

LACUNA MATATA

*According to the Oxford English Dictionary, there are 171,476
words in the English language.*

This is a series dedicated to all the rest.

EXT. GORGEOUS ESTATE - DAY

Pre-lap some atrocious SNORES --

INT. ESTATE - DINO'S BEDROOM - DAY

Up on the face of DINO STAMALAMATOPOLOUS (28), snoring like a mofo. Dino's a human teddy bear with a heart of gold. Some call him 'simple.' His father calls him 'a fat moron.'

Clock blinks 12:00, post-power surge. A drone with a bow-tie (DRONEINGTON) drops a small diamond onto Dino's head. He jolts awake. Looks at the clock.

DINO
Oh man is it flashing 12 already? I
gotta -- AH

He FALLS from his overhigh bed. THUD. He looks around the room. A stool tipped over nearby. Ransacked. He blinks.

INT. ESTATE - HALLWAY - DAY

Dino's head pokes out into the endless corridor. Looks either direction. The whole place is an expensive mess.

DINO
Mom? 'Riss? Hellooo? Did Dad put me
in one of those VR horror
simulators again? You know that
messed up my heart valve!

He plods down the hall, looking at the near-empty rooms. Approaches a wall of portraits. Or rather, a wall that clearly once held scores of portraits. Now only Dino's remains. A mustache scribbled on him. Dino's jaw drops.

DINO (CONT'D)
Oh my God. I don't have a
mustache...

The doorbell RINGS. Phew.

INT. ESTATE - FOYER - DAY

Doorbell keeps RINGING. Dino ambles to the palatial double-doors, pulling them open.

DINO
I get it, you're here, hilarious
prank like --

A TEAM OF GOV'T AGENTS stand in front of him.

IRS AGENT

Mr Stamalama...Sir. We are the IRS.
You need to evacuate the premises.
This is a crime scene.

DINO

Ohhhhhh poopies.

PODCAST (PRE-LAP)

(think Kardashian)

*Now remember, real women shave
their legs three times.*

INT. ALEXIS' APARTMENT - BATHROOM - DAY

ALEXIS MONACO (30, headstrong, image-conscious, wildly insecure) shaves her legs in the steamiest shower ever. Her cat KITKAT (28 in cat years) is sopping from the wet air.

PODCAST

*...with the grain, against the
grain, then sideways. Like a
carpenter would sand a fat, ugly
piece of...wood. And now a word
from our sponsors.*

Alexis nicks her leg and lets out a SQUEE.

ALEXIS

Uch. I hate being a woman.

PODCAST COMMERCIAL

*The orcas are back, and so is the
storm. That's right, Whale-icane 2
is --*

DING DONG. Her doorbell rings. Another UCH.

INT. ALEXIS APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Alexis in a towel stomps towards the door. Out her window she sees NATALIA (30s, alluring, stargirl) bringing a gentleman into her apartment...as another leaves out the window.

ALEXIS

F***in' righteous. Get it girl.

[Note: all ***'d curses get a fun, shitty half-bleep]

DING DONG DING DONG.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

I'm coming, jeez!

She takes a deep breath and opens her door.

EXT. ALEXIS' APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Glimpse of her cool open-air apartment complex. Smoking at her door is landlord MARK GARDENS (50s, stern, always in a suit). He sees Alexis' body. But she hides her head inside.

ALEXIS

I'm hideous. What is it.

MARK

I've been smelling smoke. You smoking in there? Not allowed.

ALEXIS

Mark, you smoke.

He takes a big drag.

MARK

Also I need your rent today or I'm evicting you.

ALEXIS

What?! It's not even the 1st!

MARK

It's the 5th. And this is the 5th time this has happened.

ALEXIS

Oh. S***.

MARK

I take cash. Or money order. No checks.

ALEXIS

Aren't you hot in that suit? It's like 90 degrees today.

MARK

Rent.

ALEXIS

That suit is very flattering though.

MARK

You can't even see me. Rent. By end of day. Or you're out of here.

(MORE)

MARK (CONT'D)
The Saudis who own this place are
very quick with the threats. They
love waterboarding.

ALEXIS
Jeez, fine, Mr Rockefeller! I'll
get it to you tonight.

INT. ALEXIS' APARTMENT - SAME

She SLAMS the door. Stress showing.

MARK (O.S.)
And no smoking!!

She rolls her eyes. Pours herself a vodka ice. Big swig.

INT. ESTATE - KITCHEN - DAY

Dino eats in front of the fridge. IRS agents swarm. Two stare
on, dumbfounded.

AGENT GONZALEZ
Gave him five minutes to pack his
things and he got distracted by the
fridge. Unbelievable.

AGENT RICHARDS
Think he knows where the family
went?

AGENT GONZALEZ
This dumbass?

A phone alarm BLARES. The two agents approach. Dino realizes
his mistake and grabs for his backpack.

DINO
No! I got sidetracked by food! I
didn't even get my sloth slippers!

The agents grab him by the arm and escort him out.

SPLIT SCREEN: Dino getting thrown out // Alexis finishing her
drink.

DINO (CONT'D)	ALEXIS
I thought I had more time!!	I thought I had more time!!

SLAM TO TITLE

Tidsoptimist: (*n, Swedish*): one who is always late because
they think they have more time than they do.

ACT ONEUP ON A TICKING CLOCKINT. ALEXIS' APARTMENT - DAY

Alexis, half made-up, has her head on the table. DING DONG.

ALEXIS

Jesus Mark, you were just here an
hour ago!

She opens the door. It's Dino. Sweating. Panting. Dying. He
passes out onto her floor.

MOMENTS LATER

The pair at the table. Dino chugs water and eats Cheetos.
Alexis works on her makeup.

DINO

(all while chewing)
And they were just gone! Again!
They've pranked me like this before
but the IRS makes it seem real.

ALEXIS

Did they tell you anything?

DINO

Just that they were wanted for
white collar crime, gold collar
crime, and apparently crimes
against humanity.

ALEXIS

By the IRS? You guys are so shady-
rich. Why can't I get conflict
diamond money? All I'm getting
today is evicted.

Dino stops eating (big deal).

DINO

What?!

ALEXIS

Yeah I haven't gotten any residuals
lately and that was kind of my only
money since Jeff left.

DINO

Can't you like get a loan or
something?

(MORE)

DINO (CONT'D)
I don't really know what that is
but I think normal people do that
in this situation.

ALEXIS
You know I hate asking for help.
Can you pass me the -- nevermind.

She grabs a napkin in front of him. Dabs her lipstick.

DINO
Is that why you're doing your
makeup? Are you hooking?!

ALEXIS
No. Weird. I've got a job
interview.

DINO
And they'll give you the money up
front for rent?

ALEXIS
I dunno, maybe I can get an advance
or something. It is a bank after
all.

DINO
That sounds right. I wish I could
help, but all my cards are frozen.

INT. ESTATE - KITCHEN - FLASHBACK (DAY)

Unseen previously -- Dino's gotten away from the two agents.

AGENT GONZALEZ
Why are you doing this? We're still
going to need your credit cards.

DINO
Never!!

He throws his wallet into the freezer and bolts.

BACK TO SCENE

DINO (CONT'D)
So yeah I'm poor now too.

ALEXIS
Can't the library pay you?

DINO

Psh I wish. I've got a shift today
but I just volunteer. I've never
needed the money before. At least
I've still got the
Stamalamatopolous Family Watch!

He flashes a fancy ass wristwatch. Alexis sees the time.

ALEXIS

Oh my god I am SO late.

She grabs her stuff and bolts to the door.

DINO

Wait! Can I borrow like a bike or
something? If I have to walk again
I may die. The heart valve.

ALEXIS

(pointing)

Sure.

And she's gone. After a beat, Dino actually cracks with
emotion. Until he looks at his watch.

DINO

Oh poopies I'm late too!

He goes for the bike.

INT. ALEXIS' GARAGE - DAY

Alexis throws her stuff in the front seat and starts her car.
Nothing happens.

ALEXIS

Oh no no no...

She tries again. And again.

SHOT OUTSIDE THE CAR: We see her scream, MOS.

She punches the wheel. Baby HONK. Starts to hear a sound
above. The SQUEAK of bed-sex. Sigh.

EXT. NATALIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Alexis stands out front, steeling herself.

ALEXIS

You can do this. Just ask. Just ask
for help. Jeff was kidding, it's
not a sign of weakness.

(MORE)

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
 He was so funny when he wasn't
 breaking up with you.

Deep breath. She KNOCKS. The sex squeaks instantly stop.
 Natalia opens the door in a revealing robe.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
 Hi I'm Alexis I live a few units
 over I hate to do this but I need
 h--. I need h--.
 (different tactic)
 My car broke down and I have the
 most important job interview of my
 life and if I don't make it I'll
 get evicted.

Natalia's stare is withering.

NATALIA
 Sweetie I do not give my car to
 random neighbors...but your aura is
 redder than the heart of Mars so I
 will drive you.

She grabs her keys and shuts the door behind her.

ALEXIS
 (re the dude obviously
 still inside)
 Shouldn't you...?

Natalia's still walking away.

NATALIA
 Come ON, child.

EXT. LIBRARY - DAY

A sign: **The Roman Polanski (We Know But He Already Gave Us
 The Money) Public Library.** Dino unlocks the back door.

INT. LIBRARY BACKROOM - CONTINUOUS

BLACKNESS. Dino flips a light. The room is FILLED WITH FOG. A
 DECREPIT OLD WOMAN materializes ahead -- careening right
 towards him -- a nightmare -- Dino braces himself as --

MISS BLUNDERBUSS
 You're late.

The fog clears as we truly meet MISS BLUNDERBUSS (ancient but
 lively, hip but old-timey, kind heart under prickly
 exterior). The fog was vape and she was 'floating' because of
 her hoverboard. She's awesome.

DINO

Don't do that to me! I have had an awful day and I TOLD you about my valve!

MISS BLUNDERBUSS

I don't want excuses. If I was late to the mines as a kid they'd make us work with our hands.

DINO

Don't you want to hear about what happened?

Miss B throws a green 'volunteer' apron at his face.

MISS BLUNDERBUSS

Get out there!!

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Dino reads a comic for a gaggle of kids. Does voices and everything. He's into it and the kids love it.

DINO

Give up Superman! You'll never beat my memory ray!

(Superman)

Mom...Dad...is that you? I thought you were dead...

Dino get choked up at the obvious parallel.

DINO (CONT'D)

(bad guy)

Yes, give in to my emotional torture! You may be the man of steel, but you don't have a heart of steel!

(Superman, fighting)

No...this...is this real?

Must...fight...I am my own...man!

Dino starts to cry in earnest. Kids BOO. Miss B intercepts.

MISS BLUNDERBUSS

Well kids let's take a little intermission. I think Dino's...allergies are back.

She pulls him away.

INT. LIBRARY BACKROOM - DAY

Burgers plop in front of Dino and Miss B. Dino goes right after his. Eats it in an instant. Eyes Miss B.

MISS BLUNDERBUSS
It's soy. Don't even think about
it. What's going on?

DINO
It's my parents. They just
disappeared and the IRS says they
did some pretty bad stuff. Have you
ever heard of gold collar crime?

MISS B
No. It sounds made up.

DINO
But like, bad, right?

Miss B grabs for a nearby book. Finds a page.

MISS B
Look, Dino. I get hard times. I
survived the Depression. I am old
as s***. The struggles suck, but
they make you stronger. The world
is a strange place filled with more
things than could fill all these
books. For example, you're a
tidsoptimist. Did you know that?

DINO
You don't have to call me names...

MISS B
Sweetie. It's a Swedish word. It
means 'time optimist.' You always
run late because you think you have
more time than you really do.

DINO
Woah. I am that. How have I never
heard that before? Are there more?

He leans in. She SNAPS the book shut.

MISS B
Don't expect me to do this every
time. Learn on your own. You're an
adult and I'm not a machine.

DINO
What about your pacemaker?

MISS B
Oh boy. Just take the rest of the day off. Get yourself together. Not like it'll hurt our payroll. But I have to get back to the kids. They're so much stronger with today's fluoride water.

She GROANS as she stands. Off Dino's face, an idea forming --

ALEXIS (PRE-LAP)
And it's just like if I don't look pretty how will I get a man that makes Jeff jealous?

INT. NATALIA'S CAR - DAY

Parked. Natalia gives Alexis another withering stare.

NATALIA
Girl all you have spoken about this entire way was some man named Jeff and all kinds of toxic beauty crap. Are you even ready for this interview?

ALEXIS
Of course. I love Citi Bank.

NATALIA
We are at a Wells Fargo.

ALEXIS
Whatever. I love banks, okay? I just. I really need this.

She pulls a travel vodka from her purse. Takes a pull. Tosses it into the cup holder and leaps out the car.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
I can do this!

HARD CUT TO LATER:

Alexis gets back into the car, dazed.

NATALIA
Oh no your aura has gone...pulpy.

ALEXIS

Halfway through the interview they told me the job didn't exist and it was a computer error. I was so bad I existentially murdered the job.

NATALIA

Listen. Life is mysterious. The path you want may not always be the path you need.

ALEXIS

Yeah well my path's last hope is an interview with Whole Foods later. That is a bad path.

NATALIA

Child if I thought like that when I came to this country I'd still be living in that box at the beach eating crabs and kelp. Did you just finish that vodka?

ALEXIS

(she did)
Just drive.

EXT. ALEXIS' APARTMENT - DAY

The pair part. Alexis tries her door. It's locked.

ALEXIS

Oh c'mon! Today?!

She eyes her open window. Ugh.

INT. ALEXIS' ROOM - DAY

Messy. Dark. Alexis tumbles in from the top half of her small window. Her feet slap shit on the way down. The impact knocks a strange box out of her closet. Label: **Jeff**. She sees the box, its contents strewn at her feet. Frozen in her tracks.

EXT. GORGEOUS ESTATE - PERIMETER WALL - DAY

Dino drops his bike in the surrounding wilderness. Manages to pull himself atop the wall, peering over. Agents still swarm.

DINO

There's gotta be a clue
somewhere...wait, what's --

Droneington POPS UP right in front of Dino. He tumbles back onto the outside ground. Droneington buzzes down.

DINO (CONT'D)
 Droney! It's so good to see you!
 Where'd they go boy? Where's the
 family? Did they fall down a well?

Droneington activates a weird light.

DINO (CONT'D)
 Oh, our Watch.

Dino holds up his watch as Droney scans it. Out shoots an iPhone X into Dino's lap. Dino looks as a video plays --

ONSCREEN: DINO'S MOM, DAD, AND SISTER huddle into frame. They're dressed elegantly and are clearly on a private jet.

DINO'S DAD
 Dino, if you didn't figure it out yet, which you probably didn't, we have fled the country.

DINO'S MOM
 Don't believe what the IRS is saying honey. They're liars and liberals. Not that there's much of a difference.

DINO'S SISTER
 We would have brought you but it was all so last minute...and there was no more room on the plane. Especially since we brought Chico.

Pull back to reveal their pet alpaca Chico also on the jet.

DINO'S DAD
 We know the accounts are frozen, but we have a backup plan. Besides, you're like a water bear.

DINO
 What's a water bear...?

DINO'S SISTER
 Because you probably just asked what a water bear is, they're tiny, insignificant creatures who are impossible to kill.

DINO'S MOM
 So they're exactly like you. Minus the tiny part.

COLLECTIVE RICH PERSON LAUGH. Dino pouts.

DINO'S MOM (CONT'D)

Quit pouting. You're fat. It's just true.

DINO'S DAD

...as I was saying. We have a backup plan for you. It's very important. If you want to stay in the Family Trust, be at our secret spot today at 6pm. You know the one.

An OS waiter announces 'champagne!' They all smile, breaking character. Then remember they're still on camera.

DINO'S SISTER

Oh god, there's no time! Gotta go!

The video goes dead. Dino processes...all that.

DINO

(at the phone)

At least I can keep you. What're you worth, 30 dollars?

PHONE

This phone will self destruct in 5...4...3...

It starts destructing early. Dino tosses it and runs off. As it burns it gives off the creepiest, dying:

PHONE (CONT'D)

Ha...haaaaaaaaa

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

DING DONG DING DONG

INT. ALEXIS' ROOM - DAY

Alexis, a box-sweater now on, hasn't moved. Catatonic.

DINO (O.S.)
(still ringing bell)
Let me in! C'mon!

The ringing stops. Small ruckus. Dino enters the room.

DINO (CONT'D)
Thank god you had a spare key.

ALEXIS
(eyeing the window)
Oh. Yeah. I have that.

DINO
So what are you doing on the OH NO.

He understands the Jeff Box and immediately grabs for it.
Alexis fights back like a feral cat.

DINO (CONT'D)
Let's just pretend this never --

ALEXIS
NO! MINE! HISS!

She slips her hood up. Assumes a bro character.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
(bro voice)
Was that good for you? I left the
toilet seat up. And I'm gonna shit
on your dreams eventually. Zzzzzz

DINO
Did you hiss at me? Why are you
doing this to yourself? It's been
11 months since Jeff broke up with
you. You don't have to be defined
by your exes. Being single is
great!

ALEXIS
What do you know? You've never even
had a girlfriend. Or a boyfriend.
Have you even decided yet?

DINO
Do I have to? I'm fine just being
Dino and liking what I like. Labels
are dumb.

ALEXIS
Is 'ugly failure' a label?

DINO
Young lady.

ALEXIS
That's what Jeff always said...

EXT. WHALE-ICANE SET - DREAM SEQUENCE - NIGHT

Alexis grabs at lead BUFF EVERYMAN (an actor Adonis, role of
"Stryker") as winds whip. Buff cocks a harpoon.

ALEXIS
You can't go back into the reactor,
Stryker! That's how the whales got
into this hurricane in the first
place!

BUFF
That's how it started. That's how
it's gonna end.

ALEXIS
Oh Stryker...

She leans in for a kiss -- till someone yells CUT! People
hustle onto the set, chiefly JEFF SHITHEAD (31, alpha,
definitely has a sneaker collection), the film's producer and
Alexis' storied ex.

JEFF
Great work Buff. Take 5.
Prosthetics! Can we get a mask for
this Alexis? She's an ugly failure.
(mouthing to her)
Ugly. Failure.

He points to her face. Alexis starts to CRY. A prop fish
flies in from nowhere and THWAPS her in the face.

BACK TO SCENE

DINO
Oh my god, that really happened?

ALEXIS
Of course not Dino I took creative
license. I'm an artist. But the
gist of it is true. UGH!

Alexis FLOPS backward, spent. Dino's tummy RUMBLES.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
Good idea. I haven't eaten all day.

DINO
(wiping off a crumb)
...same.

INT. ALEXIS' KITCHEN - DAY

TING! Two pieces of toast pop up from the toaster. Dino
throws them onto a plate of like 15 other pieces. Alexis eats
a rice cake and nurses a vodka ice. Jeff Box nearby.

DINO
I just don't know which secret spot
they meant. Scientology Center?
Scientology Celebrity Center? The
Secret Scientology Center below the
capitol building?
(beat)
Am I a Scientologist? My thetans
feel weird.

Alexis CRUNCHES her lame rice cake.

DINO (CONT'D)
Why no Dino toast? It's got two
types of butter. Salted and
unsalted.

ALEXIS
Carbs are a waistline's worst
enemy.

DINO
(mouth so full)
Carbs are bad?!

He pushes the plate away. Another rice cake CRUNCH.

DINO (CONT'D)
So...when you gonna get ready for
your interview?

Alexis SLAMS the table out of nowhere.

DINO (CONT'D)
How was that a bad thing to say?! I
don't want you to get evicted!

ALEXIS
I. Just. Can't. Right. Now.

Alexis grabs the box and goes to her room. SLAM.

DINO
Can't what?! I never know what
people "can't!"
(approaching her door)
Hey so if you're not gonna go on
your interview can I borrow your
car for the Family Trust thing?

Alexis turns her podcast on very loudly.

PODCAST
*And good news you hot dirty sluts,
our sponsor Whale-icane just got
picked up for another trilogy of
films. That's gonna make those guys
like soooo much money!*

Podcast cuts out and the door swings open.

ALEXIS
My car's broken but f*** it I need
to get out of here.

DINO
I can fix a car. How hard can it be
to fix a car?

INT. ALEXIS' GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Alexis keeps trying to start the car. Dino POUNDS on the hood
like an animal. They both give up.

DINO
It's impossible! Oh! Idea.
(pulls out his phone)
Miss B?

INTERCUT: Miss B in the backroom. Getting a tattoo on her
back. "Woke Bitch" -- she fields the call and shoos the guy.

MISS B
Go for Blunderbuss.

DINO
Miss B, what do you know about cars?

MISS B
I could fix my '27 Rickenbacker but not much else. To the books!

She grabs a book and opens it up.

MISS B (CONT'D)
What's the make and model?

Alexis tries the ignition again. Miss B sighs.

MISS B (CONT'D)
Seriously? That's a dead battery. I could tell that over the phone and I was born before cars were invented. You just need a jump.

Dino jumps. Miss B clearly hears it. Sighs again.

MISS B (CONT'D)
Like...with a battery. That, you can Google.
(she hangs up)
Marcel! More ink!

BACK TO THE GARAGE

Dino looks up 'a jump' on his phone.

DINO
Ohhhh. Alexis, do you know anyone here with a car?

She looks to Natalia's spot. Empty. Only one option.

ALEXIS
Why is my life the hardest life?

LATER

Mark Gardens smokes. Alexis in her car as they jump it.

MARK
I'm charging you \$50 for this. And adding it to your overdue rent. Tell me you're taking your car to get it.

ALEXIS
Um...yes! Dino is. He is so thoughtful.

MARK
Mhm. I'll believe it when I see it.

DINO
Um, "Dino is?" Why only Dino?

ALEXIS
I think what I really need now is self-care. So I'm going to wait for you all to leave and eat a pint of Americone Dream with my hands.

VROOM! The car roars to life. Alexis gestures Dino in. He peels away instantly. Mark glares at Alexis and takes a drag.

MARK
Why do you do this to me?

ALEXIS
Man...if I knew, I would stop.

The car REVERSES back into frame. He yells to the pair.

DINO
Alexis I still don't know where I'm going please come with me I'm scared!

ALEXIS
Okay just don't --

He turns the car off. Mark facepalms.

EXT. ALEXIS' APARTMENT COMPLEX - STREET - DAY

Mark jumps the car again. His look could kill.

MARK
Waste of my f***in' time.
(to Dino)
You have to leave it running or the battery dies. 12 year olds know this.

DINO
Okay rude but noted.

The car VROOMS back to life and they instantly peel out.

MARK
That's another 50 bucks!

INT. ALEXIS' CAR - DAY

ALEXIS
Okay, so which of the Scientology
places did --

Dino CACKLES.

DINO
Hah! I got you! This was all a trap
to get you to your interview! The
secret spot is definitely the
Celebrity Center. Dad used to trade
3rd world countries over there.

He pulls clothes and makeup out of his backpack.

ALEXIS
How did you get all this?

DINO
Don't ask how I'm saving your life.
Just say thank you. Now where are
we going?

Alexis mumbles something inaudible.

DINO (CONT'D)
I'm sorry?

ALEXIS
Whole Foods, okay! Whole Foods. The
most annoying of foods...places.

DINO
No shame in that. I hear they sell
good air. Hey!

They spot a billboard ahead: **Whale-icane 2!** Now with a little
insert promising the new trilogy. Jeff's name in big red
font. Alexis mimes shooting herself in the brain.

DINO (CONT'D)
Wait is his last name really
shithead? I thought that was a
joke.

ALEXIS
It's pronounced "shith-eed." It's
Dutch.

DINO
For poopoo brain?

EXT. WHOLE FOODS // INT. ALEXIS' CAR - DAY

Dino pulls near the Whole Foods in traffic.

DINO
Where's all the parking?

ALEXIS
Valet's up ahead.

DINO
This grocery store has a valet?

ALEXIS
Either that or street parking. And
there's like never street parking.

DINO
It doesn't even have a garage? My
house has three!

ALEXIS
It does but it's underground and
closed right now so they can add
stationary SoulCycle bikes for
volunteers to power the lightbulbs
in their free range daycare center.

DINO
...yeah I'm just gonna let you off
here and find a spot.

He pulls into the valet spot and starts pumping her up.

DINO (CONT'D)
You got this! You're the best! You
are kind, smart, and important!

ALEXIS
Isn't that from a movie?

DINO
Psh only the movie of my sister
saying that to me when I did dumb
mean unimportant stuff. Was she
being sarcastic...?!

ALEXIS
I appreciate this pep talk.

DINO
Go. Alexis. Go go. Alexis!

The VALET approaches.

VALET
Sir are you valeting your car?

DINO
Hey BACK OFF buster this is an
emotional moment!
(to Alexis)
Xenu bless you. You got this!

Cars behind him start HONKING. He drives off, leaving her.

INT. ALEXIS' CAR - MOMENTS LATER

An alert pops up on Dino's phone: 30m until he has to be at the secret spot.

DINO
What? Already?!

He's caught at a red light. He looks at the alert. The Whole Foods. The alert. He WHIPS out from the far lane and runs the red with a batshit left turn.

DINO (CONT'D)
I'm sorryyyyyyy!

EXT. WHOLE FOODS - DAY

Alexis takes deep breaths. Nerves. Lots of em. With a final exhale, she walks...right into the unopened sliding doors.

VALET
Oh, they do that sometimes.

He waves it open. Alexis storms in.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREEINT. WHOLE FOODS - DAY

Alexis sits in a chair outside the manager's office. Waiting. A wall clock TICKS. She inspects a nearby product.

ALEXIS

GMO-free air? Huh. Dino was right.

She looks it over but accidentally opens it. She tries to close it but ends up just throwing it to the back of the shelf. The MANAGER opens her door.

MANAGER

Alexis Monaco?

ALEXIS

(awk)

Guilty! Uh. Ha.

MANAGER

...step right in.

She does so. The door swings shut behind her.

INT. ALEXIS' CAR - DAY

Dino drives like a bat outta hell. He swipes a 'Low Battery' alert from his phone.

SIRI

Turn right at the next exit.

Dino veers across traffic.

DINO

I'm coming family! I won't let you down!

SIRI

No, the NEXT exit, Dyno.

He swerves back from the exit.

DINO

Whoopies. And c'mon Siri, it's Dino! Hard E!

SIRI

Okay, got it...Dyno.

INT. MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY

Alexis fixes her skirt. The manager looks over her resume.

MANAGER

Mhm, mhm, mhm. I'm noticing a long gap in your work experience here. What's the story with that?

ALEXIS

Well in my previous life I was sort of a commercial actress. I made my living doing that. I also...shared an income with a movie producer for a time.

MANAGER

OMG, would I know him?

ALEXIS

(hating this)
Jeff Shithead. He does Whale-icane.

MANAGER

Stop. It. Me and my husband LOVE Whale-icane! How do those whales keep ending up in those tropical storms? Amazing.

ALEXIS

They never learn.

MANAGER

So. After such a long break, why Whole Foods?

ALEXIS

I just...love how whole the foods are. Not a half food in sight.

MANAGER

Interesting. What do you consider your biggest strength?

ALEXIS

Oh I'm very diligent. I'm never late and always pay my rent.

She COUGHS/HACKS at the awful lie.

MANAGER

Seems standard but okay. And your biggest weakness?

ALEXIS
I've been told I'm too honest.

MANAGER
I don't think that's a weakness.

ALEXIS
I don't give a f*** what you think!
(beat)
I'm so sorry I read that online. I
don't know how to answer that
question it always feels like a
trick.

Manager jots a just-too-long note down.

MANAGER
Where do you see yourself in five
years?

ALEXIS
Hopefully floating in a loungy
chair atop a pool of Sangria...
(oh yeah)
Between my shifts as associate
manager in this fine establishment.

MANAGER
Oh that's great. We love that kind
of ambition. Where do you find
meaning in your life?

ALEXIS
I'm sorry?

MANAGER
Meaning. Purpose. What stops you
from just like gobbling a bunch of
pills or jumping out a 9th story
window when its all too much? Ha.

Alexis is just stunned by this one.

ALEXIS
Jesus...do people know the answer
to that question? I haven't known
for like a year. If ever. Mostly I
just try to stay busy. Is this a
standard interview question?

INT. ALEXIS' CAR - DAY

Dino pulls up in front of the Celebrity Center. Car still
runs. He stares down the building. Looks at his Family Watch.

INT. MANAGER'S OFFICE - A FEW MINUTES LATER

ALEXIS

...and Jeff just like left the cat
behind so now it's mine I guess.
I'm sorry what was the question?

Manager was just enraptured by her story.

MANAGER

I'm not sure but that was a very
unique tale. Well. This was
an...offbeat interview, but I
really appreciated your candor.
Should we move forward, how soon
would you be able to start?

ALEXIS

Gimme 15 minutes to fix my hair.

MANAGER

Ha! Great. We'll be in touch.
(standing to leave)
And here's a card for a
complimentary bottle of our hottest
new product, GMO-free air.

Alexis grabs it with a confused smile.

EXT. WHOLE FOODS - NIGHT

Alexis looks for Dino near the valet stand. Can't find him.
She picks up her phone.

ALEXIS

C'mon duuuude.

DINO VOICEMAIL

*Hello? Is this one of those fake
gotcha voicemails? Yes. Leave a
message after the beepies.*

BEEP.

ALEXIS

Boy he doesn't get how those work.
(yelling at the phone)
Where are you?! AH!

She starts crying in earnest. Yells at the valet.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

Why does everyone abandon me? My life is in shambles, my ex is a millionaire, and now my only friend chose his shitty parents over his BFF. I should just move back to Minnesota, build myself an igloo, and die.

VALET

Um. Do you have your ticket?

Alexis is about to scream when HOOOOONK! Dino skids into the valet spot once again. Alexis runs towards the car.

ALEXIS

Betrayal! I thought you left me!

DINO

I did. I got all the way to the Celebrity Center. And then it hit me. A large confused bird, but also a realization. The Family Trust was never a slush fund. It's their actual trust! Which was the one thing they never gave me. Besides a liger unicorn. So why should I waste my time looking for them? They barely even looked at me. Hell, knowing them, the whole thing was probably a setup anyway.

INT. SHADOWY ROOM BENEATH THE SCIENTOLOGY BUILDING - X

A murderous Boston Dynamics-lookin robot stands next to a man bathed in shadow. TOM CRUISE. The robot throws a flame spurt.

TOM CRUISE

Where the fuck IS this guy? This is so not Clear.

BACK WITH DINO AND ALEXIS

She immediately pounces in and hugs him.

ALEXIS

I love you Dino. F*** your parents. We just need each other.

VALET

(poking head in)

Hey that was touching but you guys have to stop sitting in this spot.

HONKS from behind. Alexis rolls the window and flips him off.

DINO
How was the interview?

ALEXIS
Weird. But it ended well. Still
have no idea what I'm gonna do
about rent though. I have literally
no dollars in my account.

DINO
Wanna get some froyo? Brainstorm
over a brain freeze?

ALEXIS
Did you go deaf again?

Dino flashes two marked-off froyo freebie cards.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
OMG yes.
(checking her reflection)
Is it okay if I go post-cry ugly?

DINO
Alexis. I have never seen you look
ugly one day in my life. Well okay
after the half-marathon you --

She silences him with a finger.

ALEXIS
So close.

VALET
(screaming from outside)
YOU HAVE TO LEAVE!

Dino squeals outta there.

EXT. FROYO SHOP - NIGHT

They both go to town on their froyo.

ALEXIS
I could sell an organ? What's the
one you have two of? Livers?

DINO
Ow! Brainfreeze! I should have seen
this coming!

Alexis rolls her eyes -- as her phone RINGS. She takes it.

ALEXIS
This is Alexis.

MANAGER (O.S.)
Hi, Alexis, I'm calling you in
regards to our interview earlier.

ALEXIS
This is so exciting. I can
literally start working tonight. I
have kind of a situation where --

MANAGER (O.S.)
Let me stop you there. You didn't
get the job.

Alexis, stabbed in the heart.

MANAGER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
But listen. You're clearly a bright
girl with a lot to offer. A lot of
passion. But you mentioned your ex
in like half the questions. There's
more to life than relationships.
Even ones with successful producers
of great films. Go be your own
person. Seize the day. Shop at our
many locations nationwide. You just
can't work at this one.

ALEXIS
Wow, that was...probably the best
breakup I've ever had.

MANAGER
I've gotta go. One of the SoulCycle
testers just had a heart attack
downstairs. But you. Go out there
and take the world by storm, girl.

The line goes dead. Alexis is stunned. Dino yells.

DINO
Did you get it?!

ALEXIS
No, Dino. Did you miss all of that?

DINO
Brainfreeze...

ALEXIS

Welp. Better wrap this up. I gotta go pack my stuff if I don't want Mark to throw it into that gross dumpster he never empties.

DINO

Actually, about that --

NATALIA (O.S.)

Not so fast, star child!

Their heads turn -- and we see that this froyo shop is across the street from Dino's library. Natalia walks up, Miss B hoverboarding beside her.

ALEXIS

Seriously? Why are you guys here?

NATALIA

I was just at the library renting my two favorite movies: Eyes Wide Shut and Ex Machina, when I ran into Miss B here. She mentioned her friend Dino, who also loves Eyes Wide Shut.

DINO

It reminds me of my childhood.

ALEXIS

Weird.

NATALIA

So I thought, is this the same Dino that Alexis was talking about this morning? Her bff? I instantly felt a cosmic alignment.

MISS B

Yeah I don't know about that s***. But when we heard what was going on with our friends, we knew we had to help. Dino, you're officially a paid employee at the Roman Polanski We Know But He Already Gave Us The Money Public Library.

She tosses him a red 'Employee' apron.

DINO

Oh my god what! I'll be rich again!

MISS B

Not even close.

NATALIA

And Alexis...you're a wavy line of a woman. But after today, I see something in you. Our chakras synced up in the car this morning.

DINO

Ew.

NATALIA

-- so what I'm saying is, I'm hiring you to work for me.

ALEXIS

Oh. I...don't want to be a hooker.

NATALIA

Child, I run a small business. We do odd jobs around town.

ALEXIS

Still sounds like hooking.

NATALIA

Girl are you in or what?

ALEXIS

Um, of course I'm in.

NATALIA

Welcome to the family, baby.

DINO

Look at that! Everything turned out okay for everyone.

Alexis' phone RINGS. It's Mark.

ALEXIS

Oh f*** I forgot.

(answering)

Oh hi Mark. I was just about to call you. I got a job! We're safe!

INTERCUT: OUTSIDE ALEXIS' APARTMENT

MARK

Come out! I'm here with security. Time's up. And I don't mean the hashtag.

Mark is alone, no security in sight. He smokes as always.

ALEXIS

I'm not home! Didn't you hear me?
I'll be able to pay soon! I've got
a job!

MARK

Soon doesn't pay the rent.
Literally. I need your \$1785, now.
Cash. Or Money order. No checks!

ALEXIS

Oh you can take a money order? One
sec --
(holding phone down)
Guys what the f*** do I do?!

Dino raises his hand.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

Just talk!

DINO

I brought you here to surprise you
but we got very sidetracked by
froyo and miracles. I pawned my
Family Watch. I got the rent for
the month. No eviction today!

He throws a wad of bills onto the table.

DINO (CONT'D)

Long as you're okay with a roomie?

ALEXIS

Omg omg omg. You had me at 'no
eviction today.' Of course you can
be my roomie.

MARK

(on the lowered phone)
Move in? Who's moving in?

ALEXIS

No, we said moving on...over! I've
got the money.

MARK

...I don't believe you.

Alexis takes a picture and sends it to him.

ALEXIS

Check your phone.

MARK
I'm on my phone!

ALEXIS
Ugh, no, I sent you a pic of the
money. We'll be there in 5 minutes.

Alexis hangs up and grabs Dino. Looks at their saviors.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
Gotta save our house but love you
guys so much thanks for saving our
lives!

DINO
(getting pulled away)
My froyo!

They're gone. Miss B and Natalia sit. Eat the leftover froyo.

MISS B
Is Ex Machina really your favorite
movie?

NATALIA
Nope. Eternal Sunshine. But it felt
fitting since we saved their ass.

MISS B
(pointing w froyo spoon)
I just might like you, hippie.

EXT. ALEXIS' APARTMENT - NIGHT

Mark alone. Smoking. Our duo arrive, cash extended.

ALEXIS
Here it is! Wait, where's security?

MARK
We don't have security. Read your
lease! I just liked the threat.

ALEXIS
This is a fun give and take thing
we've got going here.

Mark waves dismissively. Sees Dino's backpack.

MARK
Why the backpack, fattie? Hiding
something?

ALEXIS
He's got like. Dumbbells in there.

DINO
I'm very strong.

He does a squat. Can't get up from the bottom.

DINO (CONT'D)
Help.

INT. ALEXIS' APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

They walk in through the front door. All smiles.

ALEXIS
Welcome, Dino. Time to make this
place feel like home.

DINO
Dibs on the nook under the stairs!
Harry Potter Dino yay!

INT. ALEXIS' APARTMENT - LATER

Dino finishes off a well-decorated nook. Sleeping bag,
hanging lights, very chic. Alexis tapes her Jeff Box shut.
Slides it next to the front door into the trash pile.

ALEXIS
Wow, I feel SO much better.

She plops on the couch. Dino joins her.

DINO
Me too. I think this was a long
time coming. Dino and Alexis, their
own people, taking on the world.

They stare off, contended. For a moment. But as time
passes...and passes...their smiles start to fade.

ALEXIS
So...what now?

SLAM TO CREDITS

END ACT THREE

TAGINT. ALEXIS' APARTMENT - DAY

Morning ritual. Dino wears a button up, lookin nice. He actually does his hair.

DINO

Alexis! How boys do hair?

He styles it left. Right. Left. Gives up and just musses it. Alexis walks out of her room, not a hair out of place.

ALEXIS

Not like that but you do you. How do I look?

DINO

Like a million bucks! Which, fun fact, my family uses as an insult.

ALEXIS

Did you eat your breakfast?

DINO

Yeah I had the Coco Roos.

ALEXIS

You know those give you heart-valve burn. Have you seen my purse?

Dino holds it out for her.

DINO

I filled it with pump up Post-It notes but didn't look inside because I have a rule about that.

ALEXIS

Oh Dino. Let's go take the real world by storm!

They CHEST BUMP. Dino sends her flying but she recovers. He opens the front door for her.

DINO

Let's do this.

EXT. ALEXIS' APARTMENT - INSTANTS LATER

DINO

Do you hear that? I don't hear...traffic.

ALEXIS

Oh my God. Dino. It's Sunday.

DINO

Are we actually...early?

ALEXIS

Well this is new.

They start stripping off their work clothes and head inside.

END HILARIOUS, MARKETABLE PILOT