

the apology tour

"Champagne Problems"

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ACT ONE

EXT. HOLLYWOOD/HIGHLAND SIDEWALK - 2009 - DAY

CHYRON: Los Angeles, January 2009

An utter clusterfuck of Tourists trample the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Fathers take photos, Mothers attempt to wrangle their misbehaving Kids, while Grandmothers fawn over Monty Hall's star. Every single one of them passes without noticing--

-- A YOUNG STREET MUSICIAN, wearing a CHEAP DENIM JACKET COVERED WITH PATCHES, open guitar case with a pitiful amount of change at her feet. **This is REBECCA "BEX" BISHOP (18).** Imagine Taylor Swift when she loved Tim McGraw and still had teardrops on her guitar.

Bex was born to perform, but getting nothing from this crowd. Still, that doesn't stop her from strumming her thrift store guitar and singing her little heart out.

BEX

(singing)

*How did I get here... chasing a dream
that can't come true? It once seemed
so important, but means nothing
without you.*

Everyone ignores her, except a giant ELMO, who sidles over. Bex smiles at him, nods hello.

BEX

(singing)

*Tell me where did I think I was going
when you told me to stay? Because
somewhere, somehow, I got lost along
the way...*

Elmo throws a dollar into her guitar case, takes a business card, and in a MUFFLED, SEXLESS VOICE--

ELMO

Bex?

(Bex nods)

Can I give you some advice?

Bex stops playing and nods, eager for any pearl of wisdom.

BEX

Sure.

ELMO

Do you know why I come out here
everyday? Why Batman and IronMan and
Freddy Krueger show up?

BEX
To make money...

ELMO
Right. And that works for us because
all these nice people come to
Hollywood to see someone they
recognize.
(as that sinks in)
No one recognizes you.

BEX
But I'm trying to change that. Maybe
if the right person sees me play...

ELMO
The people with the power to help
your career only come here on Oscar
night. You're wasting your time.

But Bex, an eternal optimist, shakes off Elmo's negativity.

BEX
I'll take my chances.

ELMO
Yeah, but... you're kind of bumming
the rest of us out.

Bex looks up to see IronMan, Batman, and Freddy Krueger behind
Elmo, their arms crossed defiantly, shaking their heads.

EXT. NORTH HOLLYWOOD METRO STATION - 2009 - DAY

Bex exits the station, guitar case on her back, counting her
change. A Homeless Man looks up as she passes.

Bex glances at the change in her hand and sighs. She
approaches a STREET VENDOR.

BEX
One hot dog, please.

She pays, then holds the hot dog out to the Homeless Man.

HOMELESS MAN
I'm vegan.

BEX
Seriously?
(to the vendor)
How about a pretzel then?

That's most of the rest of her money, but the Homeless Man
takes the pretzel gratefully.

Bex takes a bite out of the hot dog just as her 1st generation iPhone buzzes with a text: ***Champagne's on you this year!***

She checks the date on her phone. January 29. Shit!

EXT. KOREAN LIQUOR STORE - DAY

A doorbell rings as Bex flounces into a cramped Korean liquor store. The young clerk grins. This is **DAVID KO** (20) and seeing Bex will be the highlight of his day.

DAVID

Hey, Bex. The usual?

He pulls out a bag of PIXY STIX. Bex turns on the charm.

BEX

David. I'm in total crisis mode.
January 29 is like *the* most important
day, but I sorta forgot all about
it, and now I have a half hour to
plan an epic surprise and find someone
who wants to give me an almost-free
bottle of champagne...

She puts the remainder of her crumpled change on the counter.

David so desperately wants to help, but he looks towards the back room nervously and lowers his voice.

DAVID

Bex, I really wish--

KWANG-SUN (O.S.)

Bex is here??

David's father, **KWANG-SUN KO** (50s), emerges from the back room wearing a pretty gross apron. He's a compact man, with more energy than his body can contain.

BEX

Hey, Mr. Ko. I was just... looking
for the cheapest booze you have. I'm
celebrating, but I'm broke.

KWANG-SUN

You are legal age, yes?

Bex nods, fingers crossed behind her back. Kwang-Sun's eyes light up.

KWANG-SUN

I have just the thing.

DAVID

Dad, no. Absolutely not.

Kwang-Sun ignores David and hurries into the back room.

DAVID

Bex, I mean it, whatever he tries to give you, don't take it.

Bex smiles, her curiosity piqued. Until Kwang-Sun emerges, screwing the top on a 2-liter bottle filled with a reddish-pink liquid.

KWANG-SUN

What is it you're celebrating? You get music deal?

BEX

It's the anniversary of the day my roommate and I became friends.

KWANG-SUN

Ah, friendship. Much more important.

BEX

Every year, we get drunk on cheap champagne and Spencer always plans something amazing. A prank or a fun surprise. Last time he sent me on a scavenger hunt. I wanted to outdo him this year, but...

Kwang-Sun is excited. He thrusts the bottle into her hands.

KWANG-SUN

This just the thing.

BEX

What... is it?

KWANG-SUN

Gamhongro. Means "sweet red dew." A traditional Korean liquor. I've brewed it here myself.

DAVID

And it's certainly inedible.

BEX

How much is it?

KWANG-SUN

For you, free! Of course, when you're famous singer, you drink Ko Gamhongro at all your parties, yes?

BEX

I pinkie promise. You know... you should call it Gamhong-KO.

KWANG-SUN

(he won't)

...I think about it. Now this next part, very important. You tell friend, when he drink, all wishes come true.

Bex smiles politely. She's fond of Kwang-Sun, but he's nutty.

BEX

Got it. That's way better than a scavenger hunt. Thanks, Mr. Ko!

DAVID

If I don't see you tomorrow, I'll assume you're dead.

Bex smiles at him, remembering the Pixy Stix on her way out.

SPENCER (V.O.)

Are you trying to poison me?

INT. BEX AND SPENCER'S APARTMENT - 2009 - DAY

Bex takes two mismatched glasses out of the cupboard in their crappy, cozy apartment, as her roommate sniffs the Gamhongro suspiciously.

SPENCER ANDREWS (20) is nerdy-cute in a UCLA sweatshirt and Bex's bestest friend in the whole wide world.

BEX

You won't believe the day I've had. This was all I could afford.

SPENCER

Oh my god, I had a day too! My journalism lab TA hates me.

Spencer wants to be questioned further about this, but Bex is too in her own world as she pours their drinks.

BEX

That sucks. But I bet you weren't attacked by a gang of cosplayers on Hollywood Boulevard.

SPENCER

(gasps)

OMG. Tell me everything!

BEX

They want me to take my act to Beverly Hills where I may actually play for someone who "matters".

(she sighs)

They kind of have a point.

She hands him his drink, which is fizzing dangerously. Spencer raises an eyebrow, then his glass.

SPENCER

To six wonderful years of friendship so far, and like twenty-five-ish more. I wanna die young.

BEX

But what'll I ever do without you?

(she grins)

To us. I love you, Spence.

SPENCER

Love you too, Bex.

They're throwing the L word around a lot, but to be clear, Spencer is gay, and neither of them are pining for the other.

They both take a sip and immediately spit Gamhongro all over each other. Then burst out laughing.

BEX

That's nasty!

SPENCER

Maybe this will make it tolerable.

Spencer dumps a Pixy Stix straw into her drink and stirs it with his finger. Bex takes a sip.

BEX

I can't tell if you made it better or worse.

But staying true to the underage young adults they are, the booze is there, so they're drinking it.

SPENCER

Just wait, one day soon, you'll be able to afford Ace of Spades.

If only. After a quiet beat--

SPENCER

You know, we're in a digital age. You should just post your music online.

BEX
Like on MySpace?

SPENCER
Delete your MySpace already! It's
all about Facebook now.
(he rolls his eyes)
I'm talking about YouTube. You know
Usher just discovered some videos a
boy posted, and now they're saying
he's gonna be a superstar.

BEX
That Justin kid? No way, man...
(but she's considering)
All of this is just taking so long.
We've been in LA for six months and
I can't even get an assistant at a
label to respond to an email.
(beat)
Maybe I should've gone to college
like you.

SPENCER
It'll happen for you, Bex. You're
talented, you're smokin' hot, and
you're secretly ruthless. That's the
trifecta.

Bex lays her head on his shoulder as she pours them both
another drink, adding another Pixy Stix to the mixture.

BEX
I just wish I could skip over all
the hard stuff. You know?

For just an instant, **THEIR DRINKS GLOW**. They don't notice,
but something mystical is happening. **SOUNDS ARE DISTORTED**
AND THE ROOM SPINS as Spencer turns on the radio to some pop
song and pulls Bex to her feet.

They laugh and dance and drink and let themselves go with
the freedom only enjoyed by those young and broke and with
their whole lives ahead of them, as we SLOWLY PUSH in on a
PHOTO on a side table of **BEX AND SPENCER HUGGING TIGHTLY**.

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INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Bex wakes up groggily at first, then suddenly sits upright.
She examines her surroundings: a fancy dress and a pair of
Louboutins form a path from the door to the unfamiliar bed
where a lump stirs next to her.

She clamps a hand over her mouth.

BEX
(there's no way...)
Spencer?

She peels the comforter away from the Man's perfect, and thankfully, still-sleeping face. She's never seen him before.

BEX
What was in that Gamhong-Ko?

There's a KNOCK on the door. Bex grabs a robe from the closet and opens the door to an impatient woman, **ALISHA** (25).

ALISHA
Hey sorry to...interrupt.

She throws a glance to the dude in the bed, lowers her voice.

ALISHA
We really have to go.

BEX
Sure, okay.

An awkward beat.

ALISHA
So are you gonna get dressed?

BEX
Oh. You mean I'm coming with you?

Alisha looks alarmed.

ALISHA
It's 5pm. You slept through
soundcheck.

Bex is even more confused and starting to panic. She's never blacked out like this before.

BEX
Where are we?

ALISHA
The hotel. Less than a mile from the
venue, but we still have to hurry.

BEX
Right. And... who are you exactly?

ALISHA
Unbelievable.

Alisha shoves a dry cleaning bag into Bex's arms and shuts the door behind her.

EXT. HOTEL - DUSK

Alisha hustles a bewildered Bex out the back door to a waiting limo. The driver, **CARL** (60s), British accent, always in a suit, opens the door.

CARL
Good evening, Miss Bishop.

Bex is surprised he knows her name, but smiles brightly as she gets into the car.

BEX
Thank you, sir.

Carl is just as surprised to get a response, particularly a polite one. Quietly to Alisha:

CARL
What's gotten into her?

ALISHA
Literally, nothing. She still hasn't learned my name.

She rolls her eyes as she gets into the limo behind Bex.

INT. LIMO - NIGHT

Alisha is professional, bordering on cold, mostly because she's barely concealing her disdain for Bex. She's ready to get down to business now, but Bex has a lot of questions.

BEX
Uhm... this is really awkward, but who was that?

ALISHA
Carl? Your driver?

BEX
No, no. The guy in bed with me. He looked familiar.

Alisha cocks her head to one side.

ALISHA
That was Chris Pine...
(deep breath)
One of many unfortunate decisions
you made last night... speaking of
(MORE)

ALISHA (CONT'D)

which, we have to deal with all of that. First up: Raven is calling you out on Twitter. How do you want to respond?

Alisha has her fingers poised above the keys of her phone.

BEX

Uhm listen, I think you have me mistaken for someone. I had an irresponsible amount to drink last night, and I'm not sure who you are or why I'm here, but I really appreciate you giving me a ride home.

Alisha's mouth falls open. She's seen a LOT in her time on the job, but this is just...she doesn't get paid enough.

ALISHA

I know who you are. *Everyone on the planet* knows who you are. Bex Bishop. Popstar, CoverGirl spokesmodel, perfume designer, "philanthropist."
(she uses air quotes)

My name is Alisha, but you'll forget that. I'm your assistant, at least that's how you pay me, though I have way more responsibilities. We're on our way to the Staples Center for the first show of your North American tour... do you need an Adderall?

Now it's Bex's turn for her mouth to fall open... and then she bursts into laughter.

BEX

This is the most elaborate friendaversary prank he's ever pulled. Hilarious. For a second, I was like, "whoa, I'm famous!" You were great, like really great...

Her voice trails off as she leans to look out the window of the limo. Outside, HUNDREDS OF SCREAMING TWEEN GIRLS have posters of Bex's face and are screaming her name.

She looks back at Alisha impressed.

BEX

He even hired extras. What a guy!

INT. BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

As Hair and Makeup scramble to get Bex ready, Alisha nervously chats with the TOUR MANAGER.

ALISHA

I'm not sure putting her on stage like this is a good idea. She seems disoriented, and after the shit she pulled last night, the last thing we need--

TOUR MANAGER

--What we need is to avoid another PR nightmare and not disappoint the thirty-thousand girls who paid a hundred dollars each to see her.

Alisha looks at Bex who is chatting up the Makeup Artist.

BEX

Just out of curiosity, how much is Spencer paying you? Follow up question, are you legit doing my makeup, or am I gonna come out of this chair looking like a clown?

The Makeup Artist ignores her, continues applying blush. Bex jumps out of the seat, face half done, and downs a glass of Ace of Spades champagne off a table nearby.

BEX

Spencer splurged for the good stuff! How can he afford all this? Is he around? Or are there hidden cameras?

Alisha elbows the Tour Manager. See?

BEX

I get it. You're not allowed to say. So what now? Am I going onstage?

INT. UNDER THE STAGE - NIGHT

Bex, giddy and in full costume, stands in darkness. Above her and all around her, the crowd CHANTS her name.

BEX

Nice touch with the chanting, Spence.

The band starts to play and the lift slowly rises her through SMOKE onto the stage...

...And suddenly the smoke clears and she squints past the spotlight to see THOUSANDS of FANS CHEERING.

BEX

Holy. Shit.

It hits her all at once. *This isn't some friendiversary joke.* She looks out at the expectant audience, trying to process how this could possibly have happened.

The cheers begin to subside as the Band looks at her worriedly. She's missed her cue.

And suddenly the arena is quiet, and the lights are too bright, and Bex is about to panic... but she's a natural performer, so she takes a deep breath and a gamble.

BEX

(to the band)

Change of plans. Let's start with
"Lost Along the Way."

The Band nods and starts playing as the crowd goes wild. It's a fan favorite. Bex leans into the mic, her voice barely shaking.

BEX

I wrote this song the day I moved to
L.A.

... But before she can start singing, she's flanked by TWO
UNIFORMED POLICE OFFICERS.

OFFICER #1

Rebecca Bishop, you're under arrest
for vandalism, grand theft, and
assault with a deadly weapon.
(quieter)

I'm a huge fan, by the way.

The audience gasps, concerned, but not too concerned to film it all on their phones as the Officers handcuff Bex and push her off stage.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOEXT. LOS ANGELES STREET - SOCIAL MEDIA FOOTAGE - NIGHT

Dressed to the nines and holding a GRAMMY, Bex (sleeker, bitchier) stumbles out of a nightclub, and looks around wide-eyed. She notices a BLACK SUV parked right at the curb.

BEX
Uggggghhhhhh stupid bitch!

SPECTATORS (O.S.)
Is that Bex Bishop? / Where'd she
get the Grammy?

Bex kneels in front of the SUV and uses the Grammy to scratch "SLUT" across the doors. A LITTLE GIRL'S FACE appears in the car window, looking down at her, frightened.

SPECTATORS (O.S.)
What is she doing? / Whose car is
that? / There's a kid inside!

As Bex finishes, she looks up and starts screaming at the Spectators, swinging the Grammy in front of her threateningly.

BEX
Stop filming me! Let me live my life!

As the Spectators scramble to get out of her path, we get a glimpse of some of them. They all have their phones out recording. She swings the Grammy, knocking one of the phones to the ground. It cracks.

SPECTATOR (O.S.)
Yo, Imma sell this to TMZ.

Bex spins menacingly towards camera, which abruptly shuts off.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Bex looks up from her phone where she's been watching the footage. Alisha and a LAWYER sit with her.

LAWYER
The assault charges won't stick.
And if you just pay for the vehicle
repairs and...return the Grammy...Miss
Waters will certainly drop the
charges.

ALISHA
You clearly haven't met Raven.
(MORE)

ALISHA (CONT'D)

(to Bex)

She had you arrested on stage to send a message. You're going to have to publicly apologize.

BEX

Who was the little girl in the car?

ALISHA

(grim)

Make-A-Wish kid. Attended the Grammy's as Raven's date, but fell asleep in the car afterwards. Her parents say she hasn't been able to sleep since...

Bex puts her head in her hands.

LAWYER

I won't lie to you. It doesn't look great... especially with the ongoing lawsuit with your mom.

BEX

What?

LAWYER

She's still suing you...

BEX

(rolling her eyes)

That's the first thing I've heard today that sorta makes sense.

LAWYER

Don't worry, Miss Bishop. I've gotten you off the hook for way worse.

BEX

But why did I act that way? Because Raven won the Grammy and I didn't?

ALISHA

Why do you do any of the things you do?

Bex doesn't understand. Alisha takes her silence for anger, realizes she's being pretty disrespectful to her boss...

ALISHA

I mean look. Yes, she won the Grammy, and that pissed you off. But she was also at the afterparty with Elliot.

BEX

Elliot...?

Alisha's pretty concerned now. She turns to the Lawyer.

ALISHA

Do you mind if I talk to Bex alone
for a minute?

LAWYER

I'll go post your bail.

As the Lawyer exits, Alisha leans forward.

ALISHA

Bex, wanna tell me what's going on?

BEX

You wouldn't believe me.

ALISHA

You pay me to at least pretend.

Bex hesitates, then points to the phone.

BEX

I don't remember any of that. I don't
remember getting here...

ALISHA

You rode in the back of a cop car.
We can watch it on the news.

BEX

No, I mean, *becoming famous*. Last
thing I remember, I was drinking
some awful Korean liquor with my
best friend in our crummy apartment,
and suddenly I wake up in a fancy
hotel next to some stranger.

ALISHA

Chris Pine. From Star Trek and Wonder
Woman.

BEX

Star Trek! That's where I've seen
him!

ALISHA

Yeah, he's also Raven's ex. So it's
complicated. When was all that? The
Korean liquor in your shitty
apartment...

BEX
January 29. 2009.

ALISHA
Bex, that was ten years ago! You
honestly don't remember *anything*
from the last decade?

Bex starts to panic even more. Just the magnitude of it.

BEX
It's not just that I don't remember.
I mean, I didn't live it.
(re: phone)
That's not me. That's not how I
behave. I'm a good person.

Alisha groans.

ALISHA
My mom was right when she told me
not to take this job! I'm eighty-
grand in debt with student loans so
I can be a *babysitter*.

BEX
Sorry...? But do you believe me?

ALISHA
That you're a good person? Not at
all. But I guess I believe you don't
remember. You've done a lot of drugs,
which has probably damaged your brain.

BEX
I need to talk to Spencer. He must've
skipped ahead too.

ALISHA
Spencer...?

BEX
Spencer Andrews. My best friend.

ALISHA
You guys used to be friends?!

Used to? Off Bex, her unsteady world crumbling even more.

A "E! NEWS" LOGO HURDLES ONTO THE SCREEN over INTRO MUSIC.

INT. NEWSROOM - DAY

An E! NEWS HOST speaks into a CAMERA.

E! NEWS HOST

Good afternoon, everybody. I know you're dying to know what's going on with our favorite pop princess, whose tour has been postponed after her shocking arrest at last night's concert in LA. Our Bex-pert, Spencer Andrews is in the studio with all the juicy details of Bex Bishop's post-Grammys trouble.

REVEAL SPENCER on the other side of the stage. He's traded his UCLA sweatshirt for a tailored grey suit, and clearly adheres to a strict personal training schedule.

SPENCER

Trouble is right, Lindsay. As we all know, Bex has had a squeaky clean public image since she arrived on the scene eight years ago. But there have definitely been rumors of her dark side, and now all that has finally been brought to light.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

TIGHT ON A TV: Watching the same E! News broadcast.

SPENCER

It all began at the Grammys two nights ago when Bex was visibly angry to have lost Album of the Year to newcomer Raven Waters.

FOOTAGE of a gorgeous, edgier popstar, RAVEN WATERS (25), accepting her Grammy and waving at her fans. She's the Katy Perry to Bex's Taylor Swift. The camera finds Bex glowering in the audience.

Then CELL PHONE VIDEO of Raven arriving at a party, Grammy in one arm, HOT GUY on another.

SPENCER

Things escalated when Raven arrived at Club Yes for a Grammys afterparty with Elliot French, Bex's on again, off again beau. A source close to Bex tells me she was under the impression they were on again.

Spencer covers his mouth in a mock "oopsies!"

SPENCER

Bex retaliated by allegedly stealing
Raven's Grammy and carving obscenities
into her car, where a Make-A-Wish--

There's A LOUD KNOCK on the door, and a woman in stained
scrubs mutes the TV. This is **LILA** (32), surgeon by day, pop-
culture fangirl by night.

She gets up to answer the door, reluctant to tear her eyes
from the screen as it plays FOOTAGE of Bex's arrest at the
concert, **Bex scrawling SLUT into the SUV (the word is
blurred)**, Bex exiting the police station...

Lila opens the door to Bex, right there on her stoop, holding
Ace of Spades CHAMPAGNE, a NOVELTY-SIZED PIXY STIX STRAW,
and a CARD.

LILA

Ohmygod, ohmygod, ohmygod! I can't
believe you're at my door. Ohmygod,
why are you at my door?

Bex smiles, slightly frightened.

BEX

I'm sorry to bother you, but my
assistant told me Spencer Andrews
lives here...

LILA

Spencer's at work. Come in!

The TV is still playing **more unflattering Bex behavior**. Lila
quickly shuts it off.

LILA

Sorry about that, I was just, ah...

BEX

It's fine.
(awkward)
I'm sorry, who are you?

LILA

Lila. McElwain. Spencer's best friend.

BEX

You're Spencer's best friend? And
you and I... don't know each other?

Lila giggles deliriously.

LILA

I'm such a big fan!

BEX

Thanks... Do you know when he'll be home?

LILA

Couple hours. You should wait for him!

(Bex considers)

Can we take a selfie? My mom is gonna die!

BEX

Yeah, of course.

LILA

Great! Let me grab my phone!

While Lila scurries into one of the bedrooms, Bex casually wanders the living room.

Her eyes land on the mantle where a DOZEN FRAMED PHOTOS are proudly displayed. They're all of Spencer and Lila. Smiling at the Hollywood sign. Opening Christmas presents with Spencer's family. Posing in front of the Eiffel Tower. There's no sign of Bex in his life at all.

Tears well up in her eyes as she sees the last photo: **SPENCER AND LILA HUGGING EACH OTHER FIERCELY**. It's nearly identical to the one of Bex and Spencer from their old apartment. She's been replaced.

With a jealous glance towards Lila's room, Bex ducks out before she loses it completely.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Bex hurries to the driver's side of an obnoxious Pink Range Rover.

INT. PINK RANGE ROVER - DAY

Carl and Alisha are whispering, but stop the second Bex opens the door, her eyes filled with tears.

BEX

Move over, I'm driving.

Carl obeys, and Alisha climbs into the back seat.

ALISHA

(mild concern)

What happened?

BEX

I'm not in his life at all.

ALISHA

Well to be fair, you're in his life,
he's just not in yours.

(beat)

His job title is "Bex-pert".

This small comfort doesn't help.

BEX

Neither of you know what we fought
about?

ALISHA

We had no idea you were ever friends.

CARL

It seems he's demonstrated remarkable
professionalism.

BEX

So if Spencer's not in my life, who
are my friends?

Carl and Alisha both avoid making eye contact.

ALISHA

Uhm...

BEX

I have no friends???

CARL

Nonsense. You're always surrounded
by people...

ALISHA

...But you're either paying them or
they're using you. Truth is, you're
just not very likable.

Carl shoots Alisha a warning look, but she shrugs. The honesty
feels good for a change. Carl attempts to sooth Bex.

CARL

Alisha explained to me the...uh...
situation. That you put a spell on
yourself and time traveled...

BEX

(don't be ridiculous)

I'm not a witch!

(Alisha begs to differ)

I just made a wish.

She knows it doesn't sound any more realistic.

CARL
Right... so why don't you try to
recreate the circumstances and *wish*
yourself back to 2009?

Alisha looks at him like he's nuts. Under his breath:

CARL
What? It'll be good for my book.

But Bex didn't hear. She looks up, a glimmer of a smile.

BEX
I just need to get Mr. Ko to make me
more of his Gamhongro. Carl, you're
a genius!
(she kisses his cheek)
Does this mean you guys believe me?

ALISHA	CARL
Yeah, right.	Absolutely not.

Bex smiles anyways and starts up the car.

EXT. IPHONE REPAIR SHOP - DAY

The Pink Range Rover pulls up to the curb outside a cell phone screen repair shop.

INT. PINK RANGE ROVER - DAY - SAME

Carl and Alisha look at Bex expectantly.

CARL
Why are we stopping?

But Bex stares at the iPhone repair shop, dismayed.

BEX
This is where Mr. Ko's liquor store
was. BRB.

She gets out of the car.

INT. IPHONE REPAIR SHOP - DAY

A CLERK rings up a CUSTOMER, clutching his newly-repaired iPhone. Bex gets in line behind him.

CLERK
I'll be with you in just one--OMG!
You're Bex Bishop!

BEX

I am.

CLERK

You're here to do the right thing! I knew you weren't as awful as they're saying.

Bex is confused. Then the Customer turns around and she recognizes him from the video her lawyer showed her: it's the spectator whose phone she smashed.

BEX

Of course. That's why I'm here.

She takes out her wallet and hands the Clerk a credit card. The Customer looks at her, a mixture of excitement and fear.

BEX

Very sorry for smashing your phone.

CUSTOMER

Girl, we good. Come on in here for a selfie!

Bex leans in and the Customer holds up his phone, the Clerk photobombing in the back. Trying to help, Bex reaches up to push the button, but accidentally knocks the phone out of his hand. The screen SHATTERS. Bex looks at the clerk.

BEX

Why don't we go ahead and upgrade him to a newer phone. While we're here.

INT. PINK RANGE ROVER - DAY

Bex gets back into the car.

ALISHA

Well?

BEX

Apparently, this hasn't been a liquor store in a long time. It was a smoothie shop before this and an insurance office before that. No one's heard of the Kos.

ALISHA

(re: her phone)

I looked up Kos living in LA, but there're more than 250 listings.

Bex watches the Customer exit the repair shop, happily texting on his new phone. Bex smiles.

BEX

Maybe I don't need to go back to 2009.

ALISHA

Glad you said that. I also reached out to Ariana Grande's psychiatrist. She's agreed to a consult--

BEX

I don't need therapy.

ALISHA

But, like, medication?

BEX

Ten years ago, I was a nobody. I could barely pay my rent. Why would I want to go back to that?

(no response)

But I had friends. Who liked me. I was kind.

(realizing)

I wanted to skip over the hard parts. The humbling parts. But maybe this *right now* is my hard part.

CARL

Pardon me, Miss, but I don't follow.

ALISHA

I'm calling the shrink.

Alisha starts to dial, but Bex takes the phone away.

BEX

I want the best of both worlds. I'll make things right with Spencer, then clean up my image. I'm going to prove to the world that I'm a good person...

ALISHA

Sure you are.

BEX

Besides, I bet it's a thousand times easier to be a good person when you're famous and rich!

Carl and Alisha exchange looks. This should be interesting...

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREEEXT. BEX'S MANSION - NIGHT

The Pink Range Rover pulls up to pretty extravagant mansion. Bex gets out.

BEX
This is where I live? By myself?

ALISHA
I'll show you around...

BEX
I think I'd like to just be alone.

Bex gets out of the car. As soon as the door shuts behind her, Carl turns to Alisha, dropping his prim, proper behavior, along with his British accent.

CARL
So is she just gonna pay me to ride
shotgun from now on?

Alisha rolls her eyes.

MUSIC STARTS: one of BEX'S MORE SENTIMENTAL SONGS (imagine T-Swift's "Call it What You Want.")

INT. BEX'S MANSION - FOYER - NIGHT

Bex lets herself into the spacious foyer. It's everything you'd imagine from a celebrity home: including a STOLEN GRAMMY on the entry table. She wanders through the rooms...

INT. BEX'S MANSION - KITCHEN - NIGHT

... She opens the fridge. It's filled with juice cleanses and bottled water...

INT. BEX'S MANSION - RECORDING STUDIO - NIGHT

... Of course she has a recording studio in her home. "Candid" photos hang on the wall. Bex with Hillary Clinton, John Legend, Amy Schumer (who she doesn't recognize)... Also lining the wall: Grammys that Bex actually won.

INT. BEX'S MANSION - BEDROOM - NIGHT

... The truly best part of the house. The California King beckons her, but Bex makes her way to the walk-in closet, bigger than the apartment she shared with Spencer...

INT. BEX'S MANSION - CLOSET - NIGHT

... With a sixth sense, Bex is drawn, past the designer dresses and expensive shoes, to a chest tucked away in the back of the closet. She opens it to find the DENIM JACKET COVERED IN PATCHES we saw her wearing in 2009. She puts it on. Underneath it was the FRAMED PHOTO of her and Spencer hugging. Bex regards it tenderly.

INT. BEX'S MANSION - SCREENING ROOM - NIGHT

Bex sits alone in a screening room. She wears her denim jacket, squeezing the PHOTO, and eating Pixy Stix while she watches MUSIC VIDEOS, catching up on her own life. The song that's played over all this matches what's now on screen.

Her phone buzzes with a text. She pulls it out and sees that she has **7 missed texts** from Chris Pine, but the text that just came through isn't from him.

Elliot French: **U up?**

Bex doesn't answer, doesn't even know how she is supposed to feel about it. Instead she scrolls through her contacts, finds who she's looking for, and calls.

BEX (into phone)
Hey... it's Bex. Can I meet you
somewhere?

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Bex manages to go unrecognized in the corner of a dive bar, wearing the jacket and a baseball cap, though the Bartender eyes her curiously as he slides her a frothy beer.

RAVEN (O.S.)
This'd better be good.

Bex looks up as Raven, no attempt at a disguise, slides onto the barstool next to her, waving over the Bartender.

RAVEN
Bourbon, please.

BEX
Raven... why do we hate each other?

Raven looks at her incredulously.

RAVEN
You're a vapid bitch who's super
jealous of me.
(MORE)

RAVEN (CONT'D)

Also, you stole my Grammy, ruined my car, and slept with my ex-boyfriend.

BEX

Why am I jealous of you?

RAVEN

(snorting)

Are you serious?

BEX

This is dumb. I bet the music industry is brutal on us women. We should be building each other up, not tearing each other down.

RAVEN

Great idea. After we tackle the patriarchy, we could go on tour together. Oooh! And then maybe we just pool our record sales and split the profits!

BEX

Whatever is wrong between us, I'm letting it go. I hope you will too.

Bex reaches into her bag and pulls out the GRAMMY.

BEX

I'm sorry I stole this. It was immature. And I won't see Chris again. You have my word.

RAVEN

This is so not about Chris.

Bex pulls out her car keys and slides them across the bar.

BEX

And you can have my car.

RAVEN

(snorts)

Your Barbie Dream-mobile? No thanks. Just fix my car. I don't know what your end game is here, but I'm not buying this... whatever this is.

Raven finishes her drink in one gulp and stands. Bex jumps up, pulls her into a bear hug. Raven squirms and pulls away.

RAVEN

You're paying for my drink.

And with one last wary look at Bex, she grabs her Grammy and exits. Bex slides back into her seat just in time to catch the Bartender stealthily taking a selfie with her in the background. He slinks over guiltily, slides her a beer.

BARTENDER

On the house.

BEX

Thanks.

BARTENDER

For what it's worth, I'm Team Bex all the way.

BEX

Really?

BARTENDER

I mean, how come no one's talking about the fact that Raven left a sleeping child in a car at 2am?

BEX

Right?!

INT. SPENCER AND LILA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Spencer comes home, exhausted from a long day reporting on a stranger who used to be his BFF. Lila jumps up from the couch.

SPENCER

Honey, I'm home. What's this?

He's spotted the champagne on the counter.

LILA

You will never guess who stopped by today!

But Spencer isn't listening, as he tears open the card.

SPENCER

Bex...

LILA

Yeah.

Spencer reads: ***You predicted it! I'm finally able to afford Ace of Spades! Whatever we're fighting about, it's irrelevant. I love you, Spence. XXXXXXXXXX, Bex.***

He throws the card, the candy, the full bottle of champagne in the trash. Lila rescues the bottle from the garbage.

LILA
Okay, let's not be stupid.
(beat, sincere)
You never talk about her...

SPENCER
Because there's nothing to say. She
was a really shitty friend. The end.
(beat)
I'm sorry, it's been a day. Can we
watch The Bachelor tomorrow?

LILA
Sure, of course.

Spencer goes into his room and closes the door behind him.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Bex watches a TV hanging above the bar. It's on a music video channel, and happens to play one of Bex's new songs. It's very... different (à la "Look What You Made Me Do.")

Bex finds Alisha's number in her phone and calls.

INT. ALISHA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Alisha's phone wakes her up. The life of an assistant, always on call. She sighs and answers. INTERCUT:

BEX
What's going on with my new music?

ALISHA
What do you mean?

BEX
I mean, I've spent all night listening
to my albums. The first three were
great. The last two are... different.

ALISHA
You've evolved as an artist...?

BEX
I want to return to my roots.

ALISHA
Let's talk about this in the morning.

BEX
I need you to do me a favor first...

EXT. THE 405 - DAY

Establishing. Gridlock. Find a BLACK MERCEDES.

INT. BLACK MERCEDES - DAY

Spencer hates his life. He's crawling along at around 8mph when a voice from the radio haunts him --

DJ (ON RADIO)

This next artist can do no wrong in my book, because her latest tune is just so damn catchy. Here's Bex Bishop's new single, "Not Your Girl"!

SPENCER

Ugh. No thanks.

He shuts the radio off and grips the steering wheel in silence.

INT. NEWSROOM - DAY

Spencer walks onto the studio floor, and is immediately intercepted by his nervous BOSS.

BOSS

Spencer, my man! Cutting it a little close today.

SPENCER

What do you mean? I'm not on air for another eighteen minutes.

The Boss walks backwards, staying in front of Spencer as he makes his way towards his set.

BOSS

Wrong! We moved you to top of show. VIP interview. This is a career game-changer. Don't screw it up.

SPENCER

What...?

The Boss steps aside, revealing Bex, in studio, ready to be interviewed.

BEX

Hey, Spencer.

SPENCER

I can't do this.

BOSS

Sure you can, champ. Because you're on now.

Spencer takes a seat, glaring at Bex as the intro plays, but plasters a smile on his face as soon as they're on the air.

SPENCER

America, have we got a treat for you today!

INT. GREEN ROOM - DAY

Alisha and Carl watch from a TV backstage. Carl mutes it.

CARL

Should we be worried about her?

ALISHA

Yeah. He's gonna destroy her.

CARL

No, I mean about her mental health. She needs a medical professional.

ALISHA

I don't know... I mean, she sounds crazy, of course, but the last two days, she hasn't made me cry once.

CARL

Yeah, but what if she's got a brain tumor or something?

ALISHA

She has her annual physical through the label next week. I'll have them run an MRI, just to be sure.

Carl's concerns aren't completely soothed.

ALISHA

Trust me. I've got this.

INT. NEWSROOM - DAY

Pick up with Bex and Spencer. The interview seems to be going well.

BEX

So happy ending: I've made every effort to put this embarrassing incident behind me, and Raven has been gracious enough to drop the
(MORE)

BEX (CONT'D)
charges. My North American tour will
resume next week and--

SPENCER
--But, Bex, could you talk a little
bit about why you stole the Grammy
and vandalized Raven's car in the
first place?

BEX
Listen, I could give you a bunch of
excuses right now. About how I just
switched medications, or how I was
provoked, or how I was jealous...

SPENCER
Are any of those true?

BEX
My point is that I could give you
half-truths, but the full-truth is
that I think I've grown accustomed
to getting what I want when I want
it... I've been acting pretty spoiled,
not just with my fans, but with my
friends... and that isn't who I am.
Not anymore at least. Somehow along
the way I'd forgotten why I wanted
to be a musician in the first place.

SPENCER
And why is that?

BEX
To connect with people. To make them
feel something.

Spencer looks at her curiously, touches his earpiece,
listening for a second. Then --

SPENCER
Bex, you're getting a lot of tweets
right now...

BEX
(under her breath)
Twitter's still around? Are you
kidding me?

SPENCER
We're gonna throw some of them up on
the screen behind you...

(MORE)

SPENCER (CONT'D)

(reading)

@Shortcake271 says: "@realBexBishop wants to make people feel something? Mission accomplished. She made me feel TERRIBLE by getting me fired from my concession job on her last tour."

BEX

What? Shortcake, I'm sorry-- I honestly don't know what I did...

SPENCER

@Lostalongway says: "I know how Raven feels. @realBexBishop 'connected' with my boyfriend last year. Bet she doesn't even remember. #Homewrecker"

As a matter of fact, Bex doesn't remember.

SPENCER

There's a bunch more. @DrumSolo44 says: "Bex stole a wheelchair from my mom at a hospital in Cleveland. Don't worry, though, that probably wasn't what killed her."

INT. TINY LIVING ROOM - DAY

A little girl, **EMMA** (6) watches the interview on an old TV. It's not even a flat screen, that's how old it is.

BEX (on TV)

Oh my gosh, everyone on Twitter is super mean!

SPENCER (on TV)

Seems like you've hurt a lot of people.

Spencer's stoic, refusing to let on that he's one of them.

BEX (on TV)

I'm so sorry. To everyone. If you feel like I've personally wronged you, let me know, and I promise, I will make it right.

EMMA

Are you going to ask Bex for help, Daddy?

Emma looks toward the couch where her dad sits. REVEAL: It's DAVID KO. He looks up to where a SILVER URN sits on the mantel, next to a photo of Kwang-Sun.

DAVID
She won't help us, Emma.

INT. NEWSROOM - DAY

The interview is over. Spencer unclips his mike and turns to leave. Bex reaches out for his arm.

BEX
Spence, wait!

SPENCER
The interview is over.

BEX
(blurting out)
The last thing I remember is drinking
Gamhong-Ko with you in our apartment
and wishing I could fast forward!

Spencer turns around slowly.

SPENCER
What do you mean?

BEX
We had a living room dance party.
And when I woke up, it was ten years
later. Wait, so you've... been here
the whole time?

SPENCER
You're acting crazy...

BEX
What happened to us? I meant what I
said on the air. I want to make this
right. So tell me how.

Spencer turns ice cold.

SPENCER
You thinking you could ever make
this right is precisely the problem.

BEX
Don't say that. I'll do anything.
You're my best friend.

(MORE)

BEX (CONT'D)

(pleading)

I thought this was what I wanted,
but I didn't think that would mean
losing you.

SPENCER

Bex, just *shut up*. I accept that I
may have to interact with you because
that's my job. But we are not friends.
We never were.

And with that Spencer exits, leaving Bex distraught and alone.

EXT. LOS ANGELES SKYLINE - MORNING

Establishing. The palm trees, the hills, the traffic.

EXT. PARKING LOT - MORNING

Alisha, Carl, and some ND Roadies are gathered in an empty
parking lot with their suitcases.

Alisha's phone DINGS with an alert: ***Thank you for your payment
of \$79,765. Your balance is \$0.00.***

Her mouth drops open, but before she can process this, a
LARGE TOUR BUS screeches into the lot, swiping a small tree
as it jumps a curb and comes to a stop in front of them.

The bus door opens and Bex emerges.

CARL

What's this?

BEX

Our tour bus!

CARL

Miss Bishop, the bus is for, what do
you call them... the roadies. Usually
you take the private jet.

BEX

Haven't you been paying attention?
We're doing things differently from
now on.

(tosses him the keys)

You got a Class B commercial license?
Cause I sure don't.

She looks at the tree guiltily.

CARL

Of course, ma'am.

BEX

Bex!

CARL

Right. Of course, Bex.

Alisha pulls Bex aside as the Roadies load onto the bus.

BEX

I think Carl's accent might be fake.

ALISHA

Did you pay off my student loans?

BEX

(shrugs)

Seems like you've earned it for putting up with my bullshit. Hey, speaking of difficult women... that lawyer mentioned my mother is suing me...

(vulnerable)

Do I ever talk to her?

ALISHA

Absolutely not. You have a restraining order.

(off Bex)

Against her, not you.

(beat)

About the loan, Bex. I'm not sure what to say...

BEX

Don't say anything,
just remember that
feeling because--

ALISHA

--What is he doing here?

Behind them, Spencer appears, wheeling several suitcases.

BEX

That's what I was about to tell you.
I invited him. To cover the tour.

ALISHA

But he will report terrible things
about you.

BEX

Not if I don't do terrible things.
(she waves at him)
Hey, Spence! Glad you could join us!

SPENCER

I'm here for work. That's it.

Bex barely deflates. She'll win him over eventually. She turns to Alisha as they follow Spencer to the bus door.

BEX

First up, Arizona. Who did I screw over there?

ALISHA

We've gotten a lot of responses on the *Beef with Bex* web site you had me set up, and I'm all for your commitment to reparations, but shouldn't you be focusing on learning your songs...?

Bex throws an arm around Alisha, who flinches for just a second, then accepts it.

BEX

Totally on it. There's a karaoke machine on board. How many times do you think I can run through my set list in the time it takes us to get to Phoenix?

ALISHA

(groaning)

I was gonna tell you I couldn't accept all that money. But I'm suddenly feeling okay with it.

BEX

So who's up first? A stolen dinner reservation? An untipped bellhop?

Alisha skims the website. They're all a lot worse than that.

ALISHA

I think we should tackle the bigger ones first... this man says his daughter ran away two years ago after something you said to her at a meet and greet.

BEX

But I don't even know what I said! Hey, you're gonna help me with all this, right?

Alisha sighs as the doors close behind them, and the bus pulls out of the parking lot, heading east.

END OF SHOW