

Glamour, Please!

by

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FADE-IN

EXT. BUSY L.A. FREEWAY - DAY

OVER CREDITS: Annie Lennox's Keep Young and Beautiful plays. The freeway is jammed; people in a frantic hurry but going nowhere. In the middle of the traffic, sits a red sports BMW with a license plate reading PRYR WRKS. ALICE, a dishy woman in her mid-40's with blonde, graying hair sprays her locks with a huge can while speaking on her micro cell-phone. She talks in a stilted, British accent. In the passenger seat, a large, white poodle with hair styled like Alice's sits at regal attention.

ALICE

(Into phone)

I'm promoting my new book at Whale Watchers; my publisher has me doing the fat farm circuit. I'm making my sister, Marla, come with me... against her wishes. (Covers phone. Leaning on horn.) Move your arse!

INT. GYM - DAY

A beautiful, muscle-clad man in his mid 20's pumps iron; his body glistens with sweat. He finishes his rep then stands up and admires himself in the mirror proudly; this is JAKE.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

On a computer screen, inside a computer chat room the following words are typed:

TYPED WORDS

"Now that we're married, Robert,
where shall we live?"

A plump hand thumps ashes into the ashtray. An overweight, unattractive woman in her late-30's is revealed sitting at the computer. MARLA strokes the fur ball cat in her lap. She chuckles, grabs a doughnut takes a bite, gulps some coffee, inhales on the cigarette then types the message:

TYPED WORDS

"Paris would be ideal, Carl."

Marla reclines in her chair, proud of her work when the phone rings. Marla, startled, reaches for the phone and drops her cigarette onto her lap.

MARLA

Shit.

(Putting phone to ear.)

What?

She stands up trying to find the cigarette.

EXT. FREEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Alice, multitasking on the phone, applies lipstick while looking into mirror.

ALICE

(Into phone)

Ready Marla?

INT. MARLA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Marla gobbles the rest of her doughnut, and drowns the rest of her coffee. She'd better think fast! She plugs her nose with her fingers.

MARLA

(pretending to have a
cold)

Alice, I'm bailing on you. I don't
feel well.

EXT. FREEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Alice smacks her lips together and rubs the lipstick off her teeth with her tongue.

ALICE

Your psychosomatic excuses aren't
working this time, dear sister.
I'll be there in 5 minutes.

She hangs up the phone and looks to her left spying TWO MEN in a car. Alice bats her eyes at them and once she has their attention:

ALICE

If I weren't such a bitch, I'd give you my number.

Alice turns her nose up at them in a snobbish fashion looking forward. The dog turns her nose up at the men as well. Alice peels rubber weaving her car in and out of traffic. The men, left alone, look at each other in bafflement.

MAN #1

What was that?

MAN #2

Menopause.

They cackle and hold hands.

INT. MARLA'S APARTMENT - LATER

Marla types into the computer.

TYPED WORDS

"Carl, our honeymoon will have to wait a week! I'll be off-line."

She turns the computer off and moving like cattle grazing, grabs her suitcase from the top of the closet, opens a drawer and throws some clothes into the suitcase. As she passes by the mirror, she sticks her tongue out at herself.

MARLA

Ugly.

She pulls a huge box from beneath the bed, and dumps a mound of candy bars into her open suitcase. She closes the lid, but it won't shut so she takes some of the clothes out leaving the candy.

INT. BEAUTY PARLOR - DAY

A woman in her 50's, MATTIE, sits like a princess getting her hair styled by a handsome BEAUTICIAN who is talking and cutting her hair.

BEAUTICIAN

Girl, and they thinks 'cause I work here I'm stupid. Shit, beauty's skin deep. If girl's weave won't curl like Whitney's, I can't help it.

A YOUNG MAN in his early 20's sits in the waiting area of the salon pretending to look at a fashion magazine, but all the while stares at the beautician's muscles. This is SCOTTIE. During the middle of his speech, beautician catches Scottie's eyes, who turns away embarrassed looking at his reflection in the plate glass window.

BEAUTICIAN

Why you getting' fancied up, Miss Mattie?

MATTIE

Scottie and I are going to on a trip.

BEAUTICIAN

He's delicious.

They laugh together. Scottie blushes.

INT. GLAMOROUS BEDROOM - DAY

Beneath the fluffy satin bed with mammoth pillows a mound of a person sleeps under the blankets. On the bedside table, rows of pills. At last, a tiny red-head pokes her head out of the coverlet. She wears a night mask the same color as her covers, pillows and pajamas. This mop of ringlets is FAITH, an elegant woman in her 40's. She throws the covers back.

FAITH

Carlton? I need you. Oh, Carlton, where are you?

She lifts her blinder eyeballing the room. She realizes he's not there and grabs two pill bottles and rattles them like maracas.

FAITH

CARLTON! God-damned it! Get your hot ass in here.

The double doors of her boudoir opens and a chiseled, shirtless hunk, 20, if he's a day, enters. This is CARLTON.

CARLTON
Sorry, Faith.

Faith pats the bed indicating him to sit next to her.

FAITH
I need some TLC...

Carlton wraps his strong arms around her, she kisses him, throws back the comforter, and they tumble onto the bed together.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Jake jogs down the isolated road with sweat rolling off his chest. Suddenly, a car zips past him, and a GIRL pokes her head out the window.

GIRL
Hot ass, Baby!

Jake, accustomed to this, keeps jogging.

EXT. MARLA'S DRIVEWAY - DAY

Alice's cherry bomb car rushes into the driveway screeching to a halt. She looks at her watch and then leans on the horn.

ALICE
(yelling)
Marla!

The front door opens as Marla stumbles down the stairway lugging her heavy suitcase. Marla chunks her suitcase into the backseat and stands with her hands on the hips staring at the dog.

ALICE
Jump in the backseat. I must drive Alicia to get fluffed. (To dog in "puppy talk") Ain't that right, pretty? Ain't that right?

MARLA

I'm sick.

ALICE

I don't want to hear another word.
Get in.

Marla opens the door and plops down in the backseat. The entire car plummets low to the ground. Alice looks at her sister and breathes a "This is going to be rough" sigh.

ALICE

You might have put some decent clothes on.

MARLA

Leave me alone, for Christ's sake!
And stop that annoying fake accent.

ALICE

You're always such a wet blanket.

Alice backs out of the driveway, and they disappear down the street.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

A beat up gremlin rambles into a parking lot. The door opens and a RICKETY WOMAN wearing dark sunglasses climbs out. She is skeleton thin. She wipes her nose with the sleeve of her jacket. She wears a white smock with a name badge that reads: TILLIE.

INT. MATTIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Through the lens of a hand-held video camera, Mattie reads from a brochure.

MATTIE

"A week long trip to
paradise-featuring best selling
author Alice Mason introducing her
new book."

She turns from the camera walking away excited. Scottie points it at himself like a gun.

SCOTTIE

I'm going to a fat farm with my mother. I've found the first rung of hell.

He snaps the camera off.

EXT. FREEWAY - LATER

Alice and Marla sing along to the radio having a great time when a DRIVER pulls up beside them, rolls down his window and yells out:

DRIVER

Hey Fatso, Blimpy...

Marla pulls the hood of her jacket over her head, zips it up, folds her arms across her chest and pouts.

INT. LIMO - DAY

Faith dressed in a fancy silken pantsuit nurses a highball while talking into a tape recorder. She's obviously had more than one cocktail.

FAITH

On the fucking Sabbath, those bastards gave me the axe! Don't they know who I am? Cocksuckersing sharks in business suits. (She takes another gulp.) I'm drying out at Whale Watchers while I write my memoirs...until a movie deal comes up.

She peers out the window aimlessly.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Alice's voice pours out of the speakers; her tome on CD. Marla still has her arms folded across her chest. Alice hits the off button.

ALICE

I will not tolerate any stuff out of you on this trip.

MARLA

What "stuff"?

ALICE

That insane "stuff" you use to get attention. This engagement is important to me, and you better not screw it up.

MARLA

La Di fucking Da. Remember I didn't want to come in the first place.

Marla turns her head and stares out at the mountains as they pass. Alice looks at Marla from the reflection of the rearview mirror hating to be ignored.

EXT. WHALE WATCHERS - DUSK

A beautiful mansion with pillars and plush pine trees stands tall with a sign in front that reads "Whale Watchers". The sign is a fisherman with a telescope pointed at an obese woman.

EXT. WHALE WATCHERS DRIVEWAY - DUSK

A limo pulls up into the circular drive-way of Whale Watchers". A DRIVER hops out and opens the door. A leg appears, a hand appears, then a huge hat. Faith takes one step and stumbles. She giggles leaning against the driver.

EXT. WHALE WATCHERS - DUSK

Faith, from the vantage point of binoculars, hobbles into the front door; Tillie pulls them down and giggles.

TILLIE

Guest number one: Faith Blue; TV legend, recording star and lush.

EXT. WHALE WATCHERS - LATER

Through Tillie's binoculars, Mattie and Scottie gather luggage out of the back of a beat-up 1970's Pinto.

TILLIE
 Granny grunt with her fruit salad
 son. Brother.

INT. WHALE WATCHERS - DAY

The inside lobby is like a piece of heaven. Mirrors, crystals and ornate objects are everywhere. An indoor fountain with a statue of Ponce de Leon pouring water holds court in the center. Faith slinks through the clinic walking directly to the WOMAN CLERK behind the counter.

WOMAN CLERK
 Welcome to Whale Watchers! May I
 help you?

FAITH
 My private room ready?

WOMAN CLERK
 Name, please.

FAITH
 Don't give me that bullshit! (She
 pulls down her shades and peers at
 woman.) I'm Faith Blue!

WOMAN CLERK
 Oh, good God.

FAITH
 Shh. Just give me my key.

The woman bangs at the keys in a nervous flurry.

EXT. WHALE WATCHERS - LATER

Alice and Marla pull into the driveway. Alice opens her door and hits the pavement, eager to get moving. Marla takes her time getting out of the car. Alice turns to Marla for one final check-in.

ALICE
 You got your pills?

MARLA
 What?

ALICE
You heard me! Let me see them.

Marla pulls a bottle of pills out of her pocket and flashes them to her sister.

MARLA
There! God.

ALICE
(Smiles radiantly.)
Good. I didn't want you falling
off your teeter totter.

Marla puts a fake smile on her face, Alice loops her arm about Marla's and they begin the ascent into the health club.

EXT. WHALE WATCHERS - CONTINUOUS

Tillie with her binoculars again spying Marla's large body.

TILLIE
Mooooooooo.

INT. WHALE WATCHERS - CONTINUOUS

The woman clerk frantically types at her computer, but she is drawing a blank. Faith breathes like a dragon ready to spit fire.

WOMAN CLERK
I'm sorry. You're not in the
computer

FAITH
Listen, girlie! I'm Faith fucking
Blue!

INT. WHALE WATCHERS - CONTINUOUS

Scottie and Mattie stroll through the lobby, and Scottie spots Faith and stops dead in his tracks and lets out a yelp.

SCOTTIE

It's her!

MATTIE

Who?

Scottie stares at Faith who continues her tirade on the woman and stomping her feet and throwing her purse on the floor. He approaches her somewhat intimidated. Should he or shouldn't he get so close to his idol?

SCOTTIE

Faith Blue?

Faith pivots around with daggers shooting from her eyes.

FAITH

What?

SCOTTIE

You don't know me...

FAITH

No shit, buster.

SCOTTIE

Could I trouble you for an autograph?

Faith doesn't answer, she instead glares at this tender fan. He fumbles around looking for something for her to sign. He grabs the pen from the woman behind the desk, grabs the brochure out of Mattie's hand, and holds it out to Faith.

FAITH

I don't do leaflet.

Scottie digs in his pockets and fishes out a dollar bill and hands it to her. Faith looks at it incredulously for a second and then tears it up into shreds and throws the remains at him.

FAITH

I don't sign anything under a \$50.

Faith turns abruptly back to woman. Scottie shell-shocked, damaged walks away with Mattie disgusted. Faith turns back to the affection of her flames.

FAITH

Where were we, Miss Pee on?

Alice glides through the lobby on her high horse like a set of wind chimes. Marla lugs behind her. Alice moves directly to the counter next to Faith where a MALE CLERK smiles broadly.

MALE CLERK

We've been expecting you, Ms.
Mason!

Faith, who has overheard the name, peers over her sunglasses at Alice.

FAITH

Well, I'll be damned!

Alice turns as white as a ghost and puts her hand over her heart.

ALICE

Oh, no!

FAITH

Alice, it's Faith.

Alice doesn't acknowledge Faith, but peers directly at the man in front of her; she extends her hand.

ALICE

Key please!

FAITH

(Laughing...)
You're not still pissed at me, are
you?

Alice grabs the keys and speaks under her breath as she walks away from the counter and the red head beside her.

ALICE

I release her with love! I release
her with love.

Marla has stayed behind soaking up this strange moment. Alice turns her head over her shoulder...

ALICE

Marla, no gawking at the antiques.

Marla follows Alice who briskly barrels down the corridor. Faith stands looking after them for a second with her hands on her hips. She spies a blowup poster in the lobby advertising Alice's lecture. She smiles to herself.

FAITH
Well, look who gets top billing in
this dump!

She turns back to the clerk smiling viciously.

FAITH
I need to speak to the
manager...NOW!

INT. ALICE'S ROOM - LATER

Alice rubs a crystal suspended around her neck and breathes in and out quickly. Marla stares at her.

MARLA
Who was that?

ALICE
It's Faith Blue. The bitch who
wrecked my life. You're in room
24.

Alice hands Marla a key.

ALICE
I need to call my sponsor.

Alice practically pushes Marla out of the room, slams the door, picks up her phone and dials.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

A hand holds a razor cutting up a line of coke. A nose with a rolled up dollar bill snorts the coke like a pig. Tillie's face raises and looks at herself in the mirror.

INT. MATTIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mattie unpacks her suitcase and hums a little ditty to herself while Scottie sits on the bed in a funk.

SCOTTIE

I have all her records, and she did that!

MATTIE

She was probably upset.

SCOTTIE

She's a mean, old snake. I'm going out for a walk.

Scottie opens the door revealing Tillie standing poised ready to knock. She carries a clipboard.

TILLIE

Mattie and Scottie?

MATTIE

Yes.

TILLIE

Hi! Welcome to Whale Watchers! I'm Tillie, the events coordinator. We're having a little introduction powwow in the Chanal room at 6:15.

MATTIE

We'll be there with bells on.

Scottie says nothing, but slips past Tillie in frustration; Mattie shrugs her shoulders.

INT. MARLA'S ROOM - DAY

Marla opens the door, flips the switch and the room is flooded with light. She throws her keys on the night stand, slings her samsonite on the bed, and unzips it finds her stash of candy. She pulls open a drawer and dumps the candy into it and covers it up with her clothes.

INT. ALICE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Alice frantically paces back and forth in her room like a caged panther talking on the phone.

ALICE

Marlin! I can't do it. I'm not arguing with you. I know you're my sponsor. I am surrendering. I give up. Okay. Yeah, this too shall pass. (hangs up phone) Well, what the hell doesn't?

She slams down the phone and kicks the bed.

INT. MARLA'S BATHROOM - LATER

Marla stands above the toilet bowl dumping her pills into the water. Smiling at herself, she bites into her snicker's bar and flushes.

INT. MANAGER'S OFFICE - LATER

Alice rummages through various boxes pulling out copies of her new book, audio tapes and CDs. NORVAL, a man in his late 40's, stands with his hands on his hips fussing over Alice.

ALICE

Norval, I want these prominently displayed tonight when I'm introduced.

NORVAL

Yes, Ms. Mason. We're so happy you consented to teach here. What do you plan to do?

ALICE

I'm going to use tools from my little magic bag of tricks. I'm planning festive group exercises, readings, and Q & A (God, help me) and other little things. It's fun.

Norval beams at her as she continues to dig through the boxes.

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

By a green lamp, Faith finger pecks at her lap-top computer. She peeks over her horn-rimmed glasses at pages of notes at her side. While she type, her V.O. plays.

 FAITH (V.O.)
 Night one. Got looped on the drive
 over. Lo and behold, Alice is
 here. She seems a bit damaged that
 I stole her man 15 years ago...

FLASHBACK

INT. SOUND STAGE - DAY

A film crew is in the process of making a movie. Faith, 15 years younger, is acting in front of the camera. Alice, 15 years younger, is seated in a chair next to the DIRECTOR.

 FAITH
 (as character)
 "And I don't' know why you say
 those things."

Faith suddenly breaks character and yells:

 FAITH
 Cut!

Director yells "cut." Cameras stop turning and crew go back to one. Director walks to Faith and puts his arm around her. She pouts.

 DIRECTOR
 What's wrong Faith?

 FAITH
 This transition is weird. Can we
 change the line?

 DIRECTOR
 To what?

 FAITH
 I don't know. I'm not the writer
 for, Pete's sake.

Director and Faith's eyes both zero in on Alice like a dart. She turns purple.

DIRECTOR
Alice, could you look at that line
again?

ALICE
(Icy)
Honey, the line is fine!

Faith looks from Alice to Director and explodes!

FAITH
No it's not! Either the line goes
or I go!

Faith storms off the set to her trailer where she slams the door shut. Director turns to Alice with rage erupting from his cheeks.

DIRECTOR
Now, look what you did!

ALICE
I'm sorry, I just felt...

DIRECTOR
I don't give two shits what you
feel. You fucked everything up!
You're my fucking wife and you make
it impossible! God-damn it!

Director throws his script down and rushes to the trailer. Alice looks around at the film crew and is embarrassed.

EXT. TRAILER - LATER

Crew and actors break for lunch. Alice walks to the door of the trailer and starts to knock. She hears moaning and groaning. She presses her ear against the door to be certain. She quietly opens the door.

INT. TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

Alice tiptoes into the front room of the trailer and sees on the glass coffee table tiny lines of cocaine and bottles of Jack Daniels. The moans and groans continue. Alice walks to the second room to discover:

INT. TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

Alice'S POV: Faith and Director screw like sex-starved animals on the couch. Alice stares at them in half shock and total disgust. Finally, she begins to laugh. Faith and Director stop the sex and notice Alice. Alice turns away and runs out of the trailer.

INT. FAITH'S ROOM - DAY

Faith frantically types on her lap top.

FAITH (V.O.)
Alice Mason has recently hit the
self-help market...

INT. COMMUNITY ROOM - LATER

Scottie lounges in a comfortable chair alone reading a book. VARIOUS WOMEN are clustered about checking out their sex appeal. Marla hovers near the doorway sheepish, afraid--one foot in and one foot out. The thin girls snicker at her and she cowers back. She doesn't know if she wants to enter or bolt in the other direction, at the last second she makes eye contact with Scottie, and decides he's the safest person in the room and walks to him.

MARLA
Hi, I'm Marla.

SCOTTIE
(Extending his hand.)
Scottie.

MARLA
I'm terrible at making friends.

SCOTTIE
Me, too.

MARLA
You look as unhappy as I am.

SCOTTIE
I'm being held prisoner.

MARLA
Yeah, my sister, the guru, dragged
me up here.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Mattie has a mud pack smeared over her face crosses near the doorway, sees Scottie with Marla, smiles and continues to walk on.

INT. LECTURE HALL - LATER

A crowded room of WOMEN of all shapes and sizes sit in chairs before a podium. They have paper name tags on their shirts. Tillie stands at the lectern hyper and flying high like a cheerleader in mid cheer.

TILLIE
Hello!

She glances around the room and gets a lackluster response.

TILLIE
Am I playing the mortuary circuit?
People, we can do better than that!
(Clapping her hands.) Come on!
Hello!

She gets the same response, but trudges on.

TILLIE

That's better! My name is Tillie (she points to her name tag.) I'm your scheduling director for this week and...

Her nose begins to run and she pulls a wad of tissue out of her jacket pocket and wipes her nose.

TILLIE

Excuse me, I have a cold. This first evening, we want you to get real comfortable before we strip you of all your vices...

A chuckle from the audience.

TILLIE

You are alive. We have a very, special guest lecturing this week. She's a best-selling author, and I want to bring her up. Alice Mason!

A huge fanfare of applause. Alice ascends the stage like a goddess with butterfly wings.

ALICE

I'm very pleased to be here. Do you know there is a YOU inside you, you don't know about? You can make something outta YOU! Copies of my new book are on sale in the back of the room...

She points to the back of the room where a table is set up with piles and piles of Alice's new book and her previous book and the one before that and stacks of audio books and CD's. With plenty of clerks ready to sale them.

ALICE

For the overachievers. Now, just to give you a glimpse of things we're going to cover: I have invented a host of tools to dig out the person you hide from the world. Some of us live in such boxes which are more like coffins, but we can come back. There is more to you than you've settled with. I hope you join me in discovering...

Suddenly, a side door opens and Jake enters wearing a revealing workout suit. He rushes up to the podium. There is an audible gasp from the audience. Tillie glows flames which she tries to smother by smiling.

JAKE
Sorry I'm late.

TILLIE
(under her breath.)
Your dick get caught in your fly?

JAKE
Jealous?

Alice, sensing high drama, clears her throat and nods to the audience.

TILLIE
Oh...I want to introduce you to our
fitness instructor and masseuse,
Jake.

Jake, struts about the stage like a peacock, looks at the sea of eager beavers who are obviously in heat over him; all jaws on the floor.

JAKE
Hi. Like Tillie said, I'm Jake!
If you're having a hard time
sticking to your diets, or you're
finding no good reason to stay
motivated, come to me and I'll set
you right.

Jake, finished with his sales pitch hands the microphone back to Tillie who with disgust continues on.

TILLIE
That was sweet. We are all here
for your benefit and look forward
to helping you with your fitness
goals this week.

Jake places his arm around Tillie and she swats him off.

INT. LECTURE HALL - LATER

Women are filing out of folding chairs, talking and milling about. Jake turns to Alice extending his hand.

JAKE
Alice, is it?

Alice takes his hand and as soon as he touches her it's clear a chill rumbles through her.

ALICE
Yes.

JAKE
I hope to see a lot more of you.

Alice almost falls off the stage! She's not used to this type of advanced flirting. She looks sheepishly away, but his eyes stayed glued to her. Marla, who has made her way to the stage, taps Alice on the shoulder.

MARLA
Good speech, sister.

Alice, annoyed, but hides it.

ALICE
Jake, this is my sister, Marla.

Jake looks at Marla trying to mask his disbelief. Alice smiles as if to say, "This is a freak, I know."

JAKE
I'll see you girls around.

Jake preens away followed by a flock of women clucking like hens; Alice follows him with hungry eyes. A tap comes on her shoulder and she turns to find Tillie.

TILLIE
Books?

ALICE
(Coming back to Earth.)
Oh, I forgot. Yes, Tillie, let's get to work! It was nice to meet you, Jake.

She makes her way off the stage toward her fans lined up to read her book.

INT. BOOK TABLE - LATER

Cash register rings, credit cards are swiped and Alice, all smiles, sits like a princess at a table amidst her mountains of books signing them for the long line of WOMEN desperate to touch the goddess. Marla, with a frozen zombie smile, sits beside her. Tillie does line control.

TILLIE
We have all week, ladies.

LADY #1
I want my books signed tonight.

Suddenly, a PUSHY WOMAN storms her way to the front of the line confronting Alice much to the dismay of the other gals in line.

PUSHY WOMAN
I need a lock of your hair.

Alice turns to pushy woman startled, yet attempting to hold down her annoyance.

ALICE
What?

PUSHY WOMAN
I can sing again if I get a lock of your hair.

ALICE
I think singing lessons might serve you better than my hair.

PUSHY WOMAN
Listen, you!

TILLIE
If you want private consultation, Alice will be available later.

PUSHY WOMAN
But I want it now!

Tillie grabs her by the arm and escorts her out. Alice watches them disappear. Faith who has been lurking near the table suddenly speaks.

FAITH

Would you sign my book, Ms. Mason?

Alice, not looking at her, grabs the book on automatic pilot.

ALICE

Certainly. Name?

Alice looks up from book and notices Faith for the first time and her smile crashes. Faith stares her ex-friend down.

FAITH

Looks like you found your bottle of snake oil to sell.

ALICE

I won't be signing any more books tonight.

Alice pushes her chair back and leaves the room with a pout. The line of girls groan disapproval. Marla smiles at Faith.

MARLA

Faith, I'm a big fan.

FAITH

Are you with Alice?

MARLA

I'm her sister.

FAITH

It's nice to meet you.

Faith extends her hand and shakes Marla's hand.

INT. OFFICE - MORNING

Tillie reclines with her feet on the desk glancing at pages. Alice sits across from Tillie smiling. Tillie finishes the papers and lowers them.

TILLIE

This is tough.

ALICE
Listen, my sister has no willpower
or discipline.

TILLIE
I'll stay on her.

ALICE
She loses and you gain.

Alice hands her a fifty dollar bill. Tillie shakes Alice's hand as if to say, "deal".

INT. CAFETERIA - MORNING

A noisy, crowded cafeteria. Women dressed in loose fitting caftans are eating healthy, skimpy fruit bowl breakfasts and drinking juices all the while checking each other out. The overweight women shoot envious glares at the normal women while the normal women jeer at the skinny ones. Alice sits at a table where a group of women congratulate her while Marla slumps in the chair beside her looking miserable playing with her grey looking food.

WOMAN
Your book saved me!

ALICE
Thank you!

Marla lets out an audible moan. Alice looks over at the pathetic heap beside her.

ALICE
Isn't this fun?

MARLA
Hell no!

ALICE
Grouch.

MARLA
I'm not going to make it, Alice.
They don't even have coffee.

ALICE
Have some tea...

MARLA

Herbal decaf bullshit, no thanks.

Marla scapes her chair back and leaves. Alice opens up a notebook which says "Class one."

INT. CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

Mattie shovels food into her mouth while Scottie sips tea.

MATTIE

This is so groovy, Scottie!

SCOTTIE

Just like a dysfunctional
Disneyland.

MATTIE

Last night, I saw you talking to
that fat girl over yonder.

SCOTTIE

So?

MATTIE

I'm happy you've found a
girlfriend.

SCOTTIE

For the 1,000th time, mother, I'm
gay!

MATTIE

Scottie, I'm only trying to get you
out of your shell.

SCOTTIE

Maybe you shouldn't try so hard,
okay?

Scottie pushes back his chair and leaves.

INT. CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

Jake, framed in the doorway looking too good for a morning,
searches for a space to sit down.

His eyes hit Scottie who looks down at his plate in embarrassment; Mattie takes mental note. Jake sees Tillie and makes his way to her table.

JAKE
This seat taken?

TILLIE
Yes.

JAKE
By who?

TILLIE
My aura.

Jake plunks down anyway; Tillie jumps up as if she's allergic to him.

JAKE
(grabs her arm)
Til!

TILLIE
Fuck off, Jake!

Tillie runs out of the cafeteria. Jake notices the legions of women staring at him, and he smiles with charm and begins to spoon yogurt into his mouth.

INT. SPINNING CYCLES - MORNING

Rows of women peddling while Queen's "Fat Bottomed Girls" blares on the speakers. A BEAUTIFUL INSTRUCTOR shows them exercises while they ride.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - MORNING

Naked women look at their bodies in mirrors in disgust. Some women are on scales and some have tape measures which they loop around their mid-drifts looking discouraged. They also sneak glances at the other women's bodies with envy and scorn.

INT. BODY WRAP ROOM - MORNING

Women are being wrapped in silken body wraps like cocoons with the help of the staff. ANNOUNCER speaks over the loud speaker:

ANNOUNCER

(V.O.)

Welcome to Whale Watchers. Your spring of eternal youth. Take a dip in luxury and let our staff spoil you. At 10:00, you don't want to miss Alice Mason's lecture, "Making Something Outta You."

EXT. GAZEBO - DAY

Marla leans against the pillar smoking a cigarette. Tillie sneaks up behind her pulls the cigarette out of Marla's mouth.

MARLA

Hey!

TILLIE

This is a non-smoking facility.

MARLA

Can't drink, can't smoke, can't eat...have they banned fucking?

TILLIE

Cut the crap, Marla. It's time for your fitness evaluation.

INT. WORKOUT ROOM - DAY

Marla lies flat on her stomach while Tillie hovers above her with her clipboard. Marla attempts to do a push up, but can't lift herself. Tillie rolls her eyes and makes a note on her chart.

INT. PULL UP BAR - DAY

Marla's chubby hands grip the bar and pulls up the top of her head, her bangs, and then her eyes. She struggles to get her nose over the bar...she's hopeful, then skeptical and finally drops down onto the mat. Tillie makes another jot on her list.

INT. SCREENING ROOM - DAY

Marla sits with only a flimsy smock about her; she shivers in the cold. Tillie enters with her clipboard.

TILLIE
You've failed all of your
diagnostics.

MARLA
I feel like I'm being tortured.

TILLIE
Good. We're doing something right.

MARLA
Why are you riding me so hard?

TILLIE
Your sister told me to.

MARLA
Shit. I wish I were dead.

TILLIE
By the time I'm finished with you,
you'll feel like you were.

Tillie exits with a smug look on her face. Marla pulls a candy bar from behind her smock and takes a generous bite.

INT. MASSAGE ROOM - DAY

Faith lies face down on the massage table with a towel around her. Jake enters dressed in a silk robe with very revealing underwear on.

JAKE
Good morning, Ms. Blue.

FAITH
No sweet talk, get to work or no
tip.

Jake lowers the lights, puts on a bit of mood music and lights a stick of incense. He grabs a bottle of lotion, squirts some into his hand and rubs it between his palms. He begins to rub Faith's back.

JAKE
Now, you act like you're clay and
let me mold you.

FAITH
Okay.

Jake begins with her back and then rubs her legs. His massage soon turns very sexual. Faith just moans.

FAITH
Ohh...Jesus.

Jake kisses her on the neck. She rolls over and stares boldly at him as if to say "What in the hell is that?".

JAKE
(Innocently)
Trying to do my job.

Faith eyeballs him for a moment deciding whether she should slug him, but instead she pulls off his robe and jumps on him. They kiss and fall back onto the table.

INT. DOORWAY OUTSIDE JAKES - LATER

The door swings open and Faith walks out. She looks like a new woman. She grins from ear to ear as if to say, "That's what I call service!" She hums a little song to herself as she prances down the hallway.

INT. SECLUDED ROOM - DAY

Alice stretched into a pretzel in a yoga pose wearing a multi-colored loose fitting new age outfit. Spiritual flute music weaves the air.

ALICE

Ommmmmmmmmm.

INT. LECTURE HALL - CONTINUOUS

Tillie faces the eager audience at the podium. A dry erase board has been set up behind her. She holds Alice's new book, "Making Something Outta You!" in her hands.

TILLIE

Please welcome Alice Mason!

The crowd goes wild. Mattie and Scottie sit together.

INT. SECLUDED ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alice, hearing the applause, stands on her feet. She jumps up and down and then plants her feet on the ground and inhales and exhales very quickly almost as if she's blowing herself up.

ALICE

Let's Go!

INT. LECTURE HALL - CONTINUOUS

Alice glides into the overwhelming applause. She bows at the audience like a Zen master. During the applause, Faith zips down the aisle and slides in next to Mattie.

FAITH

Girl, try Jake's massage. Wow!

Tillie clips a body microphone on Alice. There is feedback.

ALICE

Thank you so much. What a lovely reception!

Alice suddenly seems very annoyed. She scrunches her brow and scratches her head. She tries to ignore it by putting on a good face, but it still bothers her. She looks toward the ceiling and notices the fluorescent lights beaming down.

ALICE

First of all, I want to say, I wish I were happy to be here, but I wasn't informed there were fluorescent lights in this room. I'm highly allergic to this type of light. It pisses me off. Isn't there something we can do?

She looks offstage to Tillie who shrugs her shoulders and scurries about like a chicken with it's head cut off.

INT. LECTURE HALL - LATER

The room is dark except for candles that have been placed on the stage. The double doors leading to outside have been propped open by chairs. Alice is happy as a pig in slop. She has her shoes off and she's put on her reading glasses. She's in the middle of answering questions. A FRAZZLED WOMAN is in the middle of an obvious long narrative.

FRAZZLED WOMAN

...and I've been reading your Book, but I'm still not the me...

ALICE

What's your question?

Frazzled woman breaks down into uncontrollable sobs.

FRAZZLED WOMAN

I just don't know! I can't get it together.

ALICE

I understand. Change is turbulent.

FRAZZLED WOMAN

You're not helping me!

ALICE

I'm a teacher not a miracle worker.
I suggest therapy.

Woman sits down.

ALICE

I don't mean to sound heartless and
cold, but not all the answers to
every problem is in my book. I
suggest you do the tools and get
help if need be.

She smiles at the woman and the woman smiles back at her.

INT. JAZZERCISE ROOM - DAY

Jake leads everyone in a morning stretch. The class includes
Mattie, Marla, Faith, Scottie & Alice. Alice tries to avoid
looking at him, but she can't seem to shake his beauty. The
Carpenter's "Top of the World" blares.

JAKE

And reach for the top of the world!
And breathe. Inhale. Great!

MATTIE

Wow!

JAKE

And now bend all the way down And
put both palms flat on the floor.

Marla attempts the bend, but can't make it halfway.

MARLA

He's got to be kidding.

INT. JAZZERCISE ROOM - LATER

Women file out of class exhausted and satisfied. Jake pats
himself with a towel. TWO FOREIGN WOMEN approach him.

FOREIGN WOMAN #1

Sensational.

FOREIGN WOMAN #2
Yeah, my muscles feel like taffy.

JAKE
Thank you.

FOREIGN WOMAN #1
I got your massage today and I
swear, I feel 30 again.

Foreign Woman #2 gives her a nudge in the ribs.

FOREIGN WOMAN #1
This is my friend, Helga. She's
married.

Helga smiles at Jake seductively.

JAKE
Hi, Helga. Excuse me.

Jake exits through the door; they stare at his backside.
Helga turns to her friend giving her a burning eye.

HELGA
Why did you tell him I'm married?

WOMAN #1
You are!

HELGA
I'm married, not dead!

INT. JAKE'S TABLE - DAY

Mattie, a mass of beautiful wrinkles, lies under her pink
towel. Jake enters and does the same routine as he did
before. Once the massage gets going, Mattie peeks up. She
hasn't had this in a *long* time.

MATTIE
Whoa doggie!

Jake slips out of his robe revealing his body.

JAKE
You object?

Mattie eyes him. She's tempted. To whet her appetite, Jake pulls off his underpants. Mattie's pupils dilate and she swallows hard.

MATTIE

If my husband had that thing, I would have been a merry widow.

JAKE

Thought you'd approve.

He moves to her. She sits up as if she wants it, then...

MATTIE

Wait. I have a proposal...

With a look of glee, she begins to tell him of her plan.

INT. NORVAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Alice paces back and forth like a saber-toothed tiger in heat. Norval wipes the sweat from his brow.

NORVAL

It's state of the art equipment.

ALICE

I don't care! You tell me, Norval, how am I supposed to teach this sea of disfunction with those lights?

NORVAL

I'm sorry. I'll take care of it.

ALICE

Fix it by tomorrow or I'm going to gun my BMW down that mountain and not look back.

She leaves a flustered Norval slamming the door behind her.

EXT. POOL SIDE - DAY

Alice lounges by the pool with her walkman. Faith on the opposite end, hops onto the diving board and does a cannon ball purposely splashing Alice. Alice screams as the cold water hits her body. She looks around for the culprit.

Faith meanwhile has swam to the ladder, and crawled out walks to Alice.

ALICE
Leave me alone!

FAITH
You know, I caught your little lecture.

ALICE
Really?

FAITH
It was so impressive. I have no need for it, but simple-minded, weak folk might get some benefit out of it.

ALICE
That's what I simply adore about you. I can always count on you for a wet-blanket remark.

Faith plops down in the chair opposite of Alice and looks her in the eyes.

FAITH
Why don't we call a truce?

ALICE
You call a truce you selfish one-sided lush. I wouldn't trust you as far as I could throw you.

Alice grabs her towel, book and snobbishly walks away.

INT. ALICE'S ROOM - DAY

Alice unlocks her door and slams it shut. She gives it a swift kick for good measure. She leaps onto the bed and begins kicking her feet and beating her hands against the pillows.

ALICE
Damn her! Damn her!

INT. ALICE'S BATHROOM - LATER

Alice now calm and collected stands in front of the mirror looking deeply at herself.

ALICE

I love you Alice Jean. Truly I love you.

Alice smiles at herself.

INT. EXERCISE BIKES - DAY

Marla peddles very slowly while smoking a cigarette. Tillie walks in and Marla tries to hide the cigarette; too late.

TILLIE

I told you, no smoking.

Tillie removes the cigarette from her mouth and smashes it out.

TILLIE

You're never going to drop all that flab if you don't pump those peddles.

MARLA

Good God. Don't you have other people to hassle?

TILLIE

No back talk.

MARLA

It says here to stop if you feel short of breath or dizzy... And I feel both.

TILLIE

You're just lazy. We need to go a bit faster, okay?

Marla continues in the same sluggish fashion. Tillie turns up the dial to make the bike move faster and struts away satisfied. Marla turns it back down again.

EXT. HIKING TRAIL - DAY

Jake leads the pack up a winding mountain.

JAKE
We still have 2 miles to go! Hup,
one, two, three.

MARLA
They're trying to kill me.

Scottie suddenly stumbles to the ground. Howling in pain.

SCOTTIE
My foot. Ouch. Ouch.

MATTIE
Scottie!

Everyone runs to him.

JAKE
Can you stand up?

Scottie tries, but it hurts too much and he sits on the ground.

JAKE
(To the women)
Why don't you all go back to the
camp I'll carry Scottie on my back.

The group of women hike away. Jake pulls some breakable ice out of his back pack and places it in on Scottie's ankle.

JAKE
We better get that splinted.

As Jake begins to work on his ankle, Scottie lies back basking in the attention and watching Jake's bronzed muscles flexing in the sun. His imagination runs wild:

FANTASY

EXT. HIKING TRAIL - DAY

Scottie and Jake have wild, gay sex.

INT. SUN ROOM - DAY

Scottie sits reading a magazine. Jake leads a spinning workshop at the far end of the room. Alice breezes in with an arm load of books

ALICE

Hey, sport, how's the boo boo?

SCOTTIE

Luckily, it's not broken. I think I'll be able to walk by tomorrow.

ALICE

Here's a few of my autographed books. They might aid your recovery.

Alice deposits the books on his chair and begins to walk away, but before she does, she sneaks a peak at Jake. Jake notices her and smiles.

INT. WORKOUT ROOM - DAY

Jake stands in front of a group of women in bright leotards down on mats in the middle of a yoga poses. Alice is deep into her pose.

JAKE

Okay! Drop the pose.

The women all relax on their mats, sip water and pat themselves with towels.

JAKE

I need a volunteer to help demonstrate the next pose.

The women's hands go up like eager children in 3rd grade math class. Jake looks about the room and his eyes land on Alice.

JAKE

You.

Alice politely, but hesitantly stands.

INT. WORKOUT ROOM - LATER

Jake and Alice sit on the mat feet together, legs spread wide, holding hands and stretching back and forth. The women are all paired together doing the stretch. Jake pulls Alice toward him.

JAKE

You should stop by my office and get a rubdown.

Alice pulls back.

ALICE

No.

Jake pulls her really close to him where their lips are almost touching.

JAKE

I have a feeling it would benefit us both.

Alice's lips almost touch his before she thinks twice and gives Jake a tug back toward her.

INT. KITCHEN - MIDNIGHT

Pots and pans are scrubbed and cleaned. Marla tiptoes into the kitchen. She looks about her to make sure no one is lurking near. She tries to rummage through the cabinets, but they are all padlocked. Suddenly, the lights flip on and Tillie stands with a mud pack over her face and arms crossed at the chest.

TILLIE

Caught you!

MARLA

I guess I'm too big to say I'm a rat.

TILLIE

Looking for food?

MARLA

My herbal Dexatrim wore off. You people are starving me.

TILLIE
You're not allowed anything after 5
p.m.

MARLA
Do I have a "don't feed the hippo"
sign on my back?

Tillie grabs her by the arm like a child and leads her away.

INT. ALICE'S ROOM - MORNING

Alice kneels down on her knees praying.

ALICE
Spiritual Love, guide me, lead me,
show me. Help me to teach what I
can to these hard-headed women.

INT. MARLA'S ROOM - MORNING

Marla sound asleep and snoring. She rolls over and mumbles:

MARLA
Ding Dongs, Ice Cream...

INT. HALLWAY BY MARLA'S DOOR - LATER

Alice up and ready for the day ahead, raps on the door.

ALICE
Time to wake up!

MARLA
(from inside)
Go away.

ALICE
Up and Adam, little sister.

MARLA
(from inside)
I hate this fucking place! I want
to go home.

Marla flings the covers back and stares at the ceiling.

INT. LECTURE HALL - DAY

Alice has the students in a deep trance.

ALICE

And I want you to cuddle your inner
child. Love that baby.

All the students with their eyes closed smile except Marla who weeps. She suddenly opens her eyes and stands up with red rage written all over her face.

MARLA

She's a fake!

People pop out of their trances and gasp and stare. Alice, mortified, glares at Marla like a stern parent.

ALICE

Marla!

MARLA

Don't buy her books.

ALICE

My sister is a sick woman.

Marla and Alice lock eyes like two rams about to do battle. Alice smiles uncertainly at her audience; her fans.

ALICE

She's crazy.

MARLA

You're a liar. Tell them what you
did to me. Tell them! You fucking
bitch!

Alice nods to security who grab Marla and escort her out the door yelling and fighting.

MARLA

Get your fucking, god-damned hands
off me you lousy son of a bitch.
I'm not the crazy one. God,
someone help me!

Marla has been violently carried off.

ALICE

I'm sorry you had to witness that.
Let's go back to the meditation.
Now, let's all take a nice deep
breathe and let it out!

INT. BACK ROOM - LATER

Alice, beat red, in the face shouts at the obstinate mountain of Marla. Tillie watches the scene. Marla stares at the both of them in disgust.

ALICE

Marla, answer me!

MARLA

Someone had to knock you off your pedestal!

ALICE

I brought you up here for your own benefit, and you fuck me over! I told you how important this was for me.

MARLA

Yeah? Well, I didn't want to come here, remember? You're such a god-damned phoney, Alice. You've always had your nose in the clouds.

Alice completely stunned, glares at the woman in front of her as if she's a stranger. Tillie, finally speaks.

TILLIE

Not to add fuel to the fire, but I caught her rummaging in the kitchen hunting for food trying to cheat on her diet.

ALICE

Thanks, Tillie. You're showing your ass again, Marla May.

ALICE

(talking to her like a child.)
You're not a stable girl.

MARLA

Yes I am. Give me a chance!
You're pissed because I refuse to
be one of your dumbbell clients.

ALICE

You're not taking your lithium!

Marla, stung by her remark, and Alice knows she's hit the bull's eye.

MARLA

I threw them out.

ALICE

I knew it. I'm calling Dr.
Axelrod.

MARLA

Go ahead, see if I care!

Marla stomps off in a huff. Alice begins to shake with rage.
Tillie hands her the phone.

INT. JAKE'S OFFICE - DAY

Jake examines his body before a full-length mirror. There is
a knock at the door; he throws on a robe and opens it.
Alice, a heap of tears, barges into the room.

ALICE

I need a attitude adjustment.

INT. JAKE'S TABLE - LATER

Jake and Alice in the throws of passion on the massage table.
She cries out in uncontrollable ecstasy.

INT. JAKE'S TABLE - LATER

Alice buttons up her blouse while Jake reclines naked smoking
a cigarette.

ALICE

Jake...What can I say? Wow! I needed that.

JAKE

The pleasure's all mine, baby.

Alice pulls on her shoes, throws her shoulders back, flips her hair, kisses him on the mouth and opens the door.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Alice waltzes down the corridor in a haze beaming.

INT. ALICE'S BEDROOM - DAWN

It is still semi-dark outside. Alice bolts straight up in the bed. She crosses to the window and pulls up the shade. Her face, illumined by the wash of the moon, as she stares at her reflection in the glass for a second. Turning around, she sits at her writing table, opens a notebook and begins to write.

ALICE (V.O.)

Jake, I feel juvenile writing you,
but dear I feel so much...

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. GARDEN - DAWN

The sun reveals itself while Alice takes a morning stroll. Among the roses, tulips and calla lilies, she glows. She plucks a flower and tucks it behind her ear. She turns circles and cries out in glee.

INT. JAKE'S DOORWAY - DAY

Alice carries the letter she previously wrote and a sprig of flowers which she places outside of Jake's door.

INT. LECTURE HALL - DAY

Alice stands in front of the audience dressed in a revealing, sexy dress. She has the same flower tucked under her ear. There is something softer and delicate about her. The chairs are no longer in neat, orderly rows, but spread out. The classmates have made paper dolls. A woman holds her doll up.

WOMAN

This is Nasty Ness!

The other women giggle.

ALICE

So, I'm assuming there are heaps of Nasty Nesses in this room..

WOMAN

She's the part of me I hide from the world. Thin, sexy and free.

ALICE

I know.

Alice smiles at the group of women. No longer the guru but one of the girls.

INT. JAKE'S OFFICE - DAY

Jake finds the letter, flowers and reads it. He smiles.

INT. JAKE'S TABLE - DAY

Marla's turn on the pleasure table. Her jelly rolls hang over the edge of the table. Jake does the same routine. As he begins to tease Marla, she sits up.

MARLA

Stop that!

Jake removes his robe displaying his assets with confidence.

JAKE

Pretend I'm 31 flavors and take a taste test.

Marla pushes him away violently.

MARLA
You touch me one more time, and
I'll break your neck.

She storms out. Jake puts his robe back on.

JAKE
Next cash paying customer.

Helga, rushes into the room.

INT. JAKE'S TABLE - LATER

Jake massages Helga. She writhes in passion. Jake stands in front of her and slips out of his underwear. Helga stares up at him smiling.

EXT. BADMINTON COURT - DAY

Marla and Scottie hit a shuttlecock across a net.

SCOTTIE
Do you think I'm cute?

MARLA
As a button.

SCOTTIE
I have the hugest crush on Jake.

MARLA
That creep! He tried to seduce me.

SCOTTIE
He did?

MARLA
Yes, I almost decked him.

Thawk! She pounds the birdie hard over the net; it hits Scottie in the eye.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

DR. AXELROD, a psychiatrist in his 50's, sits at the desk with Marla across from him her arms folded, pouting.

AXELROD

Alice says you're not taking your medication, and you're displaying violence...

MARLA

Alice says! Has everyone bought her bullshit?

AXELROD

Marla, listen to me. I don't want to have to put you in a rubber room again!

FLASHBACK

Marla, late 20's, has a straight-jacket wrapped around her. Her eyes are dilated in buzzed tranquilizers.

BACK TO:

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Axelrod takes pills out of his bag and puts them on the desk. Marla, admitting her defeat, grabs them.

INT. OFFICE - LATER

Axelrod puts on his coat while Alice writes out a check.

AXELROD

She'll be alright now.

ALICE

I really appreciate you coming up here.

AXELROD

You holding up okay?

ALICE

I'm having trouble sleeping.

Axelrod opens his black "magic" bag and pulls out a bottle pills and hands them to Alice.

AXELROD

Sedatives. Just in case.

Alice pockets them.

EXT. JAZZERCISE ROOM - DAY

Jake, in the middle of teaching a class, puts the women through their paces. They are covered in sweat, working hard and loving it.

JAKE
That's it! Make it burn.

FANTASY

Jake, naked, does the workout. This is the women's projected fantasy. Individual women exercise and their thoughts are:

WOMAN #1
(V.O.)
What a God!

WOMAN #2
(V.O.)
I'm beautiful, sexy!

Alice works out among the crowd. She wiggles her ass at Jake who winks at her.

INT. JAZZERCISE ROOM - LATER

Jake's class has let out. He's putting on his sweater and stuffing things into gym bag. Alice approaches him blushing like a little girl.

JAKE
Hey, hotcakes.

ALICE
Can we be alone?

INT. LINEN CLOSET - DAY

Jake pumps Alice on the freshly laundered towels.

JAKE
Who's the guru?

ALICE
You are baby! You are!

INT. LINEN CLOSET - LATER

Alice quickly steps into her pants and throws on her blouse. Jake watches her laid back and calm.

JAKE
You running away from me?

ALICE
(Halts for a second)
No. I'm announcing this talent
show thing!

She blows him a kiss and bolts out the door still buttoning her shirt.

INT. CAFETERIA - MIDDAY

Noisy room. Women cluck like hens. Alice rushes into the room blushed from the afterglow. She mounts the stage and speaks into a microphone reading from note cards.

ALICE
Everyone! May I have your
attention? Whale Watchers is
having a talent contest in 3 days.
The grand prize is a round-the-
world cruise! So polish off your
talents!

A general rumble of excitement goes around the room.

INT. CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

Mattie's face beams. She can hardly eat. She turns to her son.

MATTIE
My old act!

SCOTTIE

Oh, no!

MATTIE

Son, you're going to be the star.

SCOTTIE

Suddenly, I feel like Gypsy Rose Lee.

Mattie throws him a dirty look.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Marla sits in a wicker chair staring out into the day. Faith, wearing a large hat and a caftan spots her and walks directly to her.

FAITH

I absolutely loved what you did yesterday.

MARLA

For real?

Faith plops down in the chair beside her.

FAITH

Heck yeah! You damaged her good!

MARLA

Now she's trying to get back at me.

FAITH

You give her too much power, honey.

MARLA

She makes me so mad I could bite her head off.

FAITH

What did she do to you?

Marla looks at Faith. Can she trust this woman? She opens her mouth to speak and tears spring forward instead.

MARLA

She called this greasy shrink who gives me all these pills that keep a lid on all my emotions, and he makes me take them. I'm not crazy.

Faith listens and the steam rises behind her eyes.

EXT. POND - LATER

Marla holds her bottle of pills in her hand and tosses them into the water.

FAITH

Good riddance, goodbye!

MARLA

I might go nuts without them.

FAITH

You're not crazy, girlfriend. Just not loved. I want to help you.

She puts her arms about Marla who allows herself to be held.

INT. SUN ROOM - LATER

Marla sits in a chair while Faith paces back and forth thinking.

FAITH

What can you do?

MARLA

Nothing.

FAITH

There has to be something.

MARLA

I'm in retirement.

FAITH

You're too young.

MARLA

From life.

FAITH

Oh, that's pathetic. What do you do for fun?

MARLA

I pretend to be a gay guy on the horny net. I'm getting married to him when I get back.

FAITH

Can you dance?

MARLA

Right. Alice got all the talent genes. Good looks, good luck...just like always.

FAITH

What did you like to do before you retired from work not life?

MARLA

I liked to do Kareokee at a bar with my gal pals. We'd go there Wednesday nights. Back when I was thin...

FAITH

You were thin?

MARLA

Don't look so surprised.

FAITH

Then you can sing! Follow me!

Faith marches out of the room and Marla follows her.

INT. REHEARSAL ROOM - DAY

Faith plays the piano while Marla stands beside it tentatively singing a song; She actually has a very pretty voice.

FAITH

You're joining that talent contest!

MARLA

Me?

FAITH
We'll show Miss Priss she isn't the
only diva in the family.

MARLA
Oh, I can't!

FAITH
You can, and you will!

MARLA
Why are you doing this?

FAITH
I like you. I have a thing for
underdogs! Honey. let's pick out
your song.

Marla hugs Faith spontaneously.

INT. ALICE'S ROOM - DAY

Alice sits on her bed with cotton between her toes; she's
applying red polish. She's on the phone.

ALICE
I've never felt this way. He's
handsome, sexy, straight...

She falls back on the bed like a teenager.

INT. EXERCISE BIKES - DAY

Marla actually sweats and hums to herself as she peddles.
Tillie comes through with her clipboard, takes notice and
gives Marla a thumbs up sign. When Tillie walks out the
door, Marla flips her off.

INT. JAKE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alice's head lies against Jake's pectoral muscle and she
plays with his chest hair with her finger.

ALICE

I feel like a burning desert, and
you're a drop of rain.

JAKE

You're so poetical.

ALICE

I know. You turned my lights back
on!

She kisses him on the nose and giggles.

INT. MARLA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sound of vibrator. Marla moans and groans in the darkness.
Suddenly, the vibrator stops buzzing. The batteries have
died.

MARLA

Shit.

The vibrator suddenly sails through the sky like a missile
and hits on the wall smashing into pieces on the ground.

INT. LECTURE HALL - DAY

An elaborate flow chart is drawn on the dry erase board.
Alice turns from it and beams to the pack of women.

ALICE

...and when things start changing,
it can feel like an earthquake. So
I urge you to go slowly.

From across the room, Alice blows a kiss to Jake who stands
in the back of the room.

INT. LECTURE HALL - DAY

The lecture has ended and Alice runs to Jake.

ALICE

How was I?

JAKE
Brilliant.

They kiss.

INT. REHEARSAL HALL - DAY

Mattie checks her watch and fumes. Scottie bursts in the door breathing heavily.

SCOTTIE
Sorry, I'm late.

MATTIE
The contest is tomorrow night.

SCOTTIE
Don't flip your wig.

MATTIE
Scottie, I'm not having you ruin my chances at that prize.

SCOTTIE
I said I'm sorry. What do you want from me.

MATTIE
Stop being such a flaky biscuit.

SCOTTIE
I don't want to do this stupid routine!

MATTIE
You have been such a wet blanket this whole trip. Why don't you get over yourself. You're gay! So what? That doesn't give you a gold medal to wear.

She storms out of the room.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Marla and Faith walk to the rehearsal room. Alice breezes up the hallway smiling from ear to ear.

ALICE
Hi! Marla! Hi, Faith!

FAITH & MARLA
Hi, Alice.

ALICE
You two look like the cat that ate
the canary.

MARLA
Faith has...

Faith covers Marla's mouth.

FAITH
Don't tell her.

ALICE
Tell me what?

MARLA
Nope, you'll have to find out
yourself.

ALICE
What are you up to, Faith?

FAITH
Nothing.

ALICE
I know better than that. Marla be
careful!

MARLA
I'm a big girl and I can take care
of myself, but thanks for your
concern. Let's go Faith.

They hustle off down the hall. Alice shrugs her shoulders
and smiles to herself.

EXT. GARDEN - NIGHT

Alice and Jake stroll arm in arm through the magic of the
night. Alice suddenly turns to him with glee in her voice.

ALICE
You're my muse!

JAKE
Oh, come on. You barely know me.

ALICE
I know, but I feel like I've known
you all my life.

JAKE
You're a lot of woman.

He pulls her close to him and kisses her. She slips to her
knees before him.

ALICE
You're the only man I've ever let
dominate me. My next book is all
about you!

She unzips Jake's pants.

INT. BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

This is the big night! People mill around backstage
adjusting costumes, fixing hair, putting on make-up. Marla
is dressed in a beautiful gown with Faith at her side.
Scottie and Mattie are dressed in matching suits.

MARLA
I'm so nervous.

FAITH
You're going to be great. Just
close your eyes. It's you and I in
the rehearsal room.

Tillie rushes backstage and gives the announcement.

TILLIE
Five minutes everyone.

SCOTTIE
This suit itches!

MATTIE
You look really smart.

SCOTTIE
I feel like a dork.

MATTIE
You're going to be a smash.

SCOTTIE
Sometimes, I could kill you mother.

MATTIE
Don't say that. Now, hold still!

Mattie licks her fingers and brushes down a lock of his hair; he brushes her hand away.

INT. FRONT OF AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

Alice sits in the audience with Jake. Tillie enters the stage and goes to the microphone. She tests it by blowing into it.

TILLIE
OK. Everyone ready?

Crowd claps.

TILLIE
Our first act of the evening:
Mattie and Scottie!

Curtain part revealing Mattie and Scottie; they do a piece of vaudeville called "Slowly I Turn". They are good.

INT. BACKSTAGE - CONTINUOUS

Meanwhile, Marla heaves into a trash can while Faith holds her hair from her face.

FAITH
Yes, get it out. I used to do that when I first started out, too. I couldn't perform unless I had my pre-show purge.

INT. AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

The dynamic duo take their final bows while the audience hoots and hollers. Faith makes her way down the aisle and sits close to Alice. Tillie takes center stage:

TILLIE

Next up, we have a surprise talent.
Alice Mason's little sister, Marla!

Marla trips a little on her entrance; she's more than a little scared. She gets to the microphone and begins to sing. A radiant voice flows from her. Alice stares at her tight lipped. She turns to Faith who beams. Alice bolts out of her seat as if possessed.

ALICE

Get the harpoon gun! I spot a
whale.

On stage, Marla's eyes widen. She's mortified but tries to go on with her song. Her face starts to flush as crocodile tears begin to form.

FLASHBACK

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STAGE - NIGHT

Marla, AGE 6, stuffed inside a pink, frilly tutu and doing ballet in a recital along with other girls. She tries to do a leap into the air, but falls right onto her ass. Marla glances off-stage and Alice, AGE 10, laughs at her and points at her along with other children. Marla bursts into tears.

ALICE AGE 10

Fatty, Fatty two by four can't fit
through the door.

BACK TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

Marla begins to crack under the pressure. Alice now makes dog noises Faith stands up.

FAITH

Alice! Stop it.

ALICE

She did the same to me!

Marla throws down the microphone and runs off in hysterics. Jake rises and runs after her. Faith grabs Alice by the shoulders and slaps her across the face.

FAITH

You fucking bitch. How dare you!

Faith exits the room leaving Alice surrounded by a mob of angry women. She smiles weakly at them.

ALICE

I was only joking.

She slinks back into her seat. Tillie stands on stage at a loss of what to do. She motions for Norval to begin the music for the next act. TWO WOMEN enter twirling batons in skimpy bikinis.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Marla walks alone along the road that leads away from the resort. She has black streaks of mascara down her cheeks and her lipstick is smeared. She rips the hair ribbons out of her hair. A truck drives up beside her and honks. Marla ignores it. Jake rolls down the window.

JAKE

Get in!

MARLA

No!

JAKE

You'll freeze to death.

MARLA

Good for me.

Marla continues to walk. Jake stops the truck, gets out and catches up with her on foot.

JAKE

Where are you going?

MARLA

Home!

JAKE
It's 50 miles to the nearest town.

MARLA
I need the exercise. Dumb ass!

JAKE
Talk to me.

Marla turns to Jake for the first time and tries to open her mouth to speak, but nothing comes out, just murmurs. She breaks into buckets of tears.

INT. ALICE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alice writes in her journal.

ALICE (V.O.)
I showed my cellulite ass tonight.
What I did to Marla was cruel...I
feel horrible!

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Marla and Jake sit in a booth while a jukebox plays. Marla shovels pecan pie into her mouth while Jake sips coffee.

MARLA
Alice always got what she wanted
because she was pretty. I was
always the ugly, fat sister. Some
things never change.

INT. OUTSIDE MARLA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Alice knocks tentatively on the door. No answer. She knocks a little harder.

ALICE
Marla, open the door, please. I
need to talk to you. I'm sorry.

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER

MARLA

Every time I get my hands around something she robs me.

JAKE

She's jealous.

MARLA

Please! She has everything: Fame, clout, success...

JAKE

But she doesn't have all you have inside.

Jake reaches across the table and takes her hand.

INT. OUTSIDE JAKE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Alice's presses her face against the door sobbing.

ALICE

Jake? Jake. Oh, damn it! Jake where are you? I need a pick me up!

INT. JAKE'S COTTAGE - MORNING

Sunlight streams through the window of Jake's off-site cottage. Jake sits up in the bed naked staring at Marla sound asleep, snoring. He smiles.

INT. LECTURE HALL - MORNING

Alice in the room all alone; she's in a funk and looks shaken up. She takes a peak out between the curtains that divides the room and the lecture hall. She notices there are only a few people assembled for her class. She begins to weep. Tillie walks up behind her.

TILLIE
What should we do?

ALICE
Cancel.

Tillie strolls out to the stage.

INT. JAKE'S BEDROOM - LATER

Marla sleeps while Jake cooks breakfast in his underwear. Marla's nose twitches smelling the food in her sleep. She opens her eyes and has instant recall! She leaps out of bed, and begins to throw her clothes on. Jake calmly watches her. Marla bolts for the door, but Jake is quicker and cuts her off at the pass.

MARLA
Get out of my way before I slug
you.

JAKE
What's wrong with you?

MARLA
We did it!

JAKE
So?

MARLA
I don't want to see you again.

JAKE
Fine! I'll take you back, and
we'll never speak again. Now, sit
down and have breakfast.

Marla and Jake face off. Marla finally concedes and sits down at the table.

INT. NORVAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Alice sits in a chair across from Norval like a scolded girl.

ALICE
Norval, I'm sorry. What started
out as playful sibling rivalry
turned ugly.

NORVAL
Can you fix it?

ALICE
Of course I can; I'm a guru! I'll
talk with Marla and straighten this
whole mess out.

NORVAL
We just don't want trouble around
here.

ALICE
It will be alright.

EXT. WHALE WATCHERS - DAY

Jake drives up in his truck with Marla in the passenger seat.
Marla jumps out of the truck, slams the door and walks away.

JAKE
You're welcome.

MARLA
Thanks.

Jake pulls away while Marla ascends the stairs.

INT. LOBBY - DAY

Marla walks into the lobby and smiles a bit to herself.
Faith runs up all a flutter.

FAITH
Girl, where have you been?

MARLA
I got abducted by aliens.

FAITH
Did you get the anal probe?

MARLA
Something like that...

FAITH
All hell broke loose!

INT. MARLA'S ROOM - DAY

Marla looks into the mirror and smiles to herself. She has put on make-up, styled her hair, and put on decent clothes. She now has a self-confidence, a poise, a glow.

INT. MARLA'S ROOM - LATER

Alice sits on the bed and plays with the coverlet. Marla sits calmly in her chair like a queen.

ALICE
Marla, I'm sorry.

MARLA
Why did you do that to me?

ALICE
I don't know. I just got so mad...I've been trying to help you all these years, and Faith...

MARLA
She didn't beat up on me like you do! She cared.

ALICE
I just wanted to lash out at you. Marla, all I can do is try to do better. I'm so sorry. Forgive me.

MARLA
What if I don't want to?

ALICE
(nearly hostile)
I'm trying to make amends to you!
I said I'm sorry.

MARLA
You're always so sorry!

ALICE
I really am. Forgive me!

MARLA
Okay. God! I accept your apology.

Alice weeps and runs into Marla's arms. Marla doesn't cry, instead she looks straight ahead.

INT. JAKE'S TABLE - DAY

A WOMAN lies face down. Jake enters and begins his routine once more; he starts to massage the woman and she moans immediately. The woman turns over revealing perfect breasts. Jake walks toward her and she smiles. He goes in for a kiss, but at the last minute stops.

JAKE
I can't.

Jake pivots about and turns off the music and flips on the lights.

WOMAN
My massage!

JAKE
Sorry! That's it.

Woman gathers her towel around her and storms out. Jake stands staring around the room with indecision in his eyes.

INT. EXERCISE BIKES - DAY

Scottie and Mattie ride the stationary bikes.

SCOTTIE
Mom, I'm sorry we lost the award.

MATTIE
It's okay, kiddo!

SCOTTIE
You were great.

MATTIE
You think so?

SCOTTIE
You were the bell of the ball.
They only gave it to Marla because
her sister heckled her.

MATTIE
You're sweet.

SCOTTIE
And when we get back, let's do more
of it.

MATTIE
Oh, honey.

Scottie smiles at his mother and she winks at him as they
peddle onward.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Jake walks back from the gym. Alice runs up to him and
throws her arms around him. He responds like an iceberg and
shrugs her off. She giggles like a little girl.

ALICE
I couldn't find you last night,
baby. Where were you? I had that
same itch that only you can
scratch!

Jake doesn't say anything to Alice. He stares straight ahead
and walks in silence.

ALICE
(Talking quickly.)
Hey, Marla accepted my apology, but
I was so scared. My reputation and
all...

Jake suddenly stops and glares at her. He grabs her by the
shoulders and gives her a shake so hard her teeth almost fall
out.

ALICE
What in the hell was that?

JAKE

You're a sorry excuse for a human.
How could you do a thing like that?
I thought you were real...

ALICE

Jake, it was a joke! Everything's
fine now.

JAKE

Alice, don't take it personally,
but, I don't want to be with you.

ALICE

Jake, I made a mistake! Don't nail
me to the god-damned cross.

JAKE

Alice, forget it.

Jake arrives at his office, unlocks the door, enters and
slams it in Alice's face. Alice looks stunned, silenced and
floored.

INT. TILLIE'S OFFICE - DAY

The woman that Jake ditched previously weeps loudly,
violently on Tillie's consoling shoulder.

WOMAN

He jilted me! I feel raped.

TILLIE

There's an explanation. Maybe he
was sick.

WOMAN

I don't care! He made me slip
right off my diet so I gobbled an
entire bag of chips.

TILLIE

Where did you get chips?

WOMAN

I brought them with me in case of
an emergency.

Tillie stares off in the distance obviously pissed.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

A WORKER tapes to each door a flyer with Alice and Marla's picture on it. It reads: "Sisters make up after harsh words! Join reunion tomorrow morning!"

INT. ALICE'S ROOM - DAY

Alice sits at her writing desk composing a letter.

ALICE (V.O.)
Jake, I don't know what's
happening, but I must to talk to
you. Please don't shut me out.

She stares momentarily at the words she's just written and thinks twice and tears it into a million pieces and dumps them in the wastebasket.

INT. LECTURE HALL - DAY

A huge crowd of people assembled in the audience. Alice and Marla stand on the stage holding each other both weeping. Jake, who has been watching the spectacle from the back of the room, walks out disgusted.

INT. JAKE'S TABLE - DAY

Alice and Jake stand in the middle of a face off.

JAKE
You treat your own flesh and blood
like shit and then prop her up on
stage with you. Don't you have a
conscious?

ALICE
No...yes.

JAKE
Which is it?

Alice thinks for a second, then:

ALICE
Jake, let me make it up to you. I
can be good. I'll spoil you.

Alice slides up next to him trying on a seduction; he pushes her away.

JAKE
Have some self-respect.

Alice tears her clothes off. Jake, not moving, stands with his arms folded.

ALICE
I have none. No pride.

Jake grabs her, pulls her up. Is he going to kiss her?

JAKE
It's over Alice!

ALICE
No! I won't accept that! You love
me! I know you do.

She throws herself violently at him.

INT. JAKE'S OFFICE DOOR - DAY

Alice comes flying out of the door and falls onto the ground. The door slams behind her. She gathers herself up and storms off.

INT. JAKES OFFICE - LATER

Tillie stands with her arms folded in front of his desk.

TILLIE
What in the hell is wrong with you?

JAKE
I have no idea...

TILLIE

Cut the crap! You're not doing your job and these bitches are coming to me.

JAKE

I'm not a piece of meat.

TILLIE

Yes, you are.

JAKE

Till, I'm tired. I need a rest.

TILLIE

Oh, poor Jake! I don't know what kind of bullshit you got going down, but you better get it up!

Tillie walks out the door.

INT. WHALE WATCHERS - DAY

Women work out but they are no longer the eager beavers they once were. Their faces look drawn and old. Two women actually get into a fight at the Stair Master.

INT. JAKE'S TABLE - NIGHT

Jake in the middle of giving BLONDE WOMAN a rub down.

FANTASY

Woman turns into Marla. Jake leans down and kisses her.

INT. JAKE'S TABLE - CONTINUOUS

Marla turns back into blonde woman. They stare at each other and then Jake removes his robe much to her delight.

INT. DINING HALL - NIGHT

Marla eats quickly while Alice makes doodles with her tofu.

MARLA

What's wrong?

ALICE

I don't want to talk about it.

MARLA

I thought you liked to discuss and process all your issues!

ALICE

Don't make fun of me.

MARLA

Don't be so touchy. I'm just concerned. You can't say I didn't try.

Alice pushes her chair back and leaves.

INT. TILLIE'S OFFICE - DAY

Alice paces back and forth like a cat in eternal heat. Tillie plays solitaire.

ALICE

I can't sleep. I can't eat. Tillie I love Jake.

TILLIE

Oh, now.

ALICE

I can't help it, but he won't see me anymore.

TILLIE

He's that way with women. Hot and then cold. But then that's why he makes the big bucks.

ALICE

Excuse me?

TILLIE

Haven't you guessed? He screws all the women. That's his job. To make them feel good. He's the miracle "cure" around here.

Disbelief and humiliation play across Alice's face. She's torn between love and sanity.

INT. MUD HUT - NIGHT

Mattie, Faith, Alice, Marla, Tillie and various LADIES sit around a campfire inside a mud hut. Their faces and bodies are covered with mud. They are completely naked and sweating.

MATTIE

An orgasm is a mental thing.

ALICE

How so?

MATTIE

I can come just by thinking about it.

MARLA

I don't believe you!

MATTIE

What do you think keeps me wide-eyed and bushy tailed?

ALICE

You still have sex at your age?

MATTIE

I'm old not dead! I'm sure as long as I'm breathing "it" will work.

FAITH

You go grandma.

MATTIE

Let me show you how. It will save you years of aggression when your man don't fulfill your needs.

TILLIE
It sounds weird.

MATTIE
Let's try it!

ALICE
Here?

The women look apprehensive but inquisitive. Mattie smiles like the cat that chewed the canary.

MATTIE
No one will ever know. It's just between us girls.

EVERYONE
Sure. Yeah. How taboo. It will be fun!

They shake their heads enthusiastically. Mattie sits up straight, inhales a huge deep breath and...

MATTIE
Okay. Close your eyes. Now, picture your vagina as a place where red, hot lava pours. Now imagine the flame spreading all over your body.

Alice is the first to explode. She throws back her head and shouts:

ALICE
Yes, That's it. Oh, God.

All the women start to have imaginary orgasms. They are gasping and moaning and shaking in ecstasy. It doesn't happen for Marla; she squints her eyes harder. She finally catches an image that appeals to her and she starts to cook.

FANTASY

INT. JAKE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jake in the throws of orgasm; sweat pours off his body.

INT. MUD HUT - CONTINUOUS

Marla now sweats and shouts. The other women smoke cigarettes in repose watching her.

MARLA

Fuck me! Jake! Take me! I'm
yours!

Marla continues her orgasm. Alice looks like she's been punched in the stomach.

ALICE (V.O.)

That fat sow! How did she get
Jake? She stole my man.

Meanwhile, Marla continues to scream into ecstasy.

EXT. MUD HUT - NIGHT

Alice runs out into the wilderness naked. She falls to the ground in huge sobs.

ALICE

I won't stand for this. I've got
to stop this!

Marla comes out of the mud hut looking for Alice.

MARLA

Alice, what's wrong?

ALICE

You always ruin everything, Marla.

MARLA

What?

ALICE

You fucked it all up. My whole god-
damned life.

Alice runs off in hysterics.

INT. JAKE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Alice, scorching mad like a scorpion, stands face to face with Jake. He sits calmly with his feet up against the desk.

ALICE
You screwed my sister!

JAKE
And?

ALICE
She's an unbalanced girl.

JAKE
You're wrong, she's a consenting adult.

ALICE
You put your dick in the wrong hole. I know you think they all like your extracurricular activities, but you'll get yours.

JAKE
Look, Alice, she was unhappy, and I just gave her a little comfort like I did with you.

This hits Alice like an arrow to the bull's-eye; she flies at him like a bat out of hell arms frailing. Jake laughs at her.

JAKE
You're just mad because I won't give in to you.

ALICE
I'll have you fired!

EXT. CROQUETTE LAWN - DAY

Scottie and Marla hit colored croquette balls into wire hoops.

MARLA
And, boy I was in that mud hut and I started coming like the flood.

SCOTTIE
So, you like him?

MARLA
Shit, I guess. I'm mixed up. He's
cute, but he scares me.

Alice flies across the lawn a surge of piss and vinegar.

ALICE
Marla!

In her flight, she doesn't see where she's walking and trips
over a croquette hoop falling to the ground.

EXT. GAZEBO - LATER

Marla watches Alice like a tennis match as she rants and
raves.

ALICE
I forbid you to see Jake.

MARLA
I can't help it if he likes me and
not you.

ALICE
Listen, he's the only guy I've felt
this way about in 10 years.

MARLA
I have no control over Jake's
emotions or feelings.

ALICE
Shut up, God-damned it, before I
wring your necks.

MARLA
I don't know why you're so hyped up
about Jake, but take a chill pill
before someone throws you into a
padded room!

Marla turns her back and waddles off. Alice, miffed stands
with her hands on her hips.

INT. JAKE'S OFFICE - DAY

Jake gives Marla a massage. She lets herself relax and enjoy his touch. She suddenly sits up.

MARLA

You don't have to pretend you like me.

JAKE

I'm not pretending. I like you, a lot.

MARLA

You can't. Not with all these pretty women here.

JAKE

Yes I can. Beauty is not what you are on the outside, Marla.

MARLA

I'm not your little pet project.

JAKE

I don't think of you like that.

MARLA

Yes, you do. Everyone does. They take one glance at my thunder thighs, and they want to see me thin.

JAKE

Why can't you accept love when it's given to you?

MARLA

Jake, I was married once. I even got thin for him and it turned out bad...

FLASHBACK

INT. MARLA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Marla, early 20's, dressed in her wedding gown and HUSBAND, early 20's, very handsome, are walking hand in hand looking at their new apartment.

MARLA (V.O.)
I should have known something was
up when he did my hair and designed
my gown.

FLASHBACK

EXT. WEIGHT LOSS CENTER - DAY

Women of all sizes and sizes file into the room.

MARLA (V.O.)
And I tried to please him. I lost
100 pounds.

INT. WEIGHT LOSS CENTER - DAY

A group of WOMEN are seated in metal chairs. A thin, older
relic is giving her testimony. Marla, (now thin) weeps. All
the women clap.

INT. GYM - DAY

A very thin Marla rides an exercise bike like a bat out of
hell.

MARLA (V.O.)
And that's when it happened.

INT. MARLA'S HOME - DAY

Husband and MAN have sex on the couch. Marla opens the door,
walks in and gets an eye full of gay sex. The men look up
for a second and then continue their passion play. Marla
bolts out of the house.

MARLA (V.O.)
And what was I to do? I fell into
a dark depression.

INT. MARLA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Marla (fat again) sits alone dressed in her wedding gown (which she has grown out of, so it hangs on her) eating her wedding cake. She watches the video of her wedding night and weeps. She has a tub of ice-cream which she scoops generously out of with a spoon and eats.

INT. JAKE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Marla weeps uncontrollably and Jake hands her a tissue.

MARLA

Alice and my ex threw me into a nut house. I spent 6 months there while they diagnosed me as crazy and put me on lithium and a nice little stipend from Uncle Sam so I didn't have to work. I got as big as a house and vowed not to care for anyone ever again. I wanted to block out my feelings.

JAKE

I won't do that. I'm not perfect. You don't see yourself the way I do!

MARLA

What a fat, fucked up mess.

JAKE

No. When you were singing at that talent show...

MARLA

I sucked!

JAKE

Let me finish. You were marvelous! You glowed. The moment you opened your mouth, I thought I had died and gone to heaven. You have this child-like quality that melted me.

MARLA

But what about Alice? I thought you loved her.

JAKE

She's a phony. She's beautiful,
but only on the surface.

MARLA

I have kept up my dukes up
fighting...I didn't want people in,
but Jake I want you. I want to
love you, show me how.

JAKE

Come, here.

Marla crosses to Jake removing her shirt en route. Jake
grabs her face and kisses her. Jake kisses her on the lips.
She giggles and falls into his arms.

INT. NORVAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Alice attempts to act calm, but her body is radiating anger.
Norval looks afraid. She's just dropped a bomb on him.

ALICE

You heard me, Norval! Either Jake
goes or I go!

NORVAL

How dare you make demands like
that!

ALICE

He screwed my sister! He had no
right.

NORVAL

This is the first time I've had
complaints about Jake's bedside
manner.

ALICE

I'll sue both of you. I can close
this shithole down.

NORVAL

She's an adult, Alice. I don't
know what your problem with Jake
is, but I'm not getting in the
middle of it.

ALICE

Marla's a manic depressive. He took unfair advantage. You wait! I'll sue you and Mr. Hot Rod.

Alice rises from her chair like a jack in the box. She leans across his desk into his face.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Marla sits, hidden from view, inside the stall eating a candy bar. Tillie bursts in the door, throwing her heavy bag on the counter and begins to cut a line of coke. Marla peeks out from over the stall spying on Tillie. In mid-snort Marla slams open the door.

MARLA

I caught you, Ms. Candy nose.

TILLIE

I was powdering my nose.

MARLA

Wait till the staff hears about this. I'm telling.

TILLIE

Don't. I can't help it.

MARLA

Great all that talk about diets and working out...I knew you were full of shit.

TILLIE

Please, don't tell. I'll do anything.

MARLA

I'll keep my mouth shut, but if you ride my ass one more time about my fat ass, I'll go straight to Norval and blow the whistle. Got it?

Tillie shakes her head. Marla takes a huge bite out of her candy bar, smiles and walks out the door. Tillie begins to shake and starts to throw a huge coke fit.

EXT. PING-PONG TABLE - DAY

Alice and Tillie hit the plastic ball over the tiny net.

ALICE
I've tried talking to her and
him...What am I going to do?

TILLIE
Tell her what Jake is.

Tillie hits and ball and waits until the light bulb finally goes off in Alice's head.

INT. MARLA'S ROOM - DAY

Marla sits on the bed while Alice walks about still planning and scheming.

ALICE
I'm trying to protect you.

MARLA
From what?

ALICE
I don't want you to get bruised.

MARLA
Jake's a great guy.

ALICE
No, he's not! You know what he
does for a living?

MARLA
Yes. He's a masseuse.

ALICE
Wrong! He's a fucking hustler!
He's paid by Whale Watchers to fuck
the women into shape.

MARLA
Liar! Liar! Pants on fire.

ALICE
You think he likes you. How can he
like you? Look at you.

MARLA
Stop it. I don't believe you.

ALICE
Fine.

Alice grabs her by the arm and leads her to the door.

INT. HALLWAY IN FRONT OF JAKE'S - LATER

Alice leads Marla by the hand to Jake's office. She opens the door surprising Jake and a client in the middle of sex. Jake looks up and sees them and turns around in shame. Marla begins to cry and runs away. Alice smiles at Jake before turning around.

INT. MARLA'S ROOM - DAY

Marla's face is red from weeping. Jake sits in a chair like a punished boy.

MARLA
You're a hustler. I'm so stupid.
It was too good to be true.

JAKE
It's my job! They pay me to help
women by making them look pretty.

MARLA
Then that's what I am too. Just
another customer of yours?

JAKE
No! You're wrong. I really care
about you.

MARLA
You're a bullshitter. Just like
every other fucking man.

(MORE)

MARLA (cont'd)
You think because you're hot and sexy that I'm going to melt all over you like butter over a baked potato, well, I'm not.

JAKE
Marla...

He reaches over to touch her and she slaps his hand like a giant wasp.

MARLA
No, Jake! Look at yourself in the mirror. How can you have any self-respect?

JAKE
Honey...

MARLA
(screaming!)
Don't honey me! You're just a human cock. That's it. Jake, at least I know what I am...a fat, ugly girl, but you have no clue! And you say you care for me, but you don't know how.

JAKE
How am I supposed to respond to that?

MARLA
You're not! Get out of my sight!
Leave me alone. Get out! Get out!

Jake, realizing he's at a dead end, leaves closing the door behind him. Marla, in deep angry and frustration, flings herself onto the bed and kicks her legs like a baby.

INT. MARLA'S ROOM - DAY

Marla sits on the bed with the covers pulled up around her eating candy trying to hide her hurt.

INT. TREADMILL - DAY

Alice runs frantically; beads of sweat run down her face and her clothes are drenched. With a determined look upon her face, she runs and runs pumping up the speed until she suddenly breaks into sobs. She hits the stop button and plants her feet on the side of the machine and bends down weeping.

ALICE

It's no use. I can't forget him!
I can't handle this.

Across the room, Faith who has been casually climbing the Stair Master shakes her head in pity at the sight of Alice. Her cell phone begins to ring. She stops the machine and flips open her phone:

FAITH

Hello? Mervin! Hey, how'd you get my number? Oh, my god! What? You're breaking up one me....a publisher for my book? Yes...what? A new record deal! Yes. Say Yes! Yes to it all!

Faith hangs up the phone and turns back on the machine and climbs now with determination.

INT. STEAM ROOM - DAY

Alice reclines wrapped in a towel proud of herself. Jake swings the door open.

JAKE

You fucking bitch!

ALICE

What's wrong?

JAKE

You turned your sister against me.

ALICE

You made your own bed, asshole.

Jake grabs Alice by the shoulders and pulls her up. She tries to kiss him. He pushes her back down.

JAKE

I wouldn't have you if you were the only woman left on the planet. You got it? Is that plain enough for you?

He turns and leaves. Alice starts to shake.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Alice walks down the hall. Marla comes walking the other way. They pass each other. Marla tries to speak, but Alice continues past her like she was a ghost.

INT. ALICE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Alice talks on the phone.

ALICE

I made a total fool out of myself over him. I've been sober for 10 years and look at me. One day at a time my ass.

Alice slams down the phone. She spies the copy of her new manuscript on her writing table, she picks it up and throws it into the trash can. She weeps. A knock at the door.

ALICE

Jake?

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Marla stands outside the door with flowers in her hand.

MARLA

No, it's me.

INT. ALICE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alice maneuvers to the door admitting Marla. Marla notices something is wrong with Alice.

MARLA

I picked these for you.

Alice take them, smells them and flings them across the room and they hit the wall.

MARLA

Why are you acting like this?

ALICE

I don't want to talk about it.

MARLA

Listen, if you don't want me to see Jake, I won't.

ALICE

Go ahead see him! I don't care. He doesn't give a shit about me anymore!

MARLA

I'm sorry!

Marla begins to cry.

ALICE

What the fuck are you bawling about?

MARLA

Because I'm worried about you.

ALICE

Don't you worry about me, little sister. I can take care of myself. I'm a big girl, now. I have my Big Book and my sponsor on speed dial.

Marla hugs Alice who remains like a rag doll. Marla spots the manuscript in the trash can.

MARLA

What's this?

ALICE

The remains of my new book. I'm officially in retirement.

MARLA

Alice, this isn't healthy! I'm going to call Dr. Axelrod first thing tomorrow.

Marla fishes the manuscript from the trash can and carries it with her on the way out.

INT. ALICE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Alice drinks straight from a bottle of alcohol. She reads from the Alcoholic Anonymous Big Book.

ALICE

(reading)

"Came to believe that a power greater than us could restore us to sanity."

She laughs out loud! She raises her glass in a toast.

ALICE

Amen, brother Bill, Amen.

She gulps down the last of her drink, wipes her mouth with her hand and cackles.

INT. LAP POOL - NIGHT

Faith against the wall kicking her legs. Marla sits on the pool her feet in the water. She has red, wet eyes.

MARLA

It's Jake.

FAITH

What about him?

MARLA

I can't love him. He wrecked my sister and he's a hustler.

Faith stops kicking and pulls herself out of the pool. She wraps her terry cloth robe about her. She sits beside Marla and speaks tenderly.

FAITH

Honey lamb, it's his job.

MARLA

But, I...

FAITH

Listen, you think he likes it? He hates his job like all of us. He's good at it, and you shouldn't judge him for that.

MARLA

But...

FAITH

I know, but try to love him. Just try and you might be surprised.

MARLA

What about Alice? She really loves him.

FAITH

No she doesn't. She thinks she does. She just wants him because she can't have him.

MARLA

How can he love me over her? It doesn't make sense.

FAITH

Marla, you have to believe in yourself. You need to develop love for yourself.

MARLA

How?

FAITH

By not backing down. You want something...Jake. And you're afraid to have love. But if you don't take this step now, you'll regret it forever, Marla.

INT. ALICE BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alice drunk and muttering to herself.

ALICE
Fucking God-Damned Jake! I don't
love you anyway!

She falls across the bed passing out.

INT. LECTURE HALL BACKSTAGE- NEXT MORNING

Alice, no longer the cheerful guru, looks weak and pale. Her hair is barely combed and she had not put on her face. Tillie looks worried.

TILLIE
Alice, you look like death.

ALICE
I'm fine.

INT. STAGE - CONTINUOUS

Alice wobbles out onto the platform. She plants a very unsure smile on her face. She makes it to the podium. The crowd applauds merrily. As always.

ALICE
(Takes a deep breath)
Why can't they turn these fucking
lights down? People, I'm all out
of advice and answers! If you
want to learn something read the
god-damned book! Got it? Good.

Murmurs of shock and horror come from the audience. Tillie's jaw hits the floor in shock. What is the nutcase doing?

SCOTTIE
What's wrong with her?

MATTIE
Sweet Jesus.

ALICE
Because it's all bullshit. My
sister was right.
(MORE)

ALICE (cont'd)
 I'm just a fraud trying to push off
 books on you poor souls. Okay? End
 of lecture! Go home.

Alice turns around and rages offstage. Tillie runs onto the stage trying to save the day.

TILLIE
 I'm so sorry, Ms. Mason's had an
 attack of stomach flu.

INT. BACKSTAGE - LATER

Alice gathers her teaching supplies up. Tillie storms backstage.

TILLIE
 What in the hell do you think
 you're doing?

ALICE
 I can't teach anymore!

TILLIE
 You're just a work of art, aren't
 you. Those women are going to
 fucking freak.

ALICE
 Listen, Tillie, I'm not perfect.
 I've lost the gift. Now, I'm
 returning it to God. I don't want
 it!

Alice races from the room.

INT. JAKE'S TABLE - DAY

Alice lies face down on the table hiding her face. Jake enters and does his routine again. There is something missing from his verve. He turns on the music. Alice keeps her face buried down so Jake doesn't see her. Jake begins to seduce her. Alice turns over. Jake recoils.

JAKE
 What are you doing?

She leaps on him. Tears are falling down her face.

ALICE
I've got to have it!

Jake pulls her off of him sitting her on the table. She sits there for a second. Should she walk away with honors or not. She begins to hit him. He wards off the blows.

JAKE
Don't do this!

ALICE
You drive me to this! I can't make it. I can't stop! I'm fucked up, Jake. I'm ruined. You ruined me.

JAKE
You're crazy.

ALICE
You loved me yesterday. Why not today?

Jake grabs her two arms and hold them out so she can't hit him.

JAKE
Alice, you need some major help and not from me. I love Marla not you. Now, admit your defeat and step aside.

Jake glares at her to make sure she gets it. Tears flood down her eyes. He guides her to a chair and leaves the room. Alice begins to weep uncontrollably, hysterically. She throws things around the room taking her rage out on objects.

INT. NORVAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Alice sits in a chair while Norval walks to and fro in front of her.

ALICE
I made a mistake. Alright! I fucked up.

NORVAL
You're fired!

ALICE
What? Oh, come on! I wasn't that bad. Let me explain...

NORVAL

No, Alice. The game is over.
You've caused enough trouble.

ALICE

Fine.

INT. ALICE'S ROOM - DAY

Alice smokes a cigarette and drinks from a bottle. She speaks on the phone.

ALICE

This is too major a fuck up for
amends. They fired me! I don't
need AA, asshole! I'm such a wreck
I need triple A.

She hangs up the phone.

EXT. GROUNDS - DAY

Faith and Jake stroll against the brilliant yellow sun.

JAKE

I think I love her.

FAITH

You think you love her?

JAKE

I just feel things when I'm near
her. I can't explain them, but
she's putting up these walls I
can't get over. What should I do?

FAITH

Talk to her. She likes you, but
you have to win her.

JAKE

She terrifies me.

FAITH

You? The guy with balls of steel?

JAKE

Yes, don't act surprised. Men get
scared, too.

FAITH

You've go to tell her that.

They stare out at the day.

INT. JACUZZI - NIGHT

Marla relaxes reading a book. Alice flings open the door.

ALICE

I'll bet you feel mighty big don't
you Ms. Marla? They fired me.

MARLA

Alice, are you drunk?

ALICE

I had a little bump, so what?!

MARLA

I thought you were AA?

ALICE

Yeah. Alcoholic Always.

Marla stands up to leave and Alice grabs her.

ALICE

Don't you leave me, until we settle
this.

MARLA

You settle it! You've never given
a shit about me. You want me to
suddenly have sympathy for you?

ALICE

I thought you might care.

MARLA

No! You run about in your caftan
like a saint and finally the
empress's dress has been removed.
Goody Goody gum drops.

Marla pulls herself away from Alice and leaves.

INT. FAITH'S ROOM - NIGHT

Faith sits alone at her lap top computer typing frantically.

FAITH (V.O.)

And I have no regrets. My T.V. show was doomed from the start. But you can't keep a good skirt down. I'll be back. (she pauses and smiles) The end.

She snubs out her cigarette, stretches and crosses to the bathroom.

FAITH

I deserve a dip in the pool.

EXT. OUTDOOR POOL - NIGHT

Faith crosses to the pool, puts her toe in and likes it. She moves to a lounge chair and removes her robe. Alice storms up to her.

ALICE

You did this!

FAITH

I thought they ran you out of here.

ALICE

You're behind this whole damned thing. Pushing my sister to betray me.

FAITH

And you had nothing to do with it!

A crowd begins to gather about the two screaming women.

ALICE

You betrayed me 15 years ago and now you're doing it again. I won't stand for it Faith.

FAITH

You stupid bitch. I took your husband because he couldn't stand you.

ALICE

Liar!

FAITH

In hindsight I don't know why I did
it, he was the worst fuck I ever
had.

This pushes Alice across the line. She grabs Faith by the hair. Faith finally gives in and slugs Alice. They fully start hitting, scratching and punching going around and around in circles until they both fall into the pool. Faith and Alice continue to fight inside the pool. Alice grabs Faith's head and pushes her under the water. Faith punches her in the stomach. Two MATRON-LIKE WOMEN jump into the pool and pull them apart.

INT. OUTSIDE LECTURE HALL - LATER

Alice walks by, still drenched from pool fight, where her class used to meet. She sees a poster of herself. Over her face is a sign that reads "CANCELLED" Alice begins to weep. She grabs the sign and tears it in half.

ALICE

Go to hell. All of you just go to
hell!

A few WOMEN walk by.

WOMEN #1

Check out loony tune guru.

WOMEN #2

I suggest lock ward.

ALICE

Go fuck yourself. Or each other!

Alice continues to stagger down the hallway. They stare at her and laugh.

INT. OUTSIDE JAKE'S DOOR - LATER

Alice stumbles by. She bangs on the door.

ALICE

I know you're in there! I want to
tell you both that I don't care!
Fuck your brains out!

Alice staggers down the hallway hitting each wall as she goes
weaving from side to side.

INT. ALICE'S BEDROOM - LATER

Alice drinks from a bottle of scotch. Talking to herself she
begins to pull books out of their cartons and throw them
about the room. Her cell phone begins to ring and she
ignores it. It finally stops. She begins to tear up the
entire room. She screams. She rips the curtains off the
rod. She pulls the bed covers off the bed. She finds the
bottle of pills, empties a handful into her palm, and pops
them into her mouth. She downs another swig of scotch.

ALICE

This is it!

She moves to the doorway and flings it open.

EXT. TOP OF BUILDING - LATER

Alice stands alone at the top of the building. She peers
down and sees what a far jump it is. She nearly topples over
the side, but regains her footing. She's obviously drunk as
a skunk and high on the pills. She then begins to shout at
the top of her lungs.

ALICE

No one loves me! No one cares
about me! I'm going to end it all!
Do you hear me?! Does anyone hear
me? I'm sick of everything.

A small crowd has gathered outside.

INT. JAKE'S ROOM - LATER

Jake and Marla are cuddled up in bed and are startled awake
when a knock comes on the door. Jake rises drowsy and
answers it. It's Tillie.

TILLIE

Jake, help. Alice is on the top of the roof threatening to leap.

JAKE

Shit.

Marla, who has overheard, throws on her robe. They run out of the room.

EXT. TOP OF BUILDING/GROUND BELOW - LATER

Alice still teeters on the side of the building. Now, a huge crowd has gathered below her. Faith screams up at her.

FAITH

Don't off yourself, Alice! You won't have anything to write about.

ALICE

I'm going to do it. I swear. None of you better come up here or I'm jumping.

FAITH

Quit being so dramatic.

EXT. TOP OF BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Marla and Jake walk very close to Alice not knowing how to approach her. She's still looking down at the ground.

ALICE

I've made up my mind.

Marla yells loudly.

MARLA

Alice!

Alice wheels around and faces her waterloo.

ALICE

Don't come a step closer. I swear, sister, I'll do it.

MARLA

Why are you doing this?

Alice point to Jake.

JAKE
I'm not worth it.

MARLA
He's right he's not worth it.

ALICE
You don't love me. No one does. I
got fired and no one cares.

Marla takes a step closer to her and Alice moves one step
closer to the edge.

MARLA
Let's talk about this. Please, we
can work it out.

JAKE
Alice, you're only making it worse.
This won't help anything. We can
be friends.

MARLA
We can share Jake.

JAKE
I won't see her again.

ALICE
Who are you kidding. Leave me
alone.

Mattie has come onto the roof top and walks gently to Alice.

MATTIE
Alice.

ALICE
What?

MATTIE
I love you.

ALICE
You?

MATTIE
I know how you feel.

ALICE
You do?

MATTIE

Can you leave us alone?

She turns to Marla and Jake and shoos them off; they leave reluctantly. Then, back to Alice.

MATTIE

I understand...

ALICE

No, you don't.

MATTIE

Yes, I do. Come here. Come away from that ledge and listen to me.

Alice reluctantly moves closer to Mattie.

ALICE

What?

MATTIE

I'm cold will you hold me?

Mattie holds her hands out and Alice, against her will walks into them.

MATTIE

Listen, my husband died 10 years ago and I thought it was over. We had so many plans...So much of the world left unexplored. It tore a hole in my chest. I was mad, I didn't even want to go to the funeral...I went for Scottie. But I was so mad at Lester for leaving me. No one understood my pain. No one with their sympathy and covered dishes and phone calls could rouse me and I laid in bed day after day...night by night letting it all slip away, and I wanted to die to. If I could have found a building tall enough, I would have jumped.

ALICE

What did you do?

MATTIE

I'm getting to that. Be patient. I was looking at some old pictures on the bed.

(MORE)

MATTIE (cont'd)
Pictures of my wedding and
honeymoon...Lester and I young and
in love and then I saw Scottie's
baby picture and I noticed his nose
was exactly like Lester's, and I
flew out of my bed and decided I
wouldn't give in. Just because
Lester's time stopped didn't mean
mine did. I wouldn't stop and I
dedicated my life to our son.

By now, Alice weeps out loud.

ALICE
Oh, Mattie.

MATTIE
See, you don't know the good you
do. You don't know how much it
would kill Marla. She loves you.
She's a good girl under those
folds. Now, let's go inside before
my sagging tits freeze off. Okay?

ALICE
Okay.

They walk from the roof.

INT. MARLA'S ROOM - MORNING

Alice, sound asleep looks like hammered shit. Marla sits in
a chair watching her like a hawk. Alice opens her eyes,
slowly sits up looking around the room--she's putting two and
two together.

ALICE
Marla, I'm so sorry. I fucked up.

MARLA
Shh. You're okay. Don't worry.

Marla wraps her big arms around Alice.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Alice briskly walks down the hall followed by Jake and Marla
who can barely keep up.

JAKE
It's really bad!

MARLA
I don't think you should do this.

ALICE
Guys, it's my mess. The only way I
can make a change is to witness
what a wreck I made.

They have come to the doorway. Alice takes an inhale of
breath and opens the door.

INT. ALICE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alice P.O.V. the room is destroyed. Curtains and bed clothes
are thrown about the room. Furniture is knocked over. Lamps
are broken and bottles of liquor are on the floor. Books are
in heaps, spools of audio tape are lying about. Alice moves
slowly into the room as if she's afraid it will bite her.
She turns back to Marla and Jake.

ALICE
I need to be alone.

Marla and Jake share a look which Alice sees.

MARLA
You think we can trust her?

JAKE
We'll come and check on you in an
hour. You're on a short leash.

Marla and Jake leave. Alice, alone for the first time,
begins to weep uncontrollably. She walks about the room as
if in a daze.

ALICE
Dear God, what did I do? Shit, I
have made such a mess out of
things! You're the only one who can
restore me to health. I give you
power of attorney in my life.

Alice begins to pick up the particles of her crashed life.

INT. NORVALS'S OFFICE - DAY

Jake struts back and forth nervous in front of Norval's desk.

JAKE

I have no choice. I have to change. I want to settle down.

NORVAL

You're giving up everything: women, money, clout. I know it's a small pond, but you're a big fish, Jake.

JAKE

I don't care anymore. Those things aren't important.

NORVAL

What is?

JAKE

Me! The person that Marla helped me see. She showed me that being a man isn't about sex or power. It's being honest and true. I can't continue to live this lie.

NORVAL

Okay. You're off the hook! I accept your resignation although replacing you will be chore.

Jake gives him a pat on the back.

JAKE

You'll find some poor worm to do your dirty work.

INT. JAKE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jake packs his suitcase while Marla observes.

JAKE

I'm quitting.

MARLA

You don't have to do this for me.

JAKE

I want to.

MARLA

Jake I don't care what you do! I love you.

JAKE

I can't go on like a freak show in Speedos. Marla, I need you.

MARLA

You should do what your good at.

Finally, Jake, who has been avoiding her eyes, stops packing and looks directly at her.

JAKE

You don't get it do you?

MARLA

Get what?

JAKE

Marla, I want to marry you.

MARLA

Me?

JAKE

If you'll have me.

She runs into his strong arms.

INT. ALICE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Alice writes out her notes for the class the next day. There is a knock on the door. She answers it. Marla stands at the doorway blushing like a little girl.

MARLA

Jake and I are getting married.

ALICE

Oh my God!

They jump around like two little girls squealing and yelping.

MARLA

I'm in love! I never thought it would happen!

ALICE
I'm happy for you.

MARLA
You're not mad?

ALICE
No, I'm not. I had a school girl
crush on him. Marla, I thought I
could only love you if you obeyed
me. Followed my rules. Did it my
way, but I was wrong.

MARLA
Alice, If you didn't drag my lard
ass up here, I'd still be at home
having gay sex on the horny-net.

ALICE
You deserve it, sister.

MARLA
By the way, I have something for
you.

Marla hands Alice a sheaf of papers that have been scotch
taped together.

ALICE
My book!

MARLA
I thought you might want it.

ALICE
Thank you. I haven't been much of
a person, much less a sister, and
if you're willing, I'll try to be
better.

MARLA
Shit, sis, let's give it a shot.

Alice embraces her sister.

INT. LOUNGE - NIGHT

Faith frantically types at her computer. Stacks of manuscript are piled beside her. Alice moves to her sheepishly.

ALICE
Faith, I'm sorry.

FAITH
What for?

ALICE
For not accepting your apology.
For being such a stone cold bitch.

FAITH
What did I expect? You to embrace
me when I stole your man.

ALICE
But he didn't love me.

FAITH
Me, either.

ALICE
He didn't?

FAITH
No. He jilted me a month later.

Alice laughs.

ALICE
All that drama for nothing.

FAITH
You were like my sister.

ALICE
I spent years pissed off at you. I
hated you, but I loved you.

FAITH
Do we stand a chance or should we
never speak after this?

ALICE
What if we exchange email addresses
and take it from there.

FAITH
 Sounds divine. Now, I've just
 finished my book.

ALICE
 And I have class. I'm glad we got
 to clear this up.

EXT. POOL TABLE - NIGHT

Mattie and Scottie shoot a game of pool. Scottie cues up and
 hits, but the ball misses the pocket.

MATTIE
 That was an easy shot.

Faith walks in carrying a copy of her manuscript. She spots
 Scottie and Mattie playing the game. She plops her
 manuscript down on the table.

SCOTTIE
 What's that?

FAITH
 It's a copy of my autobiography. I
 want you to read it first. Typos
 and all.

SCOTTIE
 Why?

FAITH
 To apologize for being the bitch in
 cha-cha heels that first day.

Scottie is speechless; he retires to a chair and begins to
 flip pages.

MATTIE
 That should keep him quiet for a
 for minute. How about a game?

FAITH
 I would love to. Am I solids or
 stripes?

MATTIE
 Solids.

INT. LECTURE HALL - DAY

Alice at the close of her lecture. She is weeping.

ALICE

I really don't have all the answers. But I don't have to and neither do you. God does. I thought I did, but I screwed it up. So, just trust that what you're doing is right. Your spirit does know. So, with that I leave you. I love you all!

Alice blows them a huge kiss. There isn't a dry eye in the room.

EXT. LAWN - NIGHT

Marla and Jake sit by a pond feeding the fish.

MARLA

I'm filled with hope, Jake. I feel different when I'm with you.

JAKE

Me, too.

MARLA

I just want to tell you, that outside I may be fat, but inside I'm thin because of you. Jake, if this plan doesn't pan out...

JAKE

Quit being a worry wart.

MARLA

I'm just saying that I'm damaged goods and if we don't make it, you've already made me happy.

JAKE

It would take a lot more than your self doubt to stop my love.

Marla begins to quiver and tears roll down her face. Jake holds her and lets her weep.

INT. DRESSING ROOM - SUNSET

Marla dressed in a flowing pantsuit with her hair done up and her make-up is beautiful. Alice puts fingernail polish on Marla's chubby hands. Tillie runs in carrying a veil.

TILLIE

I found one!

Tillie places veil on Marla's head.

ALICE

I want you to look at yourself.

Alice holds up a hand mirror and Marla peers at herself. She hardly believes the transformation.

MARLA

Oh, you guys made me so pretty.

ALICE

You're the beautiful princess.

MARLA

Alice, I'm afraid.

Marla begins to tremble with fear.

ALICE

Don't cry now. You'll ruin your make-up.

MARLA

Okay. I can do it.

EXT. LAWN - DAY

Jake stands in contemplation in his suit. Alice walks over to him.

ALICE

Hey, stud.

JAKE

Alice, you look wonderful.

ALICE

Thanks. Jake, I treated you like
shit...

JAKE

The understatement of the year
award goes to Alice Mason.

ALICE

I know, but that's a cake walk
compared to the misery you'll get
if you mistreat Marla.

JAKE

I got it.

ALICE

Good!

She throws him a look and breezes by.

EXT. WHALE WATCHERS LAWN - SUNSET

The gazebo has been decorated with flowers and chairs are set up in rows for a wedding. Jake is at the alter. Scottie acts as his best man. Mattie is the matron of honor and Tillie is the bridesmaid. Faith sings a song. Alice steps into place as the minister. The piano player begins the wedding march. Marla begins to walk down the aisle.

ALICE

We have gathered here today to
witness the union of Jake and
Marla...

The rest of the wedding is silent.

EXT. WEDDING LAWN - NIGHT

Music plays. Marla and Jake cut the cake. They cram pieces of cake into each other's mouths. Camera clicks and there is a still shot of them.

EXT. WEDDING LAWN - LATER

Marla throws the bouquet of flowers, and Scottie catches it all the women laugh.

EXT. FRONT OF WHALE WATCHERS - NIGHT

Crowd gathers in the front of the resort. Marla and Jake run out of the front door. All the guests throw rice on them as they get into Jake's truck which has been decorated. Jake pulls away and Marla waves out the window. Alice and Faith are crying and holding each other.

INT. JAKE'S TRUCK - NIGHT

Jake drives while Marla nuzzles her head against Jake's shoulder.

MARLA

So, the fat girl gets the guy in the end.

JAKE

It seems.

MARLA

Now, what's the point of the story?

JAKE

We're all worthy of love.

MARLA

Yes! We are.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

A line of cars follow Jake's truck like ants winding down the mountain. Music plays as CREDITS ROLL.

FADE OUT

The End