

ELLEN

The night of the club that we both deplored, I went to Alex's apartment afterwards and we threw ourselves into making love. But like – OK the thing with guys, when they make love it's like they're running into your arms. And if you look really close at their faces, you can see if their running towards you or running away from something else – and you just got in the way. And I got a good look at Alex's face and – he was definitely fleeing someone or something and I was road kill. I mean beautiful roadkill, but. And when he finally fell asleep, I found the sleek new gimp bracelet I made and I, with the merest suggestion of pageantry, slid it on his wrist. And I went to sleep just content as like a ... I wake up let's say three hours later and yeah, you got it here I am all alone in bed. And I am so ready to lose it in a kind of -- . But then I know – wherever he is. Whoever. Whoever he's with. He's wearing that bracelet and. I'm with – I'm. So, you see, a lot can be said about the psychologically healing powers of jewelry. No matter how unattractive.

ALEX

I don't know that I like guys as a gender. They're kind of pretty much jerks. Like, they're really nice when they want something from you, but once they get it they could pretty much give a shit. Like, this one time, it was actually the first time I tricked. Martin set me up. This first trick guy was all distinguished, with gray in his hair and a suit. Took me out to dinner and was all interested with what I wanted to do with my life. What books I read, what art I liked. Like interested in what kind of music I was listening to. I'd make a pretty decent joke and he'd laugh all warm and shit. We go back to his place, he's like taking my clothes off all slow and calling me, wait, magnificent. No wait, really. And I'm all naked and what not, and he's walking me back to his bedroom, and we stop on the way, and we step into his bathroom, and he puts me in the bathtub which was empty, and puts me on my knees, and he pissed on me for like three minutes. He must not have peed for a really long time and drank a lot of liquid

MITCHELL

God, that's awful.

ALEX

And then he looks at me all disgusted and says, "clean yourself up and get out of here," and then he goes to bed. Like, I have to show myself to the door. So I took a shower, and toweled off, and then left with. I left with -- like fifteen of his cds.

MITCHELL

Oh my God, you poor guy.

ALEX

You pity me, I'll fucking kill you. I so can't stand pity, I mean, so you know, next time you feel that pity face coming on to the front of your head, that first night, I dusted you bad, I stole 300 bucks from you

DIANE, in an elegant ball gown, sits in a gold bamboo chair.

DIANE

The beginning. Well beginnings are always beautiful. Beginnings are -- OK -- do you know "Breakfast at Tiffany's"? The film, not the novella. I know, there's a novella, who knew? The beginning. Audrey Hepburn, the most beautiful person ever. Gets out of the cab. In Givency. Quadruple strand of pearls. And she walks to a window of Tiffany's. Again with the beautiful. And then the melody "Moon River" wafts in. Start with me. The beauty quotient is excessively high, Then beautiful Audrey Hepburn is sneaking into her Upper eastside townhouse away from the not so beautiful older man, but the running away part is beautiful. And then. But then. Then the unspeakable happens. Mickey Rooney. Mickey Rooney in full-on Novelty Hirohito glasses and buck teeth and --

(She imitates Mickey Rooney's Asian acting)

Missy Goritry!! Missy Gorightry!!

(back to her own voice)

And we can never recover. She can gab on and on about the mean reds and the cat not having a name, but. Sorry. It's too late. The beginning has been irrevocably ruined. By bad casting. Right now, this story is beginning. And I don't even know it.

She is gone. ALEX is in a bathroom of a restroom the door opens

DIANE

I wonder, in these quiet introspective moments that inevitably happen during award ceremonies, how much of my life is spent sitting in these same ole gold bamboo catering chairs. We're in New York, which we of Los Angeles love, accepting awards from critics, which we love even more so. My client, a famous young movie star who suffers from a slight recurring case of homosexuality, informs me -- That as his date, are you possibly seated for this? As his date to this award ceremony, he would like to bring his mother. So no one will know that he's gay. So I throw a flame retardant blanket on this potential brush fire, and volunteer myself as his date. I'm Lesbian, he's a fag, we're in show business, we're a perfect couple. So we walk down the carpet, the flash of cameras the desperate, beseeching, death-bed-like cries, "Who are you wearing And I see his delight and warmth grow and flourish. The unmistakable moment when the outcast is allowed indoors. And all it takes is a little deception. Later, when I am in my golden bamboo chair moment of reverie, I realize that my evening's date is leaving our table and strolling towards the dais. He has won. His acceptance speech is inspired. Yes, there is the slight stumble when he forgets to thank the screenwriter who is credited and has just accepted the award not ten minute prior and, oops, does thank the writer he brought on to the project. But -- who cares, it involves screenwriters. And at the end. The part where the name of a deceased parent, a recent world horror or a terribly popular co-star is evoked -- he calls to me, choked with emotion, and extends an open palm. "To Diane," My client states, significant tears finding their lazy way down his derma-braised face. "the woman who taught me ... how to love And how ... to dream". And then. The silence. The vacuum of doubt The utter disbelief that pansy went there. But a roomful of show business professionals quickly recovers. Remembering that there are cameras everywhere, surely one of which will be broadcasting this moment because there are movie stars involved, the room obligingly produces a smattering of polite applause. And then, the realization that indeed, a dream must be kept alive, so -- Peter Pan to little fairy Tinkerbell's defense -- the room bursts, no explodes into applauding and cheering. And he walks down, presents his award to me, holds me in his masculine arms and kisses me full on the lips. And here's the part that is so luscious. I'm actually touched. I really like him, and he likes me and he's said that to everyone. And that kind of means something. Later when I'm in my hotel and watching one of the inevitable rebroadcasts of the event, my only wish -- is that when he announced our love, I didn't have such a look on my face of fucking shock.

DIANE is in her
chair. In an LA
restaurant at lunch.

DIANE

Act two, the second act. Again, I apologize for doing this over the phone, but I had to get back to LA – Yes I'm in LA, Mitch is still in the city. Decided to stay. I don't know what got into him. You should call him, he'd love to get together with you. I'm here, back in LA, in a restaurant and it turns out that lo and behold I am alone. Normally this would be a horror being alone in a restaurant filled with so much industry, but I just keep getting compliments and congratulations from people as they pass. And I have to tell you I am feeling awfully regal. They are excited about your movie being a play. There is a lot of excitement, and if not, there is a lot of resentment, which is even better. Now the second act of your play, I'm not going to tell you how to write this. You must know that in the theater, second acts tend to start off with a bang, an event or a recap. Or a reminder to turn off cell phones. Now, we don't have a problem with cell phones in the theater in this town. We've simply stopped doing theater all together. Choices were made. Where was I? Oh right, not telling you how to write. Now we've got to turn your second act into a second and third act. My rule of thumb is that in the first act you put your people in a tree, in the second act you throw stones at them while they're in the tree, and in the third act take them down from the tree. Now what I love, amongst the many things I love about your play, is that your tree is happiness.

LITTLE DOG LAUGHED
SIDES

ELLEN # 1

Lights up on ELLEN, at the front door of ALEX's apartment.

ELLEN

Oh. Hello. Mr. Santiago-Domingo –oh-oh. Alex isn't here right now. He should be back ... actually three days ago, actually but —

(realizing the land-lord barely speaks English)

Alex no esta aqui. Soy nombre es Ellen. Ellen es un Amiga de Alex y – do you people say crash in your land? I am crashing here. Si, crashing. Crashing and burning more likely. I'm just kinda sort getting it together here, I'm – in pursuit of happiness. It's in the "Declaration of Independence". No, I know, green card studies, so on it, right? Like what kind of eighteenth century notion is that I'm burdened with? You don't have to answer that Senor Santiago-Dominigo. Alex will come back to el abuelo – god I hope that's right – and I will tell him that you were – Oh, rent? Well – actually I could pay – I'm staying – crashing here for a spell so —

(opens purse and looks in)

you don't take plastic by any chance, do you? Excelente! Here — you know?

No, here.

(hands him a card)

Here, use this card.

MITCHELL

Sure whatever. I mean I hadn't done it for a while. But. I mean the last time was in the boy scouts. The last time was the first time.

The merit badge that dare not speak its name. When I think back on the whole time in the canvas tent and the outrageous co-seduction, and I have been a lot lately, I am overwhelmed with a sense of, well, arousal, but ultimately a kindling rage. The pleasures I learned there, however immediate, have .. hampered me. Have --Oh never mind.

And I never did it again. Oh you know, once or twice after that. Maybe fifteen. But I'm always drunk. And I date women. Who I never have sex with. ?

But these desires, that I learned in that tent, have just -- it's like, O.K. Do you know how whenever anybody starts to get all rhapsodic and shit about America and they get on that whole "In America you can be whatever you want to be?" But whenever you hear it, there's usually a catch in the throat of the speaker, because they know it's this complete self-deception. Like the fat girl with buck teeth who says, "Momma thinks I'm pretty". She also has that --

Because the unspeakable truth of it is, no. The only ones who can be whatever they want are white, upper middle class, straight, conservative, Protestant men. Pastiness and puffiness are optional. Everyone else is going to have these just utter hurdles thrown in their path. So if you grow up, as I did, with the whole above checks list intact, you know the world is but waiting for you. And then. But then. Comes a night in a tent when you're sixteen and these learned desires and you know if you pursue them the everything, the whatever you want is no longer waiting for you. I don't know.

I'd like to think not.

But I don't k now.

| | |
|--|----------|
| Hey. | MITCHELL |
| Uncle Steve? | ALEX |
| Uncle Steve? | MITCHELL |
| Your nephew. | ALEX |
| Your nephew? | MITCHELL |
| Can I crash? | ALEX |
| Can I ... crash? | MITCHELL |
| Is there an echo in here? | ALEX |
| Sorry. I'm -- I've been -- I'm confused. | MITCHELL |
| I'm Brian | ALEX |

MITCHELL
This is not helping.

ALEX
Your nephew.

MITCHELL
My nephew?

ALEX
Yeah.

MITCHELL
My nephew is seven years old. I am so lost.

ALEX
You're my uncle. I'm your nephew. Stuck in the city. I need a place to crash. There's only one bed.

MITCHELL
Do you have the right roo --

ALEX
Manhattan schoo-

MITCHELL
Manhattan schoolboys. I called them. From the T.V. The look of love was in my eyes. That's what the song says. In the background on the commercial. Oh my God.

ALEX
What?

MITCHELL
You're you.

ALEX
Right.

MITCHELL
Manhattan Schoolboys. Only why are you my nephew Brian? Do you want a drink? I'm having one.

ALEX
(unsure)
Uh ... no.

MITCHELL
Alright then, I'm having several.

ALEX
Look, do you want to be my uncle or not?

MITCHELL
Is there paper work?

ALEX
No.

MITCHELL
Then I'll be your uncle.

ALEX
'cause if you don't want a scene, then --

MITCHELL
I have no idea what's going on here. Wait a minute, I know what's going on here.
That word.

ALEX
Scene.

MITCHELL
Means?

ALEX
Acting out. Role playing.

MITCHELL
On the phone, the guy said "do you want a scene?" I thought it was
some sort of cool slang for a good time. "you wanna scene, man?" I hadn't the
foggiest -- I'm sorry. I hate myself. I'm drunk, I'm sorry, I hate myself and I had
no idea. And not in that order. Do you want a drink?

ALEX
I don't drink.

MITCHELL
Why? Did life suddenly get beautiful?

ALEX
No Not at all O.K., now do you want to --

MITCHELL

Oh yes. By all means. Let's get to know one another. So alleged nephew Brian, what do you do for a living?

Guess. ALEX

Opera supernumerary. MITCHELL

No. ALEX

I'm obnoxious, aren't I? MITCHELL

You're fine. ALEX

You want to have sex? MITCHELL

Two hundred dollars. ALEX

My. MITCHELL

Can you afford it? ALEX

Handily, my good man, handily.
(HE pulls out his money clip)

ALEX
So what do you do for a living ... Uncle Steve?

MITCHELL
I – uhm – who cares? You're cute. Do you think I'm cute? People say I look like a movie star

ALEX
Sure, you could be. You're a great looking guy.

MITCHELL
What was your question again?

ALEX

What kind of work do you do?

MITCHELL

My family owns a bla bah blah and I represent them on the eastern blah blah and blah blah blah blah blah. Blah blah. I'm someone's son. That's what I do for a living. Two hundred.

(HE hands it to ALEX)

You must be very good. At sex.

ALEX

That's not what people pay you for.

MITCHELL

What do people pay you for?

ALEX

To leave afterwards.

MITCHELL

That makes little or no sense.

(HE takes a swig of scotch)

That makes all the sense in the world.

ALEX

Let's get started.

MITCHELL

O.K. I'll get aroused.

ALEX

No scene? You don't wanna do any role play?

MITCHELL

You know? I just don't think so. I nearly ruined my senior class production of "You Can't Take It With You".

ALEX

O.K. Stay there. I'll get undressed. You get undressed. We'll get busy.

MITCHELL

Hmmm. Gala.

ALEX

You like music?

MITCHELL

Dear God, you aren't going to sing are you?

ALEX

No.

MITCHELL

That's nice.

(ALEX turns his back and starts to get undressed. MITCHELL curls up on the sofa and closes his eyes.)

Alleged nephew Brian?

ALEX

(Without turning around)

Yeah?

MITCHELL

I'm sorry I'm drunk.

ALEX

That's O.K.

(ALEX takes off his shoes. A slight "clunk" on the floor. This causes the sleeping MITCHELL to moan a little bit. ALEX mistakes this for sexual pleasure. HE acts along.)

Oh yeah.

(ALEX sensuously peels off his shirt. MITCHELL's head falls back. HE is fast asleep. As ALEX pulls off the tie from around his waist, MITCHELL lets out a snore. ALEX turns around.)

Ah man!

(ALEX walks over to see that MITCHELL is asleep. After seeing that HE is, HE reaches into the sleeping trick's jacket pocket. HE pulls out a packet of cigarettes. Useless. HE then reaches in and pulls out a full money clip of money. Now we're talking. HE takes all the cash and then slides the cigarettes and money clip back into the jacket. HE tip toes out, taking HIS shirt, tie and shoes on the way. MITCHELL stirs, making a little lip smacking baby noise. ALEX turns around and looks at this. It makes HIM smile. MITCHELL makes the noise again. ALEX makes the noise. MITCHELL makes the noise back. ALEX silently laughs a bit to himself. HE then looks back at the door and then at MITCHELL. ALEX casually walks over to MITCHELL pulls out the pack of cigarette. Finds a cigarette and returns the pack. Sits across from the sleeping john, lights the cigarette and stares at this man. With the coolness of a surgeon.

Lights down on them,
Lights up on ELLEN.

DIANE

The play hereafter referred to as the property.

ALEX

Anyway, she said the thing about buying a play, which made me think you were an actor. But I only knew your first name only. So when I left there was this maid down the hall with that cart. You know. Soaps. And I said, "Is the Mitch in 207, is that the Mitchell the actor?" And I made it sound like I was going to say your last name, like my whole body moved forward and she said, "Yeah, Mitchell Green." So then later, I was out with my girlfriend, who really isn't my girlfriend so much, and I asked her if she ever heard of an actor Mitchell Green and she said, "Oh sure." I'm sorry I haven't heard of you.

ELLEN is reading
from a computer.

ELLEN

"Mitchell Green July 8, 1968. Manhasset, NY, USA."

MITCHELL

Oh.

ALEX

Later, she crashed at my place and I was asleep.

ELLEN

"Known as much for his rigorous career choices as for his talent and chiseled good looks."

ALEX

And she got online and went to IMDB.

ELLEN

"Mitchell Green has been straddling the line between serious actor and leading man for some time now."

MITCHELL

Got ya.

ALEX

And then she went to sleep but left the computer on. I saw the light of the computer so I walked over and read some

ELLEN

"Green is rumored to be a frontrunner of the film version of the hit play –"

DIANE

The author hereafter referred to as the selling owner.

MITCHELL

So do you want to blackmail me or do you want to be a movie star yourself?

ALEX

Oh, fuck you, man. Fuck you. I just wanted you to know I know who you are, and that no one will ever know. About whatever is going on here. Which is nothing, by the way.

MITCHELL

Oh, OK. Well, thank you.

ALEX

Well, I should go. I just wanted to tell you that. And to say good-bye and have a nice flight.

(HE gets up to leave.)

MITCHELL

You never said if you had plans for tonight. As in off duty, as in non- professional. As in I don't know. Do you want to do something tonight?

DIANE

Without limitation all material, ideas or other tangible or intangible work products -
-

ALEX

Sure. I mean we could watch a movie here.

Lights up on ELLEN on a
subway.

ELLEN

~~I'm on the train, which Alex insists I call the subway, which is just a train~~
underground.

MITCHELL

No, I mean, go out.

ELLEN

And the woman next to me is looking through the paper slowly and widely, like she's invading my space with it, so I am sort of looking at the paper also.

ALEX

Sure, I guess. Like and do what?

MITCHELL

Like and see a play.

DIANE

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ALEX

I thought your ladyfriend didn't want you to go to the play with me.

DIANE

-- regarding motion picture, television --

MITCHELL

See the play with me.

DIANE

-- sequel, remake, video --

ALEX

But you have to leave tomorrow for --

MITCHELL

Maybe I'll stay for a while.

DIANE

digital video, laser disc, video game, computer game --

ELLEN

And the woman on the train, sorry subway, slowly and widely turns the page and there --

DIANE

Theme park rides, computer assisted media (including but not limited to --

ALEX

I'm not dressed to see a play.

MITCHELL

Then go home and change.

ELLEN

"Seen about town"

DIANE

And any other devices or methods now known or hereafter devised).

ALEX

It's too far I wouldn't make the show.

ELLEN

And do I have to tell you "seen" is spelled s-c-e-n-e?

MITCHELL

So, then go downstairs. There's one of those nice cheapy chain store jobs. I'll buy you --

ALEX

I can buy my own clothes.

DIANE

Media not yet known to man on every continent, island, oil rig, flight --

ELLEN

Hot property.

MITCHELL

I want to go out with you.

ALEX

Well, I don't know if --

MITCHELL

I want to go out with you. I don't care who sees what. I like you. I want to go out with you and see this stupid fucking play, which is supposed to be really good. And then I want to come back here, and undress you in your new fucking clothes and have you undress me and then crawl into the fucking bed, and I want to not be drunk and you not be working and to do stuff with each other and kiss you and then fall asleep in your arms.

ELLEN

Rising young actor, Mitchell Green, catches hit play with one of his buds.

ALEX

You got it all figured out, don't you?

ELLEN

Green is rumored to have purchased film rights.

DIANE

To the extent permitted by law, the undersigned hereby expressly waives any so-called "moral rights" as author of the material.

MITCHELL

It's what I want. I don't want any more bullshit in my life. I don't want to lie to myself. I want to be with you. I don't know what that means, but -- I said

something – in this meeting this afternoon, I mean something you just say to get what you want, but once I said it – It was like – It all didn't feel so awful.

ALEX

What did you say?

MITCHELL

I said I was –

(unable to say)

So, look, are you up to maybe tonight doing the stuff I mentioned and seeing what happens?

ALEX

I don't know. There's no place for food in that schedule of yours.

ELLEN

And I look over at "slow and wide's" paper and the picture is just of Mitchell Green, but on his right my left shoulder is a hand.

MITCHELL

We can grab a bite after the show.

ALEX

I don't know --

ELLEN

Like a hand warmly and intimately on his shoulder, a little too close to the neck.

ALEX

I don't know if this is what I want.

ELLEN

The hand, no doubt, of his "bud."

MITCHELL

Neither do I, but I'm leaving myself open to it for the first time to maybe be happy.

ELLEN

And on the wrist of that hand--

ALEX

I know what you mean.

ELLEN

A perfect little braided bracelet

MITCHELL

So what the fuck Let's try something.

DIANE

In perpetuity, in all languages and to the end of time --

MITCHELL

Lets try something with each other.

DIANE

And around the world.

ALEX

Happiness, huh? Jeez. I don't know.

DIANE

And throughout the universe.

ELLEN

And I know everything. And I feel nothing. Relieved, maybe. Maybe even happy.

DIANE

Well gentleman, it looks as if we're all happy. Lets take a fifteen-minute break and we'll sort this all out on our return.

END OF FIRST ACT

ELLEN

Alex, we don't have friends we are both far too snotty for that.

ALEX

New friends, I've developed new friends.

ELLEN

Alex.

ALEX

Sorry, what?

ELLEN

Alex. Just -- Alex. OK?

ALEX

I don't know what--

ELLEN

Alex. I know all about you and Mitchell Green.

ALEX

I don't know --

ELLEN

Don't you dare fucking lie to me. You're with Mitchell Green now.
(Long pause)

ALEX

So. How did you figure that out?

ELLEN

Because I have eyes in my head that work. I saw a picture of you two in a magazine. And you asked about him. So I saw the look in your eyes when you were talking about him. So. So, you have a rich money bag who for the first time is attractive. So hooray, take him for all he's worth. Whatever.

ALEX

Sure. Right.

ELLEN

Is that what you're doing?

ALEX

I don't know, yeah. Sure. Maybe.

ELLEN

You are so wise. Or what you could do, cause he's such a closet case, you could shake him down for money. I mean we could threaten to go to some tabloids and we could have a little scheme worked up. Make some cash. Shake him down. Take the money and run type scenario. Go move to some place on a beach.

ALEX

I don't think so.

ELLEN

Why not? It would be fun.

ALEX

Because it sounds kinda evil. And that doesn't sound like us. We've been a lot of things in the past, but we haven't been evil. I mean too much.

ELLEN

Oh. OK. Fair enough.

(looks at HIM for a moment)

I didn't think you were shaking him down anyway. I was testing you. Like a test of the emergency broadcast system.

(walks away, a brief pause)

You're in love with him, anyway, aren't you?

ALEX

I mean just, what is this world that you function under? I mean people are either there to be taken advantage of or are there to give you fulfillment? That's just completely borderline behavior there. I don't know what me and Mitch are about, we're just -- I found somebody nice who is here in this city for a finite amount of time, so -- We're just hanging out.

ELLEN

Right. Sorry. I'm sorry. Listen to me. I'm like some vile villainess or something.

ALEX

You're not.

ELLEN

I am. I go so bitchy so fast. Change my name to the Netherlands cause I get dark so fast. Isn't that what Lady Dementia used to say?

ALEX

Yeah she did. A lot. I miss her.

ELLEN

Miss her so much I miss so much. "You are just Miss miss", Lady Dementia used to say. Miss miss I miss us, too kinda. And I should, right? I feel—we're over, right? We're done with?

(ALEX walks over and kisses HER gently on the lips and says very quietly:)

ALEX

I am so sorry.

(SHE looks as if SHE is about to cry and then smiles and nods HER head)

ELLEN

I thought so. I figured.

ALEX

You can stay here as long as you want.

ELLEN

Thanks. We'll be friends then, right. I mean you're up for that?

ALEX

Totally.

ELLEN

And we'll – we will be friends. We always probably were in the first place. It's just we looked so impossibly good together, every one was under our spell. Even us. Well me.

ALEX

That's a good way to put it.

ELLEN

OK, good, then we will. Put it that way. For like future press releases and such.

ALEX

You are insane. And you are my best friend. So there..

ELLEN

We are right? Best friends. And best friends get to be so up in each others lives, so. So we'll still be together. So there.

ALEX

So there.

ELLEN

So And Mitchell Green?

ALEX

Yeah?

ELLEN

You guys are ... hanging out then?

ALEX
Right.

ELLEN
On a scale of one to ten. How big is he?

ALEX
I have a ribald best friend.

ELLEN
No, is he nice? What's he like?

ALEX
Well, he's good looking.

ELLEN
Duh. Big head movie star thing going on there?

ALEX
Not so much.

ELLEN
Well that's good.

ALEX
He's funny, he cracks jokes about a lot of stuff. And kind. And smart, he's read a lot and knows a lot from talking to noteworthy people, I guess. And pretty nice and pretty centered about most things, but you know, just damaged goods enough to keep it interesting.

ELLEN
And was he like a hetero before he met you, and then saw your overall prettiness just got seduced by you into doing the activities that makes Jesus weep. I'm just assuming, being Jewish here.

ALEX
I think, he didn't think that much about it. Like me, kind of. But then, but now we're with each other. And so we are. We -- we kinda just fit. I mean I guess that's where we are we're just hanging out and we're waiting for the next thing to happen, good or bad to kind of define it for us. What the hell, he doesn't even live here, he'll go back to LA for some movie or something and that will be that, I'm sure Single tear.

ELLEN
Single tear.

ALEX

goes off, MITCHELL turns it off, ALEX sits up and slides on HIS boxers and gets out of bed.

I should go.

ALEX

I should get going too. Got like a ton of errands, too. You?

MITCHELL

Work.

ALEX

Ahhh.

MITCHELL

Don't ahh me, man.

ALEX

Not. Just ... Ahhh.

MITCHELL

What?

ALEX

I mean even you have to admit -- after spending three or four days together, just the idea that you're going to go off and have sex with a bunch of other men is -- you know -- not un-odd.

MITCHELL

No, it is not un-odd. But what would I do for money?

ALEX

I make a ton of money. I can, you know, give you some. I'd do that for a friend.

MITCHELL

And what? Oh, I get to be like Hollywood pool boy. The kept boy. Mr. Green's assissstant.

ALEX

God. No. Stop that. I never said -- I never even thought that. You must have low self esteem.

MITCHELL

A prostitute with low self-esteem. What'll they think of next?

ALEX

MITCHELL

Don't say that about yourself. You know, if you wanted, I could -- I have friends, who hire people for jobs of like of the legitimate variety. Like I could call them and they could hire you.

ALEX

That should end in tears.

MITCHELL

It's uhm your call. So uhm -- today, how many --

ALEX

Clients?

MITCHELL

And the euphemisms fly.

ALEX

Three, no four. Two uncles today. Two plain.

MITCHELL

Pleasant.

ALEX

Why? You want me to quit?

MITCHELL

I can't tell you -- it's not my place to tell you. Or ask you. Do you want too, at all?

ALEX

The question was what do you want?

MITCHELL

What time do you think you'd be done? Around. . . .

ALEX

Did you want to see me -- later?

MITCHELL

God, talking to you, it's like sewing a button on cottage cheese. Yes. I would. Like to see you later. I guess, sure.

ALEX

Well I should get back home, run some quick errands. Pay rent. Ellen might be there. I think she's kind of taken over --

MITCHELL

Ahh. Uh huh. Ellen is your girlfriend.

ALEX

I don't have a girlfriend.

MITCHELL

And will you -- will Ellen -- be number ... five?

ALEX

OK.

MITCHELL

What?

ALEX

OK.

MITCHELL

What?

ALEX

OK, can I just say, OK. I see what you're doing here, OK? I mean you're hemming and hawing your way around the whole "being open to being happy and being content" thing. And I admit I'm all for it. But the thing of it is there's going to come a time when you're going to say "I just want to be with you and you to just be with me and --

MITCHELL

I think we are getting so far ahead --

ALEX

And I won't be able to do that. Or feel it. Because that part of me was torn down. You know, dismantled. So that there could be this magnificent structure which stands before you.

MITCHELL

Only do what you what you want to do. We're just two guys hanging out.

ALEX

Are we?

MITCHELL

Sure. Maybe. But like tomorrow are you free all day? I don't mean like free like no money, I mean free like open and available. Like it's just the two of us tomorrow, right?

ALEX

So far.

MITCHELL

So far. It's kinda hard to make plans around "so far".

ALEX

OK. Tomorrow I will be with you all day. I will have sex with four men today to pay rent and then I will meet my ex-girlfriend and we will not touch the parts that are different then I will come back here and I will spend the night with you and then spend all of tomorrow with you. There.

MITCHELL

I mean if you're up for it, if you want to, I'm not saying anything here but -
(ALEX stops HIM by kissing HIM)

ALEX

Why do you even have an agent? You're a really good negotiator. You got me to think about giving up my livelihood and about giving up my pre-existing personal life -- and you've put nothing of yours on the table. Hell, you haven't even brought anything up, have you?
(A quick kiss)

MITCHELL

I don't know what you're talking about.

ALEX smiles, then exits. DIANE is on speakerphone in HER office. MITCHELL is in his hotel room.

DIANE

Mitch.

MITCHELL

Diane.

DIANE

Darling Dear heart. Angel mine. Is there -- are we having some kind of communication problem? Is there something in the way that I speak that is unclear -- in any way?

MITCHELL

I don't -- what are you --