

UNTITLED GOLDBERG/GUARASCIO
"Pilot"

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COLD OPEN

INT. ALICE'S CHILDHOOD KITCHEN - CHYRON "ALICE AT AGE 6"

ALICE (6, adorable) draws a PICTURE of a SNUGGLY POLKA-DOTTED CREATURE. In the background, her parents FIGHT and YELL. We don't see their faces, but we see that DAD has BAGS packed.

MARY (V.O.)

This is Alice from way back. Just a kid doing her best to ignore the implosion of her parents' marriage.

Dad STORMS OUT and the front door SLAMS. Mom turns on her heels and MARCHES OFF. Alice WRITES "Mary" on her drawing.

MARY (V.O.)

Which is why she dreamed me up in her twisted, lonely little mind.

Mary, APPEARS on the kitchen table, surprising Alice. Mary's even more snuggly and fluffy in "real life."

MARY

Sup.

ALICE

Hello.

(blinks at Mary, then)

Who are you?

MARY

I'm Mary, dummy. You just drew me. And I'm the only one who loves you.

Alice BEAMS. Mary FIDDLES with her PINK BOW.

MARY (CONT'D)

But can we talk about this pink bow?
I think it looks like shit.

Behind her, MOM slams the bedroom door. Alice's smile fades.

INT. ALICE'S CHILDHOOD HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Alice PEEKS INTO her mom's room, where mom CRIES on the bed. Mary then PEEKS too, her head just below Alice's.

MARY

That will never be us, understand?
Go on, say it out loud. Say it!

ALICE
That'll never be us!

MARY
Bitchin'. Now once mom's Xanax kicks in, we watch Fresh Prince and raid the freezer. Chunky Monkey gives a woman power, remember that.

ALICE
I love Carlton!

MARY
Yeah, you're gonna need my help.

MARY (V.O.)
From that day on Alice and I were more than BFF's...

INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM DEBATE - CHRON "ALICE AT AGE 13"

A sign reads "DISTRICT DEBATE FINALS." Alice (13) sits as her DORKY OPPONENT drones on. She SCANS the audience, filled with PARENTS -- except for one EMPTY SEAT. She sighs, crushed.

MARY (V.O.)
With two parents who were total fails, I was like the big sister she desperately needed.

MODERATOR
Alice Taymor: Rebuttal.

A sullen Alice doesn't move. And then -- Mary CLIMBS into the empty seat and gives Alice a black power fist. A smile breaks across Alice's face. She STANDS and ADDRESSES the crowd.

ALICE
Honestly... that was just so damn boring I tuned out. No rebuttal.

A MIXTURE of LAUGHTER and SHOCKED GASPS. Mary LOVES IT.

MARY
Burrrrn! You just hard-core lost, but we win at life so suck it!

INT. COLLEGE DORM ROOM - NIGHT - CHYRON "ALICE AT AGE 18"

BAM! Alice (18) MAKES OUT with a GUY on her bed. Mary looks on and steeple her fuzzy fingers.

MARY (V.O.)

Yep, I was turning that shy little girl into a kick-ass woman which meant over time, she needed me less and less.

MARY

It's happening! Not just our first time, our first soccer player! Sick tingles here, girl!

Just then Mary realizes she is SLOWLY FADING AWAY.

MARY (CONT'D)

What the -- NO! Ten more minutes!
This is so unfair!
(points)
She gets to watch and I don't?!

We REVEAL Alice's CREEPY ROOMMATE wearing HEADGEAR on a nearby bed, she's clearly PRETENDING TO SLEEP while secretly PEEKING.

MARY (CONT'D)

No! You son of a biiiii--

POOF! Mary is GONE.

MARY (V.O.)

And just like that, I was gone.

INT. KARAOKE BAR - NIGHT - PRESENT DAY

Alice (30s) rocks the mic, singing Macklemore's "Thrift Shop" to her FRIENDS. She STRUTS across the stage, owning it.

MARY (V.O.)

Well, not totally. I'm still there lurking deep in her head, so I know everything Alice has been up to. And it's a whole lotta awesome.

ALICE

I'M GONNA POP SOME TAGS / ONLY GOT
TWENTY DOLLARS IN MY POCKET --

CRASH! Alice STRUTS RIGHT OFF THE STAGE (and out of frame). Her friends GASP, as the karaoke music continues, then:

ALICE (CONT'D)

(pops up, singing)
THIS IS FUCKIN' AWESOME!

CHEERS as Alice continues the show and STRUTS back on stage.

INT. TAYMOR PUBLIC RELATIONS - PRESENT DAY

Alice STRIDES out of the elevator and into the bustling office, an assistant hustles next to her, jotting notes.

MARY (V.O.)

Thanks to the groundwork I laid,
Alice not only rocks a mic, she also
rocks a sick job running her own PR
firm. Yep, she had it wired. Until
the day one man ruined everything.

Alice walks into here OFFICE to find... BLAKE GRIFFIN!?

ALICE

Blake. How are ya, pal?

BLAKE

Lost. Alone. I know I'm a large
man... but I've never felt so small.

MARY (V.O.)

Not this guy. But he can be a drag.

ALICE

You had a bad game. It happens.

BLAKE

Bad game?!

ALICE

You fouled out in the second
quarter, let's call it what it is.

BLAKE

I play aggressive D!

ALICE

Do you though?

Blake sighs. Alice sits on her desk in front of him.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Look, just focus on tonight's game.
That means no more instagrams,
tweets, periscopes, snapchats,
tumblrs, pings or pintrests.

BLAKE

What? Why not?

ALICE

Your agents are negotiating a new Nike deal. It's my job not to let you ruin it by being an idiot.

Alice clicks her mouse and brings up his instagram feed. There's a PHOTO of Blake SURFING A WAVE LIKE A BOSS.

ALICE (CONT'D)

There's a tsunami in Indonesia and you instagram: "Love me some killer waves! #DrowningInFun".

BLAKE

Okay, timing wasn't ideal. But it was fun -- look at my smile!

ALICE

I'm hiring a ghost writer to handle all your social media. End of story.

Just then, a scruffy but charming guy pokes his head in. MEET BEN DAVIS (30s).

BEN

Hi, I'm Ben. Sorry, no one's out here. I have an interview to write for--Holy crap--you! Blake Griffin!
(then, serious)
Dooood. What happened last night? Choke city. Not that I'm complaining, I hate the Clippers.

BLAKE

Yeah, this guy can't be me.

MARY (V.O.)

But this was the guy who made Alice's whole life fall apart.

INT. ALICE'S OFFICE - DAY

Alice sits across from Ben, who does a power point, flipping through samples of his past work.

BEN

I've handled social media for corporate clients like Lemon Scented Pledge, Pine Scented Pledge -- passed on Cedar Scented Pledge, didn't believe in the product -- I've also written for high-profile individuals like --

CLICK! Ben's Match.com page POPS UP, which features a profile pic of a WILD-EYED Ben.

BEN (CONT'D)

My Match.com profile -- which is personal and embarrassing.

ALICE

Hey, I'm not judging. No wait, I am.

BEN

I'm divorced, my son's pushing me to date more, and there are no single moms left at my kids' schools.

ALICE

Went on a tear, did ya?

BEN

Parent-teacher night is now like walking through a mine field.

(then, clicking forward)

At any rate, back to the interview --

ALICE

Yeah, that's long over. You lost Blake with "Choke city."

BEN

Sweet! That means I got in his head. My Knicks are gonna roll the Clips tonight!

ALICE

Most people would be more concerned about not getting the job.

BEN

I work plenty, I'll take the "W".

But since I'm here...

(clicks back to profile)

Fix this.

ALICE

Fix your dating profile?

BEN

One of the things I've learned post-divorce is having sex with different women is incredibly satisfying.

Alice LAUGHS.

BEN (CONT'D)

C'mon, you're a PR guru, lend me your mad skills. Please?

ALICE

Something tells me you don't need help in this area, but sure...

Alice, clearly a bit charmed, indulges while Ben jots notes. She points to Ben's crazy eyed profile photo.

ALICE (CONT'D)

First change the pic. You look like a demon just stole your nuts.

BEN

Yeah, but isn't it kinda funny?

ALICE

Honestly, no. It's terrifying. You're cute -- just lead with that.

BEN

(notes)

Lose demon nut pic, thinks I'm cute.

Ben GIVES a smile, she playfully shakes her head and goes on.

ALICE

"Likes: DIY kites, tapping the first maple of winter, any poem by Pablo Neruda." Sounds fake, change it all.

BEN

But it's not fake.

ALICE

Really? Wow. Still, doesn't matter.

BEN

Okay, it is fake -- you are good!

ALICE

These quotes are funny, move them up. Keep the hiking pic, lose this one, and here? Crop out the goat.

BEN

But there's an amazing story about that goat --

ALICE

Not gonna help you get laid.

BEN

Bye goat! You died in vain.

ALICE

Wait -- that goat died?

BEN

On his wedding day. It's part of the story. You know what, let me take you to dinner. I'll explain the whole thing. Plus I owe you for the profile help.

Alice stares him down, admiring his odd confidence.

ALICE

You do understand I was out at three kids, right?

BEN

It's just a thank you. Relax.

MARY (V.O.)

Unfortunately, she wasn't out. The dude somehow made her happy. And months later that one dinner led to this disaster...

INT. ALICE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ben and Alice spoon in bed. CLICK! Ben turns out the light.

ALICE

Night, boop. Love you.

BEN

(beat, clicks lights on)
Saywhatnow?

ALICE

Sooo that popped out. But screw it. I love you. I'm a giant idiot.

BEN

You are. And so am I. 'Cause I love you, too.

ALICE

You do?

BEN

I've been trying not to blurt it out for a month!

(MORE)

BEN (CONT'D)

That's why I've been biting my lip
when we do it. Or turning you over.

ALICE

(clearly moved)

I think I'm gonna have to ask you to
say it again...

Ben LOOKS into her eyes, super sweet and sincere.

BEN

I love you, Alice. So much.

Alice BEAMS and then it happens. She catches a GLIMPSE OF
Mary in the mirror.

MARY

What the hell are you doing?! He's
got kids! Dump the chump! We run
with wolves, beotch!

Alice HESITATES, then SNAPS TO and PULLS the covers over them.

MARY (V.O.)

Are you turning your back on me?!
On our deal?! On thirty-five years
of freedom?! Listen to- WATCH IT!

Just then Ben's FOOT WHIPS OUT from the covers and
ACCIDENTALLY CRACKS THE MIRROR -- price of passion.

BEN

(from under covers)

My bad. Was trying a thing.

ALICE

(under covers, pleased)

Keep trying it.

BEN

(still under covers)

Noice.

MARY (V.O.)

At that moment, I realized -- if
Alice wouldn't listen, I'd make her.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. BEN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ben and Alice spoon like two people newly in love.

MARY (V.O.)

Oh yes, just as I feared, the absolute worst thing happened: Alice and Ben fell in love. For a few months it was like *The Fault In Our Stars* without the dying and the sadness and that thing in the girl's nose.

THE PHONE RINGS and the MACHINE PICKS UP.

MARY (V.O.)

But the honeymoon never lasts forever...

ANDY (ON MACHINE)

Dad, I cut our weekend away short. We left Grandma's and we're heading home, big emergency.

Ben' EYES POP open in a mad panic, he NABS the PHONE.

BEN

Andy, what happened?!

I./E. CAR/STREET/DRIVEWAY - SAME TIME - INTERCUT

ANDY (16, stressed lame-o) DRIVES. DORA (15, girl geek) rides shotgun. BUNNY (6, so smart it's creepy) is in the back. They talk ON SPEAKER.

ANDY

There's a poll on our class Facebook page, "Most Likely to Grow Up and Be An Accountant". I am leading. And it's a friggin' landslide!

BEN

Okay, that's not an emergency.

BUNNY

I lost a tooth, Daddy! And guess what? The tooth fairy's dead 'cause I got no money under my pillow.

BEN

Bunny, let's see what happens later. Sometimes the tooth fairy is late.

BUNNY

It was a week ago. I was testing you. My world is only lies now.

ANDY

Back to me! Is this really how everyone sees me?! Like some boring accountant?

DORA

Dude. You're like Hufflepuff of Hogwarts. No one wants to be in that house. Not even Luna Lovegood.

ANDY

Dad, Dora's insulting me using Harry Potter, I think!

BUNNY

Is everything a lie? Is Santa real? The Easter Bunny? President Obama? Where does the conspiracy end?!

BEN

Okay, everyone can it! When exactly will you be here?!

ANDY

In about -- five seconds.

Through the bedroom window, Ben sees the SUV PULL INTO the driveway. He SLAMS DOWN the phone and wheels on Alice.

BEN

PantsNowYouNowGoNow!

ALICE

(groggy)
Wha? 'Sappening?

BEN

My kids are home!

Now Alice's eyes POP OPEN.

ALICE

PantsNowINowGoNow!

It's SHEER PANIC as Ben hustles Alice out.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Can we say I'm the cable guy? Or the cable gal?! Why are there no cable gals?! What's that about?!

Amidst the CHAOS Ben can't help but ADMIRE Alice's BUTT.

BEN

I gotta write your pilates
instructor a thank you card.

They reach the window. She OPENS IT.

ALICE

Yeah, we're on the second floor.

BEN

You can do it! You hang down, stick
the landing -- you were a gymnast!

ALICE

For a month when I was seven! Maybe
going forward we might need a new
system to avoid your kids?

BEN

Yeah... or you meet 'em?

Alice STOPS COLD. Thinks. And then spots a tree outside.

ALICE

I think I can make that branch.

BEN

Okay, look: I want you to meet 'em.
I want us to take the next step. My
life is so much better with you in
it, and I know their lives will be
too. Because you...

(smiles, slows down)

Are the most amazing woman I've ever
known and I love you.

It fights every instinct she's had until now, but Alice MELTS.
And he PULLS HER in close. Alice takes a moment, then:

ALICE

You got a half-chub.

BEN

I'm pressed up against you and these
are really thin pj's.

ALICE

Uch, you're cute. Let's go for it!

BEN

Wow, okay! I'll talk to the kids,
make sure they're down with this.

ALICE

Exactly. They may not be ready even
though I totally and completely am.

DORA/ANDY/BUNNY

Dad?! / We're home! / Why do we bury
people?

ALICE

I'm out!

Alice LEAPS OUT, then does an awesome TUMBLE onto the lawn.

EXT. BEN'S STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Alice walks to her CAR and gazes through the living room window
of Ben's house. Bunny happily jump into Ben's arms. It's a
sweet family tableau, the kind Alice never had. She SMILES.

MARY (V.O.)

Alice took two big leaps: out the
window and saying she'd meet the kids.

Andy enters, fired up. Dora MOCKS him. Andy SHOVES Dora.
Dora TACKLES Andy! Bunny LEAPS ON the dog pile as Ben tries
to pry them apart! It's chaos. Alice's SMILE FADES.

MARY (V.O.)

But she had no idea what that meant.
Seriously, I love that girl -- but she
can be a real clueless ass-bag.

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - DEN - THE NEXT NIGHT

Ben swipes through restaurants on his iPad. At the coffee
table, Dora plays Settlers of Catan. Bunny is dressed in black.

BEN

Okay, dinner time! Italian?
Indian? Ooh -- Cali Chicken Cafe?

BUNNY

Did the chicken we're going to eat
have parents?

BEN

Yes. But this is what they wanted.
For chickens getting eaten is like
what college is for human parents.

(MORE)

BEN (CONT'D)
(then, noticing)
Why are you wearing black?

BUNNY
Mourning the tooth fairy. My guess?
It was pancreatic cancer.

BEN
Okay, that's it! No more medical
shows on Discovery Science!

BUNNY
Lying, discouraging science, pushing
chicken genocide -- this is not good
parenting.

Andy STEPS INTO the room.

ANDY
I had the worst day!

BEN
Where is this on the urgency scale,
bud? Anything below a soft seven,
you should handle on your own.

ANDY
This accountant thing is sticking!

BEN
Okay, that's a hard four, tops --
kids, the scale only works if we're
honest with the numbers.

ANDY
All day it was, "There goes the
accountant!" "Hey accountant, do my
taxes!" It was a walking nightmare!
Not to mention that accountants do more
than just taxes! They handle payroll,
financial audits, asset/liability
calculations - I could go on!

DORA
I'm gonna go out on a limb and say
it's that kind of talk that's
inspiring your tormentors.

Andy PAWS at her pieces, ruining the game and SLUMPS down.

BEN
Andy, it's one stupid poll.

ANDY

Or is it an accurate predictor of what I'll become?

DORA

"Accurate predictor" -- also very accountant sounding.

BEN

Dora's making good points. Say fewer accountant-like things at school and this will all go away.

(deep breath)

Switching topics. I've been seeing someone, and --

ANDY

Oh my god, please say you're gay! Mitch Rosen's parents turned out to be gay and now he's super popular. This would give me such an in!

BEN

Her name is Alice.

ANDY

So you're not even gonna try!? This really is the worst day of my life!

BEN

C'mon, Alice is great. Get this: she's a PR rep for sports stars. And that one rapper who's in a coma from Robitussin.

ANDY

Really? That guy was dope before he went all eggplant. She have kids?

BEN

Actually, no. Alice hasn't had all her coolness drained out of her the way you guys have done to me.

ANDY

That I get. And I do need some insight into what makes females tick, ya know? A-dogg could be my best shot. I'm in.

BEN

Kinda weird to already give her a nickname, but that's one! Who else?

Dora APPROACHES Ben, court is now in session.

DORA

I guess I'm morbidly curious to see
what kind of broken sad sack is
interested in --

(motions to all of Ben)

Everything that's going on here.

BEN

Insulting to my core, but a yes!
That's a majority, I'll call her!

INT. ALICE'S PAD - SAME TIME-ISH

Alice is on the phone, eyes wide with PANIC. She covers,
sorta, as she POURS herself a shot during the call.

ALICE (INTO PHONE)

Great!... meeting the kids will be
great!... no, I'm great!...

(does a shot, pours again)

I always say great a lot, it's my
thing! Okay, I great you, too.

She HANGS UP, DOWNS the second shot, starts POURING another.

ALICE (CONT'D)

So this is happening. Not a
problem. Nope. You can do this.

Mary casually STEPS OUT from behind Alice.

MARY

You really can't.

ALICE

Sure, I -- WHAT THE HELL?!

Yes, Alice has now seen Mary. She falls back, EYES WIDE.

MARY

Sup.

ALICE

Mary?!

MARY

Alice! I missed you! Come gimme a
hug, ya little wonder-ho!

ALICE

THIS ISN'T REEEEEEEAL!

Alice turns and RUNS, HITTING FACE FIRST into her stand-up mirror. She goes down like a sack of rocks and we SMASH TO:

INT. ALICE'S PAD - DAY

Alice has ICE CREAM on her face, Mary sits near enjoying her own.

ALICE

It's real.

MARY

To you. Probably best not to share.

ALICE

Why are you here?

MARY

C'mon, Ben? Meeting his kids? Not what we agreed on, babe. Not after all the work we've put in.

ALICE

Well, maybe it's time I change a bit.

MARY

Change? Your life is perfect! Now let's ditch Benny, hit the bars and bag an Australian rebound guy.

(off Alice's look)

Or chill with some Netflix and call the herb delivery man -- I'm flexy.

ALICE

I don't think the reason you're back is to convince me to run away.

MARY

Um, yes it is. This guy's gonna expect you to Mom it up and you're so gonna suck at that.

ALICE

We don't know that for sure.

MARY

I do. See, on the Mom Scale ya got Claire Huxtable up here -- especially given what we know now. And down here -- pick any Dance Mom. Below those hot messes? That's you.

ALICE

I am way better than a dance mom!

MARY

Are you?

ALICE

Yes! In fact, if one of Ben's kids has a recital, I'll gladly skip it 'cause children aren't entertaining to me.

MARY

Which side are you arguing for?

ALICE

Look, if Ben and I end up -- you know, like, together like...

MARY

Married? Seriously? You can't even say it?

ALICE

If we end up what you said, they'll still be his kids. Not mine. So how much damage can I really do?

MARY

Um, remember the week you had a cat?

ALICE

My window was closed when I went to bed and paws are basically hands. The open road called to that cat, and you know what? I get it, man.

MARY

Point is, when it comes to kids you're giving up everything you love. Freedom, naps, parties, vacation --

ALICE

Stop! We can still go on vacation.

MARY

A family cruise at best.

ALICE

You take that back!

MARY

Here's a scenario. The ship's going down. You, Ben and his three kids reach a lifeboat that only holds four. Where does Alice wind up?

Mary TAPS her foot waiting.

ALICE
At the bottom of the deep dark ocean.

CARY
AT THE BOTTOM OF THE DEEP
DARK OCEAN!

ALICE
Okay, so there are pluses and
minuses here!

MARY
I know it's hard to hear -- but you
deserve to be first. Not fourth.

ALICE
Mostly minuses. But the one big
plus is... I really love this guy.
And I don't wanna lose him.

MARY
Uch, when did you turn into such a girl?

ALICE
Ben did it to me. I know, it sucks.

MARY
Okay, fine. Meet the kids, make the
biggest mistake of our life. But
does it gotta be, like, right now?

ALICE
Listening.

MARY
This all came up when you were
jumping out a window. Your judgment
was clouded by adrenaline. Plus
Ben's sweet words and soft wood.

ALICE
Everything I do turns him on --
cannot tell you how hot that is.

MARY
Hence the stupid decision. Now you
just gotta slow it down a little.

ALICE
We pump the brakes for safety.

MARY
Safety first. Always.

ALICE

But I don't want to hurt Ben's feelings.

MARY

Why would you? Ya finally found a dude who does that thing we love in the sack.

ALICE

Exactly! Wait, what?

MARY

Point is, I got a plan.

Mary steeples her fingers, deviously and we SMASH TO:

INT. ALICE'S OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY

Alice excitedly HOLDS UP SIX CONCERT TICKETS for Ben.

BEN

Wow. Adele tickets? That must have cost a fortune.

ALICE

Sure, but it's a great way to meet the kids for the first time, ya know? Waving to them -- hello. From the other side. Of the row.

BEN

Um, the concert's a month from now.

ALICE

Worth it though, huh?! Look at the row number -- one! Not two, not three, not four, not five, not six --

BEN

Babe, I know what "one" means.

Ben looks at Alice with sympathetic eyes, smiles.

BEN (CONT'D)

And I know that for 35 years that heart was surrounded by some thick walls. Until... here comes Ben-the-wrecking-ball: Boom! One wall crushed by *love*. Smash! *Understanding* takes down a load-bearing support. Thud! Oh no, *sweetness* has left the heart exposed.

We see her already weakening, as he gently brushes hair from her face. Now Mary waddles in.

MARY

Guy goes to one home depot class?!
Please tell me this is annoying you.

BEN

Point is, you meeting the kids?
It's scary. Especially for you.

ALICE

Me? Scared of kids. When people
bring 'em to work I don't even hide
anymore. I mean -- I close my door,
but that's just 'cause I have a
candy bowl and it's sorta my candy.

Ben PUTS HIS HAND on Alice's cheek, she's barely hanging on.

BEN

Well, the only thing that matters is
we're honest with each other. We're
in this together. Okay?

MARY

Oh no. What's with the gently
cupping hand? Stay strong, Alice!
Ooh, he smells good. No! Stay
strong, Mary!

ALICE

(breaking)
I'm scared and the tickets were a
stall.

MARY

Damnit! Traitor!

BEN

I get it, I do. And if you want to
wait, we can wait. Promise. I will
love you no matter what.

He GIVES her a tender kiss, it's all the confidence she needs.

ALICE

You know what? No. You already
talked to the kids. Let's do this.

BEN

Thank God! Cancelling would've been
hard to explain -- they're super
suspicious and awful with change.

MARY

They sound great. Nice choice.

BEN

So! What should we do?

ALICE

Maybe a movie?

MARY

Lame! If you're gonna do this, at least do it right.

ALICE

Actually, a movie's lame.

CARY

Go big! Disneyland!

ALICE

Disneyland would be too overwhelming.

CARY

Gun range!

ALICE

Gun range popped into my head, as an example of what a dope would say...

CARY

Bite me! Dinner and mini-golf!

ALICE

How about dinner and mini-golf?

BEN

Bang! You nailed it.

ALICE

Ideas are basically my bidness.

Mary flashes Alice a (censored) FURRY MIDDLE FINGER.

BEN

Okay, I gotta run. We'll swing by your place around six, have some chow, then hit the links. Love you!

He gives her a kiss, and EXITS. A beat.

ALICE

Wait, my place?

CARY

We're boned.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. ALICE'S HOUSE - EVENING

Mary watches Alice frantically clean and prep the place.

ALICE

It's okay! No need to panic! I deal with pro athletes all the time, the biggest babies on the planet. A few kids? I got this.

MARY

You're going to ruin their lives.

ALICE

Stop saying what I feel deep in my heart! It's really irritating!

The DOORBELL RINGS. Alice takes a deep breath and OPENS the door to find Ben, Dora and Bunny. Ben and Alice LEAN IN to kiss. They stop, laugh nervously, then Ben PATS HER HEAD.

BEN

So! Alice, this is Dora and Bunny.

ALICE

Nice to meet you guys! Do you like ice cream? Who wants ice cream!?

BEN

O-kay, comin' in hot. Let's maybe eat dinner first. And walk inside.

Just then, Andy POPS IN.

ANDY

Did I hear ice cream?! Big fan. I'm Andy, sweet pad ya got here. How much you put down? Two three hundo? Come on, spill it!

Andy PULLS Alice into the KITCHEN.

INT. ALICE'S KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Alice SCOOPS ice cream into bowls. Andy explores, loudly OPENING EVERY CABINET and DRAWER. Silverware CLANGS, glasses RATTLE, stuff BANGS. Alice WINCES a little each time.

ALICE

Are you, uh, looking for something?

ANDY

Nope.

Andy OPENS and SLAMS another drawer.

ANDY (CONT'D)

This one's sticking a little.
(slams it several times)
Fixed it.

ALICE

Thank you.

Andy OPENS the fridge.

ANDY

You only have liquids in here.

ALICE

I, um, eat out a lot.

ANDY

Hey, personal question. I had this "dream" about my science teacher Ms. Puckett, is it cool to tell her about it? Keep in mind, I'm not doing well with girls in my own age group.

ALICE

Let's... talk more about my fridge.

ANDY

Okay, I gotta tell you something that no one else knows.

ALICE

Isn't that what just happened?

ANDY

This dude in my class sells pot brownies. You think being a spaced-out burner would change public perception of me?

ALICE

I'm gonna sayyyy, don't do drugs?

ANDY

Good idea, sleep on it. Man, it feels so good to rap out with an actual cool, adult who gets how these things work! I should get your celly. I love to text.

Thankfully, Ben heads in.

BEN

It's getting late, we should probably order dinner. And also not serve ice cream.

ANDY

We'll trade digits later, A-dogg.

Andy grabs the ICE CREAM BOWLS and EXITS.

ALICE

Nicknames. Kinda fast.

BEN

He's a complicated boy. Now first, I wanna just acknowledge what's going on: You are meeting my kids, and that makes me feel so lucky.

ALICE

Aw, hon. Thank you.

BEN

Second, stay away from the girls.

ALICE

What?

BEN

I'm sensing danger. Big time. So play it safe and stick with Andy.

ALICE

Please no! I mean, he's great, he's fine. But girls are my specialty!

BEN

Not these girls. Bunny's going through a death phase and Dora... I know I shouldn't say this, but if I had to rank 'em, she'd be --

As Ben gestures "last" DORA ENTERS with a big smile.

BEN (CONT'D)

Right here!

ALICE

Hey Dora, I have an idea. What if next weekend you and I go --

DORA

If you say the words "shopping, mani or pedi" I will throw up right here, but if it's "battle-bots, Minecraft or Larping" we can maybe discuss.

ALICE

Yes! Let's do one of those very familiar things to me! Larp it up!

DORA

Swing and a miss. Also. Andy just ruined your Persian rug. That boy is quality entertainment.

Ben and Alice RUSH OUT, Dora happily FOLLOWS.

INT. ALICE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They enter to find Andy furiously SCRUBBING the rug with his SHIRT, so he's now SHIRTLESS. There's a GINORMOUS ICE CREAM STAIN on the rug. Ben and Alice's eyes go WIDE.

BEN

What the hell?!

ANDY

So... little spill.

BEN

The stain's covering half the rug!
And where's your shirt, dude?!

ANDY

I panicked and used it as a rag! My classic blue oxford is super absorbent.
(then, to Alice)
I think it's gonna be okay.

ALICE

No, no. It's fine, because now the next stain... won't matter really.

ANGLE ON BUNNY holding a GUITAR.

BUNNY

Daddy, look! I'm Elvis right before he died on the toilet!

ALICE

Oh, please be careful, that's a 1959 Gibson --

WHAP! She SMACKS it on the doorframe. The PEGS POP off.

ANDY

Oh good! That is way worse than what I did!

BUNNY

It was an accident. Please don't hate me.

ALICE

(speechless, overwhelmed)
No...

BUNNY

She paused! She hates me and everything I stand for!

Bunny RACES to the bathroom CRYING and SLAMS the door. A PICTURE FALLS to the ground and SHATTERS.

DORA

(beaming)
Was that picture important?

BEN

Dora, enough! Go to Alice's closet and grab one of my shirts for Andy.

DORA

You have shirts here?

ALICE

Yes, sometimes I... do your Dad's laundry... For fun.

BEN

Yeah, she... sewing... laundry... laughs.

DORA (CONT'D)

Strike two.

Dora EXITS. Andy's phone gets a PING.

ANDY

Oh God! A bunch of kids are tweeting about me winning the Facebook Poll. Look! #Blandy. That's me! Bland Andy!

Andy GRABS Alice's nearby COAT and PUTS IT ON to COVER UP, it's rather feminine in style.

BEN

Andy I know this whole thing sucks, but -- that's a lady's jacket, bud.

ANDY

Gah! Alice! I need you!

Andy STORMS OUT. Ben smiles warily at Alice.

BEN

They're not always like this.

Alice squeezes his arm and he smiles. She'll give it a shot.

EXT. ALICE'S BACK PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Andy SULKS on the steps in the lady's coat. Alice heads onto the porch, passing Mary who sits on the porch swing.

MARY

I think "Blandy" kinda nails it.

Alice shoots Mary a look and sits down next to Andy. A moment passes, then:

ALICE

You okay?

ANDY

I'm just... so tired of everyone looking at me like a nobody.

ALICE

If you don't like how people see you, just make 'em see something else.

ANDY

Whattya mean?

CARY

She means change everything!

ALICE

Reinvent yourself a little.

CARY

Extensive plastic surgery!

ALICE

Try a new hairstyle.

CARY

Be anyone but you!

ALICE

Maybe run for class office.

ANDY (CONT'D)

You don't like my hair?

ALICE

That's not -- let's start again. What have you tweeted back so far?

ANDY

Nothing.

ALICE

Nothing? Andy, you're having a PR crisis 'cause you're letting others control the message! Gimme your phone.

ANDY

I don't --

Alice nabs it from him and TAPS AWAY.

ALICE

Trust me, this is my business. All we gotta do is bing, bang, boom -- annnd problem solved.

Alice hands the phone back to Andy.

ANDY

Whoa. Someone just re-tweeted me. And again! What'd you write?

ALICE

(cocky)

I owned the phrase and took the power away from them.

ANDY

"Blandy in the house y'all. When life gets too interesting, call Blandy. #BlandyHelp???"

ALICE

And that's how you do it.

ANDY

What! You had me admit it?!

ALICE

Not admit it, own it! I actually guest lectured about this at UCLA --

BLEEP-BLEEP-BLEEP-BLEEP! Andy's phone lights up.

ANDY

Oh God. Oh no! They're coming in fast. And mean! So mean! What have you done to me!?

ALICE

Okay, calm down. We can fix this! Kids just don't get irony.

(MORE)

ALICE (CONT'D)

We need to come back at them. Hard!
Type "#SuckIT!" Do it, now!

ANDY

No! God help Blake Griffin!
Honestly, you're the worst! Thanks
a lot, you ruined my life.

Andy STORMS OFF leaving a STUNNED Alice. Mary SIDLES up.

MARY

Okay, I think I know why your cat
ran away.

ALICE

I am so out of my depth here.

MARY

The problem as I see it? These are
garbage children.

ALICE

I... don't know what to do. I
really don't...

MARY

(looks her in the eye)
Alice. Yes you do.

Just then, Ben peeks outside.

BEN

Everything okay? Andy stormed in
and locked himself in your bathroom.
And now I'm hearing a distinctive
hum -- so really hoping he found a
legit back massager.

ALICE

Uh... got some bad news. Just got a
call from Blake Griffin. It's an
emergency.

Behind her, Mary gestures "boom, take it Ben!"

BEN

Wow. Okay, yeah. Go to it.

ALICE

Thanks, hon. You're the best. But
leave. At your leisure. Sooner the
better though. No rush, but go.

Ben gives her a kiss and exits. Alice sighs as Mary slides in.

MARY
You did the right thing.

ALICE
(eyes of fire)
Now let's go do the wrong thing.

INT. THE BOURBON - NIGHT - MUSIC MONTAGE

"THRIFT SHOP" by Macklemore BLASTS as the doors burst open. Alice and Mary STRUT in like bad-asses in SLOW MOTION. WHIP TO -- A tipsy Alice steps up on the bar.

ALICE
I'd like to buy you all a drink!

CHEERS from the CROWD.

ALICE (CONT'D)
(realizing)
Wait, I left my bag in the Uber.
I'd like you all to buy me a drink!

MARY
And that means Imma get drunk too!

WHIP TO THE DANCE FLOOR. Alice and Mary TWERK LIKE MAD.

MARY (CONT'D)
How's my twerk! Look at me! Alice
look at me!

ALICE
It's good! How's mine? Is it good
too? It feels good!

We REVEAL they are the ONLY ONES TWERKING.

WHIP TO -- Alice rides a mechanical bull backwards.

WHIP TO -- silence. Mary sits on the stationary bull.

MARY
Turn it on! I will not be ignored!

INT. DIVE BAR - NIGHT - MUSIC MONTAGE

A SLOSHED Alice and Mary now CROON on the karaoke stage singing the epic Dolly duet together.

ALICE/MARY
ISLANDS IN THE STREAM! THAT IS WHAT
WE ARE!

ALICE
NO ONE IN BETWEEN!

MARY
HOW CAN WE BE WRONG?

POV: THE CROWD. They only see Alice. She sings HALF the
duet, looking like a drunken idiot.

ALICE
SAIL AWAY WITH ME!
(long pause where Mary
would be singing)
AND WE RELY ON EACH OTHER! A-AH!
(long pause where Mary
would be singing)
..... A-AH!

A BOUNCER finally steps up, pulling the plug.

BOUNCER
Okay, Dolly. Show's over.

ALICE
Hey, we're mid-song here!

MARY
(slurred)
This is sexizt! You're sexizt!
This whole town is sexizzz!

BOUNCER
Stop saying "we!" There's no "we"!
Off the stage. Now!

ALICE
You're just gonna have to make me.

MARY
Girrrrl power! Hit him, Aliz! Or
kiss him! Do it!

Alice drunkenly falls off the stage. Mary STARES DRUNK-EYED.

MARY (CONT'D)
Where she go?

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. ALICE'S PAD - NEXT MORNING

Alice is SPRAWLED out in bed. She stirs and her eyes FLUTTER OPEN. A BLURRY FIGURE stands in the doorway.

ALICE

Mary...?

The figure comes into focus -- it's Ben.

BEN

Mary? Someone I should know about?

ALICE

Uggghhhhwhat are you doing here?

BEN

You left a message from a bar at four in the morning. Some work emergency.

ALICE

Okay, I can explain.

(then)

I lied. To your face. I'm still kinda drunk, I can't do any better.

BEN

I was just... hoping you could.

Ben SHAKES HIS HEAD and EXITS. Mary POPS UP from the covers.

MARY

Are we about to boot? That's what I'm feeling here.

ALICE

What the -- why are you spooning me?!

MARY

I like snuggles, chica. Why you gotta make this weird now?

ALICE

You know what? You're a bad friend.

MARY

Whoa whoa! Let's not say things we can't take back here.

ALICE

Things were great with Ben! I was ready for the next step. Then you showed up and ruined it.

MARY

Honey, guess what? If I'm here, then you're not ready.

ALICE

I was, Mary! But you were too selfish to handle it!

MARY

Take a look in the mirror. And not to watch yourself dance naked. That's right, I know everything.

ALICE

Then do you know how utterly devastated I am that I just screwed up everything?! That I lost a chance with this family?! That I lost Ben?!

Alice BEGINS TO TEAR UP, the reality hitting her.

ALICE (CONT'D)

Oh my god. I lost Ben...

Just then, Ben POPS his head back in.

BEN

Yo, bacon or sausage with your eggs?

Alice looks up, shocked to see him still there. She flings the covers over Mary.

ALICE

Bacon?

(he starts out)

Wait! You're still here...?

BEN

I know you're not gonna eat if I don't feed you.

ALICE

But after last night... I thought it was over.

BEN

Well. You ditched my entire family and tweeted that my son is a bland loser. But over? That's not how this works.

Alice can't help but smile, tears in her eyes.

ALICE

Are all relationships supposed to be like this?

BEN

Only the ones worth holding onto.

ALICE

I'm so sorry I ran away last night.

BEN

(sweetly)

It really was pathological.

ALICE

Any chance Andy's as understanding as you?

BEN

None. None whatsoever. But hey -- I screw those kids up every day. I mean, you've met them.

ALICE

I, maybe, saw some evidence of that.

BEN

But now and then, I help 'em, too. The key is to just be there. And not drown them. That one lady lowered the bar for all of us.

ALICE

Okay. But... today I want to do a little more than just be there.

Ben raises an eyebrow, intrigued as the Dolly Parton/Kenny Rogers opus "ISLANDS IN THE STREAM" kicks in --

EXT. PINE WOODS HIGH SCHOOL - LATER THAT DAY

KIDS MILL about, but Andy sits ALONE. Then -- in BAD-ASS SLO-MO -- A BIG LIMO PULLS UP. Everyone stops in awe as -- Blake Griffin steps out.

BLAKE

Yo, Blandy! Where you been?

ANDY

I... what's happening?

BLAKE

Man, those tax deductions you suggested? Epic. Next time we party, drinks are on me.

ANDY

Uh... sure, you're... welcome?

BLAKE

Saving money is cool, which means you're cool. Y'all should hang with him! Especially all the girls!

Blake looks to the limo, where a delighted Alice and Ben sit.

BLAKE (CONT'D)

Girls, right?

BEN

He likes girls, yes.

BLAKE

(back to crowd)

Like I said, the girls!

ALICE

Too much. Just get in the car.

The MUSIC swells as Blake HOPS in the car. Kids SWARM around Andy, who just stands there speechless and beside himself.

INT. BEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The MUSIC continues as Andy bursts in to find Alice and Ben.

ANDY

Best. Day. Ever!

ALICE

Least I could do.

ANDY

Everyone was blown away. Including my science teacher Mrs. Puckett.

BEN

No way! Keep working her, buddy.
She'd be a great college rec letter.

ALICE

I'd look elsewhere.

A baffled Ben looks to Alice. Just then, a little hand tugs on her sleeve. Alice looks down to find Bunny.

BUNNY

Um, I wrote you a note.

Bunny hands over a piece of paper. It reads: "Sorry, I hert your gitar. Love, Bunny." Alice melts.

ALICE

Aw, Bunny. You have no reason to be sorry, it was an accident.

Bunny opens her arms for a hug. Alice goes in tentative... and embraces her. It's like something she's never felt. Bunny shoots a look over to Ben -- whispers loudly --

BUNNY

I misspelled some of the words on purpose to garner sympathy.

Ben gives Bunny a thumbs up. Ben looks over to find a stone-faced DORA, playing her PSP.

BEN

Hey, Dor! Lots of bonding action over here, if you wanna get in on --

Dora rolls her eyes and bee-lines out of there, playing PSP as she goes. A grinning Ben turns to Alice.

BEN (CONT'D)

That's usually a slam, which means you are on fire right now.

ALICE

Well... if everyone's free, there's a place I'd love to take all of you. Y'know, to make up for last night.

INT. DIVE BAR - THAT NIGHT

The CHORUS crashes in as we find Alice is on stage with Ben and the kids singing karaoke on stage.

ALICE, BEN AND THE KIDS
ISLANDS IN THE STREAM! THAT IS WHAT
WE ARE! / NO ONE IN BETWEEN! / HOW
CAN WE BE WRONG?

We REVEAL MARY watching from the bar.

MARY
Good God, they are ruining our song!

On the STAGE, Ben leans over to Alice.

BEN
Ya know, I was assuming you meant
mini-golf, 'cause you know... this
is a bar.

ALICE
It's cool, I know the owner.

BEN
Not what I meant.

DORA
Hey, Blandy. You just missed your
cue.

ANDY
Don't call me that, nerd!

DORA
I am a geek! How dare you call me
the N word!

Andy PUSHES Dora, she PUSHES back, mad PUSHING! Bunny goes
DOWN, it's CHAOS. Alice SPOTS Mary watching from the bar.
Alice shrugs, looking for a lifeline. Mary sighs and raises
a black power fist in solidarity. Then --

MARY
This is gonna be a clusterfuck.

Mary then spots a HOT BARTENDER and checks out his ass.

MARY (CONT'D)
Yummy.

As the DOLLY AND KENNY play on we:

END OF PILOT