it!

BECCA

I'm still in shock, it hasn't sunk in yet.

ADRIENNE

Oh honey it will, when that finger itches and you start scratching. I'm making an appointment to try on the dresses first thing tomorrow. We still have so much to do! Oh, come here!

They hug.

ADRIENNE (CONT'D)

Are you happy?

BECCA

Yeah, Mom. I am.

ADRIENNE

See? Mama always knows best.

EXT. SOUP KITCHEN- DAY

Anthony is serving food at a soup kitchen.

ANTHONY

Here you go Sir, happy holidays!

The owner of the soup kitchen arrives with more food.

SOUP KITCHEN OWNER

Man, every year, it gets busier. I don't know if I should smile that we can serve every one of them or be sad about it.

ANTHONY

These last few years haven't been the best. Listen, if you need any more contributions, let me know.

SOUP KITCHEN OWNER

Thanks man! What we need now is more volunteers.

ANTHONY

Becca couldn't make it; the wedding planning had overtaken her life. I was even scared to ask her to come with me.

SOUP KITCHEN OWNER

Becca? Who's that?

ANTHONY

Becca Armstrong. My fiancée, haven't you met her? You've met her a couple of times.

SOUP KITCHEN OWNER

No, I know every person who came to volunteer here. I don't remember any Becca.

Anthony looks through his phone, he shows him a picture of Becca.

SOUP KITCHEN OWNER (CONT'D)

Pretty, but no... I have no clue who she is. If I knew her before you, she wouldn't still be available. But congrats, dude, more for us. How are you doing, man? Do you want some cornbread?

Anthony is confused.

INT. ARMSTRONG HOUSE/ KITCHEN- DAY

It's Christmas eve. The Armstrong and Lee family are spending it together. They are making gingerbread houses.

JACK

Isn't this for little kids?

ANASTASIA

Well, until there are some, we're taking on the task. Plus, it's Becca's family tradition since we'll all be family soon... why not?

JACK

So how are the preparations going?

ANTHONY

Umm... Good.

BECCA  
 Everything is on schedule; we're just tackling some last-minute details.

ANTHONY  
 Really? Doesn't that take about a year?

ADRIENNE  
 Not if you start early.

ANASTASIA  
 What about the Mehndi and Sangeet?

BECCA  
 The what?

ANTHONY  
 It's pre wedding activities in Indian custom.

BECCA  
 We didn't discuss that; I thought we were doing the traditional ceremony and reception. I feel like it would be too much.

ANASTASIA  
 So you're not doing it?

BECCA  
 Probably not

ANTHONY  
 Of course!

Everyone is silent.

CARLOS  
 All I care about is what's on the menu. I know you guys' food portions are like crumbs. People want to eat a good meal, that's what weddings are for.

ADRIENNE  
 Carlos!

CARLOS  
 What?

BECCA  
 There's chicken, salmon, different sides.



ANASTASIA  
Salmon? He's allergic to salmon.

BECCA  
Really, I didn't know...

ANTHONY  
Yeah, it makes my lips swell like those IG influencers.

BECCA  
I think we can still switch it for maybe steak. Or roasted duck?

CARLOS  
Duck? Is that even legal to eat?

ANTHONY  
I say steak.

ADRIENNE  
Steak it is then.

JACK  
Maybe add the roasted duck; most of Anastacia's side of the family does not eat beef.

BECCA  
Okay.

ADRIENNE  
This is definitely going to be the event of the season.

JACK  
That it will be. Proud of you son!

ANTHONY  
Thanks Dad.

INT. ARMSTRONG HOUSE/ BECCA BEDROOM- NIGHT

It's the eve of Becca's wedding. She is checking on her wedding dress, Adrienne knocks.

BECCA  
Come in.

ADRIENNE  
What are you still doing up? It's almost midnight. Do you want to wake up with puffy eyes?

BECCA

I was just checking the dress.

ADRIENNE

Come here, sit down.

They both sit on the bed.

ADRIENNE (CONT'D)

I don't think we'll have time to ourselves with everything going on tomorrow, so I wanted to catch you before the chaos began.

BECCA

Sure Mom.

ADRIENNE

Tomorrow is the second most significant day of your life. The crazy part is it happens in a matter of seconds. You won't realize how fast the day went. So enjoy every second of it. With that being said, you know what kinds of people will attend. I need you to wow them, alright? Many eyes will be on you; your every move will be watched. You have to be perfect, not one single mishap. The circles you're about to be part of are nothing like us. There is no room for flaws in their world. You only get one chance to make an impression, so use it. Can you do that?

BECCA

Most certainly.

ADRIENNE

That's my girl! Now, get some rest.

Adrienne kisses her on the cheek and leaves.

INT. KORA'S FRIEND HOUSE- AFTERNOON

1990

Kora is getting married. She is waiting inside until it's time to walk down the aisle. The wedding is held in the backyard.

She hears noises coming from the driveway. She runs to check out what's going on.

DRIVEWAY

David is being asked to leave the venue, he tries pushing through them.

DAVID  
I just need to talk to her, come on!

KORA  
David!

DAVID  
Kora! Please I need to talk to you! Five minutes! Please.

KORA  
Let him through.

They let him pass.

GUEST ROOM

David and Kora go into a guest room. She locks the door.

DAVID  
What are you doing Amore? I know this is not what you want.

KORA  
David, I can't marry you. Please leave.

DAVID  
You don't love him!

KORA  
I will learn to!

DAVID  
Look! Look what I have!

He pulls out two plane tickets.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
We can go to Tuscany right now, you and me. Then we can figure out the rest of our lives after. Come with me.

KORA

That is the point, David! I'm not that person... anymore. I want to know my next plans and figure out my life. I can't trust you unquestioningly and pray to the stars that everything will go as we wish. I need structure and stability! I want a place to call home, raise my kids in a stable environment, and not have to move every other season. Ernest has a good job; he knows what he wants in life. I feel safe with him. It was fun when we were twenty, that life has run its course, David. It's time to move on.

DAVID

Look in my eyes and tell me you mean every word you just said.

Kora makes eye contact with him.

KORA

I do David. I'm sorry.

David realizes he can't convince her. He kisses her on the forehead, exits the room.

She watches him through the window as he leaves the house. Once he's out of sight, she puts down her veil and leaves the room.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. ARMSTRONG HOUSE/ BECCA BEDROOM- DAY

It's the day of the wedding. Becca is woken up by soft music playing from her phone. She stretches, already grinning from ear to ear.

Becca puts on her slippers. She can hear chatter and laughter in the kitchen.

KITCHEN

In the kitchen, Becca finds her bridesmaids having breakfast with Adrienne and Becca's grandmother.

ADRIENNE

There she is! Oh my Gosh! I can't believe this day is here!

ELISE

Well, if it isn't' the future Mrs. Lee! Damn! You're already glowing.

BECCA

New serum. Let me get some coffee.

Everyone is seated down, gathered at the kitchen counter.

BRIDESMAID

So how are you feeling Bec?

BECCA

Pretty relaxed. I'm ready for today. I just need everything to go according to plan, and everyone will be safe.

BRIDESMAID

Good for you, when I got married... I threw up like five times before I even put on the dress.

ELISE

That's because you were pregnant.

BRIDESMAID

I didn't know that then.

BRIDEMAID #2

So where is the something new, something borrowed, and something blue? Isn't the maid of honor supposed to get that?

BECCA

That's just some BS.

ELISE

Yeah, Becca is too cool for old traditions.

ADRIENNE

Ladies, ladies, enough of the chit-chat. Finish your breakfast so we can head to the venue. We have exactly seven hours. The makeup artist is on her way; she just texted me. Let's move!

The girls run back upstairs to get ready, leaving Becca to have her breakfast.

I/E. MOVING CAR- LATER

There are rented vintage cars lined up in the driveway, with the chauffeurs waiting outside. The bridesmaids come out.

Elise and another girl are putting the bride's dress in the car. Becca is right there, supervising.

BECCA

Careful, careful, please! Elise. You're almost dragging it to the floor!

ELISE

Dude chill!

BECCA

Mom! Where is the garter!? And the shoes?

ADRIENNE

They're all in there, honey. I checked. Now relax. Everything is under control. I'm going to kill your father, though; he's still shaving. Okay, guys, I'll meet you there, okay?

ELISE

Alright, let's go.

**INSIDE CAR**

Everyone gets in the car. Becca checks on her dress again.

BECCA

Guys, please make sure you don't sit on it.

They drive off.

INT. ARMSTRONG HOUSE/ MASTER BEDROOM- MOMENTS LATER

Adrienne arrives in their bedroom, Carlos just finished shaving.

ADRIENNE

Are you trying to make me crazy? We should have left about twenty minutes ago?!

CARLOS

I'm done, relax. Are the girls ready?

ADRIENNE

They just left! I'll be in the car,  
and if you're not in it... They  
won't find you tomorrow morning.  
Capiche?

Adrienne leaves the room.

INT. ANTHONY HOUSE- SAME TIME

Anthony is all dressed up. He is sitting on a mat,  
meditating. He is tapped on the shoulder.

GROOMSMAN

What the hell are you doing?

ANTHONY

I'm starting the day off right.

GROOMSMAN

Well, don't you look sharp, my man!  
I was worried you'd show up in a  
kurta and barefoot.

ANTHONY

I thought about it.

The groomsman sits down.

GROOMSMAN

Remember the talk we had at my  
wedding?

ANTHONY

The one that ended with your snot  
dripping on my shoes.

GROOMSMAN

We don't need that mentioned, but  
yes. I figured I would return the  
favor. Let me ask you something.  
Why her?

ANTHONY

Because I love her...

GROOMSMAN

And?

ANTHONY

And... we're good together. Is that  
it?

GROOMSMAN

No, I asked why you love her, not why you're together.

ANTHONY

Isn't that the same thing?

GROOMSMAN

Nope. Okay, next question. Have you guys talked about kids? Will you incorporate your Indian heritage with them? What about finances and everything else? Is she okay with you being spiritual, not religious? Wait, what's her religion anyway?

ANTHONY

I don't know; we don't talk about our religious beliefs. But I mean, there's no rush. It's not like we'll start a family right away. We will take our time and find what's best for us. Life's more fun when you figure your shit out along the way.

GROOMSMAN

Well, as long as you got it all figured out. Let's get you hitched, brother.

ANTHONY

Dude, you interrupted my session; I'm not done yet. I'll meet you in the car.

Anthony continues his meditation, he starts chanting.

I/E. WEDDING VENUE-LATER

The bridal party arrives at the venue. Everything is elegant, with beautiful spring flowers everywhere. Everyone is in awe.

ELISE

Oh my God! It's like mother nature sharted all over this place.

BRIDEMAID #2

It's definitely you!

BECCA

Yeah, that twenty thousand was so worth it.



ELISE

Twenty thousand?! Just for the decor! Is every item edible?

The wedding planner comes to greet them.

WEDDING PLANNER

Becca! Hi! So...?

BECCA

I am speechless. This is exactly how I pictured it. Everything is perfect!

WEDDING PLANNER

Yes, it is.

There is a sudden thunder, and drops of rain start pouring. One of the bridesmaids who was checking out one of the staff didn't realize it was raining.

BRIDESMAID #2

Dude, stop spitting on me.

BRIDEMAID #3

It's not me you pop tart.

BRIDESMAID

Oh hell no!

BECCA

What is happening?

WEDDING PLANNER

It's just drizzle, it will pass. I checked this morning.

Becca is trying to stay calm. The all run inside.

BRIDESMAID #3

Come on Bec! Don't just stand there!

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX- SAME TIME

Kora walks out of her empty apartment with her bags. She locks the door. Everyone immediately runs inside. Those about to leave close the door as they see her. An older woman walks down the stairs; she sees Kora coming her way.

ELDERLY WOMAN

Oh my Dear Lord!

She takes her cane in her hands and quickly makes her way down. Kora is not fazed by the reactions.

INT. LEASING OFFICE- CONTINUOUS

She goes into the leasing office. The guy is distracted by the Tv as Kora just stands there.

LEASING AGENT  
Oh shit! Yeah, just drop it there  
on the chair... I'll get it...  
sometime.

Kora leaves the key on a table, then leaves. The agent makes the sign of the cross once she's gone.

I/E. WEDDING VENUE- LATER

It's raining heavy now, thunder and lightning.

BRIDAL PARTY ROOM

Inside, all the bridesmaids are dressed. The room is packed, with lots of movement. Becca is getting ready to put on her wedding dress.

BECCA  
My stomach hurts.

BRIDESMAID #2  
Wedding jitters babe!

BECCA  
I'm gonna go to the bathroom.

ADRIENNE  
You need help honey?

BECCA  
No!

Becca squeezes her way to the bathroom. She closes the door.

INT.WEDDING VENUE/BATHROOM- CONTINUOUS

She pulls down her panties, sits on the toilet. She has cramps, she looks down. She just got her cycle.

She screams.

BECCA  
Mom!

Adrienne rushes to her daughter's side.

ADRIENNE  
What is it honey?

BECCA  
Get in here!

Adrienne enters.

ADRIENNE  
  
(loud scream)  
Noooooooooooo!

She comes out of the bathroom. Everyone is paused.

ADRIENNE (CONT'D)  
Anyone with an extra tampon in  
hand?

BRIDEMAID #2  
Oh no!

They all start looking through their belongings to rescue  
Becca.

BRIDESMAID  
I got it!

ADRIENNE  
Oh goodness! Thank you.

She hands Adrienne a pad.

ADRIENNE (CONT'D)  
A pad! Who uses pads anymore? You  
don't use tampons?

BRIDESMAID #3  
No, it feels like there's a finger  
in there. I don't like it.

BRIDEMAID #2  
What's the issue there?

Adrienne runs to the bathroom, pushing her hand in there to  
hand it to Becca.

ADRIENNE  
Here honey!.

BECCA  
I don't use pads Mom!

ADRIENNE  
That's all we have.

BECCA  
Fine! Can't one of you run and get  
me some tampons?

INT. LAX AIRPORT- SAME TIME

Kora is in the terminal, waiting for her flight. She pulls  
out a photo of a young man.

EXT. WEDDING VENUE/ CEREMONY AREA - LATER

It has stopped raining. Guests are arriving and sitting  
down. The front seats are already filled. One family is not  
too pleased.

GUEST  
Who are these people?

GUEST #2  
I guess the groom's side of the  
family.

GUEST  
I am the bride's uncle! I should be  
right there in the front.

GUEST #3  
Let it go Dad.

The man walks to the front. He taps a man on the shoulder.

GUEST  
Excuse me, do you mind moving over?  
I got a family here.

GUEST #4  
I beg your pardon.

GUEST  
Are you a direct family member?

GUEST #4  
Just find another seat buddy.

GUEST  
I'll take that as a no. I need you  
guys to make space; I am the  
bride's uncle. I deserve to see my  
niece get married without  
stretching my neck. Can you hurry  
over?

GUEST #4

Are you out of your mind? Maybe you people don't understand the concept of a seating chart, but I was assigned this seat, so I'm staying. Comprende, amigo?

GUEST

What?

GUEST #2

I'm sorry about this, we'll find another seat. Babe, you're embarrassing us. Come on!

GUEST

What are you apologizing for? Where the hell is Carlos? That pinche cabron is making his family sit in the back. He married that gringa, and now he's all seditary with us.

His wife grabs him by the arm, drags him away.

GUEST #4

Get out of here, you nut! And while you're at it, let go of the cheap liquor!

The man turns around.

GUEST #4 (CONT'D)

What?

He charges at him, knocking down chairs and tripping over people nearby.

GUEST #3

DAD! STOP!!!

GUEST

Don't you ever talk to me like that!? Do you know who I am? I was going to be the next Muhammad Ali! I will sting your ass, man!

GUEST #4

Get this lunatic off me!

Some people are taking videos while the rest watch with their mouths open. Guests try to separate them.

A few seats away, the same man at Elise's party is still flexing.

FLEX GUY

Yeah, right now, I'm working on this colossal blockbuster. I'm talking special effects, huge set, and A-list stars; I'm not dropping any names, but let's say they were in Avatar. I don't know if you know Mr. Heisenberg; we've been talking. He was almost begging me for a producer credit.

GUEST #5

Mr Heisenberg you said?

FLEX GUY

Yeah.

GUEST #5

Greg Heisenburg...

FLEX GUY

Mhmmmm. That's what I said.

GUEST #5

I'm Greg Heisenberg.

FLEX GUY

Oh Sh... I... I think it was....  
Matthew Heisenberg.

INT. WEDDING VENUE ROOM- SAME TIME

Anthony is drinking some juice as he waits for the event to begin. Someone knocks on the door.

ANASTASIA

Well don't you all look proper and dapper! My my!

GROOMSMAN #2

Thank you, Mrs. Lee! You don't look too bad yourself.

ANASTASIA

Oooh, look at my son!

ANTHONY

What do you think Mother? Do you think she'll take me?

ANASTASIA

She'd be a fool not to...

They share a warm hug.

ANTHONY

What was that ruckus outside?

ANASTASIA

Oh, you don't want to know. I just came to check on you. I never thought I'd see the day.

ANTHONY

Why does everyone act like I was Hugh Hefner?

ANASTASIA

You were certainly on your way though.

They both laugh.

ANTHONY

So, are you happy for me?

ANASTASIA

Absolutely. There's just this one thing..

ANTHONY

What?

ANASTASIA

There's no sangeet, mehndi.

ANTHONY

I know, I guess Becca wanted to keep it small and traditional.

ANASTASIA

But that is our tradition.

ANTHONY

I know Ma.

ANASTASIA

You're my only child. I will never get the chance again.

ANTHONY

I'm sorry Ma. Becca planned all of this; I didn't want to impose.

ANASTASIA

It's alright. Okay, well I'll see you out there.

ANTHONY

I love you.

ANASTASIA

Love you too, Beta.

EXT. WEDDING VENUE- LATER

Anthony and his groomsmen arrive, he greets guests. He goes to stand in his position.

GROOMSMAN

Ready to sneak out of here?

ANTHONY

No man. But have the car ready in case.

GROOMSMAN

Cool.

Adrienne and Carlos also get to the ceremony area. As they go to their seats, Carlos is pulled.

GUEST

Carlos, you're going to disrespect your family like this? We're in the nosebleeds section, hermano!

CARLOS

I didn't do the seating chart. I'll see what I can do.

GUEST

Get on that.

After greeting guests, Carlos joins Adrienne to their seat.

CARLOS

Why did you put my brother all the way down there? I don't even recognize half of these people. Wasn't it supposed to be an intimate thing?

ADRIENNE

It is. Your brother is fine; he's so dramatic. Do you know he almost punched one of the guests? He's lucky he even got an invitation.

CARLOS

If I remember correctly, it is my daughter's wedding as well.



INT. WEDDING VENUE/ KITCHEN- MOMENTS LATER

Two venue staffers are carrying the cake, and one of the bridesmaids is flirting with the kitchen staff. Adrienne comes to check on the food.

BRIDEMAID #2

So, I'll see you at the reception?

KITCHEN STAFF

Yeah, I'll be there.

BRIDEMAID #2

Super! I gotta go back. Find me later, okay?

CUTE GUEST

Mhmmm.

As she turns back without looking, she runs into the cake. They all fall, with cake smeared all over them. People come to help them.

ADRIENNE

Oh my Gosh!

BRIDEMAID #2

I am so sorry! I... I don't know what to say! There's another one right? Tell me there's a backup.

The staff are dumbfounded. Adrienne is about to pass out.

BRIDEMAID #2 (CONT'D)

I'm sorry! It came out of nowhere!

Adrienne grabs the bridesmaid's hand; they walk out of the kitchen.

INT. WEDDING VENUE ROOM- MOMENTS LATER

Adrienne brings the bridesmaid to the room to get cleaned up. Everyone gasps.

ELISE

What happened down there?

ADRIENNE

Miss clumsy here ran into the cake.

ELISE

You are so dead.

BRIDESMAID

I'm so sorry Bec! Please don't get mad.

BECCA

Why would you do that?! Oh my God! I can't breathe. How could you do this to me? God, you're an idiot!

BRIDEMAID #2

Bec, calm down! It's just a cake!

BECCA

Just a cake! What are we going to do now?

BRIDEMAID #2

I said I was sorry! What do you want me to do? Squat down and shit out another cake? Huh? It was an accident.

Becca is enraged, she jumps on her as the bridesmaid tries to defend her. The others try to separate them. They are now tussling on the ground.

ELISE

Becca, let her go!

BRIDEMAID #2

Get off me you psycho!

EXT. WEDDING VENUE-SAME TIME

All the ruckus from the room can be heard outside.

GROOMSMAN

What the hell is that? Wait, that sounds like your girl.

Anthony walks inside, and his mother follows.

INT. WEDDING VENUE/ KITCHEN-CONTINUOUS

They pass the flower girl and the ring bearer, grabbing pieces of the cake on the ground.

ANASTASIA

Oh, no, little ones. You can't eat that. Go take your seats, alright?

INT. WEDDING VENUE ROOM- MOMENTS LATER

After they are separated, Adrienne tries to appease her daughter.

ADRIENNE

Stop it, you two! Stop it right this second! Becca, listen to me. This is your day, the beginning of the rest of your life. Are you going to let her mess it up for you? Don't get distracted by pointless noise, darling. Here.

She helps Becca calm down; she gives her a cup of water.

OUTSIDE ROOM

Anthony and his mother knock on the room. Elise opens.

ANASTASIA

Is everything alright? We heard screams.

ELISE

Yes, we just need a few minutes. There was a spider in the room. I have arachnophobia, so...

ANASTASIA

A spider?

ELISE

Uh huh... We'll be out soon.

Anthony makes eye contact with his bride before the door is slammed on them, she is mortified. She hides.

INT. WEDDING VENUE ROOM- MOMENTS LATER

After getting cleaned up and settling down. Everyone is seated.

ELISE

Your mom is right. There's a wedding which was supposed to start ten minutes ago! Do you think those people give a shit about the cake? Most of it will end up in the trash anyways. Someone can buy one before the reception if it's that important to you.

(MORE)

ELISE (CONT'D)

Now, I'll give you a minute to dry off the stain, and we will go down there with our pride and elegance and get you married. Hmm?

Becca agrees.

BECCA

You're right. I'm sorry.

BRIDEMAID #2

I'm sorry too. Come here.

They hug it out.

ELISE

Okay! It's showtime.

EXT. WEDDING VENUE- MOMENTS LATER

The flower girls and the ringbearer make their way down the aisle.

INT. WEDDING VENUE/ CEREMONY ENTRANCE- SAME TIME

All the bridesmaids are lined up, Carlos is there to walk his daughter down the line.

CARLOS

You look beautiful baby. Totally breathtaking.

BECCA

Thank you Dad!

WEDDING PLANNER

Okay, now my bridesmaids and groomsmen. Remember, don't rush, but don't bolt either. Let's go!

The bridesmaids and groomsmen follow.

EXT. WEDDING VENUE/ CEREMONY AREA- CONTINUOUS

Each bridal party couple gracefully walks down the aisle. They all take their places.

WEDDING OFFICIANT

Everyone please rise.

The music starts. Carlos and Becca start walking down the stairs, all eyes on them. As she gets to the last ones... she steps on her dress, tripping to the bottom.

## WEDDING PLANNER

Fuck me!

CARLOS

Honey! Oh Jesus! Are you okay?

Becca can't even look up, Carlos helps her.

Becca quickly gets up, runs back inside. Elise and her parents follow her.

INT. WEDDING VENUE/ ROOM- MOMENTS LATER

Becca starts throwing things in the room. Adrienne and Carlos watching quietly as she goes berserk.

BECCA

This can't be happening to me!

ELISE

I think we need to call a priest or a pastor, maybe the pope?

CARLOS

I need everybody out.

Everyone leaves room, except the Armstrong family.

ADRIENNE

This will make it on the blogs by morning—the Lee family's new in-laws... a disastrous wedding of all time.

CARLOS

Why do you worry so much about them? Do you not see your daughter here? She almost broke her face.

ADRIENNE

Honey, you need to pull yourself together and go back out there. Alright?

BECCA

Are you out of your mind? I can't go back there. There's no way.

ADRIENNE

Yes, you can, do you want to embarrass this family even more?

CARLOS  
ADRIENNE! THAT'S ENOUGH! Whatever  
you decide, baby, it's up to you.

Anthony enters the room.

ANTHONY  
Can I please have a moment with  
her?

CARLOS  
Sure.

The parents leave. Anthony sits right next to his bride.

ANTHONY  
Are you hurt?

BECCA  
No, just a bruise on my elbow.

ANTHONY  
Good. Becca, let me ask you  
something. Why do you want to marry  
me?

BECCA  
What? Anthony, I don't like  
where...

ANTHONY  
No, no just please... I need to  
know.

BECCA  
Because you're the kind of guy I  
always saw myself marrying one day.

ANTHONY  
So do you. But I don't think this  
is the wedding you dreamed of as a  
child. Neither is it mine. I saw  
myself with my bride getting  
hitched in a small ceremony. We  
would dance the night away in the  
backyard of our tiny home, probably  
barefoot. We would play ping pong  
or other silly games, just another  
family gathering. This, this isn't  
me. While waiting at the altar, I  
started thinking about how we had  
never had a fight or even a minor  
disagreement.

(MORE)

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

I don't know how you react in a heated argument and vice versa. I hate perfection, Becca; I want the mess, the arguing, annoying each other. I want it all and everything in between. I want something real. I want to be afraid to lose you, to want to do anything I can to keep you in my life. I don't see you by my side when I picture myself old and gray. I don't know your worst fears, most cherished memories, favorite color, or what movies make you cry.

Becca has been sitting silently listening to everything Anthony is saying.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

I can't give you one good reason for me asking you to marry me other than it's what my parents think is best. My father, to be exact. And it's not fair to you. I'm a person who believes in signs and messages from a higher power. And I take them seriously. Also, I think people come into your life for a reason... or a season. You're a great person, Bec, you are, maybe in another lifetime. I can't go through with this. I'm sorry.

Anthony kisses her on the forehead. Before he leaves, he turns around to say something.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

You never finished that quote. "True love is taking the risk that it won't be a happily ever after. True love is joining hands with the man who loves you for who you are and saying, " I'm not afraid to believe in you." I'm not sure if that's me or if I even know who you are. You deserve more.

He leaves Becca sitting like a statue, emotionless.

## EXT. WEDDING VENUE- NIGHT

The chairs are empty, all the guests have left. The venue staff are taking down the arches and other decorations.

Becca has changed into regular clothes; she is sitting on the stairs, watching the staff cleanup.

Her mother taps her on the shoulder, they walk to one of the rented cars. Carlos is waiting for them inside.

## INT. ARMSTRONG HOUSE/ BECCA BEDROOM- DAY

A few days have passed. Becca is in her room. Her bedroom is filled with takeout boxes, ice cream melting on the nightstand, and sad music playing. Adrienne enters.

ADRIENNE

It wreaks in here!

She opens the blinds.

BECCA

Don't!

ADRIENNE

You need sunlight! I was thinking we could have a spa day or something. Anything that can take place outside this house.

BECCA

I'm not interested.

ADRIENNE

It's been five days; it's time to move on to other things. Meet your friends for brunch or something.

BECCA

I'm not in the mood MOM! Get out please!

Becca pulls the cover over her face.

## INT. ANTHONY HOUSE/ KITCHEN-SAME TIME

Anthony is with parents. They are all standing in the kitchen, Anthony is getting an earful from his father.



JACK

What do you want, Toni? Huh? You won't rest until this family is the town's laughingstock, huh?

ANTHONY

Dad...

JACK

No, you listen to me! I have tolerated your little hippie phase for long enough. I know you don't care about your reputation, but this family was built on it! What were you thinking?

ANASTASIA

Jack, it's not his fault. He has his reasons.

JACK

And he had to figure them out on the altar?! Now, here's what you're going to do, young man. I need you to vanish into thin air quickly, find a tipi or something to lay low for a while, and let this thing blow over. Do you hear me? Go and figure out how to bring some damn sense into your life!

Jack leaves.

ANASTASIA

He didn't mean it. But maybe a little break will do you some good. Go out there and feed the elephants, meet a sage, or do whatever you usually do on your trips.

Anthony manages to crack a smile.

ANASTASIA (CONT'D)

Life is not a race, honey; your father has been sprinting his whole life. He doesn't realize there is no one in front or behind him. You don't need to have it all figured out.

INT. ARMSTRONG HOUSE/ BECCA BEDROOM- THE NEXT DAY

A nineties romantic comedy is playing on the TV, and take-out boxes are on the nightstand. Becca is going through her phone and checking her Instagram DMS. A few of her friends have sent her encouraging texts.

She checks her voicemail. There is a new one from Elise. She plays it.

ELISE (V.O.)

Hey Bec! Ugh, I don't even know where to begin. I know you don't want to see anybody, so I wanted to give you space. Girl, ugly, cry as much as you want and let it all out. Watch all those nineties rom-coms with a tub of ice cream, and don't feel bad about it. Anyways, I was thinking about, you know... that day. Something isn't adding up; I know we didn't do the proper rituals. Do you think we jinxed ourselves because of it? I don't know, just a thought. Remember when Anthony saw you in your dress before you walked down? Could that be it? I have so many theories in my head, and I am driving myself crazy trying to figure them out. I can't imagine how you feel; take it easy, okay? Let's have lunch soon! Love you, babes!

Becca stares at the ceiling, pensive.

INT. ARMSTRONG HOUSE/ BATHROOM- EVENING

Becca is taking a shower. She is still in her thoughts as she scrubs her body. She pauses...

BECCA (O.S.)

Aaaaaaaaah!

INT. ARMSTRONG HOUSE/ MASTER BEDROOM-SAME TIMEP

Adrienne who was reading is startled by the loud scream.

I/E. APARTMENT COMPLEX- THE NEXT DAY

Becca arrives at the same apartment Kora lived in. She parks her car in the lot, not realizing she parked wrong. She quickly runs inside.

## APARTMENT HALLWAYS- CONTINUOUS

Becca is almost running people down through the hallways. She skips a couple of stairs on her way. She tries to remember something. She finally stops in an apartment, knocking loudly.

No one answers. She continues knocking. A neighbor opens.

APARTMENT NEIGHBOR  
Can you please keep it down?

BECCA  
Do you know the woman who lives here? She looks like a... a hippie.

APARTMENT NEIGHBOR  
You mean Kora?

BECCA  
I don't know her name.

APARTMENT NEIGHBOR  
Well, if it's Kora, she moved out last week.

BECCA  
Where!? Do you know where!?

APARTMENT NEIGHBOR  
No, now stop banging the door before I call the cops.

**PARKING LOT**

Becca returns to her car, looking defeated.

## INT. ARMSTRONG HOUSE/ KITCHEN- AFTERNOON

Back home, Becca is watching her mother cook for dinner.

ADRIENNE  
Are you just going to watch me or offer to help? Why don't you chop these for me?

BECCA  
I need to tell you something.

ADRIENNE  
What?

BECCA  
I think I'm cursed.

ADRIENNE

We're all cursed, Bec. Do you not see what is happening to this world daily? We have been condemned for generations.

BECCA

Mom, Mom. I mean it. I think someone put a curse on me.

ADRIENNE

(chuckles)

You need to get some sleep.

BECCA

Are you going to listen to me? I'm telling you! I know who cursed me, too! Remember that apartment the twins used to live in? There was this woman...

Becca recalls the story of her and Kora's run in. Adrienne is listening attentively but still doubtful.

INT. ARMSTRONG HOUSE/ BECCA BEDROOM- DAY

Elise has stopped by. Becca is telling her the same story.

BECCA

So then she said the most important day of your life may turn into a disaster or something like that. I'm telling you! That woman hexed me! Now I have to find where she moved!

ELISE

Oh, my! give me a minute.

Elise sits on the bed, she gathers her thoughts.

ELISE (CONT'D)

I remember now! That woman was creepy. I knew it! You guys always laugh at my conspiracy theories, yet most are accurate. So now what? How do we find her?

BECCA

How?

INT. ARMSTRONG HOUSE/ LIVING ROOM- DAY

A priest and a nun have come. He is throwing holy water at Becca as she kneels. The nun is reciting the rosary. He puts anointment on her forehead.

PRIEST

Dear God, we ask you to take this child into your hands and cleanse any negative or dark spirits around her; oh, Father God, come into her life and...

INT. ARMSTRONG HOUSE/ LIVING ROOM- AFTERNOON

A pastor is praying for Becca, speaking in tongues. The pastor shakes Becca's head and let's go.

PASTOR

You are free my child.

INT. ARMSTRONG HOUSE/ BECCA BEDROOM- EVENING

Becca is wearing white; Elise is watching a tutorial as she sages her and the room.

INT. BAPTIST CHURCH- DAY

Becca and her friends are attending a church service. It's donation time; she writes a check. She passes it to Elise to put it in the donation box; Elise quickly glances at the amount. Her jaw drops.

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX- THE NEXT DAY

Becca knocks on the apartment neighbor's door. He opens.

APARTMENT NEIGHBOR

Not you again! What do you want?

BECCA

I need your help.

APARTMENT NEIGHBOR

With?

Becca pulls out a hundred-dollar bill.

APARTMENT NEIGHBOR (CONT'D)

Tea or coffee?

He lets her enter.

NEIGHBOR LIVING ROOM

The neighbor brings some refreshments, sets them on the table.

BECCA

Listen, I need to know everything about this woman; whatever details you have, I need it.

APARTMENT NEIGHBOR

Well, I don't know much, but everyone in this apartment thinks she's like a medium or she does voodoo. No one knows where she's from; she's been here longer than most of us.

BECCA

Does she have family?

APARTMENT NEIGHBOR

I heard her husband died many years back in a car accident. She rarely had any visitors or left her unit.

BECCA

Is there actual proof that she does voodoo?

APARTMENT NEIGHBOR

The story is that this guy had just moved in right next to Kora. He was a douchebag; no one liked him. He smoked a lot of pot, and the smell started entering Kora's place. She brought it up to him; he didn't stop. Then he began leaving cigarette butts by her door, she complained to the leasing office, but they did nothing. The next day, the dude's apartment caught fire. And get this: only his apartment got burnt down. So rumors started circling, and everybody wanted her out. The office moved the complainers to the new units they had just finished, and Kora stayed. And get this: nobody has moved into that unit ever since. So...

BECCA

Oh my God. So, she did put a curse on me. How do I find this woman?

## APARTMENT NEIGHBOR

Maybe the leasing office has her contact info. I can show you where it is.

## BECCA

I'm good, thanks.

Becca grabs her purse, heads for the door.

## INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX/ LEASING OFFICE- MOMENTS LATER

Becca walks into the office. She catches the agent who was smoking a joint, he immediately stashes it away.

## LEASING AGENT

Can I help you?

## BECCA

Hi, I need some information about one of your previous renters. Her name is Kora.

## LEASING AGENT

We can't give out that information.

## BECCA

Well, it seems that woman has put a spell on me and anyone I encounter. It's OK; you still have a few minutes until it's activated, so you're good.

He immediately looks up her contact on the computer. He writes her name & contact number on a sticky note. He hands it to her.

## LEASING AGENT

Anything else?

## BECCA

Maybe an emergency contact just in case.

He grabs the note from her, writes another number down.

## BECCA (CONT'D)

Thank you!

## LEASING AGENT

Get the hell out of here!

She leaves.

INT. ARMSTRONG HOUSE/ BECCA BEDROOM- NIGHT

Becca dials the number, it rings.

PHONE(V.O.)

*We're sorry you have reached a  
number that has been disconnected  
or is no longer in service.*

She hangs up. She gets her phone and opens Facebook. She searches for Kora Lamine. Many profiles pop up; she goes through each one, and none are hers. Finally, she gets to the last one.

It is a photo of a man and a woman. A younger woman than Kora, she zooms in. There is a resemblance. Kora is tagged, but her account is inactive. She clicks on the man's profile, Ali Mahmoud. He has posted photos of the house that he is selling. She writes down the address and phone number.

INT. ALI MAHMOUD HOUSE- THE NEXT DAY

Becca is getting a tour of the house. She is the least bit interested, as Ali goes on about the house.

ALI

The house was built in nineteen seventy-four: twenty-two square feet, four bedrooms, two baths. We just finished all major renovations. It's a family home; my family has been here for twenty years. There are good schools in the area. It's a pretty calm and safe neighborhood. I think you would like it.

BECCA

Do you know someone called Kora Lamine?

ALI

Who are you?

BECCA

An old acquaintance.

ALI

I've heard that before. Please leave.



BECCA

No, please. I made a mistake some years ago and now my life is in shambles.

ALI

Let me guess, she cursed you, too? Do you think you're the first to come here using that claim?

BECCA

No, but I want to be the first to make it right. Do this for her, she deserves it.

INT. MOVING PLANE- NIGHT

The plane is in the air, and Becca is on her way to Alaska. She is scrolling through Instagram; there is a picture of Anthony on a safari, interacting with wild animals, meditating, doing charity work, and hiking.

INT. TED STEVENS ANCHORAGE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT- AFTERNOON

Becca lands in Alaska. As she walks through the airport, she tries calling the new number. It rings, there is an answer.

KORA (V.O.)

Hello?

BECCA

Hi! Is this Kora?

KORA (V.O.)

Yes, who is this?

BECCA

I am a former acquaintance and wanted to ask if I could stop by your house for a talk.

KORA (V.O.)

What kind of acquaintance?

BECCA

I think it's better if we talked face to face. Can I stop by?

Kora hangs up.

BECCA (CONT'D)

Shit!

Becca rushes out of the airport.

EXT. KORA'S HOUSE- EVENING

A ride share drops Becca off at a house. She takes her luggage.

BECCA  
Thank you!

The car drives off.

She walks to the door and takes a deep breath. She knocks a few times. The door opens. Kora has changed her look and toned down her hippie/ bohemian style to try and blend in more.

KORA  
Yes?

BECCA  
Hi, I'm Becca. I just came from California. Do you have a minute to talk?

KORA  
What do you want?

BECCA  
I needed to talk about a previous incident that didn't end well between us.

KORA  
What?

BECCA  
You don't remember me huh?

KORA  
Should I?

BECCA  
Ummmm, ten years ago, you lived in these apartments and were waiting on a cab. Me and my girlfriends stole it, and I think you...  
(clears throat)  
I think you put a curse on me. I wanted to see if we could make amends, and maybe you could remove it, you know? Whatever it is ruining my life. Do you think you could... do what you do and fix it?

Kora slaps the door in her face. Becca continues knocking.

KORA (O.S.)  
 If you bang on my door one more  
 time, I'm calling the police.

BECCA  
 You can't just go putting voodoo on  
 people! You old witch! Oh My God! I  
 didn't mean that; I'm so sorry!

Becca gives up.

KORA  
 I'm dialing right now!

She steps away from the door.

INT. LOCAL HOTEL/ ROOM- NIGHT

BATHROOM

Becca has checked in a hotel; she takes a shower.

ROOM

Once she comes out, she calls her mom.

ADRIENNE(V.O.)  
 Hey Honey! Did you make it safely?

BECCA  
 Yeah, I checked into a hotel. I  
 think I'm going to be here longer  
 than I thought.

ADRIENNE(V.O.)  
 Why?

BECCA  
 Well, I stopped by her house, and  
 she slammed the door in my face.

ADRIENNE(V.O.)  
 Maybe because she thinks you're a  
 nut job. Why don't you just come  
 home?

BECCA  
 I can't Mom, I have to fix this and  
 move on with my life.

ADRIENNE(V.O.)  
 I agree, but that's not the way to  
 go. I heard that Mrs Patterson's  
 son just moved back into town.

(MORE)

ADRIENNE (CONT'D)

I'm going to get his contact from her and...

BECCA

Mom! I have to go. I just wanted to check in.

ADRIENNE(V.O.)

Wait, so what days work for you?

BECCA

Okay Mom, bye.

ADRIENNE(V.O.)

We'll figure it out when you come.  
Be safe, Love you!

She hangs up.

I/E. KORA'S HOUSE-EVENING

Kora is having dinner. She can see a shadow behind the curtains; it looks like someone is at the door. She goes to open. It's Becca.

KORA

You have to be kidding me. Are you trying to spend a few nights in jail?

BECCA

Ma'am, I need ten minutes of your time, then I will be on the next flight. But I am not leaving until you and I talk. You can let me in and have a discussion, or I can keep coming back every day until you talk to me. A few nights in the slammer won't stop me.

Kora closes the door. She thinks about it. She reopens it. Becca enters.

LIVING ROOM

KORA

Have a seat.

BECCA

Thank you.

KORA

You have fifteen minutes.

BECCA

I'm going to get to the point. You cursed me, and I'm here to see if you can fix it.

KORA

Why would you think that?

BECCA

My fiancée walked out on our wedding, and I believe you have something to do with that. I specifically remember you saying the most important day of your life will become a nightmare. So, I'm here to apologize and get in your good graces. I shouldn't have been so rude to you that day. I'm sorry.

KORA

Do you always steal cabs from people?

BECCA

Wait, so you do remember?

KORA

How could I forget you? You have a special place in my heart.

BECCA

So, can you?

Kora closes her eyes; she talks in gibberish as she circles around her.

KORA

It's done.

BECCA

Really? So, I'm, okay? Everything is fixed.

KORA

Yes.

BECCA

Oh my God! Thank you! I will be on my way now. Lovely house, by the way. I love the minimalist style. Well, have a good o, then!

Kora starts laughing hysterically.

KORA

What the hell is wrong with you people? Are you all that gullible? You truly believed this whole time I cursed you? Why? Because I'm not up to date with today's fashion? Or that I like my own company? If I knew you all believed I was that powerful, I should have had my share of fun. Let me make myself clear: I DID NOT CURSE YOU! You got that? It was a moment of anger. Now, have a good day; I have to get to work.

She escorts Becca to the door.

BECCA

Wait, no that can't be right!

KORA

Do yourself a favor; stop drinking the cool aid. Good day Miss!

Becca is thrown out.

INT. LOCAL CAFE- THE NEXT DAY

Becca is getting breakfast at a small cafe. Kora enters, goes to the counter to order. She doesn't notice Becca.

KORA

Hey Jimmy! Can I get the usual please?

JIMMY

Coming right up!

Kora goes to pay.

CASHIER

That will be nine dollars and forty-five cents.

Kora pays, gets her order, a Frappuccino and a blueberry muffin. She goes to sit. Becca comes to sit with her.

KORA

OH! Not you!

BECCA

Hi again! Small town huh?

KORA

You're asking for a restraining order at this point. I already told you I didn't do anything to you.

BECCA

I feel like my apology wasn't accepted last night. So, I apologize for the second time. Do you accept my apology?

Kora doesn't know what to say. She gets a phone call. She picks up.

KORA

Hello?

She listens attentively to the person on the other line.

KORA (CONT'D)

Oh my God, where? Send me the address now.

She hangs up and grabs her things.

KORA (CONT'D)

Listen, whatever it is you're looking for... it's not here. Go home, deal with your demons, and move on. Maybe a little nicer next time; you may run into someone who's not as forgiving as I am.

Kora leaves.

She gets in her car and drives off.

I/E. CANCER TREATMENT CENTER- AFTERNOON

Kora just entered the treatment center. She goes to talk to the receptionist.

RECEPTIONIST

Hello! Can I help you?

KORA

Hi, I'm looking for David Attenborough.

RECEPTIONIST

Are you a family member?

KORA

Yes.

RECEPTIONIST

Just a moment.

PRIVATE ROOM

Kora and the nurse walk towards a room, she can see there is a man lying on the bed, coughing. The nurse enters.

NURSE

David? You've got some company?

DAVID

It's not my brother, is it? I told him I'm not trying his home remedies anymore; they give me diarrhea.

Kora enters. Her purse slips out of her hand. They stare at each other; Kora examines every detail of his pale and gaunt face. David sits up. The nurse leaves them alone.

She walks to the bed, her eyes already turning red from blocking away tears but failing. She starts touching his arms and his face. Then she starts sobbing, and David pulls her in. He can't stop kissing her forehead, her hands, her cheeks.

MOMENTS LATER

After a tearful reunion, they are finally able to talk.

DAVID (CONT'D)

You still smell like lavender and roses in spring.

They both laugh through the tears.

KORA

And you still have that chiseled jawline, perfect tan and those big brown eyes.

DAVID

Ohh please, I look like Jack Skellington.

They both laugh. There is a moment of silence. David breaks it.

DAVID (CONT'D)

How are your parents?



KORA  
They moved to Virginia with my  
sister and her husband.

DAVID  
Does your mother still...

Kora puts her finger on his lips.

KORA  
What is this?

DAVID  
Lung cancer.

KORA  
Why didn't you tell me?

DAVID  
It was better this way. I hate to  
be a burden.

KORA  
David, why do you do you keep  
running away?

DAVID  
Why do you never stop me?

Kora breakdown.

KORA  
I'm so sorry, David; I must be the  
cruellest woman on this planet. I  
shouldn't have li...

DAVID  
Hey shh... there are no waterworks  
in this room, okay? I'm just happy  
to see you.

Kora takes off her shoes, she lays next to him.

INT. ARMSTRONG HOUSE/ LIVING ROOM- THE NEXT DAY

Becca is back home; she is helping her mother bake some  
cookies.

ADRIENNE  
Oh, honey don't' make them too big.

BECCA

Who cares? It's a cookie. It's going to crumble as soon as you take a bite.

ADRIENNE

What's with you?

BECCA

Nothing.

ADRIENNE

Well, if you hadn't wasted time going to Alaska on some BS, you could have been on a few dates and possibly met someone new.

BECCA

MOM STOP IT! PLEASE STOP! I'm tired of listening to you. My God! Do you ever get tired of complaining and nitpicking every little thing? All my life, all I heard was Becca sit like this. Becca, articulate your words correctly. Becca don't wear this color; it's out of style and not elegant. Look up, honey! You have a double chin. I AM TIRED!

ADRIENNE

Now you listen young lady...

BECCA

No, I'm done listening. Mom, I'm not your puppet that you can adjust the chords, and I will move however you want me. I don't even know who I am. Just this caricature you molded me into. You have your own life; why focus on mine so much? There's still time to do whatever you missed out on; I won't be your backup plan so you can live out your fantasies. Are you that unhappy, Mom? You have a wonderful man that loves you and worships you... I want some of that, too.

How many guys did I dump because a few zeros were missing in their bank accounts? I did it all for you! Mom, I love you and know you want the best for me, but so do I.

(MORE)

BECCA (CONT'D)

The problem is we both have different views of what that is. I don't want to look back on my life and not remember a damn thing because I was too busy trying to reach milestones for you. Life isn't a destination; it's a journey, and I want to experience all of it... my way. I don't want a perfect life; it's boring.

Becca gets up.

BECCA (CONT'D)

You and Kora were right; it was never about her.

INT. ARMSTRONG HOUSE/ MASTER BEDROOM- NIGHT

Adrienne can't sleep, she keeps tossing and turning. She gets up, starts tearing up.

INT. CANCER TREATMENT CENTER- NIGHT

Kora is having dinner with David. She looks at the time.

KORA

Well would you look at the time? I should go, let you get some rest.

DAVID

What time are you coming tomorrow?

KORA

After work... that is, if I still have a job. Need me to bring anything?

DAVID

Maybe a good New York style cheesecake.

KORA

Alright, I'll add that to my grocery list.

As Kora gets up, David grabs her hand.

DAVID

I know I will look like a clown for the third time, but by now, I have a full-on costume and a red nose, so I don't care. In another life, will you mar...

KORA

Yes. As long as you don't mind waiting.

DAVID

That's my area of expertise. Don't you know that by now?

KORA

Get some sleep. I'm going to see if I can get a day off tomorrow.

DAVID

Alright.

She kisses his forehead.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Kora?

KORA

Yes?

DAVID

Can I get this conversation in writing? Just for precaution.

She chuckles.

KORA

No need. Goodnight.

INT. ARMSTRONG HOUSE/ BECCA BEDROOM- NIGHT

Kora enters Becca's bedroom without knocking. She sits down on an ottoman.

BECCA

I'm not really in the mood to get into another argument with you.

ADRIENNE

I wanted to say you were right last night. I didn't want you to go through the humiliations like I did. You know your father's family never approved of me.

(MORE)

ADRIENNE (CONT'D)

The daughter of a mechanic and a housekeeper, how dare she think she is good enough for our son? They thought I was this gold-digger who wanted to suck him dry. His mother would try to set him up with other women in my face. Then I got pregnant out of wedlock; of course, they thought I was trapping him...so they cut him off. Once my parents died, Carlos was all I had left. After finding out we were having a girl, I told myself, " I will build her up so no one will ever get a chance to look down on her. Ever" She will only marry a man of her status. No one will ever say she is not good enough.

BECCA

Mom, you are one of the strongest women I know. I look up to you; I am who I am because of you. And I am forever grateful because you pushed and believed in me... even more than I believed in myself. Now, you must trust me and let me take control of my life, and rest assured that you did all you were asked to as a parent... I got it from here. This is your time to be selfish and focus on yourself... and your relationship. I'm okay. And when I need you, I know you'll be there.

ADRIENNE

I know. I'm sorry. No, you're right. I'll step back. But it doesn't mean I don't want to see you get married and start a family.

BECCA

I know.

ADRIENNE

But on your own time and your own terms. Come here.

They hug it out.

INT. ARMSTRONG HOUSE/ MASTER BEDROOM- NIGHT

Carlos just got back from work; Adrienne is waiting for him in their bedroom.

ADRIENNE

Hi honey.

CARLOS

Honey? I must have been missed.

ADRIENNE

More than you know.

CARLOS

She gets up to kiss him. She gives him a long hug, while he squeezes her tighter.

CARLOS (CONT'D)

Something tells me I'm in for a great night.

ADRIENNE

How do you put up with me? I don't think I could.

CARLOS

You don't throw away gold because it's covered in mud.

ADRIENNE

Should I be offended or flattered?

CARLOS

What do you think?

ADRIENNE

I'm sorry, honey. Truly, you deserve better from me. All these years of being made at you, and for what? You are not your family. I am grateful for you; I am lucky to have you. You are a good man; you gave me everything I didn't know I wanted and more. What else could I ask for? And I will tell you how much you mean to me as much as I can because I don't want you ever to question the part you play in my life. I love you.

CARLOS  
 And it just took you thirty plus  
 years to say that huh?

Carlos pulls her face close, kisses her passionately.

CARLOS (CONT'D)  
 I love you too baby. And I would  
 choose you again and again.

INT. CANCER TREATMENT CENTER- THE NEXT DAY

Kora arrives at the center, rushing to David's room. She can tell it's empty. She runs even faster and opens the door to reveal the empty room. A man is gathering his belongings. He's David's brother, Peter.

KORA  
 Peter?

PETER  
 Hey. I didn't know how to tell you.  
 I got a call this morning.

He walks towards her, hands her a letter.

PETER (CONT'D)  
 It's for you. I need to go sign  
 some documents. I'll see you later.

Kora stands there, not moving an inch. He puts it in her hands.

I/E. ANTHONY HOUSE- AFTERNOON

Becca is sitting in her car, contemplating something. She takes a deep breath and gets out of her car. She walks to the door. She knocks, and Anthony opens.

ANTHONY  
 Becca! What a surprise! What are  
 you doing here?

BECCA  
 Hi! I was going to text you, but I  
 thought it was better to do it the  
 old-fashioned way.

ANTHONY  
 Oh, okay. Want to come in?

BECCA  
 No. It won't take long. I just need  
 you to listen.

Anthony nods.

BECCA (CONT'D)

I met a guy a while ago, but we never stood a chance because I was on a mission, and so was he. I guess we both had forces bigger than us we answered to, and that was our downfall. Now, when I lay in bed, my mind is only filled with what-ifs. I hate what-ifs. Life is too short for what-ifs. I wanted to ask if we were worth at least one more date—a date with no ulterior motives and expectations. What do you say?

Anthony smiles.

INT. KORA'S HOUSE/ KITCHEN- NIGHT

Kora is at home, sitting at her dining table with the letter in her hand. She prepares herself to read it. It reads.

DAVID (V.O.)

To Kora,  
I'm sorry I keep running away; I can't help it. I had a dream the other night; it was me, you, and our little girl, Bernadette. We had our little cottage in Berkshire; you had a beautiful garden with lilies. We had a little souvenir store a few blocks away; life was peaceful. You would playfully pinch me in the middle of the night, only to wake up to my IV poking me because I was lying on my arm. I lived a beautiful lifetime of adventures in twenty minutes than I did on this earth. Thank you for giving me something to look forward to wherever I may be going; I will be sure to make the preparations for a little intimate ceremony, just you and me and whoever is in charge out there.

With love, David... your pending husband.

Kora has mixed emotions, she smiles as tears come down, dripping on the letter.



EXT. INDIAN RESTAURANT- AFTERNOON

Anthony is waiting for Becca. he is seated at a small table for two.

Becca arrives, in a much simpler look. Anthony has to double look; he gets up to greet her.

BECCA

Hi, I'm Becca.

ANTHONY

Hello, I'm Anthony. Please, have a seat.

MOMENTS LATER

Becca and Anthony are sharing laughs while waiting for their food. Anthony listens attentively to Becca. Their food arrives, and the waiter comes with a bassin. Anthony washes his hands.

Becca looks down at the utensils she placed before her; she pauses for a bit. The waiter walks to her, and she washes her hands as well. They start eating.

EXT. KORA'S HOUSE- NIGHT

Kora is sitting by the fireplace. She is going through photos of her and David in their twenties. There is a photo of every place they had visited, intimate photos. She closes her eyes.

A few moments pass by, suddenly there is a soft breeze blowing on her cheeks. She opens her eyes, she smiles.

**THE END.**