



"True Love Ways"

written by

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FADE IN:

ACT ONE

SCENE A

INT. ALICIA'S LOFT - LIVING ROOM - DAY
(MEGAN, JORDAN, MICHAEL "MIKE" SCOTT, ALICIA, NEIL)

JORDAN IS IN HIS PAJAMAS AND ROBE ON THE COUCH, WATCHES TV.
MEGAN COMES DOWN, THEN WALKS AROUND THE COUCH.

MEGAN

I need your honest opinion.

SHE STANDS BEFORE HIM, READS FROM A PIECE OF PAPER:

MEGAN (CONT.)

"I am the Pillsbury Doughboy whose belly
cannot be poked. Turn on the oven. And
watch me explode".

JORDAN

(DIPLOMATIC) Uh... needs work.

SFX: DOORBELL. SHE CROSSES THE ROOM, OPENS THE DOOR TO FIND
A POWERFULLY BUILT MAN (20s) IN AN OVERCOAT AND A NAVY
UNIFORM WITH A DUFFLE BAG BESIDE HIM.

MEGAN

Mike!

THEY EMBRACE.

MICHAEL "MIKE" SCOTT

Meg, how have you been?

JORDAN JOINS THEM AS MEGAN AND MICHAEL "MIKE" SCOTT BREAK.
HE STANDS AT ATTENTION AND SALUTES MIKE.

JORDAN

Sir.

HE RETURNS THE SALUTE. THEY SHAKE HANDS.

MIKE

Great to see you, Jordy.

MIKE POINTS AT HIS PAJAMAS.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MIKE (CONT.)

Love those skivvies.

MIKE PICKS UP THE BAG AND ENTERS. JORDAN CLOSSES THE DOOR.
ALL THREE WALK TOWARD THE STAIRS.

JORDAN

Alicia's out with Neil.

THEY STOP. MIKE PUTS THE BAG DOWN, RESIGNED.

MIKE

So... tell me about this Neil.

MEGAN AND JORDAN SHARE A LOOK.

JORDAN

Neil... is the kind of guy who gets out
of the shower to go to the bathroom.

MEGAN NODS.

JORDAN (CONT.)

Last we heard, you were in the Gulf.

MIKE

I stayed on until August. Then, I was
rotated to the Eastern Bloc for ten
weeks. I have just been assigned to
NROTC Cornell.

HE BENDS OVER THE BAG. JORDAN AND MEGAN STAND AT EITHER
SIDE OF HIM LIKE A COUPLE OF KIDS ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

MIKE (CONT.)

Things are real bad over there. The
Russians can't afford to bring their
guys home. They're having to sell their
gear just to survive.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HE OPENS THE BAG, REMOVES A BOUQUET OF RED ROSES, LAYS THEM ASIDE. AS HE NOW REMOVES EACH ITEM, MEGAN AND JORDAN ENGAGE IN A MOCK BATTLE TO DIVVY UP THE SPOILS.

MIKE (CONT.)

A Soviet tanker's watch... a medal...
rubles and kopecks... a bunch of pins...
a Soviet officer's cap... a Soviet flag
... a Soviet officer's coat... a MIG
pilot helmet... more medals and pins...

HE STRAIGHTENS UP AS HE REMOVES THE LAST ITEM.

MIKE (CONT.)

A NATO gas mask.

MEGAN TAKES IT FROM HIM.

MEGAN

Mine!

JORDAN SNATCHES IT FROM HER.

JORDAN

Mine!

AFTER A BRIEF TUG-OF-WAR, HE RIPS IT FROM HER. SHE POUTS.

MIKE

Meg, I'll do my best to get you one. I
promise.

MEGAN

(REVERENT) Bless you, sir.

SHE STICKS HER TONGUE OUT AT JORDAN, WHO RETURNS THE
"FAVOR". NEIL THEN ALICIA NOW ENTER.

MIKE TAKES A QUICK GLANCE, PICKS UP THE BOUQUET, THEN HALF-
TURNS TO JORDAN IN DISBELIEF: "THAT'S NEIL?!". HE PUTS A
HAND ON MIKE'S SHOULDER.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JORDAN

I'm telling you, big guy, ever since she
left you...

HE MOTIONS A HAND DOWNWARD.

ALICIA

(STUNNED) Mike?!

ALICIA SPRINTS TO HIM. MIKE MEETS HER HALFWAY. HE SPINS
HER AROUND AS THEY EMBRACE. MEGAN STANDS NEXT TO NEIL; HE
TURNS TO HER.

NEIL

(SUDDENLY UNNERVED) Who's that?!

MEGAN

I think he was before Paco and after
Jonathan.

JORDAN

No, he was after Paco and in between
Jonathan.

THEY BREAK; SHE HAS THE ROSES. HE PULLS A LONG RECTANGULAR
BOX FROM HIS BREAST POCKET, GIVES IT TO HER. SHE OPENS IT:
A DIAMOND TENNIS BRACELET. SHE IS FLOORED.

NEIL IS RILED-UP NOW -- AND MORE THAN A TAD JEALOUS.

NEIL

(RE: DIAMONDS IN THE BRACELET) No way
are those real!

MEGAN

You don't know Mike very well, do you?

NEIL LOOKS AT HER IN REACTION.

ALICIA, WEARING THE BRACELET AND CLINGING TO MIKE'S ARM,
WALKS HIM OVER TO NEIL.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALICIA

Mike, this is Neil Barash. Neil, this is Lieutenant Commander Michael Scott of the United States Navy.

MIKE

Pleased to meet you, Neil.

MIKE OFFERS HIS HAND. THEY SHAKE.

NEIL

(INSECURE) I guess.

ALICIA

Mike's a fighter pilot. He was in the Gulf. (LONG BEAT) We met three years ago at Miramar. Mike was at Top Gun and I was a waitress at this coffee shop. It was during one of my alternative-lifestyle phases.

NEIL NODS IN MOCK UNDERSTANDING.

ALICIA (CONT.)

Anyway, we had just opened when the most gorgeous man I had ever seen walked through the door and right up to me.

SHE TURNS TO MIKE.

ALICIA (CONT.)

Do you remember what you said?

MIKE

Yeah. I asked why you were soaking those salt shakers in bleach.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HE LOOKS AT NEIL, SMILES.

MIKE (CONT.)

Then, I asked her out.

SHE SMILES/NODS HAPPILY. MIKE TURNS TO HER.

MIKE (CONT.)

Speaking of, Le Bernardin?

SHE NODS, ECSTATIC. NEIL'S JAW HAS JUST HIT THE FLOOR.

MIKE (CONT.)

Pick you up at seven.

MIKE TURNS TO JORDAN.

MIKE (CONT.)

Great seeing you again, Jordy.

MIKE TURNS TO MEGAN.

MIKE (CONT.)

I'll get it, Meg. I promise.

MIKE TURNS TO NEIL.

MIKE (CONT.)

Good to meet you, Neil.

NEIL WATCHES WITH INCREASING ALARM AS MIKE AND ALICIA WALK TO THE DOOR.

MEGAN

(ADORING) He's so handsome and she's so
beautiful.

NEIL LOOKS AT HER IN REACTION (AGAIN).

MIKE STEPS ACROSS THE THRESHOLD AS ALICIA STAYS IN THE ROOM.
THEY HOLD HANDS AS HE SLOWLY BACKS AWAY. SHE FINALLY CLOSES
THE DOOR. FLUSHED WITH EXCITEMENT, SHE DARTS PAST NEIL.

NEIL

Alicia!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HE TURNS TO JORDAN.

NEIL (CONT.)

(FREAKED OUT) Did you see the way she
looked at him?!

JORDAN

(BITING) Don't worry. She only looks
that way at guys she's crazy about.

NEIL REACTS, DARTS PAST HIM.

SCENE B

INT: ALICIA'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER
(ALICIA, NEIL)

NEIL RUSHES IN TO FIND CLOTHES BEING TOSSED ON THE BED AT A
FRANTIC PACE. ALICIA COMES OUT HER CLOSET WITH TWO DRESSES,
ACTING LIKE A GIDDY SCHOOLGIRL.

ALICIA

Which one do you think I should wear?

SHE THROWS THEM ON THE BED AND GOES BACK INTO THE CLOSET.

NEIL

I didn't like the way you were looking
at that guy! And I didn't like the way
he was looking at you!

SHE COMES OUT OF THE CLOSET.

ALICIA

(IRRITATED) Neil, if you're not going to
help me pick out something to wear, then
will you please leave? (BEAT; TO HERSELF)
What am I thinking?! I'll wear the dress
Mike bought me!

SHE GOES BACK INTO THE CLOSET.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NEIL

(AT HIS WIT'S END) Alicia!

SHE REEMERGES FROM THE CLOSET, TURNS TO HIM.

ALICIA

You know, sometimes you can be a real jerk! When I brought you home after we met, I had every intention of taking you on the Staten Island Ferry. But a rave came up and I had to go. But you spent all night following me around like a lost puppy. (MOCKING IMITATION) "When are we going to do the ferry thing?" (LONG BEAT) Then, after weeks of begging, I finally got to meet your parents, and you got angry because they liked me! And now, you have the nerve to come barging in here. (SAME IMITATION) "I didn't like the way you were looking at that guy!" (LONG BEAT) Who the hell do you think you are?!

SHE GOES INTO THE CLOSET/COMES OUT WITH A PRICEY DRESS.

ALICIA (CONT.)

Mike gave me this!

SHE PUTS THE DRESS ON THE BED, THEN HOLDS UP HER WRIST WITH THE BRACELET ON IT.

ALICIA (CONT.)

And he just gave me this! (BEAT) We've

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALICIA (CONT.)

been dating for over two months, and you
haven't given me a damn thing!

HE TAKES A STEP FORWARD TO DEFEND HIMSELF.

NEIL

That's not true! I gave you the cactus
Chia Pet Uncle Herb brought back from
the Catskills. (BEAT; RECALLS) And that
box of jalapeño fudge from work!

SHE HAS OFFICIALLY HAD IT.

ALICIA

I'm going out with Mike. And if he asks
me to go somewhere else with him later,
I will. (LONG BEAT) And if he asks me to
spend the night with him, I will.

SHE STORMS OUT. BEAT. SHE RE-ENTERS.

ALICIA (CONT.)

(TO HERSELF) What am I doing?

SHE TURNS TO HIM, POINTS AT THE DOOR.

ALICIA (CONT.)

You get out!

HE LEAVES SHEEPISHLY.

SCENE C

INT. ALICIA'S LOFT - LIVING ROOM - EARLY MORNING
(JORDAN, MEGAN, NEIL, ALICIA)

SFX: DOORBELL. JORDAN STAGGERS TO THE DOOR, GAS MASK ON.

JORDAN (MUTED)

I'm coming, I'm coming!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HE OPENS THE DOOR TO FIND NEIL, WHO PROMPTLY FREAKS OUT.

JORDAN (MUTED) (CONT.)

Neil! It's me, Jordan!

HE REMOVES THE MASK.

JORDAN (CONT.)

I was wearing it so Megan couldn't swipe
it from me while I was sleeping.

NEIL NODS AS IF THIS MAKES "SENSE".

NEIL

I need to talk to Alicia.

HE ENTERS.

JORDAN

I didn't hear her come in.

PAUSE. ALICIA NOW ENTERS IN THE DRESS MIKE BOUGHT, CARRYING
A BAG. SHE CLOSES THE DOOR, NOTICES NEIL, REACTS WITH
DISDAIN. SHE THEN NOTICES JORDAN, SEES THE MASK.

ALICIA

Wow! Where did you get the gas mask?!

JORDAN

Mike got it from some NATO guy.

ALICIA

Let me try it on!

SHE PUTS DOWN THE BAG. NEIL CRINGES AS JORDAN HELPS HER
WITH THE MASK AS MEGAN COMES DOWN. ALICIA HAS IT ON.

NEIL

You look like a mutant.

SHE TURNS TO NEIL.

ALICIA (MUTED)

I'm ignoring you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHE REMOVES THE MASK, HANDS IT TO JORDAN. SHE WALKS TO THE COFFEE TABLE, PUTS THE BAG DOWN, REMOVES 3 "LE BERNARDIN" TO-GO BOXES, HANDS THE TOP TO-GO BOX TO MEGAN.

ALICIA (CONT.)

Espresso-chocolate ganache.

MEGAN

(OVERWHELMED) That man is my new god!

SHE HANDS THE MIDDLE TO-GO BOX TO JORDAN.

ALICIA

Crêpes Papa Le Coze.

JORDAN

(OVERWHELMED) That man is my new god!

SHE TURNS TO NEIL, HANDS HIM THE LAST TO-GO BOX.

ALICIA

You can have the rest of my poached halibut, and hazelnut-almond crème.

NEIL

I thought you were ignoring me.

SHE MOVES TO TAKE THE TO-GO BOX, BUT HE JERKS IT AWAY FROM HER. AFTER A LONG BEAT, SHE TURNS TO MEGAN AND JORDAN.

ALICIA

Mike has asked me to marry him!

JORDAN PUMPS HIS ARMS IN CELEBRATION.

JORDAN

Yes! I knew that's why he came back!

MEGAN RUSHES UP TO HER.

MEGAN

Oh, Alicia! If you don't let me be your

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MEGAN (CONT.)

Maid of Honor, I'll slit my wrists and
hang myself on the fire escape!

ALICIA

(APOLOGETIC) I didn't say "yes".

MEGAN

What are you -- nuts?!

ALICIA

Well, when someone you haven't seen in
three years suddenly shows up...

MEGAN

The man gave you a diamond bracelet! He
took you to Le Bernardin! (LONG BEAT)
You'll be lucky if all you ever get out
of Neil is that cactus Chia Pet his Uncle
Herb bought back from the Catskills and
that box of jalapeño fudge!

NEIL REACTS. JORDAN TURNS TO ALICIA.

JORDAN

You love Mike. (LONG BEAT) And no man
will ever love you half as much as he
does.

NEIL REACTS. MEGAN TURNS TO ALICIA.

MEGAN

He's only saying that because he wants
your room when you move out.

JORDAN TURNS TO ALICIA.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JORDAN

Will you ask Mike when he's getting her
that gas mask?!

MEGAN TURNS TO JORDAN AS SHE YANKS THE MASK FROM HIM.

MEGAN

I'll just take back what rightfully
belongs to me, thank you very much.

SHE RUNS UP THE STAIRS. HE GIVES CHASE.

JORDAN

It's mine! Get your own gas mask!

ALICIA WALKS TO HER ROOM.

NEIL

Did you sleep with him?

SHE STOPS, TURNS TO HIM.

ALICIA

It's eight o'clock, Neil. You're going
to be late for work.

SHE TURNS AWAY, WALKS TO HER DOOR, OPENS IT, ENTERS HER
ROOM, CLOSES THE DOOR.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOSCENE D

EXT./EST. HOCHMAN FOODS BUILDING - DAY

INT. HOCHMAN FOODS - NEIL'S OFFICE - DAY
(NEIL, TED)

NEIL AT HIS DESK, HEAD IN HANDS. DOOR OPENS. TED ENTERS, WALKS PAST HIM. DOOR CLOSSES. AT HIS DESK, A GRIN CROSSES TED'S FACE AS HE LOOKS AT NEIL, SIZES UP THE SITUATION.

TED

Why Barash. You're having (EXAGGERATES)
female troubles!

HE WALKS OVER, SITS ON AN EDGE OF NEIL'S DESK, NOTICES THE LE BERNARDIN TO-GO BOX.

TED (CONT.)

(SURPRISE) Le Bernardin? (LONG BEAT) You
must be whoring yourself out to every
rich old bag on the Upper East Side!

NEIL

(DESPAIR) Alicia's ex took her to dinner
there last night.

TED'S REACTION GOES FROM GOBSMACKED TO GENUINE ADMIRATION.

TED

That man... is my new god!

AFTER A PAUSE, NEIL REMOVES HIS HANDS FROM HIS FACE.

NEIL

He's asked her to marry him. (LONG BEAT)
I wouldn't blame her if she dumped me. I
mean, the guy's a fighter pilot. He was
in the Gulf. He's a war hero. He's
handsome and --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TED

(INTERRUPTS) He's everything you're not.

(LONG BEAT; MOCK ENCOURAGING) Go on.

NEIL

He's bought her all these things. He bought her a diamond bracelet! I thought the cactus Chia Pet Uncle Herb brought back from the Catskills and the jalapeño fudge were a big deal. (LONG BEAT; AGONY) I can't begin to compete with that! What am I going to do?

TED GIVES A LEERING SMIRK, TAKING THIS AS CONFORMATION OF NEIL'S SERIOUS LACK OF MACHISMO. HE FINALLY LEANS OVER.

TED

Dump the slut!

NEIL JUMPS OUT OF HIS CHAIR.

NEIL

Alicia's not a slut!

TED

She's stepping out on you with my new god. Right?

NEIL NODS, SUDDENLY FEELING VERY QUEASY.

TED (CONT.)

Then she's a slut!

NEIL BOLTS TOWARDS THE MEN'S ROOM, NOW SICK TO HIS STOMACH. TED CALLS AFTER HIM.

TED (CONT.)

You'll thank me for this, Barash!

SCENE E

INT. BARASH HOME - KITCHEN - DAY
(JEREMY, ALICIA)

ALICIA IS AT THE DOOR. SHE KNOCKS, PEERS IN THROUGH ITS WINDOW. JEREMY COMES TO DOOR, OPENS IT. SHE HAS CHANGED HER CLOTHES, BUT STILL WEARS THE DIAMOND BRACELET.

JEREMY

Alicia, how nice to see you. (LONG BEAT)
Neil isn't here right now.

ALICIA

I didn't come to see Neil. I came to
see you. (TROUBLED) I need some advice.

JEREMY

(SENSES THE URGENCY) Oh, of course.
Come in, please.

SHE ENTERS. HE CLOSES THE DOOR, MOTIONS TO THE TABLE.

JEREMY (CONT.)

I've gotten the day off, for good
behavior. (LONG BEAT) Would you like a
cup of coffee?

SHE SITS AT THE TABLE, SHAKES HER HEAD, FIDGETS. HE GOES TO THE COFFEE MAKER, POURS A CUP, COMES TO THE TABLE, SITS. SHE TRIES TO FIND THE WORDS. FINALLY...

ALICIA

My ex-boyfriend's asked me to marry him.

JEREMY

(THROWN) That's a fine "how-do-you-do"!

(RE: THE BRACELET) Is that from him?

SHE SMILES/NODS QUICKLY. HE IS GOBSMACKED.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JEREMY (CONT.)

Well, that sure beats the cactus Chia
Pet Herb brought back from the Catskills.

(BEAT; AN ASIDE) And the jalapeño fudge.

(PAUSE; HESITANT) Do you still love him?

SHE NODS SLOWLY.

JEREMY (CONT.)

(ANXIOUS) Do you love Neil?

ALICIA

I don't know. Sometimes, he can be so
sweet and sometimes... (LONG BEAT) I
think he's ashamed of me.

JEREMY

You're a wonderful girl, Alicia. Any
man would be thrilled to have you for his
own. (AN ASIDE) Of course, Neil isn't
like other men. (LONG BEAT; RECOVERS) So,
tell me about this man.

ALICIA

(EAGER) His name is Mike. He's a Navy
fighter pilot. He was in the Gulf.
He's now teaching at Cornell. (LONG BEAT)
He asked me before when we were first
dating, but I was so confused. I had
just broken up with this New Age pasta
chef who said he was Shirley MacLaine's

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALICIA (CONT.)

toaster oven in a past life. (LONG BEAT)

I'm afraid if I say "no" again --

JEREMY

You'll lose him for good.

SHE NODS SADLY. HE THINKS FOR A MOMENT.

JEREMY (CONT.)

There is only one thing to do at a time

like this. (BEAT) Ice cream!

HE SPRING OUT HIS CHAIR. SHE IS PERPLEXED. HE OPENS THE FREEZER DOOR, LOOKS INSIDE.

JEREMY (CONT.)

I don't know why, but I always seem to

think better whenever I have a bowl of

ice cream.

HE TURNS TO HER.

JEREMY (CONT.)

Care to join me for some Byrne?

SHE BREAKS INTO A SMILE.

ALICIA

Love to!

HE HOLD A HALF-GALLON OF BYRNE DAIRY ICE CREAM IN EACH HAND.

JEREMY

Berry American or Heavenly Hash?

ALICIA

Why don't we live dangerously and have

both?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HE SMILES, CLOSES THE FREEZER, WALKS OVER, PUTS THEM ON THE TABLE. SHE STANDS, OPENS THE CONTAINERS. HE LEAVES, OPENS A CABINET DOOR, PULLS OUT A DRAWER, RETRIEVES TWO BOWLS, TWO SPOONS, AN ICE CREAM SCOOP, RETURNS TO THE TABLE. HE PLACES A SCOOP INTO A BOWL OUT OF EACH CONTAINER.

JEREMY

Why did you leave him?

ALICIA

(SAD) I thought he was too good for me.

JEREMY

He obviously doesn't think so.

THEY SIT, BEGIN EATING. FINALLY...

JEREMY (CONT.)

Listen to your heart, Alicia. It knows what to do. But, whatever you decide, you will always be welcomed here. (LONG BEAT) Besides, somebody has to help me eat all this ice cream.

THEY EXCHANGE SMILES.

SCENE F

EXT./EST. CORNELL UNIVERSITY - BARTON HALL - DAY

Home of Cornell's Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps.

INT. CORNELL UNIVERSITY - BARTON HALL - CLASSROOM - DAY
(ALICIA, MICHAEL "MIKE" SCOTT, ROTC CADETS)

MIKE STANDS BEFORE 15 ROTC CADETS SEATED AT THEIR DESKS. THE ROOM IS ORDINARY WITH NAVY POSTERS AND MODELS OF VARIOUS JETS, SHIPS, AND AIRCRAFT CARRIERS.

MIKE

Remember in "*Top Gun*" that scene where they're having a class on proper flight

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MIKE (CONT.)

maneuvers and Kelly McGillis asks Tom Cruise what he was thinking when he said that he would have executed some pattern that she thought was too high-risk, and he says "If you think up there, you're dead."? I wanted to go up and go --

HE STEPS TOWARD A CADET IN FRONT OF HIM AND PRETENDS TO RAP HIM ON THE HEAD AS IF HE WERE A DOOR.

MIKE (CONT.)

Hello?! Anybody home?!

THE CADETS LAUGH.

INSERT: ALICIA AT THE DOOR

PARTIALLY HIDDEN FROM VIEW, SHE LAUGHS WITH THEM.

BACK TO SCENE

HE HAS STEPPED AWAY FROM THE CADET.

MIKE (CONT.)

You're always thinking, always thinking!
It's when you stop thinking, you're dead!
(LONG BEAT) "Rove your assigned airspace.
Find the enemy. Shoot him down.
Everything else is rubbish". Baron von
Richthofen.

HE WAVES AT THEM, SMILES.

MIKE (CONT.)

Get out of here. See you Tuesday.

THEY STAND, FILE OUT, TALK. SHE MAKES HER WAY TO HIS DESK. HIS BACK TURNED, HE PUTS PAPERS INTO AN OPEN BRIEFCASE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALICIA

(CHEERY) Hi!

HE SPINS AROUND AND SEES HER, HAPPILY SURPRISED.

MIKE

Hi! (LONG BEAT) Why didn't you let me know you were coming?! I would have picked you up at the airport.

ALICIA

(PERKY) I wanted to surprise you. (BEAT) Besides, I didn't fly. I took the bus.

MIKE

Are you kidding?!

SHE NODS QUICKLY. HE SHAKES HIS HEAD IN DISBELIEF.

MIKE (CONT.)

(RESOLVED) I'll get you a room at The Statler, here on campus. You are not returning to New York tonight.

HE MOVES TO ESCORT HER OUT, THEN NOTICES SOMETHING AMISS AND LOOKS AROUND.

MIKE (CONT.)

Where's your suitcase?

ALICIA

I didn't pack anything.

HIS FACE REGISTERS DISBELIEF (AGAIN).

ALICIA (CONT.)

(SUDDENLY ANXIOUS) Can't I just stay with you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MIKE

(A LAUGH) I'm crashing on the NROTC commander's couch, no joke. (BEAT) I'll ask Jim if his wife has a nightgown and a pair of slippers you can have, then tomorrow we'll go shopping.

SHE IS ABOUT TO PROTEST WHEN HE TAKES HER HANDS, SQUEEZES THEM GENTLY. SHE SIGHS, CONCEDES "DEFEAT".

MIKE (CONT.)

Have you been to Ithaca before?

ALICIA

(THROWN; A LAUGH) I've never been upstate before.

MIKE

I haven't been here a week and I love it. (LONG BEAT; ALMOST GIDDY) There's a trail which goes from the university all the way downtown, and a creek runs right along beside it.

SHE BREAKS INTO A SMILE. HE SMILES.

MIKE (CONT.)

Something about this place. It just makes you want to settle down. Raise a family. (LONG BEAT) Our future is here, Alicia, just waiting for us.

HE EXPECTS HER TO BE HAPPY. INSTEAD, SHE NOW LOOKS AS THOUGH SHE WAS JUST WHACKED UPSIDE THE HEAD.

HE SENSES HER STATE, MOTIONS FOR HER TO SIT AT A DESK. SHE DOES. HE SITS ON THE EDGE OF HIS DESK.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALICIA

(UPBEAT) I went to Neil's house. (SENSES
HIS DISAPPROVAL) He's really a sweet guy.

MIKE

(EXPLODES) He's a boy! First sign of
trouble, he'll go running home to Mama!

SHE STANDS.

ALICIA

(DEFIANT) I'm not the girl you knew at
Miramar! (FALTERS) I still don't know who
I am. (UPBEAT) But I like myself, now.
And I have people who like me.

AFTER A PAUSE, HE SHAKES HIS HEAD.

MIKE

I have waited three years for you to
"find yourself", to come to your senses,
and realize that you belong with me.
(LONG BEAT; BREAKING YET FIRM) I need you.
But I won't beg. I won't be your doormat.
And I won't be your fool.

HE STANDS, TURNS TO THE BRIEFCASE. SHE IS NUMB. FINALLY...

ALICIA

Neil's dad asked me why I left. (BEAT;
BREAKING) I told him because you were too
good for me. (LONG BEAT) You were the
first person who ever made me feel like I

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALICIA (CONT.)

mattered. Like I was somebody who
actually deserved to be wanted and
needed and loved. (LONG BEAT; SOBS) Do
you know what that meant?!

HE TURNS TO HER, SEES HOW SHATTERED SHE IS. SHE RUNS TO
HIM, BURIES HER FACE IN HIS CHEST, SOBS. HE WRAPS HIS ARMS
AROUND HER SLOWLY, THEN BURIES HIS FACE IN HER HAIR.

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE G

INT. ALICIA'S LOFT - ALICIA'S BEDROOM - DAY
(ALICIA, NEIL)

ALICIA WEARS A NEW DRESS. LUXURY TRAVEL BAG ON HER BED.

SHE PULLS A 45 RPM RECORD FROM HER COLLECTION, THE "SPIDER"
IN ITS SPINDLE HOLE. AS SHE REMOVES THE DISC FROM ITS
SLEEVE, A PHOTO OF HER AND MIKE IN HAPPIER DAYS SLIDES OUT.
SHE LOOKS AT IT WITH A TINY, RUEFUL SMILE.

SHE PUTS THE RECORD ON HER RECORD PLAYER, TURNS THE PLAYER
ON, PUTS THE NEEDLE ON THE RECORD.

MUSIC UP: "TRUE LOVE WAYS" BY BUDDY HOLLY

SFX: KNOCK ON DOOR

DOOR OPENS. NEIL ENTERS, ACTS NONCHALANT.

ALICIA

(RE: THE SONG)

Buddy Holly wrote this for his wife.

(LONG BEAT; A SOB) It was our song.

AFTER A PAUSE, SHE TURNS TO HIM.

ALICIA (CONT.)

Don't tell me you've never heard of Buddy
Holly.

HE SHRUGS, SHEEPISH. SHE TURNS AWAY IN DISGUST.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NEIL (CONT.)

You're still angry. And it's okay. I
get it. (LONG BEAT) Anyway, I've been
thinking. (BEAT; CAVALIER) And I'm sorry.

NO RESPONSE. HE BEGINS TO REALIZE SHE IS NOT BUYING IT.

NEIL (CONT.)

I'm really sorry.

STILL NO RESPONSE.

NEIL (CONT.)

(SOMEWHAT DESPERATE) I'm really, really
sorry!

SHE CONTINUES TO IGNORE HIM.

NEIL (CONT.)

(NOW VERY DESPERATE) I'm really, really,
really, really sorry!

PAUSE.

ALICIA

(BREAKING) I told the only man who has
ever loved me that I can't marry him.

SHE TURNS TO HIM AFTER A PAUSE.

ALICIA (CONT.)

Mike was proud of me. He never tried to
hide me from his family or his friends.
But you have done everything to shut me
out of your life. You don't like it when
I visit you at work. You don't like it

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALICIA (CONT.)

when I call you at home. I told your dad I think you're ashamed of me, and he agreed. (LONG BEAT) I was everything to Mike. (BITTER) I don't know what I am to you. Except maybe a good time in bed.

HE BREAKS INTO A BIG GRIN.

NEIL

A great time in bed!

SHE STORM OVER, POUNDS HIM ON THE HEAD WITH HER FISTS.

ALICIA

Hello?! Anybody home?!

SHE STOPS. HE HOLDS HIS HEAD, HIS FACE TWISTED IN PAIN.

ALICIA (CONT.)

You don't get it, do you?!

HE STAGGERS TOWARDS HER, HOLDING HIS HEAD.

NEIL

Okay, okay! (GROPING) It's just... you're unlike anyone I have ever met, and that scared me. I have never felt about anyone the way I feel about you. And that scared me. And... the thought of losing you... that really scared me!

THAT HANGS IN THE AIR.

ALICIA

(DEMANDING) You took me for granted.

LONG BEAT. HE NODS, FINALLY.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NEIL

(HUMBLED) I took you for granted.

ALICIA

(DEMANDING) And you were ashamed of me.

LONGER BEAT. HE NODS AGAIN.

NEIL (CONT.)

(HUMBLED) I was ashamed of you.

STILL CLUTCHING HIS HEAD, HE PRODUCES A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS FROM BEHIND HIS BACK, PRESENTS IT TO HER WITH A FLOURISH.

AFTER A PAUSE, SHE TAKES THEM, BREAKING INTO A SMILE IN SPITE OF HERSELF. AFTER A LONG BEAT, HE SMILES, GENUINELY GRATEFUL TO BE BACK IN HER GOOD GRACES AGAIN.

FADE OUT.

END