

ON THE ROCKS

	March 24, 2019
BLUE REVISIONS	May 8, 2019
PINK REVISIONS	June 6, 2019
YELLOW REVISIONS	June 28, 2019
GREEN REVISIONS	July 1, 2019

A man's VOICE over black--a rich, mature, smooth voice.

FELIX (O.S.)
And remember--never let a man know
he can have you. Completely.

He's giving advice - and he means it.

YOUNG GIRL (O.S.)
Uh.....ok, Dad.

CUT TO:

1 INT. WEDDING PARTY - NIGHT

LAURA and DEAN, the young newlyweds, sit eye to eye in the glowing candlelight of the party. They clink champagne glasses.

She smiles and happily takes a big bite of cake.

They kiss.

He nods for them to get out of there.

Her eyes light up -- Can we?

CUT TO:

2 INT. GRAND HOTEL HALLWAY - NIGHT

Dean leads Laura on an escape, running down a hall, she laughs, pulling the back of her dress along, still carrying a champagne glass.

LAURA
Where are we going?

CUT TO:

3 INT. GRAND HOTEL POOL - NIGHT

We follow a trail of their clothes over the marble floor, hearing a splash.

CUT TO:

4 INT. HOTEL POOL - NIGHT

In a large dark room, Dean waits in a swimming pool glowing in the night. The city lights shimmer behind him outside the tall glass windows.

Laura stands at the edge of the pool in her underwear and veil.

C.U. On her back- she pushes the veil aside and unclasps her bra, diving in. The water splashes up as she screams.

CUT TO BLACK

We HEAR a JAZZ TRIO start playing.

FELIX (the voice from the beginning) begins to sing:

FELIX (O.S.)
I Fall in Love too Easily.

CLOSE on an Irving Penn-type flower bloom: it *opens* slowly.

Main titles over black:

ON THE ROCKS

5 INT. LAURA & DEAN'S APT. HALLWAY - DAY

The song ends over Laura's bare feet walking down an apartment hallway. She picks up toddler shoes, pieces of toys, a few abandoned Cheerios.

6 INT. LAURA & DEAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

LAURA (mid 30's) in an old faded T-shirt, watches T.V. alone.

Chris Rock with a sour face, paces on a rant about marriage:

CHRIS ROCK
No one tells you if you get
married, you will never fuck
again. I haven't fucked in seven
years. I've had *intercourse*.

She turns off the T.V.

LATER: Laura lies in the dark, she HEARS the front door OPEN.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

DEAN stumbles into the dark room, drops his suitcase, and still in his coat, climbs into bed.

He grabs Laura, sloppily kissing her, he's out of it.

LAURA

Well, *hello*.

Dean suddenly stops cold and looks at her.

DEAN

Huh, what?

He leans back, confused. He looks at her as if he's just recognizing who she is.

LAURA

Hi.

Dean looks confused, and passes out.

She's awake and confused.

CUT TO:

7 INT. LAURA & DEAN'S APARTMENT - MORNING

They are in the rush of the morning. Laura makes the kids breakfast while Dean gets his stuff for work.

MAYA, (6) sits at the table, while THEO (3) has her arms around Dean - she rubs noses with him.

LAURA

How was London?

DEAN

Great, we got the account.

Laura kisses him with a smile.

LAURA

Well done.

She brings over a tray of croissants.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

DEAN
No, thanks. Trying to not eat so
many carbs.

He pats his stomach.

Dean has little gifts for the kids that they play with.

Laura looks at him.

LAURA
Since when?

MAYA
Can I have two?

LAURA
Why don't you eat that one first?

THEO
I don't like it.

LAURA
What's not to like?

She holds up the burnt bottom of a croissant.

DEAN
I gotta run.

He kisses them good-bye, and Laura scrambles after the girls,
trying to get them ready for school.

LAURA
Do you know what time you'll be
home later?

DEAN
I don't know, I'll text you from
the office, ok?

LAURA
Ok, do you want to go to Jimmy's
new restaurant Thursday or maybe
Friday?

DEAN
Sounds good, I have to check...

(CONTINUED)

LAURA

Also we need to decide about that week in July, if we're going to put down a deposit.

DEAN

Oh, I'm not sure yet what's happening then, I'll check.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

The timing is bad, but she's desperate now that he's back, to get some answers on things.

As she wrangles the kids into shoes and jackets, he kisses Laura and grabs the kids in a bear hug as they squeal with delight, and heads out.

CUT TO:

8 EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREET - MORNING

It's a busy city morning. Taxis fly by, construction is underway, people rush to work.

Laura pushes Theo in a stroller with Maya alongside.

She's in a big sweater (that she picked off the floor) and her hair is in a messy ponytail.

EXT. SCHOOL - MORNING

Laura passes put-together moms in yoga pants, running shoes and blowouts as she approaches the school.

CUT TO:

9 INT. SCHOOL - DAY

Laura drops Maya in her classroom and she and Theo walk down the crowded hall on their way out.

They pass a MOM in a wide brim sun hat and red face.

MOM 1

Hi -- I know I look awful -- I just had a peel. My face will be red and flaky for a week, and then it'll be *so smooth* you won't believe it.

LAURA

Oh, ok...

A tall, thin, ex-super model in tight leggings and a short RUN DMC T-shirt passes by.

Laura passes another MOM in the hall, VANESSA, a stoner, with charms hanging from chains and wavy hair.

(CONTINUED)

VANESSA

Laura, let's get a coffee this
week, ok?

(CONTINUED)

LAURA

Uh, sure.

VANESSA

I have so much to tell you. I'm seeing that guy again.

LAURA

Oh, great.

VANESSA

But, I can't stop texting him.

LAURA

Oh, no.

She's trying to get out of the crowded hallway.

VANESSA

I mean, I text him: *'I know every text I send you is pushing you further away'*, but I can't stop myself.

Theo tugs at Laura.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

I just keep doing it.

LAURA

Oh -

VANESSA

We had an affair during Hurricane Sandy.

THEO

Mom.

LAURA

We have to go...

VANESSA

Go, go, I'll talk to you later!

10 EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

They made it out, Laura greets a normal looking MOM FRIEND, and pushes Theo home.

CUT TO:

11 INT. LAURA & DEAN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Laura closes the door on the kids' room.

LAURA

Sleep tight.

Alone, in the apartment, it's quiet as her daughter naps.

She walks to the kitchen, and picks up some dishes while she listens to a podcast with the VOICE of a therapist with a thick Belgian accent.

ESTHER PEREL

Why is it that the transition to parenthood so often spells erotic disaster? Why is the forbidden so erotic? Is it possible to want what we already have?

CUT TO:

Laura walks down a hall on her phone.

LAURA

Do you have a sec?

KELLY (THROUGH PHONE)

Yeah, sure.

LAURA

I'm going to try to get some work done... but, can I ask you something weird?

KELLY (O.S.)

Yeah, sure, what?

LAURA

Dean got home from London last night, and he was out of it- he takes Xanax on the plane.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

KELLY (O.S.)

Yeah?

LAURA

And he started kissing me... and when he heard my voice -- I think I woke him up and he looked at me sort of surprised and stopped. It was almost like he had thought I was someone else.

KELLY (O.S.)

What? No, that's weird, but he was just out of it.

LAURA

Yeah... I guess.

KELLY (O.S.)

He's such a good guy... and he adores you, you're just driving yourself crazy.

LAURA

Yeah, I guess. I just feel like the most boring person ever, and he's been traveling so much... going out with clients... and I'm always scheduling everything. I can't get back to writing. I should have never sold a book before writing it!

KELLY (O.S.)

That's ok, give yourself a break- you have a toddler...and you'll get back to work when you're ready... I'm sure it's nothing with Dean...

LAURA (UNCONVINCED)

Yeah, thanks...

KELLY (O.S.)

Ok, see you later...

12 INT. LAURA'S HOME OFFICE - DAY

Laura sits at her desk in her sun-filled office, with papers and To-Do lists.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

There's a book jacket to approve, an Italian translation, with her author photo -- smiling -- in the days when she was herself.

She looks at all the things to do, but doesn't feel like doing any of them.

She listlessly organizes a few post-it notes outlining her writing project, uninspired.

She has writing charts, with weird diagrams representing characters and plot outlines.

She uses a Brother P-Touch to label some things that don't need labeling.

Laura looks out the window.

LATER:

CLOSE UP on Laura on the phone at the window overlooking New York.

We hear the same MAN'S VOICE from the opening.

FELIX (O.S.)

He thought you were someone else.

LAURA

What? You think so?

FELIX (O.S.)

Yes.

LAURA

You're just dark and don't know anything about a committed relationship.

FELIX (O.S.)

Oh, really.

LAURA

Yes, really.

FELIX (O.S.)

You need to start thinking like a man.

She laughs.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

LAURA

Ha, Ok, thanks, Dad.

FELIX (O.S.)

Is everything ok there?

LAURA

Yes, I don't know why I asked you
of all people -- never mind!

FELIX (O.S.)

I'm here if you need me. Hold on.

(to bartender, French)

An autre Calvados et un coup pour
Mademoiselle.

(back into phone)

You there, Shorty?

LAURA

Enjoy Paris. Have a French '76 for
me.

FELIX (O.S.)

You got it. I'll be back soon,
call if you need anything.

She hangs up and sits at her desk, but can't focus.

We HEAR her daughter down the hall waking up.

THEO (O.S.)

Mama... Mama!

Laura gets up and leaves the room.

CUT TO:

13 INT. LAURA & DEAN'S BEDROOM

Theo sits with a cookie, while Laura puts things away in her
room.She takes some things from Dean's suitcase -- when she spots
something and stops.She picks up a pink girly toiletries case, and looks at it
like a piece of evidence she doesn't want to handle.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

She opens it to see toiletries and a large bottle of body oil.

CUT TO:

14 EXT. NYC STREET - DAY

Laura is lost in thought while she pushes Theo in a stroller down the street.

Her phone RINGS and she stops to answer it.

GRAN (O.S.)
(dramatically)

Laura.

LAURA
Hi Gran, how are you?

GRAN (O.S.)
I just had lunch with your Aunt Irene.

LAURA
Oh, how was that?

GRAN (O.S.)
Truly a life-diminishing experience.

Theo throws her cup out of the stroller.

LAURA
Can I call you back? I'm just bringing Theo to a music class.

GRAN (O.S.)
When am I going to see you and the girls?

LAURA
Soon, I'll call you back.

GRAN (O.S.)
Lots of love.

CUT TO:

15 INT. LOFT ELEVATOR - DAY

CLOSE on Theo's little hand reaching for the 4th floor. It feels like it takes forever.

Laura watches her life at a slow pace.

Theo pushes the button.

LAURA

You got it!

The doors open on a loft with a group of women and toddlers milling around. We hear an enthusiastic woman belting out a song.

CUT TO:

16 INT. L&D APARTMENT - EVENING

CLOSE on Laura's hands washing her daughters' hair in the bath.

CLOSE on macaroni being stirred in water.

We HEAR a tired kid SCREAMING in the other room.

CLOSE on Laura's hand picking up her phone to see a text: "Running late here, can you meet me at the party?"

ALT- We hear message from Dean.

CUT TO:

17 INT. TECH HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

There's a work party at Dean's office -- some part of their website just went live.

Dean and co-workers celebrate.

He fists bumps Laura. She looks at him, thinking 'that was weird?'

FIONA, a tall, outgoing and put-together brunette, reaches her hand out to meet Laura. She's holding a bottle of Casa Dragones tequila.

(CONTINUED)

FIONA
You must be Laura.

LAURA

Hi, yes, nice to meet you.

FIONA

Fiona, so good to meet you. I'm sure Dean's told you- there's so much going on here right now.

LAURA

Yeah, that's great.

FIONA

It's a bit crazy, with the new offices opening and everything.

(distracted)

Oh, I heard the guys from A24 are here -- I should go talk to them. And we just started working the Ghosts- have you seen them?

LAURA

No.

FIONA

They're actually so good...well, can I get you anything?

LAURA

I'm fine.

FIONA

Jenna, this is Laura, *Dean's wife*.

Fiona leaves Laura with another pretty hipster office girl, JENNA.

LAURA

Hi. Do you work here?

JENNA

Uh huh, I started a few months ago.

LAURA

Oh. Do you like it?

JENNA

Yeah...

(awkward pause)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

JENNA (CONT'D)
Sorry, I don't know what to talk
about, I mean, I'm not a mom.
(shrugs)

Laura looks at her -- did she really just say that?

Laura looks around. Dean is with a group engaging them...

The lights go out - and Fiona comes out with more tequila and sparklers and a cake - everyone cheers. Fiona is charming and animated. She tosses her hair as she touches Dean's arm with familiarity. She has a great laugh that cuts through the room.

CUT TO:

18 INT. TAXI - NIGHT

Laura and Dean ride home, he's excited from work and feeling connected to her.

DEAN
We hit 500k active users!

LAURA
That's great. Can I ask you
something?

DEAN
Sure.

She hesitates.

DEAN (CONT'D)
What?

LAURA
I found a woman's toiletry case
when I was unpacking your
suitcase.

Dean riffles through his memory - then remembers.

DEAN
Oh, that's Fiona's.

Laura looks at him. He laughs it off.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

DEAN (CONT'D)

She couldn't take it in her carry on, so I put them in my suitcase. I forgot about them.

LAURA

Really?

DEAN

I'll bring them to the office tomorrow, thanks.

LAURA

Uh huh.

He looks at her, she is uptight about it. He laughs it off as no big deal.

DEAN

Oh, come on.

CUT TO:

19 EXT. LAURA & DEAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

We follow them as they walk towards their door.

He puts his arm around her, as he opens the door, giving her a kiss. His phone makes a SOUND, and he checks it. The door closes.

CUT TO:

20 INT. LAURA'S BATHROOM - MORNING

Laura splashes water on her face, trying to wake up. She puts eye cream on.

CUT TO:

21 EXT. LAURA & DEAN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Laura is behind the wheel of their car, the kids in car seats behind her. Dean leans down to Laura's window.

DEAN

Have fun with your sister.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

LAURA

Ha, thanks.

DEAN

I'll be at the office if you need me.

She smiles.

They kiss goodbye.

She drives off.

CUT TO:

22 EXT. CONNECTICUT HOUSE - DAY

Laura drinks ice tea with her perfectionist sister, AMANDA, and their elegant mother, DIANE. She is well-traveled and bohemian, a former Halston model, wearing a collection of necklaces.

Theo sits on her lap, playing with her bracelets. Diane plays with her, kisses her head.

There are some kid birthday gifts on the table

Laura's daughters run around and play with their cousins. (They are wearing colorful, mismatched clothes)

DIANE

How's your book coming along?

LAURA

I need to get back to it....

GRAN, their thin Waspish grandmother joins them.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Hi, Gran, how are you?

GRAN

Oh, I laid on the terrace last night looking at the stars, it was glorious.

LAURA

That's nice.

(CONTINUED)

She sits down, and lights a thin Vogue cigarette. She looks at Laura, who's wearing a loose sweater.

GRAN

You know Laura -- if you're going to dress like that, you might as well just give up and throw in the towel. Your figure is one of your best features.

LAURA

Um, I don't think that's the best thing about me.

GRAN

Well, you could make more of an effort.

DIANE

Please, Gran, she looks terrific.

LAURA

Thanks... I talked to Dad the other day, he's in Paris.

DIANE

Oh. How is Felix?

Gran with a brow raised, gives a skeptical look.

LAURA

He seems like his usual chipper self.

AMANDA

I wonder what he's up to.

GRAN

Well, he does keep himself amused, I'd say... he was always a handful since he was a little boy.

DIANE

He never could stay put for very long... I never knew what he was really thinking.

AMANDA

(to Laura)

I don't know how you can deal with him...

(CONTINUED)

GRAN

Your father owes me a visit.

She ashes the cigarette in a small crystal ashtray.

LAURA

How's your apartment, did you finish your bedroom?

GRAN

They just finished, and it is SO gay and cheerful, I could spend five blizzards there and not get depressed.

LAURA

Oh, that's good.

GRAN

Yes. It's so cozy. I got a delicious cream rug from Cogolin.

DIANE

I ran into Lilly Hopper's daughter the other day.

GRAN

They had a nanny for each child, one more unattractive than the next. She really found the most unattractive nannies.

Laura is amused by her.

DIANE

Well, there are so many stories of a husband marrying the nanny.

GRAN

Yes, but she took it too far -- greasy hair and glasses, they were a sight.

AMANDA

Is Dean still traveling a lot with the *new assistant*?

LAURA

Account manager...Yes, it's fine, she seems nice.

(CONTINUED)

Amanda raises a brow.

GRAN
Is she very attractive?

LAURA
I don't know, yes, she's
attractive, but New York is filled
with attractive women...

AMANDA
Well, ok...

The cousins run by, screaming.

Amanda looks at the kids.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
Laura, you know you could teach
them something about aesthetics.
Do you really want them growing up
with pink lycra all the time?

Laura is ready to leave.

LAURA
They're little, so what if they
pick out their clothes. It's not
worth fighting with them about.

AMANDA
Don't give up... you need to teach
them. Stick to one or two
palettes per season so they can
put their clothes together in a
way that makes sense.

Laura looks at her like she's an alien.

LAURA
Does it really matter?

AMANDA
Yes, it's your responsibility to
teach them about taste and an
aesthetic.

LAURA
What five-year-old would choose to
wear something tasteful?

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

AMANDA

She would if that's all she knows.

LAURA

Ok, thanks, I'll think about that.

Laura eats some fries off a kid's plate.

Gran notices with a raised brow.

Laura offers the plate of fries to Amanda.

AMANDA

No, thank you.

CUT TO:

23 INT. L&D APARTMENT - EVENING

Laura is relieved to be home, throwing down all their stuff in the hall.

The kids run to their room.

INT. LAURA & DEAN'S BEDROOM -EVENING

Laura falls back on her bed -- alone for a moment.

She hears something and looks over -- a little ROBOT vacuum disc enters the room buzzing around.

She watches as it glides around the floor around her bed.

CUT TO:

24 INT. LAURA'S ROOM - MORNING

Sun streams in the window, birds chirp.

We see Laura and Dean in silhouette. He leans over her, they kiss romantically. She smiles at him.

We HEAR a SCREAM down the hall.

MAYA (O.S.)

MOM!! She pulled my hair!

CUT TO:

25 INT. BATHROOM - MORNING

Frantic music starts as Laura, and kids, all in the bathroom, get ready for the day. She braids Maya's hair, Theo watches her electric toothbrush spin, a plastic kid cup is thrown to the floor. Dean passes with a coffee as we see Laura in the morning rush to get the kids ready.

CUT TO:

26 EXT. NEW YORK STREETS- MORNING

Laura and her daughters rush through the busy street to get to school.

27 INT. SCHOOL - MORNING

Laura, lost in thought, waits with her kids in the crowded hall. The noise bounces off the walls around her.

VANESSA

My therapist says I have no self-control.

Laura fakes it.

LAURA

Oh, no.

VANESSA

I know every text I send is pushing him away, but I just keep doing it?! I'm afraid he's going to ghost me.

Vanessa tells her about the designer hardware business they were starting together, etc...

CUT TO:

28 EXT. NYC STREET - DAY

Laura pushes Theo home in her stroller, lost in thought.

29 INT. L&D APARTMENT - DAY

Laura hears a message and picks up her phone.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

Close on text: "Lunch at the Sentinel?"

CUT TO:

30 EXT. L&D APARTMENT - DAY

An older black Mercedes sedan with tinted windows pulls up outside of Laura's building.

The window begins to lower.

Laura says goodbye to her baby sitter, who pushes her daughter off in a stroller.

SITTER 1

Bye, (to Theo) Should we go to the slide?!

Laura approaches the car, as the door swings open for her.

FELIX, a silver fox in his early 60's, in a slightly ruffled seersucker suit and white Bucks, looks at her.

FELIX

Hello, Kiddo.

He motions her in with a nod.

She gets in and hugs him like a kid, it's so hard and affectionate that it cracks her back.

31 INT. FELIX'S CAR - DAY

As they drive off, he looks out the window.

FELIX

Your nanny has a good figure.

LAURA

Seriously?

Felix smiles.

Laura says hello to his driver, MUSTO.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Hi Musto.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

MUSTO
Hi Laura, nice to see you.

(CONTINUED)

FELIX

Did you know she was named after
the song--

Felix sings a few bars of the classic song.

FELIX (CONT'D)

*Laura is the face in the misty
light
Footsteps that you hear down the
hall
The LAUGH that floats on a summer
night
That you can never quite recall...*

She's heard this many times before.

He starts to whistle.

FELIX (CONT'D)

Come on, join in.

LAURA

I can't whistle.

FELIX

What, sure you can.

LAURA

I can't anymore, since having
kids?

FELIX

You can't lose your whistle, we're
going to have to work on that.

He makes her practice, giving tips.

Felix grabs her wrist to see a gold bangle.

FELIX (CONT'D)

Nice bracelet.

LAURA

Thanks.

FELIX

A bangle... you know that's a
reminder that women were once
men's property.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

LAURA

I'm sure that's what Dean had in mind.

He gives her a look.

FELIX

Musto, we'd like to go to the Sentinel Association.

MUSTO

Sentinel it is.

Felix's car drives through Manhattan.

CUT TO:

32 EXT. THE SENTINEL ASSOCIATION - DAY

Felix and Laura get out of the car in front of an old stately New York Club with flags overhead.

They pass a swollen, very pregnant woman who looks miserable.

Felix compliments her with sincerity as they pass.

FELIX

You look beautiful.

She smiles in grateful appreciation.

Laura walks a few paces ahead of Felix as they approach the club.

Felix catches up to open the door for her.

FELIX (CONT'D)

You know, in Japan, the women walk behind the men.

She gives him an incredulous look as he holds the door open for her with a devilish smile.

CUT TO:

33 INT. THE SENTINEL ASSOCIATION - DAY

As Felix signs in, he greets the SECURITY ATTENDANT warmly.

(CONTINUED)

33

CONTINUED:

Blue (5/8/19)

24A.

ATTENDANT

Hello, Mr. Keane.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

FELIX

How's your mother's new hip working?

ATTENDANT

Good, thanks, she's doing much better.

Laura and Felix walk through the wood-paneled hall of the classic club. A host nods as they pass.

HOST

Good afternoon.

FELIX

(proud)
He probably thinks you're my girlfriend.

She looks at him.

LAURA

Right.

CUT TO:

34 INT. THE SENTINEL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY - DAY

They sit in a corner of the dark room.

The WAITRESS gives them menus, and Felix gives her a charming smile.

FELIX

Thank you.

He watches the waitress walk away, checking her out.

FELIX (CONT'D)

You know, it's interesting, when humans walked on all fours, it was the sight of a woman's rear end that excited them, and so when they stood up on two legs, the women with rounded breasts that looked like buttocks excited the males, so they had babies with those females and over time this shape evolved into the modern human female...

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

Laura's heard this before.

(CONTINUED)

LAURA

Oh, huh... really?

Felix continues to impart more wisdom.

FELIX

Yes, and men preferred the adolescent females as they were easier to catch and ultimately mate with, so slowly these qualities, smaller size, smooth skin, no beard, high voices evolved into what is desirable today.

LAURA

They preferred no beard? -- good to know.

Felix is oblivious to her irony.

The waitress returns. Felix looks at the way she's standing.

FELIX

Ballet dancer?

She looks down at her feet, turned out.

WAITRESS

Oh, ha, yes, I studied at the Bolshoi.

Laura gives him a look.

Felix looks at her turn out.

FELIX

Let me guess, size eight?

WAITRESS

Yes.

LAURA

Dad, can we order? I've got to get back in time to pick up the kids.

He shoots her a look.

(CONTINUED)

FELIX

Yes, of course. I'll have a Cutty
on the rocks, and a... Bombay
Martini for the kid here.

He looks at Laura.

FELIX (CONT'D)

Ok?

LAURA

Sure.

The waitress leaves with their drink order.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Can you ever be normal around any
woman?

FELIX

(innocently)

What?! She was standing like a
dancer.

Felix puts on his glasses and looks at the menu.

FELIX (CONT'D)

If you look at menus today,
there's kale everywhere. I don't
know where kale came from. We used
to eat spinach.

She looks at him -- really? Does it matter?

LAURA

(who cares)

I don't know.

He puts his glasses away, and looks at her.

FELIX

So fill me in, how are things?

LAURA

Fine.

FELIX

You look beautiful.

She doesn't feel like it at all, but takes the compliment.

(CONTINUED)

LAURA

Thank you.

FELIX

Well, if your father doesn't think so, then it's a problem.

She laughs.

LAURA

Yeah, I guess so...

FELIX

How's writing?

LAURA

I haven't had time to get much done.

FELIX

Writers always find time.

LAURA

Maybe ones that aren't mothers of young children.

FELIX

Alice Munro, the Nobel Prize laureate, changed the shape of short fiction in between raising three children.

LAURA

It took her thirty years to write her first book!

He shrugs.

FELIX

What is Dean's job again, what does he do?

Laura struggles to answer, repeating bits of what she's heard him say.

(CONTINUED)

LAURA

Something to do with analyzing trends and social media metrics based on marketing sub groups -- they work a lot with media companies...

Felix looks at her blankly.

LAURA (CONT'D)

(trying to show enthusiasm)

It's going really well -- they've just launched some new aspect of it and are opening more offices, so he has to travel a lot.

FELIX

Uh huh.

LAURA

Do you miss having the gallery?

FELIX

No, I still have a few deals going on here and there. I got a new assistant a few days, did I tell you?

LAURA

No. That's good.

FELIX

You know what's great about her? She doesn't talk. She just listens.

LAURA

Sounds perfect for you.

The waitress brings their drinks, and takes their lunch orders.

FELIX

I'll have the steak -- well done. With spinach.

(to Laura)

My LDL is down.

(CONTINUED)

LAURA

Oh good. I'll have a chopped salad, please.

The waitress leaves.

Felix lifts his glass to Laura.

FELIX

Prost.

They clink glasses.

FELIX (CONT'D)

So, Dean's been away on a lot of business trips lately, huh?

LAURA

Yes, but, not everyone's like you.

He looks at her, like -- that hurts.

FELIX

Where was he coming back from when he was acting strange?

LAURA

London. It's nothing...

FELIX

Ok. Huh, London... What hotel did he stay at?

LAURA

Umm... Blakes, I think.

FELIX

Blakes?

LAURA

Yeah, I think so, why?

FELIX

That's a small, cozy hotel, off the beaten path, not a place you'd go on a business trip...

LAURA

Oh.

(CONTINUED)

FELIX

I have an old friend at
Claridge's, he knows all the
concierges.

Felix takes a small notebook out of his pocket and jots down
some notes.

FELIX (CONT'D)

When was he there?

LAURA

What? Last week, don't get carried
away.

Laura hesitates, then says:

LAURA (CONT'D)

I did find something.

FELIX

What?

LAURA

(regretting)
Never mind. Nothing.

Felix stares at her, waiting.

LAURA (CONT'D)

There were some of his co-worker's
toiletries in his suitcase --

FELIX

Sloppy move.

LAURA

-- but, he explained that she
couldn't take them through
security in her carry on, so he
put them in his checked luggage
for her. That's all.

Felix's eyebrows raise.

FELIX

What? Sounds fishy.

LAURA

Sorry Dad -- I shouldn't have...

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

FELIX
Have you checked his phone?

(CONTINUED)

LAURA

What -- no!

FELIX

Look, do me a favor -- just check his text messages. I'm sure it's nothing, but you just want to make sure.

LAURA

Dean's not like you. He's a nerd, a good guy, a great dad.

He winces at the slight.

FELIX

Look, I know, but he's a man -- it's nature. The males fight to dominate and get all the females.

LAURA

But, do you believe in true love?

FELIX

Yes, I do, it's an enchanted state, but it's God's trick to make babies... I remember the first time I saw your mother -- we were at a pool party out at the beach. All the girls at that time were in bikinis, and she stepped out of the pool in a white one-piece swimsuit. And that was it for me...

The waitress brings their food and more drinks.

FELIX (CONT'D)

But let's stay on track. Has there been any other suspicious behavior?

LAURA

I don't think so, he's just been working late a lot and taking clients out.

FELIX

What does Dean have planned for your birthday?

(CONTINUED)

LAURA

Oh, he's not going to be here.

FELIX

What kind of man forgets his wife's birthday?

LAURA

He didn't forget. He has a work trip, it's not a big deal. We're going to celebrate when he's back.

FELIX

That's not the same. I traveled, but I never missed a birthday.

LAURA

Well, you had other shortcomings...

FELIX

(innocently)
Like what?

She looks at him without answering.

Felix shrugs.

FELIX (CONT'D)

I'll take you to Twenty-One... Just do me a favor and check his phone, and if you remember anything else about London -- we can think about putting a tap on his phone if we need to.

She looks at him.

FELIX (CONT'D)

Laura, your husband should be worshipping the ground you walk on, and if he's not it's better to know what's going on... I'm sure it's nothing, just, do me a favor, and check his phone...

CUT TO:

35 EXT. NEW YORK CITY - MORNING

The sun rises over New York City, it's a new day.

36 INT. LAURA & DEAN'S BATHROOM - DAY

Laura drinks a coffee as she gets ready quickly and walks out.

37 INT. L&D APARTMENT - DAY

It's the morning rush to work and school.

Dean plays a game with Maya and Theo, they laugh. He has a post it on his forehead with 'Frog' written on it.

DEAN

Do I walk?

MAYA

Yes!

DEAN

Do I swim?

THEO

I think so.

Laura sees Dean's phone on the console in the hall.

She walks over near it, overly casual.

Dean walks by, she tries not to act busted.

She quickly picks it up and unlocks the code. The phone face shakes -- wrong code.

LAURA

(calling out)

Can I use your phone, I want to send that cute picture of the girls to my mom -- did you change your password?

Dean comes over to her.

DEAN

We have all this security protocol at work right now...

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

He opens it and hands it to her, while he goes to say bye to the girls.

Laura feels dumb, but looks at his texts, types in "Fiona" but nothing comes up.

He returns and Laura hands him his phone.

LAURA

Do you want anything for dinner?

DEAN

Whatever you think...

He looks at his watch.

DEAN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry to be away on your birthday -- we can celebrate when I'm back, ok?

LAURA

Oh, yeah, that's ok.

He kisses her goodbye and heads out.

CUT TO:

38 EXT. NEW YORK CITY- DAY

We see the VIEW from Laura's window, or a city transition shot.

39 EXT. L&D APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Laura and Theo come outside to see Felix. He's in a suit with a flower in his lapel and tinted Persols.

FELIX

Well, hello.

Theo runs to him and jumps in his arms.

THEO

Pop Pop!

Felix opens the car door for them.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

FELIX
Where to, ladies?

LAURA
Ballet class -- 51 Walker Street.

He whisks them off.

FELIX
How's the whistle coming along?

Laura makes an attempt, a faint sound escapes.

40 EXT. NYC STREET - DAY

Felix's car cruises through the busy street.

FELIX (O.S.)
Anything suspicious?

LAURA (O.S.)
No!

41 INT. BALLET CLASS HALL - DAY

Laura, Theo and Felix wait in the crowded hall of a ballet school.

The classroom door opens, and a young teacher, MISS MINDY, brings Maya to Laura.

MISS MINDY
She's doing great.

Maya runs to Felix and gives him a big hug. He gets down on his knees.

FELIX
Maya, my beauty, it has been too long.

She beams. Felix opens his hand and reveals gum ball machine rings, she chooses one.

Felix stands and meets her teacher.

He looks down noticing her feet.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

FELIX (CONT'D)
Fifth position?

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

LAURA
Dad -- this is Miss Mindy.

FELIX
Hello, *Miss Mindy*.

LAURA
Bye, thanks.

MISS MINDY
Bye!

Laura gives him a look as they leave. Felix catches up with them.

CUT TO:

42 EXT. BALLET SCHOOL - DAY

Laura and Felix and the girls are leaving, Felix's car waits.

LAURA
We can just take the subway home,
thanks.

FELIX
I'll take you, hop in.

Felix sings "Thank Heaven for Little Girls" as they get in the car and drive off.

43 EXT. NYC STREET - DAY

The car passes 'The Balloon Saloon.'

FELIX (O.S.)
Musto, can you pull over a sec.

CUT TO:

44 EXT. L&D APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Laura and Felix, with the girls, enter the building.

Maya is carrying a huge bouquet of balloons.

CUT TO:

45 INT. L&D APARTMENT - LATE AFTERNOON

Laura is putting their stuff away as Felix and the girls come in.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

LAURA

Can you stay with them while I
take a quick shower?

FELIX

Yes, of course.

She hears him singing to them as she walks down the hall.

FELIX (O.S.) (CONT'D)

*A you're adorable, B you're so
beautiful, C you're a cutie full
of charms, D you're a darling and,
E you're exciting and F you're a
feather in my arms...*

CUT TO:

46 INT. LAURA'S BATHROOM

Laura throws her head back, as water pours down over her.

We only HEAR the sound of the WATER.

She takes in this moment alone.

CUT TO:

47 INT. L&D APARTMENT - EVENING

Laura comes out of the shower to see the girls playing poker
with Felix, with the T.V. on.

Maya shuffles a deck of cards as she sees her mom.

MAYA

We're watching Breaking Bad!

LAURA

What?!

MAYA

It's really good!

FELIX

Great show, have you seen it?

LAURA

Yes, but not for kids.

(CONTINUED)

FELIX

What? It's fine, there wasn't anything bad was there?

He looks at Maya.

MAYA

No.

Laura looks at the screen -- the main character is wrapped in cellophane getting chemotherapy. She turns it off.

MAYA (CONT'D)

Look -- I can shuffle!

LAURA

That's great.

FELIX

Yes, we learned every girl should be able to shuffle a deck of cards... and what else?

THEO

How to bluff!

MAYA

(correcting)

Pokerface. And that girls should grow their hair long and pretty, how boys like it.

LAURA

You can have your hair short or however you want!

MAYA

Long and pretty!

FELIX

And do me a favor, and don't grow up, will ya?

LAURA

Don't listen to him -- you're going to grow up into strong women and have your hair the way you want!

Laura picks up the table.

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

LAURA (CONT'D)

Come on, it's time to get dinner ready -- what are you drinking?

MAYA

We made egg creams!

Laura looks at Felix.

FELIX

You didn't have any Fox's U-Bet, but we managed.

LAURA

That's not good to have before dinner!

She picks up their cups.

They follow her into the kitchen, hopping around.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Wash your hands, please.

FELIX

People wash their hands too much now! I don't wash my hands before every meal... you need to build up some microbial resistance.

Felix gets up to go.

FELIX (CONT'D)

Alright, I'm off. See you for your birthday.

The girls hug him goodbye.

LAURA

You know, Dad, I think this year I'm going to pass. I don't feel like doing anything for my birthday.

FELIX

The idea of celebrating the date of your birth started as a pagan tradition. In fact, many Christians historically didn't celebrate...

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

LAURA
Dad! I don't feel like
celebrating.

Felix backs off.

FELIX
Let's talk tomorrow.

CUT TO:

48 EXT. L&D BUILDING - DUSK

As Felix exits the lobby, he runs into Dean coming home.

DEAN
Oh, Hi, Felix. You're back.

FELIX
I am.

Felix puts his hand out for a shake.

FELIX (CONT'D)
Working late?

DEAN
Yeah, I have a lot going on right
now.

FELIX
Do you?

Felix gives him a suspicious look.

DEAN
Yes.

Dean and Felix both move the same direction to pass. There's
an awkward pause, they try again.

Dean slips by.

DEAN (CONT'D)
Good night, Felix.

FELIX
Good night.

CUT TO:

49 EXT. L&D APARTMENT - DUSK

Felix sits in his car, looking up at their apartment.
He drives off.

50 INT. FELIX'S CAR - DUSK

We stay with Felix alone, silent, in the car.

MUSTO
Going home?

FELIX
Yes, Musto.

He listens to classical music as they drive through the city.

51 EXT. NYC STREET - NIGHT

Felix's car disappears into the night.

CUT TO:

52 EXT. L&D APARTMENT - MORNING

Wide on Laura and the girls seeing Dean off.
Laura tries to be upbeat about it.

LAURA
Hope it goes well.

DEAN
Thanks, want anything from L.A.?

LAURA
Where do I start?

He kisses them and gets in to a car with a travel bag.
She watches him go.

CUT TO:

53 INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

Laura is lost in thought while she waits in the crowded hall to bring Maya in to class, Vanessa talks at her.

VANESSA

My therapist says I have no self worth.

LAURA

Oh, no.

Vanessa updates her on the latest in her life and how she's processing it.

CUT TO:

54 INT. L&D APARTMENT - DAY

Laura and Theo come in to an over-the-top bouquet of flowers.

She opens the card: *"Happy Birthday Laura. Love, Daddy"*

She puts down the card, wishing it was from Dean...

THEO

Is it from Daddy?!

LAURA

No, they're from *my* daddy.

CUT TO:

55 INT. GIRLS' ROOM - NIGHT

Laura, in a big T-shirt and boxers, reads to Maya and Theo who are in their pajamas together in bed. They wrap their arms around her as she hugs and kisses them.

LAURA

Good night, I love you.

MAYA

Happy birthday, Mommy!

LAURA

Thank you! Sleep tight...

Her cellphone RINGS with a face time call.

(CONTINUED)

55

CONTINUED:

It's Dean -- she picks it up with a smile.

DEAN
Happy Birthday, baby.

(CONTINUED)

GIRLS

Hi Dad!

DEAN

Greetings from Hollywood!

We see the sunny, palm tree background.

DEAN (CONT'D)

You having a good birthday so far?

LAURA

Really laid back, but really nice.
I miss you.

DEAN

I miss you so much. Guys, go get
the present I hid for Mom.

Laura smiles at his thoughtfulness.

The kids run off and come back with a present. It's a medium-sized box.

Laura opens it to reveal a fancy new kitchen gadget -- a Thermomix.

DEAN (CONT'D)

I know it's kind of nerdy but
actually it's really cool.

LAURA

Yeah, thanks.

DEAN

... It combines twelve appliances
into one -- like, weighing,
mixing, chopping, kneading,
everything. We can make all kinds
of stuff. Girls- are we going to
make mommy pizza?

THEO

Yes!

LAURA

Thanks, Dean.

The BUZZER RINGS.

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED:

DEAN

There's another part to your
present, but it's not ready yet.

The buzzer interrupts what he says.

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED:

LAURA
Can I call you back?

DEAN
I have to go, I love you!

CUT TO:

56 INT. ENTRY HALL - NIGHT

FELIX (O.S.)
(intercom)
I'm here.

LAURA
What? I told you I wasn't coming!

FELIX (O.S.)
Can you buzz me in?

57 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT MOMENTS LATER

Felix is there, looking elegant in a Battistoni suit.
Theo screams from the other room.

LAURA
I'll be right there!

She looks at Felix.

FELIX
Laura, you can't *not* celebrate
your birthday. I'm taking you
out.

Laura shakes her head.

LAURA
I don't have a baby sitter.

FELIX
Musto can do it. He's got four
kids.

LAURA
No! I mean I'm sure he's great,
but -- you can't just come here
and expect me to --

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED:

FELIX
I'm not taking No for an answer.

LAURA
Ugh...I'll see if the girl down
the hall can watch the kids.

She walks off.

LAURA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Hi, Lucie, are you free by any
chance to come....

Felix inhales a flower.

CUT TO:

58 EXT. L&D APARTMENT - NIGHT

Laura and Felix run out into the street; she looks beautiful
in a simple dress.

CUT TO:

59 INT. FELIX'S CAR - NIGHT

Laura and Felix sit in the back seat of the car while Musto
drives.

FELIX
You look lovely.

LAURA
Thanks.

FELIX
Musto, we're going to Twenty-One.

MUSTO
Twenty-One it is.

Felix looks at Laura. Laura smiles.

FELIX
Dean went on his trip?

LAURA
Yes.

(CONTINUED)

FELIX
(playing it cool)
Did he get you a nice present?

LAURA
He did, actually.

FELIX
Jewelry?

LAURA
What? He got me a nice present --
when are you going to drop it
about Dean?!

FELIX
A little red box?

LAURA
No? What are you --

FELIX
You know where he came from the
other night? I had him followed.

LAURA
(challenging)
What?! No, where?

FELIX
52nd and Fifth.

LAURA
-So?

FELIX
Cartier?

Laura stares, not sure how to react.

LAURA
He did?!

FELIX
At least we know he has taste...
did you get something from there
for your birthday?

LAURA
No.

(CONTINUED)

FELIX

Well, then, what was he doing there? Did you ever check his phone?

LAURA

(confident)

Yes -- there weren't any texts.

FELIX

Hmm, really? That's suspicious.

She looks at him.

FELIX (CONT'D)

If you work with someone, you're in contact, unless he erased them.

Laura wonders about this, more concerned.

FELIX (CONT'D)

.. when did he start acting strange?

LAURA

(trying to be logical)

He's been *distracted* since he started this new company... and working with Fiona.

FELIX

Who's Fiona? The toiletries gal?

Laura starts to give in to her insecurities.

LAURA

His tall business associate.

FELIX

Hmmm...

Felix pulls out a little notebook from his pocket, and jots a note.

They pass the Plaza Hotel.

FELIX (CONT'D)

You know, the best place to have an affair is the Plaza -- it has the most exits.

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED:

LAURA
(ironic)
Great to know.

MUSTO
I can see that, there isn't
another one like it, with exits on
three streets.

Laura looks like -- 'What has my life become?'

LAURA
Can any man be monogamous?

FELIX
Monogamy and marriage are built on
the concept of property, it only
came about in human history
because when man began to obtain
land for agriculture, he had to
decide who would inherit his
property.

MUSTO
I've been married for twenty
years.

LAURA
See?

FELIX
You know what my friend Tony
always says -- "Women. You can't
live with them, you can't live
without them. But, that doesn't
mean you have to live with them."

CUT TO:

60 INT. TWENTY-ONE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Laura sits across from Felix at a cozy table, off the bar.
Model airplanes hang overhead.

FELIX
Table four, Bogart's table, where
he proposed to Bacall.

Two martinis are set down in front of them.

(CONTINUED)

They clink glasses.

FELIX (CONT'D)
Happy birthday, Kiddo.

LAURA
Thanks.

Felix hands Laura a small box with a ribbon on it.

She opens it to find an old men's watch.

Laura looks up at him with a smile.

FELIX
I bought that for myself in '78
after my first big sale -- it was
a de Kooning woman.

She puts the watch on with appreciation.

LAURA
Thank you. I love it.

FELIX
You know, now that I'm getting
older... I don't have a lot, but
I'd like to know what things of
mine you and your sister might
want to keep.

LAURA
Oh come on, you're not that old!
I'm sure we'll have the pleasure
of your company a little longer.

He smiles.

The waiter takes their order.

Felix looks at Laura, taking her in.

FELIX
You know, I remember the moment
when I first recognized you as a
person. We were in the country
and you were about 9 months old,
happily sitting in the dirt...
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

FELIX (CONT'D)
and I reached out and picked you up, your diaper was sagging from a muddy puddle, and we looked at each other, and you were so cute, and that was the moment I first recognized who you were and what you were going to become.

Laura smiles.

LAURA
And here, we are...

The waiter brings dishes.

FELIX
So... What's the plan, I was thinking we need to follow him.

LAURA
What? Dean--really?

FELIX
No. Let's just see what he's up to.

LAURA
No, it's fine.

FELIX
Laura -- it's better to know. I'm sure it's nothing, but better to be sure.

LAURA
(reluctantly)
He has a work dinner Friday.

FELIX
Perfect, I'll switch cars and we'll tail him.

LAURA
Could you act a little less excited? This is my life that could be falling apart.

(CONTINUED)

FELIX

I'm not worried about you, kiddo. You have beauty, brains, and good character -- the most important quality in a person. Do you know a woman is at her most beautiful between 35 and 39?

LAURA

Great, I have 2 years left.

FELIX

Women of all ages are beautiful. They are like flowers; even a dried flower is beautiful, but in a different way.

She looks at him.

FELIX (CONT'D)

I don't know why women get plastic surgery.

LAURA

Because of men like you.

FELIX

(offended)

Hey, I appreciate women of many ages.

LAURA

I'm sure you do.

She laughs.

He gives her a little smile.

FELIX

Let's get to the bottom of things so you're not driven crazy.

LAURA

Maybe he's just having some mid-life boredom... I'm not the conquest anymore.

FELIX

It's true that relationships go through many phases, and familiarity can breed boredom...

(CONTINUED)

He orders an ice cream sundae.

LAURA

Can a man want what he already has?

FELIX

There's a beautiful story about that, by Irwin Shaw, I think, called "*Women in their Summer Dresses*"... It's the story of a man who's waiting for his wife. He's thinking about how it's Spring and all the women are in their summer dresses, and the smell of flowers and sunlight, and the sight of the women, and the rush it gives him, but he got married... and at one point, a woman in her summer dress appears and he looks at her and lights up, and realizes it's his wife coming to meet him... it's beautiful... But that's what men are like. It's all an illusion, but you can have that with your wife too.

LAURA

If you keep up the illusion...? Do you think most people hit a wall and walk away?

FELIX

I think some do.

LAURA

Or like Mom, they have to?

FELIX

Well, that's a whole other story, she had her limitations.

LAURA

I think you could drive anyone to limitations.

He gives her a look.

The ice cream sundae arrives- Felix motions it's for her.

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED:

LAURA (CONT'D)

Thanks.

FELIX

Look, I think it's important to give each other privacy. But, if he's being dishonorable, you should know. And it's better to find out on your own terms so you can be prepared if it is anything. Which it is very possibly not. I'll pick you up Friday and we'll follow him. Let's see what we see...

LAURA

(mouth full of whipped cream)

No!

CUT TO:

61 EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Laura, waiting for school to let out, gets the latest installment from Vanessa.

VANESSA

... And so I'm thinking -- it's time, I should introduce him to Milo? Do you think that's crazy?

The doors swing open and the kids file out.

Maya runs out, past Laura.

MAYA

Daddy!!

Laura sees Dean as he gets out of a lyft, disheveled with his roller bag.

Laura excuses herself and walks out to him on the busy school sidewalk, happy to see him. He is hugging Maya.

Dean kisses Laura and they walk down the street together, his arm around her.

DEAN

How was your birthday?

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED:

LAURA

Fine, my dad's in town, he took me out to dinner. Heard some of his stories, *again*.

Dean smiles, knowingly.

DEAN

Should we go around the corner later? Let's celebrate properly.

LAURA

Fun, I'll call a sitter, should be fine. How was your trip?

Dean gets a text he checks.

DEAN

Huh?

LAURA

Was your trip good?

DEAN

Yeah... we found an office, a lot of great meetings... we went to this funny karaoke place I want to take you to --

CUT TO:

62 INT. NEIGHBORHOOD RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Laura sits across from Dean in a very loud, crowded, small downtown restaurant.

DEAN

It's really cool, they can build these 3-D printed homes for a few thousand dollars that can be put up in a day--

LAURA

Oh wow, that's so cool.

DEAN

How's writing going?

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED:

LAURA

I don't know what I was thinking taking an advance, now I have to write it. I just can't get into writing during the day, I miss writing at night...

DEAN

You just have to start.

LAURA

Yeah...

Dean checks something on his phone.

DEAN

Sorry, I just have to make sure this thing went through -- we're closing the new account.

She smiles that it's ok. It's so loud he has to shout. She says something, but he can't make it out. They both look tired.

LAURA

I'm not sure if we should apply for that pre-school, or wait another year...have you thought about it at all?

DEAN

What?

LAURA

Never mind.

It's awkward.

DEAN

Should we go?

LAURA

Yeah.

Dean gets up, and then returns to the table.

Laura sees a waitress approach with an elaborate dessert with a candle in the low light.

Then it passes by.

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED:

Her face drops.

DEAN

What? Did you want a cake?

LAURA

No -- I mean --

DEAN

I thought you said that stuff was for kids, I'm sorry -- I thought it would embarrass you.

LAURA

-- I just saw you talking to the hostess, and...

DEAN

I was asking for the check. I'm sorry -- let's get you something.

LAURA

No, no, I'm fine.

DEAN

Are you sure?

LAURA

Yes, let's go. Should we do this again sometime?

He laughs.

CUT TO:

63 INT. L&D APARTMENT, LAURA'S OFFICE - DAY

Laura sits at her desk, trying to get something done.

She looks at her watch and the mess of notes on her desk... she looks out the window -- people are busy going places and doing things.

Laura looks up country houses on a real estate website.

A text comes up on her phone from Dean: *"I'll go straight to my dinner from here, so I'll see you later tonight."*

CUT TO:

64 INT. L&D APARTMENT, KID'S ROOM - NIGHT

In the glow of a night light in the dark room, Laura kisses her daughters goodnight. The sisters are curled up together in bed.

LAURA
Good- night, I love you.

65 INT. L&D APARTMENT - NIGHT

Laura passes the BABYSITTER as she grabs a coat on her way out.

LAURA
Thanks, I'll be back in a few hours.

BABYSITTER
Ok. Have a good time.

CUT TO:

66 EXT. L&D APARTMENT - NIGHT

Laura comes out to see Felix waiting in a little vintage Alfa Romeo convertible.

He's wearing an Italian driving cap.

LAURA
This is your idea of incognito?

He smiles.

FELIX
Hop in, Cutie.

She gets in and they speed off.

67 INT. ALFA ROMEO - NIGHT

FELIX
Hungry? I brought supplies.

He nods to a picnic -- there's a Russ & Daughters travel pack with a bottle, next to binoculars.

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED:

FELIX (CONT'D)

Where to?

LAURA

Soho House.

FELIX

I still don't understand why anyone would want to go there, with all the great clubs in New York? Not only the Sentinel -- have you ever been to the Architectural League? Now that's a place to go... and The Knickerbocker, they have great readings...

Felix shakes his head.

CUT TO:

68 EXT. SOHO HOUSE - NIGHT

Felix pulls up to a spot across the street, they lurch forward and come to a stop.

69 INT. ALFA ROMEO - NIGHT

FELIX

Oh, my man at Claridge's got back to me. He said Dean went to J. Sheekey's -- had a four top reserved, which is always a good cover...

LAURA

Or they went with clients.

FELIX

A possibility...

They wait... He demonstrates and makes her practice whistling.

(CONTINUED)

69 CONTINUED:

Until, they see Dean, Fiona, and a few men in trendy suits enter the building.

Laura sees Dean open the door for Fiona who's laughing, and touches his arm in a familiar way.

Felix slumps down to not be seen, pulling Laura down.

FELIX (CONT'D)

Is that her, the leggy brunette?

LAURA

Yeah, that's Fiona.

FELIX

I see... did I ever tell you about the Rockette I dated?

Laura looks at him -- it never ends...

LAURA

I'm sure you did.

CUT TO:

70 LATER:

Laura looks at the clock: 10:05

They've been waiting awhile, she has Felix's scarf around her neck.

They eat some crackers with caviar.

Laura is stressed, but Felix is oblivious.

FELIX

Did you know the Russians fed the cosmonauts Beluga? High protein and then their waste was just a little touch of ash.

LAURA

(distracted)
Really...

FELIX

We can call this caviar but the Beluga's all gone.

(CONTINUED)

He is forlorn.

FELIX (CONT'D)

This stuff from Canada's *pretty* good.

Felix checks the Soho House entrance.

LAURA

Why can't men be satisfied with one woman?

FELIX

It's nature, keeping the -- species alive...

She's heard this all before.

FELIX (CONT'D)

You know, the human male is very stimulated by an image.

LAURA

Yeah?

Where is he going with this?

FELIX

Why? Because if a man saw a pretty woman over the hill and he saw her ankle, he would be motivated to go over that hill to get her. They were less attracted to their cousins and the girls in their village which is better for genetics.

LAURA

And it's more of a conquest and a challenge than the girl who is sitting right next to you...

She sighs to herself.

FELIX

It's direct wiring. The male is turned on by the image, whereas the woman goes through an emotional filter.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

FELIX (CONT'D)

The male doesn't go through the emotional part. It goes right from the eyes to the ass.

Laura tries to follow his logic.

Felix notices something and takes out his binoculars.

FELIX (CONT'D)

Is that them?

-- but it's a false alarm.

LAURA

What makes a woman desirable or sexy to a man?

FELIX

Hmmm... that she knows she is. A woman who is confident in the effects she has on you -- that's sexy.

LAURA

Do you think if a woman loves you it's a turnoff for a man?

FELIX

Most people are very insecure and don't think highly of themselves, so if a woman loves you, she must have something wrong with her to love someone as awful as you. Or you know, in the words of Groucho - "I wouldn't want to join any club that would have me as a member."

LAURA

Do you think men are just more interested in the unpredictable?

He thinks about it.

FELIX

The Corsican wanted me to pull her hair, but that wasn't for me.

LAURA

The Corsican?

(CONTINUED)

FELIX

Did you ever hear the saying --
pardon my language -- the fucking
you get, is not worth the fucking
you get.

LAURA

No.

Her phone RINGS.

LAURA (CONT'D)

It's Dean. What should I do?

FELIX

Hmm.

LAURA

(into phone)

Hello?... Oh nothing, I'm just...
getting ready for bed.

She looks at Felix like: 'I'm not good at lying.' He
gestures that she's doing fine, to relax.

A SIREN goes by. She tries to cover the phone.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Huh, what? All *fine* here.

(pause)

After midnight? Ok, that's fine,
I won't wait up.

She hangs up, cringing.

FELIX

(loud whisper)

Is that them?!

They see Dean, Fiona, and a few men in suits leaving the
building. The group splits up into two cabs, Dean and Fiona
getting in the second one.

Felix looks at Laura. He's on it.

He throws the stick shift in first and pulls out speedily
into the New York City traffic.

Felix yells at cars in his way.

(CONTINUED)

70 CONTINUED:

Laura scoots down in her seat to not be seen in his insanity. She tightens her seatbelt.

71 EXT. NYC STREETS/INT. ALFA ROMEO - NIGHT

Felix swerves around a car blocking him to follow the taxi.

FELIX
Hold on, Sweetie!

Felix runs a red light to not lose them -- cuts off another car. A taxi driver honks and yells, Felix waves, jauntily.

They speed along as the Alfa Romeo revs, spits and backfires.

Felix howls with the thrill.

Laura, mortified with herself, looks over at him.

The car suddenly stalls -- Felix wiggles some wiring, throws the clutch and gets it running again. They take off down the city street.

The WHOOP of a SIREN

CLOSE UP Felix's foot steps on the gas pedal.

LAURA
What are you doing?!

FELIX
Which way did they go?

We SEE Dean's taxi turn right.

Police lights FLASH as the SIREN BLASTS behind them.

CUT TO:

72 EXT. NYC STREET - NIGHT

The COP'S POV looking down into the Alfa: Felix, with Laura beside him, smiles up at him.

A flashlight points at them.

POLICE OFFICER
I'll need you to turn off your engine.

(CONTINUED)

FELIX

I'm afraid I can't.

POLICE OFFICER

Sir, turn off the engine.

FELIX

It's just that she's tricky -- I'm stuck in second and when the starter heats up --

POLICE OFFICER

Sir --

FELIX

Ok, ok.

He turns it off.

Laura watches as Dean's taxi disappears from view.

The cop scans the car with his flashlight.

POLICE OFFICER

Do you have open alcohol in the vehicle?

Felix looks over at the remains of their picnic on the floor by Laura.

FELIX

That? That's a '98 Krug.

POLICE OFFICER

I'm going to have to ask you and your lady friend to step out of the car.

FELIX

This is my daughter.

The cop looks at him.

FELIX (CONT'D)

We're making up for lost time here.

POLICE OFFICER

Step out of the car, Sir.

Felix gets out.

(CONTINUED)

POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)
I'm going to need to see your
license. Do you know why I pulled
you over?

FELIX
Yes, I ran a light. The thing
was, we were going to stall if I
stopped.

Felix hands him his license. He looks at his badge.

FELIX (CONT'D)
O'Callaghan? Are you by any
chance Tom's son?

POLICE OFFICER
Sir?

FELIX
O'Callaghan of the Nineteenth
precinct? One of my favorite guys!

Felix takes his phone out of his pocket.

FELIX (CONT'D)
Let's call him after this.

POLICE OFFICER
Sir, put your phone away.

FELIX
I was at Sergeant O'Callaghan's
beefsteak, for his retirement, is
that your *grandfather*? Wow!

POLICE OFFICER
Yes, Sir, third generation.

FELIX
Good man. I'm an old friend of
your pop's. Felix Keane--

Felix extends his hand.

POLICE OFFICER
Good to meet you.

FELIX
This is my daughter, Laura.

(CONTINUED)

LAURA

Hi. I'm sorry about his driving.

FELIX

Before you write me up -- can I tell you your grandfather's best story?

Felix tells him a cop joke.

The cop chuckles, remembering this one -- and hands Felix his license back.

POLICE OFFICER

Try to be more careful, ok?

FELIX

Thanks, I appreciate it.

They get back in the car.

LAURA

Good thing, you're you.

Felix turns the key, but the engine won't start.

FELIX

Like I said, when the starter heats up...

POLICE OFFICER

Need a push?

FELIX

Yes, thank you, that would be great.

Another cop car pulls up.

POLICE OFFICER #2

Everything ok?

POLICE OFFICER

We're good, he needs a push, if you can block the lane.

The second police car pulls up, and flashes his lights to block the traffic.

Felix and Laura hop in their car.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The first police car pulls up and gives the Alfa a push. The car starts.

(CONTINUED)

72 CONTINUED:

FELIX
Thanks, fellas!

He waves as he peels out, speeding down Park Avenue.

Felix yells out, exhilarated.

They speed out of frame.

CUT TO:

73 INT. BEMELMAN'S BAR - NIGHT

Laura and Felix sit at a small corner table listening to old standards on the piano.

They drink martinis in the low light of the bar.

Laura eats shoestring fries.

An elegant BLONDE in her late 50s passes the table.

BLONDE
Felix.

Felix doesn't hear her at first, then stands up.

FELIX
How are you?

BLONDE
Good, good. How about yourself?

FELIX
Great, thanks, here with my
daughter, Laura.

She smiles.

BLONDE
I may be ready to sell the
Hockney.

FELIX
You know where to find me. Call
anytime.

BLONDE
Great to see you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She slips off. Felix sits back down.

Laura watches the woman, and looks back to Felix.

He shrugs.

She takes a sip of her martini.

FELIX
I'm starting to go deaf.

Laura is fed up and distracted.

LAURA
Really?

FELIX
It's strange, I can hear
everything fine, except the
frequency of women's voices.

LAURA
You can't go deaf only to women?!

FELIX
It's just *that* pitch...

She looks at him like, *please*.

FELIX (CONT'D)
Look, we're off to a good start.

LAURA
This is pathetic.

FELIX
We just need to gather more
information.

LAURA
Maybe he's just not interested in
me anymore.

FELIX
Impossible.

She gives him a courtesy smile in thanks.

LAURA
Ha, thanks.

(CONTINUED)

73

CONTINUED:

The SINGER at the piano starts up a new song, we hear "*You Don't know What Love is.*"

SINGER

*You don't know what love is until
you've learned the meaning of the
blues...*

In the low light of the bar, Laura's eyes well up. She looks over at Felix.

He gives her a look, with a small, tender smile.

FELIX

You're going to be ok, Kiddo.

She looks down, a tear falls into her martini.

She laughs a teary laugh.

FADE OUT.

74

INT. SCHOOL - DAY

Laura is waiting in the school hallway with a few other parents.

Vanessa is talking to her.

VANESSA

You know, I'm just living my truth. I'm in a really good place right now.

LAURA

Oh that's good.

VANESSA

My healer said, you have to be ready, you know? Ready to accept what you truly want... I thought I wanted him --

She gets emotional.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

But maybe I wasn't ready... Turns out he was married.

(CONTINUED)

74 CONTINUED:

LAURA

Oh, I'm sorry.

VANESSA

I just don't have time for anyone else's baggage, you know?

LAURA

Sure.

Laura looks at text from Felix: *"Get over here."*

CUT TO:

75 INT. FELIX'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Laura is in Felix's study. There are many pictures of Felix with important people. Felix with Bill Clinton, with Henry Kissinger, with Lauren Hutton on a boat...

Laura puts her bag on the coffee table and lies down on a sofa.

LAURA

Ok, what's so important?

Felix opens a drawer and pulls out a manila envelope.

He flips it onto the table in front of her.

Laura hesitates, then slowly opens it.

INSERT: black and white, long-lens photos of Dean through a window -- he's at his desk, eating a sandwich. In another one he's drinking a soda water.

She looks up at Felix.

LAURA (CONT'D)

What is this?

FELIX

Well, it's just a start...

LAURA

It's nothing!

FELIX

Laura --

(CONTINUED)

LAURA

What if the only thing to find out is that there's *nothing* going on?! Dean's busy and distracted -- and I'm in a rut and looking for something to blame it on? I regret I ever told you anything!

FELIX

Look, I talked to my man in 'Bones'...

LAURA

Enough with this whole spy scenario! You came here to show me some pictures of my husband eating a sandwich?

FELIX

There's more. We put a hotwatch on him.

LAURA

(exasperated)
What's a *hotwatch*?!

FELIX

They track his credit card, and his whereabouts.

LAURA

What?! --Well?

FELIX

Maybe it's nothing, but.

LAURA

(dryly)
What?

FELIX

He booked a trip to Manzanillo.

LAURA

You're full of it. I would know if he was going to Mexico.

Felix nods.

(CONTINUED)

75 CONTINUED:

FELIX

We just need to gather and evaluate.

It's all too much for her.

LAURA

I have to go.

FELIX

I'll drop you off. We just need to quickly stop by Mrs. Morris, it's her 90th.

LAURA

I have to get home.

FELIX

Come on, we'll be quick. She's got a Twombly --

CUT TO:

76 INT. SHERRY-NETHERLAND APARTMENT - EVENING

Laura finds herself in a small Uptown cocktail party with a few guests.

Felix nudges Laura to look at the Twombly painting over the chintz sofa.

Some of the elevator operators hold champagne glasses along with the elderly guests.

FELIX

And check out the Matisse in the foyer.

Felix raises a brow.

LAURA

Come on, she's not gone yet. She could make it to 100.

FELIX

Don't get my blood pressure up, Shorty.

Laura walks through the apartment.

(CONTINUED)

Felix chats up the ladies.

He lowers his voice to an attractive woman in her early 70s.

FELIX (CONT'D)

I *may* have a Hockney, call me if you're interested.

LADY 2

I will.

Laura sits next to a frail OLDER WOMAN with a small DOG beside her.

LADY

Are you Felix's daughter?

LAURA

Hello, yes, I'm Laura.

LADY

Do you live in the city?

LAURA

Yes, downtown.

LADY

Are you married?

LAURA

Yes.

LADY

How is it?

LAURA

Good, I guess... we're in a little bit of a rut actually, he's been away for work a lot lately...

LADY

Not the cruise you signed up for?

LAURA

Ha, not really.

LADY

You know what I think? Marriage is like a bank account.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LADY (CONT'D)

You make deposits for the first
twenty or thirty years and then
after that, you have all this
interest built up -- and you can
start making withdrawals...

Laura smiles, and considers.

LADY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

(mischievous)

And I don't forget costumes.

(CONTINUED)

76 CONTINUED:

Laura smiles as Felix catches her eye to come with him.

She excuses herself from the lady, and when no one is looking, they slip down a hall.

FELIX
(whispers)
C'mon.

LAURA
Where are you going?

FELIX
Shh... I want to show you something.

They sneak into a back bedroom.

Felix and Laura stand in silhouette in front of a large Monet painting of water lilies.

The room is dark except for the painting.

FELIX (CONT'D)
How about that?

LAURA
It's beautiful.

FELIX
I remember the first time I saw them at the Tuileries... I took your mom to the gardens in Giverny.

CUT TO:

77 EXT. PARK AVE - NIGHT

Laura walks alone down Park Avenue, lost in thought.

CUT TO:

78 INT. L&D APARTMENT - NIGHT

Laura picks up toys and clothes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Laura walks over to the living room with a handful of clothes which she's picked off the floor. Dean's on the couch, working on his computer. She plunks down beside him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She looks at him, he smiles, his good natured usual self.

DEAN

How's your writing going?

Laura sighs.

LAURA

I wish I had something more exciting to tell you. I'm pretty much stuck -- I need to find some time...

DEAN

... You have to just make time for yourself.

LAURA

(slight sarcasm)
Sounds great -- maybe I'll just go on a trip.

DEAN

Oh! I forgot to tell you. I got invited to this conference in Mexico -- sorry it's last minute, but it's a really big deal.

LAURA

Manzanillo?

DEAN

Whoa -- how'd you guess?

LAURA

Intuition?
(pause)
Who's going?

DEAN

(slightly annoyed)
The whole team's going.

LAURA

Right.

He walks out of the room.

CUT TO:

79 INT. LAURA'S HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

Laura sits at her desk, trying to work. Trying to collect her thoughts.

She closes her computer and picks up her phone.

LAURA

(loud whisper)

Your Bones man had it right --
they are going to Manzanillo!
(Alternate: They are going to
Mexico!)

FELIX

I told you. Pack your bags, call
a sitter -- I'll arrange
everything.

LAURA

What? I can't just leave my kids
for a few days with a babysitter.

FELIX

Well, call your mother.

LAURA

We can't just hop off to -- I'm
going to talk to him. I'm just
going to talk to him.

FELIX

I don't advise that. Look, you
need to get ahead of that. It's a
few hours away, I have a friend
who has a condo we can use at the
resort next door. It's very
discreet, we can enter through the
back. You deserve a little
vacation!

LAURA

No way!

FELIX (O.S.)

Pack light.

He hangs up.

CUT TO:

80 EXT. MEXICO RESORT - DAY

Mexican horns MUSIC plays over:

Laura and Felix ride on a golf cart through the sunny resort, she holds on, over the bumpy ride.

Felix is in a Borsalino Panama hat, smoking a cigar. He's got a smile on his face.

He hands her a map.

FELIX

I got a map of the place from my travel agent.

LAURA

Who has a travel agent anymore?

He looks at her like: 'What?' and continues on about the plan.

FELIX

Their group is at the resort next door. Put your stuff down and meet me at the bar in forty-five.

LAURA

What if they see us there?

FELIX

They won't. They have a reservation at a place down the road, we're all clear.

CUT TO:

81 EXT. RESORT ROOM PATIO -LATE AFTERNOON

Felix smokes a cigar in a hot tub over looking the beach.

Some people pass by, he waves to them, taking in the view.

FELIX

Hola!

CUT TO:

82 INT. RESORT ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Laura sits on a bed with colorful pillows and flowers spelling out "Bievenidos," regretting being there.

83 EXT. BEACH - LATE AFTERNOON

Laura looks out over the water, the wind blowing her hair.

CUT TO:

84 INT. RESORT BAR - EVENING

Laura walks into the resort restaurant to see Felix, in a linen shirt, at the piano. He's singing to the ladies around him.

When he sees Laura, he switches to serenading her.

FELIX

Laura, this is Gabriella. She's a yoga instructor here.

LAURA

Hi.

FELIX

You know, this is how I made my way through school.

LAURA

I know.

FELIX

Please excuse me, ladies.

They walk to a table.

LAURA

Do you have to make such a big entrance everywhere you go?

FELIX

Oh, come on.

(CONTINUED)

FELIX (CONT'D)
If I'm missing, check the yoga
studio.

She's not amused.

LAURA
Just don't break anything...

He gives her a look.

They pass a glamorous MEXICAN WOMAN who greets them and Felix
introduces her.

FELIX
Laura, this is Carla, the boss
around here.

LAURA
Hi, Carla, it's so nice here.

CARLA
Thank you. Enjoy!
(to Felix)
-- And I'll think about the
Hockney.

They pass her and Laura stops and looks at him.

LAURA
Is that why we're really here --
you're making a deal?!

FELIX
No, no. I just thought she might
be interested, while we're here...

Laura looks at him like it's useless.

They slip into a booth.

LAURA
I can't believe I'm here.

FELIX
It's beautiful isn't it?!

LAURA
It is.

Felix looks at the menu.

(CONTINUED)

FELIX

Do you know there's a cult in Canada of women who kidnap men and when they try to escape or get aggressive -- they placate them with sex?

LAURA

What? What are you talking about?

(She's less and less amused)

FELIX

It's real, I know someone it happened to.

LAURA

Sounds like your fantasy.

FELIX

It's not unlike the Bonobos -- do you know what they are?

LAURA

The monkeys?

FELIX

Yes, they're the only mammals where the females dominate the males -- so when the males in the tribe get hostile or aggressive, the females have sex with them to keep them docile.

Laura looks at him.

A WAITER comes for their order.

WAITER

Good evening, what can I get you?

FELIX

We'll have two martinis.

WAITER

Gin or vodka?

Felix looks at him with disdain.

FELIX

Two martinis.

(CONTINUED)

Laura looks at the waiter like -- 'sorry.'

LAURA

Gin, please.

The waiter leaves.

Felix mutters:

FELIX

A martini is made with gin. A
"vodka martini," or if you must, a
Vodkatini, is made with vodka.

LAURA

Not everyone knows that.

FELIX

Well, they should.

Martinis arrive.

Felix takes a sip.

FELIX (CONT'D)

Why is it that when a woman has an
affair, they say "Isn't that nice,
she met someone," but when a man
has an affair it's, "He's banging
the secretary."

Laura looks at him.

LAURA

Why do so many men have affairs
anyway, besides all your nature
theories, what's the real reason?

FELIX

When your mother and I were first
together, she shone all of her
light on me. And then you and
your sister came along, and that
light all went to you... so, I was
drawn to it when a woman looked at
me like that. I wanted to be in
that glow again.

LAURA

You're such a baby.

(CONTINUED)

FELIX

We just want to be loved.

LAURA

It's exhausting...

FELIX

Your mother was interested in her own things, her friends... when I met Holly, she was so crazy in love with me, I wasn't used to it.

Laura is surprised he brought her up.

LAURA

That was the appeal, looking at you with such adoration?

FELIX

Yeah... and your mom didn't want to travel with me, she suggested I take Holly, who had started at the gallery... do you know she died last year?

LAURA

No.

FELIX

I never thought I'd outlive her. She was only fifty-seven.

Felix has never talked about her before with Laura.

LAURA

I don't remember her that well, but she didn't seem to stand out, I wouldn't have expected her.

FELIX

She was funny...

LAURA

And smart?

FELIX

She was... and she was a really good painter. I never got to say goodbye to her.

(CONTINUED)

84 CONTINUED:

Laura realizes how much she meant to him, as it brings up old feelings for her.

LAURA
Was is it worth it?

FELIX
What?

LAURA
Everything you put us through.
What it did to mom. And then you
didn't even stay with her.

FELIX
It was heartbreaking.

Laura's never heard him talk about it before.

85 EXT. RESORT - NIGHT

We FOLLOW Felix and Laura down a path in the dark. They pass an illuminated palm tree here and there.

He's wearing a safari jacket or vest with pockets, and Zeiss binoculars around his neck.

FELIX
(stealthily)
C'mon, over here.

LAURA
This is a new low.

They get to a low wall that separates their resort from the neighboring one. Felix tries to casually vault it, but it's a little too high and he bangs his knee. He hands her his binoculars and some other supplies, including water bottles and settles for climbing over it awkwardly. He beckons for Laura to climb over too.

She hands the gear and her cell phone to him and hops over as a light shines.

FELIX
Oops. Get down.

LAURA
What?

(CONTINUED)

85 CONTINUED:

FELIX
Never mind. Too late. Get up.

Felix has spotted a resort SECURITY GUARD coming down the path towards them on a golf cart. Felix pulls Laura into an embrace.

FELIX (CONT'D)
Quick- put your arms around me.

LAURA
What? Yuck. No.

FELIX
Just-trust me.

The Security Guard's flashlight pans over them. Felix looks over Laura's shoulder and winks at the Security Guard, who gives him a thumbs-up. Then drives on.

LAURA
That was gross.

FELIX
But effective. You're welcome.

CUT TO:

86 EXT. VILLA ROOMS - NIGHT

It's late. Felix And Laura wait in the dark behind some bushes on a little hillside outside a row of cabanas.

Felix is on lookout -- He's talking to Laura while he scans the area through his binoculars.

FELIX
I never saw the point of the infinity pool. It's like... where's the edge? They always make me afraid I'm going to fall into a canyon or something.

Felix looks over to see Laura has fallen asleep on a rock ledge.

He puts a towel over her. She's sleeping peacefully and he admires her sweet face -- like when she was a kid.

(CONTINUED)

He sees a lounge chair nearby and leans down to pick her up. It's awkward and he kinks his back.

Laura's eyes startle open.

LAURA
What are you doing?!

FELIX
Nothing.

LAURA
Were you trying to *pick me up*?

FELIX
You fell asleep... do you know how many times I picked you up and carried you to bed when you were little?

LAURA
Well, I'm not little anymore.

He winces and braces his back.

FELIX
Tell me about it.

LAURA
Nice.

FELIX
That's not a comment about your weight. You are perfectly proportioned for a person who's... of your age.

LAURA
Are you ok?

FELIX
I'm fine.

LAURA
Let's go.

FELIX
Wait -- I see something.

Felix looks through his binoculars.

(CONTINUED)

LAURA

What?

FELIX

There's a woman in his room.

Laura's heart sinks. She looks and sees the outline of a female figure in the window.

LAURA

Are you sure?

She grabs the binoculars -- the strap of which are still around Felix's neck. The binocular strap has yanked Felix's body into an uncomfortable contortion, but he just tolerates it.

Her P.O.V. Through the lens: The woman in silhouette closes the curtains.

She gives Felix the binoculars back as she heads off down towards the room.

FELIX

Hey, what are you doing?! Come back here!

She ignores him, determined.

Laura crosses to the patio outside the sliding glass doors to Fiona's room. She peeks around a side wall, watching the silhouettes inside through the sheer curtains. Felix has caught up with her, and is also peeking around the corner over her shoulder.

FELIX (CONT'D)

Let's go. This is a bad idea.

LAURA

This was your idea.

FELIX

Well, they can't all be winners. Come on.

Suddenly, a CELLPHONE starts ringing.

LAURA

Shh! Silence it.

(CONTINUED)

FELIX

Silence what?

LAURA

Your phone!

FELIX

I don't have a phone.

LAURA

Oh shit.

She starts patting her pockets.

LAURA (CONT'D)

It's my phone. Where is it?

FELIX

Oh, right. I think I have it.

Felix pats his pockets, finding it. He tries to silence it, but he's not familiar with the buttons, so it just keeps ringing as he feels around for the tiny button.

LAURA

Just give it to me!

FELIX

I know how to work a cellphone!
Just stop grabbing.

Laura reaches for it. Felix jerks it out of her reach, and it flies out of his hand -- landing with a loud THUNK on the glass table on the patio. Laura goes to retrieve it, trying to stay low -- but the patio lights come on and the sliding glass door opens -- it's Fiona, with a margarita in her hand.

FIONA

Oh my god--Laura?!

LAURA

Oh. Hey. Fiona? What are you doing here?

FIONA

Do you need to get that?

The cellphone is still ringing and vibrating on the glass table.

(CONTINUED)

LAURA

Oh, right. Yes, I do. I'll explain
in a second.

Laura answers the phone. It's Dean.

DEAN (O.S.)

Hi honey - I'm on my way --

LAURA

Huh?

DEAN (O.S.)

I got done early and caught the
earlier flight, I'm on my way
home!

LAURA

What?! When?!

DEAN (O.S.)

Yeah, I should be home in about a
half hour. I don't want to wake up
the girls...

She looks at Fiona in the doorway.

LAURA

Oh, I'm out. My mom's there, I'll
call you back.

DEAN (O.S.)

Huh? Ok, see you soon, I love you.

Laura hangs up and faces Fiona.

FIONA

Oh -- were you surprising Dean?!

Laura looks at her.

LAURA

Sort of.

FIONA

That's so romantic!

Fiona's FRIEND, with a face mask on comes to see what's going
on.

(CONTINUED)

FRIEND

Hi.

LAURA

(feeling stupid)

Hi. Sorry, I didn't mean to --

From around the corner, we HEAR a loud SNEEZE.

FIONA

(re: sneeze) Is someone with you?

LAURA

Hmm? Oh that. Yes. My Dad is with me. Dad, come say hi.

Felix reluctantly steps onto the patio from around the corner.

FELIX

Hi. Felix Keane. And you are...?

FIONA

Fiona Shore. And this is my friend, Mandy.

FIONA (CONT'D)

Do you want to come in for a drink? Dean gave us his room -- ocean view.

LAURA

No, that's really nice, but--

FELIX

Oh, we'd be delighted.

LAURA (CONT'D)

NO- We have to go. Thank you, though.

FIONA

Ok, see you later!

Laura, fed up, walks off, Felix following.

Walking ahead, she passes a beach bonfire where English socialites in sarongs are having a good time.

The wind picks up as it starts to rain.

She hears the women laughing and screaming in the distance.

CUT TO:

87 INT. RESORT ROOM - NIGHT

Laura is throwing her clothes in a suitcase as Felix enters.

FELIX

Slow down, there's a hurricane warning.

LAURA

I know -- there are no flights. I have to get out of here, I have to get home. How could you bring me here?!

FELIX

Hey, I'm on your side.

She hears a SOUND and looks over as a few scorpions run inside. The wind is getting louder.

The lights go out. Laura yells at him in the dark.

LAURA

I have to get home, I was an idiot to come down here with you. You blew your own marriage, why do you have to come and mess up mine? Can you let anyone be happy? Do you have to be so selfish --

The lights come back on mid-rant. She is silent. They're face to face.

FELIX

Go on- why don't you say it to my face.

LAURA

I will.

Pause.

She looks him in the eye.

LAURA (CONT'D)

I'm sick of how you take over everything, and it's all about you all the time and what you want--

(CONTINUED)

FELIX

You don't want to make an enemy
out of me.

LAURA

Are you threatening me? What are
you going to do, disown me?! You
couldn't hurt me more than you
already have -- what you dragged
us all through.

She throws more stuff in her bag.

LAURA (CONT'D)

And no one goes deaf to just the
frequency of women's voices! You
have daughters and granddaughters,
so you better start being able to
hear them! You already drove Mom
away, do you want to drive us all
away?!

He looks at her.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Being your daughter, it's
surprising I can be with anyone!
Especially someone who might be
respectful. You weren't even
discreet! You could have been a
little discreet out of respect for
Mom. And for me -- do you know
what it was like having to keep
your secrets?! And enough with
your theories -- you are not an
animal with no control over your
behavior!

She starts to leave.

LAURA (CONT'D)

And can you be around a woman at
all without hitting on her? It's
starting to get pathetic.

Felix stares at her like 'are you done?'

FELIX

You're a real piece of work. What
happened to you?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

87 CONTINUED:

FELIX (CONT'D)
You used to be fun. When did you
get to be such a tight-ass?

Laura walks away, out into the darkness.

Felix stands alone in the door way.

CUT TO:

88 EXT. MEXICO RESORT - NIGHT

We follow Laura walking alone on a bluff in the dark windy
night.

CUT TO:

Laura sits alone on a hillside, she listens into her phone.

AIRLINE (O.S.)
I'm sorry ma'am, those flights are
all sold out, you can try to go on
stand-by.

She hangs up, and finally lets herself cry.

The wind blows her hair as she looks off into the distance.

CUT TO:

89 EXT. MEXICO RESORT - DAWN

WIDE on Laura waking up on an outside lounge chair.

Palm trees sway in the breeze as the sun comes up.

CUT TO.

90 INT. MEXICO AIRPORT - DAY

Laura sits waiting like she's been there all day, as
announcements drone on over the loudspeaker.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAURA & DEAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A taxi pulls up and Laura gets out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She pulls her little suitcase to the door.

92 INT. L&D APARTMENT - NIGHT

Laura opens the door to see Dean.

His face is cold, and says 'Don't even try to talk to me.'

She enters sheepishly.

MAYA

Mommy!!

Maya and Theo run into her arms. She hugs them tight.

Laura's mother comes from the other room and embraces her.

DIANE

You made it!

Diane holds her, as Laura leans on her.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Come on, girls- let's get your pajamas on.

Laura turns a corner and approaches Dean.

LAURA

Can we talk outside?

He nods.

93 INT. L&D APARTMENT ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Laura and Dean stand in silence, next to neighbors as the elevator floors go by.

94 EXT. L&D APARTMENT - NIGHT

Laura and Dean stand outside their building.

DEAN

What were you doing?

LAURA

I'm so sorry-- I went along with one of my dad's crazy plans and somehow thought it was a good idea to spy on you in Mexico. -?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She looks at him for his reaction.

He cracks a smile, mildly amused.

DEAN

Why didn't you just ask me?

LAURA

I know, I should have...I just felt like you weren't into me any more, I feel boring and not spontaneous, I can't write and there's nothing to conquer--

DEAN

What are you talking about, I love you, I don't want to be with anyone else. I'm sorry if I haven't made you feel like that--and that I haven't been around more. I wanted to impress you, I wanted to make this company successful, so I could be enough for you.

LAURA

You did?

He pulls her towards him and kisses her.

DEAN

Come on, let's go home.

(CONTINUED)

94 CONTINUED:

CUT TO:

95 INT. L&D APARTMENT - MORNING

Laura walks away from a desk covered in notes and marked up pages -- productivity!

It's a Sunday morning. Dean's asleep on the couch, next to the girls who watch cartoons and eat pancakes.

The Sunday times is spread out.

The BUZZER RINGS.

CUT TO:

96 EXT. L&D APARTMENT - DAY

Laura walks out to see Felix, sunglasses on, leaning against his car.

Her arms are crossed as she looks at him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He whistles a tune.

She whistles back.

FELIX

You got it!

LAURA

Yeah.

She smiles with satisfaction.

FELIX

Well, we got to the bottom of things... I know I've made mistakes.

*
*
*

LAURA

Next time, you can just ask me to spend some time together.

*
*

FELIX

How bout this... The QE2 leaves at five... you can still make it! I've got the princess Margaret Suite. It's all you can eat, all you can drink! It's a fact, you can drink a lot more at sea. It's the ions. We could see how much we can handle without falling over board.

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She smiles.

LAURA

Sounds fun, but I can't.

(CONTINUED)

96 CONTINUED:

FELIX

Yeah, ok. I need some time alone
to reflect anyway...

She smiles, like 'sure.'

FELIX (CONT'D)

You're on a great adventure,
kiddo.

She nods and watches him go.

Felix gets in his car with a little wave and drives off.

CUT TO:

97 EXT. SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

It's the last day of school. An ice cream truck is there.
Maya and Theo run screaming towards Laura and Dean.

CUT TO:

98 INT. INDOCHINE - NIGHT

Surrounded by tropical flowers, Laura and Dean sit across
from each other, eye to eye.

DEAN

How many pages did you do today?

LAURA

I'm on page 64!

DEAN

That's good!

LAURA

But, now I'm stuck...

(CONTINUED)

98 CONTINUED:

DEAN

You'll get through it. At least we know you can come up with a good detective story.

She smiles.

He hands her a gift box with a ribbon. She opens it and looks at it -- a Thermomix attachment?

It's too light. She opens the box, and a small red Cartier box falls out. She looks at him with a smile.

She opens it to see a classic watch.

DEAN (CONT'D)

Sorry, I didn't realize how long it took to engrave.

LAURA

Oh.

She turns it over to look at, with a smile to herself.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Thank you.

She takes off Felix's watch, putting it carefully in the box.

She puts on her new watch.

A waiter brings a cake with sparklers.

Laura and Dean look across at each other over the sparks.

She leans toward him.

CUT TO BLACK:

END CREDITS

We hear Felix croon: "*I Get Along Without You Very Well.*"