

To Love Again?

By

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This is to certify that the Capstone Project of

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FADE IN:

INT. PHILLIP'S RESIDENCE - NIGHT

KIERA PHILLIPS, early 20's is hosting a party for her husband MICHAEL. His face is plastered around the house, with posters titled, "Entrepreneur of the Year." He converses with CALVIN, his lawyer, and DENNIS, his neighbor. Michael is visibly distracted.

DENNIS

It's garbage, man. I'm embarrassed to live there. The walls are this ridiculous looking puke green. I get nauseous just thinking about. And did you see the front porch? What kind of self-respecting, football watching, blue-blooded American male would have an aqua green Venetian porch?

CALVIN

Just light a match and torch the sucker.

DENNIS

Wouldn't that be nice. I could take the money and run.

CALVIN

I'm telling you. Imagine sitting on the beach in Cayo Santa Maria, with a horde of half clad señoritas drinking Mojitos.

DENNIS

Nice! Cuba. My wife's been wanting a second honey moon for years.

CALVIN

Dude, forget about your wife. It's not that hard. My life is a nag free existence now. Then you can take me on your trip.

DENNIS

I'd never hear the last of it. What do you think Michael?

MICHAEL

Sounds like a plan to me.

DENNIS

You seriously think I should burn down my house?

MICHAEL

Wait, what? No, that's ridiculous.

DENNIS

Ahhh, newlyweds. Can't take your eyes off her, can you? I used to look at my wife like that. Don't worry, it'll wear off.

CALVIN

How do you say sprung in Cuban?

MICHAEL

Shut up, Cal. And don't burn down your house Dennis. I'll personally stop by next week to give you a quote. Thanks again for coming out tonight.

Michael leaves their conversation and walks toward Kiera. She's wearing an elegant, but sexy black dress.

KIERA

Hey sweetheart, great turnout.

MICHAEL

I don't recall buying that dress.

KIERA

You didn't. The waiter wasted champagne on my dress so the designer rushed this one over. I just told her to send something black. I wasn't expected something so...

MICHAEL

Revealing. Provocative. Borderline illegal.

KIERA

So uncomfortable. I don't understand why as women, we have to suck all of our body parts into a tube. But hey, even I can't say it's not stunning.

MICHAEL

I don't like it. Change into that dress from New Years.

KIERA

I tried that one, but it has gotten a little snug up top. We should definitely cut back on the dinner parties.

MICHAEL

I would love to, but networking is a part of the business. You don't have to attend every party.

KIERA

I like spending time with you. Even if I have to put on a dress and conjure up the grace of Jackie O. Plus, this one is not as bad as Martha's over there. She's practically inviting everyone to see what secrets Victoria is hiding in her breasts. And don't get me started on the Donovan mother and daughter tag team. They're both husband shopping tonight.

MICHAEL

You have no need to shop, so you can afford a do-over.

KIERA

Why would I look else where when I have everything I could possibly want?

She kisses him.

KIERA (CONT'D)

Now repeat after me. It's a beautiful dress Kiera. You look amazing darling.

MICHAEL

It's a beautiful dress, Kiera. You look sensational.

KIERA

Close enough. That's how you should start a conversation with the love of your life.

MICHAEL

Note taken, but if I catch anybody staring at you for more than 2 seconds...

She shuts him up with another kiss.

KIERA

Baby, you know I love you. Now stop focussing on me and get back to your guests. I'm going to step outside for a moment, I need some fresh air.

MICHAEL

I'll get your jacket, it's cold out there.

KIERA

That's OK. I need a bit of a kick.

MICHAEL

You feeling OK?

KIERA

Just feeling a little light-headed all of a sudden. Stop worrying, I see it in your eyes. I'm perfectly fine. Nothing a few moments outside won't cure.

MICHAEL

10 minutes, or I'm coming after you.

KIERA

Yes, dad. Jeesh, I'll be back in 9 1/2 minutes.

As Kiera is leaving out, TONY PHILLIPS, Michael's younger brother is coming in.

TONY

Hey Kee Kee, where you running off to?

KIERA

Just going outside for some fresh air.

TONY

Good, I'll come with.

Michael watches as the two leave, Calvin comes up behind him and pats him on the back.

CALVIN

Mannnnn, you are trusting. There's no way I'd let my wife spend that much time with another dude. Brother or not, that just ain't right.

MICHAEL

Don't start Cal, I'm not in the mood.

CALVIN

I'm sorry bro. No, disrespect. How about we spice this party up a little bit? I have Sasha, Dominic, Rochelle, Rosilina from (V)Benezuela, and Tatina from Brazil on speed dial. We can get this party started, for real.

MICHAEL

Really, with this crowd?

CALVIN

This is the best kind. They're all a bunch of closet freaks. You might want to send some of the dinosaurs home though. Old people freak me out.

MICHAEL

You need help bro. I bet the majority of your retainer is spent on women and alcohol.

CALVIN

Who pays for booze?.

He laughs, and grabs a glass of wine from the waiter passing by.

EXT. SIDEWALK BENCH - NIGHT

Kiera is bent over, Tony holds her hair back.

TONY

Had a bit much, huh? The part when it doesn't stay inside really sucks.

KIERA

No, no, I'm fine. Must have been something I ate. What are you doing here anyways? You said you weren't coming.

TONY

I knew you'd be bored without me. And I was totally right, since you're already sloshed.

KIERA

Oh, shut up.

TONY

So, I have some good news. I sold one of my paintings.

KIERA

What? That's amazing! And I bet they paid you more than 50 bucks.

TONY

Yea, you were right. I got 5 grand for it. And they want to commission me for 20 more pieces.

KIERA

Oh my goodness, God is so good!

TONY

There's one problem though. The company wants me in New York two weeks from today.

KIERA

What? No! That's too far. For how long?

TONY

A year, maybe two at the most.

KIERA

What am I going to do in this town without my best friend?

TONY

There's always something to do in Hot-lanta.

KIERA

You know I don't go into the city.
Too many cars and too many lanes.

TONY

I just need a break from here, a
new life, you know?

KIERA

I hate it, but it's an amazing
opportunity. You have my support
100%, but your butt better call,
text, or Skype me every day. Well,
not all 3 in one day, just one of
the above will be enough.

TONY

The first month, I'm going to do
all 3 until you're sick of me.

KIERA

Try me.

TONY

Bet! But hey, on the bright side,
me being gone will take some of the
pressure off you with Michael.

KIERA

You're definitely right about that
one. I hate being the reason you
two don't get along.

TONY

Don't do that, Kee Kee. He and I
hated each other long before you
came into the picture. I actually
see him more now, because of you.
Unfortunately, for him.

KIERA

Speaking of Michael, I better get
back in before he sends the
National Guard out for me.

TONY

I saw who I wanted to see, so I'm
heading home.

KIERA

Well, give me a hug Mr... I'm going
to miss you sooooo much.

She kisses him on the cheek and they hug. Michael walks outside, with Calvin right behind him.

CALVIN

Told you that chick couldn't be trusted. How you want this to go down? You take him from the left, and I take him from the right? Or you can snatch Kiera down by the hair and hold her while I beat up her boyfriend.

MICHAEL

If I go over there right now, somebody is dead, and I'm not sure who.

Michael leaves from the back of the porch. Kiera walks to the house just missing his departure.

KIERA

I bet Michael sent you out here for me?

CALVIN

Nope. Just came out here to look at the stars. It's a beautiful night to be alive, isn't it?

FADE TO BLACK

INT. PHILLIP'S KITCHEN - DAY

(6 years later)

Kiera is in the kitchen fixing a bowl of cereal for her son MICA. She hands him the bowl and he begins eating right away.

KIERA

You forgot to bless your food.

He closes his eyes for 2 seconds, while chewing.

MICA

Amen!

KIERA

Boy, you did not say your grace that fast.

MICA

Yes I did. I said a whole verse.

KIERA

Good food, good meat, thank God,
let's eat?

MICA

That was too long, I just said,
Jesus wept.

KIERA

Lord, help my child... That was not
good enough Mica.

MICA

Why not? If you're hungry enough,
you cry. Babies do it all the time.
Maybe Jesus was hungry and that's
why he wept.

KIERA

See, now that's why I'm teaching
Sunday school from now on.
Teenagers should not be in charge.

MICA

No. No. No. I'm learning really.
Jesus wept cause that Lazarus dude
died or something, but he came back
to life. So it's all good, now.
Happy, happy, baby Jesus.

KIERA

Seriously! Well, at least that's
something. I'm still going to your
class, Sunday.

MICA

Really, mom?

KIERA

Yes, really. Anyways, we're having
company today. Guess who?

MICA

Uugh, last time you asked that it
was Ms. Barbara. My cheeks are
gonna fall off my face. Can you
tell her to stop squeezing so hard?
It's child abuse.

KIERA

How about you tell that to her friend, Ms. Ermagene? You remember, the one with the switch right?

MICA

No, thanks. Can't wait to see Ms. Barbara.

KIERA

Luckily for you, you can see her at church Sunday. Today however, your uncle Tony wants to see you.

MICA

Cool, can we go go-carting? Please! Please! Please! Last time he came, you said I was too little to drive myself, and I've grown 2 inches.

He runs to the wall and measures himself.

MICA (CONT'D)

See mom, I know I can whoop his butt if you let me drive.

KIERA

Boy, have you lost your mind this morning. Watch your language, cause the only one whipping bottoms around here is gone be me.

She glares at him and lifts her eyebrow, mimicking The Rock.

MICA

Sorry, mom.

Seconds later, he lifts up his face with sad, little puppy dog eyes.

MICA (CONT'D)

Please mom, I will love you forever!

KIERA

He's staying here a couple of weeks, so you'll have plenty of time to do whatever you guys want. As long as it's not too dangerous, too loud, and there isn't too much sugar involved.

Mica does a happy dance with his spoon.

CUT TO:

INT. PARIS HOTEL - DAY

A well-dressed Michael is in his hotel room in Paris, drinking his morning coffee and reading the newspaper. There is a knock at the door, but he ignores it. The knock becomes persistent. He gets up and yanks the door open.

RECEPTIONIST (FRENCH ACCENT)
 Sorry for the interruption Mr. Phillips, but we have been dialing your room for the past 2 hours and no one is picking up.

MICHAEL
 There's a reason for that. I don't want to be disturbed.

He closes the door, but she stops it with her foot.

RECEPTIONIST
 I understand Monsieur, but you have a letter that is marked urgent. We thought that it may be of some importance to you, no?

Michael takes the letter covered with several marked postage stamps. Michael opens up the letter and reads it. The receptionist leaves.

INSERT: Dad's dead. Happy now?

Michael balls up the paper and throws it away. He walks to the door and looks out. The receptionist is waiting for the elevator.

MICHAEL
 Get my bill, I'm checking out.

INT. KEIRA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

A knock on her door interrupts Kiera while she flat irons her hair. She makes a ponytail at the top of her head, and goes to open the door. It's Tony.

TONY
 What is going on with that head of yours, I didn't know you were part unicorn?

He reaches up to ruffle her hair but she quickly dodges him.

KIERA

You're getting even more immature
in your old age.

She takes the ponytail down, and combs her hair with her fingers.

TONY

Gotta love a low maintenance girl.

KIERA

Was that supposed to be an insult?

TONY

A compliment. Now come downstairs,
we are starting a new ritual.
Morning video game time.

KIERA

Mica doesn't even have a video game
system.

TONY

Luckily for the both of you, I
brought my Wii. Save your thank-
you, that's what I'm here for. You
know, to corrupt the young minds of
America. Now come on.

Tony grabs her arm and drags her to the living room.

MICA

I figured out how to get it
started.

TONY

See, the kid is learning already.

"Who Let the Dogs out" begins to play.

TONY (CONT'D)

Don't just listen to the music, use
your body.

MICA

What do I do?

TONY

Just follow the funny looking dude,
and move your arms like him.

Tony demonstrates.

TONY (CONT'D)

Alright, you got it. Work it, work it. Kiera, if you don't get your butt off the couch and come shake something, we gone fight.

KIERA

You know I don't like to dance.

TONY

We're family here, it doesn't matter if you can't dance.

MICA

Come on mom, it's fun.

KIERA

O, I didn't say I couldn't dance, I said I don't dance. Two different things. I know how to shake it, I just choose to not let things jiggle that should remain solid.

TONY

Are you serious? Girl, get your butt over here now.

KIERA

OK, fine. I will try it, but not this song.

TONY

Deal.

Tony switches through a couple of different songs.

KIERA

That's the one.

TONY

You have to be kidding me.

KIERA

No, this use to be my jam. I had the pants and the vest. This lady down the road sold me the whole suit for 10 bucks. I was pretty fly.

TONY

No one uses fly anymore. Alright let's see this fly-ness.

Music starts playing. Kiera starts to dance.

TONY (CONT'D)
Go girl, you got it.

MICA
What kind of moves are those?

TONY
It's hammer time.

MICA
What's a hammer time?

TONY
Kid, we have to educate you on the classics.

Kiera dances to the game.

KIERA
O my goodness, how long is this song? I feel like I'm about to die.

TONY
See, it's a workout. You should buy one.

KIERA
Get over here and dance with me. I'm not going to suffer on my own.

MICA
I want to try it too.

KIERA
Come on.

As the 3 dance, the door opens. Michael enters and watches in silence. When the song ends he claps, slow and loud. Mica is the closest person to him.

MICHAEL
So kid, what's your name?

Kiera stands frozen. Tony moves in front of Mica.

TONY
Mica, go to your room.

He looks back at his mom, who still hasn't moved.

TONY (CONT'D)
Now!

Mica runs to his room.

MICHAEL

Your girlfriend looks like she's about to faint. You better catch her.

Tony walks over to Kiera and tries to take the remote from her hand. He speaks to her like a child.

TONY

Kee Kee, it's OK. Let me have the remote. Mica's probably really confused right now, and he needs you. So go upstairs.

Kiera leaves the room.

MICHAEL

That was cute.

TONY

I guess this means you remember where you live?

MICHAEL

And the key still fits.

TONY

Yea, I'll fix that tomorrow.

MICHAEL

As far as I'm concerned, this is still my house. It's time for you to leave.

TONY

No one is going anywhere. You abandoned this house and everyone in it. You have no rights here.

MICHAEL

My name is still on the deed, so yea, I do. But hey, I'm a nice guy. I'll give you 24 hours to get out, for the kid's sake. He can't help who his parents are.

Michael leaves.

INT. KEIRA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Kiera sits on the side of her bed with her face in her lap. Mica takes her hand. A moment goes by.

MICA

You, OK mom?

KIERA

Mommy's OK. I was just upset because I saw someone that I haven't seen in a really long time. It surprised me.

She gives him a huge bear hug.

MICA

That was my dad?

KIERA

Yes, it was. How did you know?

MICA

One time I was in here with uncle Tony when you were gone. We searched for my Christmas present cause he said we need to always check for what's not under the tree. I found your box under the bed.

KIERA

From now on, everything your uncle tells you to do, I want you to check with me first. Got it!

MICA

Yes, ma'am. I'm sorry. I wanted to tell you that I knew, but I didn't want to make you sad again. Uncle Tony said you don't talk about it, so if I had questions about my dad I should ask him.

KIERA

I should have been the one to tell you Mica, I'm sorry. No more secrets. Pinky swear.

MICA

Yes, ma'am. No more secrets.

They pinky swear.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Tony is sitting on the couch, Kiera enters. He gets up to hug her but she pushes him away.

KIERA
Stay away from me.

TONY
I know you're in shock, but it's
me, Tony.

KIERA
I know who you are. How could you
betray me?

TONY
Huh! What did I do?

KIERA
You've been talking with Mica about
his father.

TONY
Someone had to, the kid didn't pop
up from fairy dust.

KIERA
You had no right.

TONY
Kee Kee, why are you mad at me?
Shouldn't you be mad at the guy who
walked out on you 6 years ago?

KIERA
I'm more than mad at him, but he's
not here, you are.

TONY
If that's the case. Let me be your
band-aid. Rip it baby.

He opens up his arms and give her a huge cheeky smile.

KIERA
Argggghhh. I hate you. Why'd you
have to ruin my anger buzz?

TONY
Just come here.

They embrace.

KIERA
I can't believe he's back. What
happened? Where has he been?

TONY

I don't know. He only stayed long enough to tell me he wants us out in 24 hours.

KIERA

Are you serious?

TONY

Yea, I'm going to stay at dad's place. You guys come too. Stay there as long as you want.

KIERA

He has really lost his ever-loving mind. I'm not leaving my home. Watch Mica for a few hours, I'll be back.

TONY

You're going to see him aren't you? Do you think that's a wise decision?

KIERA

You mean now that I'm mad enough to cause bodily harm. Yep, seems like a good time.

TONY

Just checking. Be safe.

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY - DAY

Kiera walks down the hallway, holding a large envelope. She stops in front of a door and knocks. Michael answers.

MICHAEL

What do you want Kiera? You're not going to convince me to give you more time to play house.

KIERA

I've been playing this scene over and over in my head, trying to figure out what I'd say to you if you ever came back. You know, they say there's 5 stages of grief: Denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. I hit them all when my sister died at a pretty fast rate.

(MORE)

KIERA (CONT'D)

Loosing her was difficult, but she didn't choose to leave me or Tony. But you. My husband. I never expected you to hurt me like that.

MICHAEL

Really, I hurt you?

KIERA

Yea, there was denial, eh, maybe a little bit of depression after my son was born. But I refuse to bargain or accept anything you have to offer. You can stay lost in whatever hole you crawled yourself out of.

MICHAEL

One man's depression is another man's vindication.

KIERA

Why did I even consider talking to you? It wouldn't phase you if I cried, screamed, or begged. Once your mine is set on something, it's done.

MICHAEL

Interesting, I see you've grown a taste for the dramatics.

KIERA

Dramatics! I had to Google you to make sure you were alive. Apparently you can't declare you're husband missing or dead if he's overseas building stuff.

MICHAEL

A dead man can't pay your bills.

KIERA

I'm done talking to you. Here, just take this, it's probably what you came for anyways.

She hands him the envelope.

MICHAEL

What's this?

KIERA

It's the divorce papers. I signed them a few years back, and I have no idea why I held onto them. Pretty stupid I guess. For a second there I thought you were confused, or had amnesia, and the only thing you remembered was your work. That whole denial thing was pretty strong for a while.

MICHAEL

Looks like it still is.

KIERA

Just take the papers, then you are free to marry whatever poor girl you choose.

Michael skims the documents. As he reads, a tall exotic looking WOMAN comes up behind him and wraps her arms around his torso.

Kiera takes an awkward step back.

WOMAN

Who's your little friend Michael?

A hurt expression appears on Kiera's face, she turns away, but not before making eye contact with Michael. He unbuckles the woman's hands from around his waist and pushes her to the side.

MICHAEL

She's no friend of mine, she's just my wife. Or so she claims.

WOMAN

Your wife?

KIERA

Sure, he liked it enough to put a ring on it. If you play your cards right, you can get one too... Why wait, I'm done with this one? Take it.

Kiera takes her wedding ring out of her pocket and hands it to the woman. The woman takes the ring and leaves.

MICHAEL

You know you just handed her a hundred grand right?

KIERA

It was time to get rid of the trash.

MICHAEL

Are we done here now? These aren't even the same papers I sent. It says irreconcilable difference. Is that what they're calling adultery these days?

KIERA

What do you mean?

MICHAEL

It means you lied about Tony just being your friend. And by the size of that kid, the ink wasn't even dry by the time he knocked you up.

KIERA

That's nonsense. I had my husband's child. I've never even been with anyone else, let alone Tony.

MICHAEL

Righttttttt, game over Kiera. I saw you that night at the party. You were all over each other.

KIERA

You're kidding me! You left me and our life together because I hugged your brother goodbye. The same guy who postponed his dream job for 4 years, to take care of your child. Wow. You should feel dumb. Real dumb!

MICHAEL

I know what I saw.

KIERA

You saw what you wanted to see. But it's over now, good to know how you really felt about me. Stay away from me, and stay away from my son. And don't come to my house again. The locks are getting changed first thing in the morning.

Michael watches her leave, his expression is unreadable. After the elevator doors close, he calls Calvin.

SPLIT SCREEN

INT. MICHAEL'S APARTMENT/CALVIN'S OFFICE - DAY

CALVIN
Calvin Davis, attorney at law.

MICHAEL
Hey, Cal. I need you to figure out what Kiera's trying to pull.

CALVIN
Kiera? You've been in contact with her?

MICHAEL
Yea, I'm back home.

Calvin gets up from his desk and starts pacing and packing items, while holding the cordless phone.

CALVIN
I didn't know you were coming back. Your ex and that brother of yours causing trouble again?

MICHAEL
Yea. You were suppose to be my eyes and ears man. You didn't even bother to tell me my father died.

CALVIN
Sorry to hear about your dad man. You know I would have told you if I'd known. What's she saying?

MICHAEL
That we have a kid. That's not possible, is it?

CALVIN
That's the first I've heard of it. I'll look into it, ASAP.

Calvin hangs up the phone. He grabs the rest of his items and rushes out of the office.

EXT. PHILLIP'S RESIDENCE - AFTERNOON

Michael is parked in a car outside of his wife's house. The front door springs open, and out rushes Mica, with Kiera following behind.

As he continues to watch, Kiera looks over at the car but he ducks down in the seat. A few moments later Michael drives away. Down the road, he takes out his cell phone ear piece and presses the button.

MICHAEL
Call Calvin Davis.

BLUETOOTH (V.O.)
Calling Calvin Davis.
(Pause, then a click)
We're sorry, but the number you are
calling has been disconnected.

CUT TO:

INT. S.P.I.F. INVESTIGATION - DAY

Michael walks into the office. NANCY, the receptionist is startled as he walks past her and to a door that says JACK SPROUSE. Jack is a 20ish, confident, female Private Investigator.

NANCY
Wait, you can't just...

He opens the door. Jack is looking into a file cabinet. The receptionist runs in behind Michael.

NANCY (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, he just barged in here
like he was the police. I couldn't
find my Taser, I must have left it
in the car.

MICHAEL
I need to speak to your boss. Where
is he?

JACK
You're looking at him.

MICHAEL
You're a woman?

JACK
You don't say. Hmmm, Nancy, can you
cancel that prostate exam for me.
Guess I won't be needing to check
the boys.

MICHAEL
No disrespect, ma'am.

JACK

Ouch, now that's disrespectful. The name is Jacqueline, but Jack gets me the good ole boys like yourself.

MICHAEL

I was told that Jack Sprouse is the best. And if you're him or her, you're the person I need to see.

JACK

You can go now, Nancy. You're lucky, the last guy that came through here ended up unconscious for 3 hours. You have the floor, talk.

MICHAEL

I need to find my lawyer. He skipped town with my wife's divorce settlement and never bothered to tell me that I was still married, have a son, or that my father was dead. I want him found, and I want him destroyed. Will you help me?

JACK

He sounds like a winner. Exactly the kind of guy I like to see cry. You've got yourself a P.I.

INT. PHILLIP'S RESIDENCE - NIGHT

There is a knock on the door.

Kiera sits on the couch in her pajamas. She looks out the window and sees her bag of Chinese food. She opens the door, and in walks Michael with her food.

KIERA

Why do you have my food?

MICHAEL

I was at the restaurant when you made your order. I offered to bring it to you.

KIERA

That should be illegal.

MICHAEL

Not if you leave a \$100 dollar tip.

KIERA

Why are you here Michael?

MICHAEL

We need to talk.

KIERA

I have nothing left to say.

MICHAEL

We're still married.

KIERA

That's not something that's new to me.

MICHAEL

But it's new to me.

KIERA

I don't believe there is a need to discuss that, we won't be for much longer.

MICHAEL

Just let me stay for a minute. I know saying I'm sorry isn't enough to give us back what we lost, but I'm saying it anyway. I'm sorry for not trusting you, and most of all for forcing you to raise our son alone.

KIERA

I wasn't alone, I had Tony and my church. And your father adored his grandson.

MICHAEL

There is a divorce settlement that I thought you were receiving. I want to repay that to you.

He hands her a check.

KIERA

Nothing says I'm sorry I abandoned you and our kid like a check for 2 million dollars.

She looks him in the eyes and rips the check in half.

KIERA (CONT'D)

Get off my property before I call
the police.

MICHAEL

Calvin gave me all the paperwork.
He said the divorce was finalized.
And every month I signed a check
for you. He'd tell me what you were
wearing, which was always blue
jeans and a T-shirt or your alumni
sweater. Even though I hated you,
every check I signed meant that you
would be provided for, and I would
get a chance to know that you were
well.

KIERA

I don't care about Calvin's part in
it at all. You didn't have enough
value for our relationship to talk
to me face to face.

MICHAEL

At least take my card. It has my
cell-phone number on it. I would
like to set up a schedule so I can
get to know Mica. Next Saturday
should give him long enough.

KIERA

Fine, next week.

EXT. PHILLIP'S RESIDENCE - SUNDAY MORNING

As Michael lifts his hand to knock on the door, Kiera opens
it.

KIERA (CONT'D)

What are you doing here, I thought
you said next week?

Mica appears beside her.

MICHAEL

Hi, son.

MICA

Hi.

MICHAEL

I just wanted to give you guys a
ride to church. No strings
attached.

KIERA

You don't even go to church.

MICHAEL

Part of our problem was, I didn't take the time to get to know you in your world. If not for you, I can at least do this for my son.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

The choir is singing as they walk in together. Curious stares follow them to their seat. PASTOR FRANKLIN, 30's, stands at the podium.

PASTOR FRANKLIN

Thank you choir for that beautiful selection. At this time, we will release the children for youth ministry.

Kiera takes Mica's hand and exits as the other kids walk out. Michael follows them as well.

KIERA

You stay for the service, I'm supervising the kids today. They only let the parents participate.

MICHAEL

I'm a parent, aren't I?

KIERA

Uggggh, whatever.

MICA

You can sit by me dad.

KIERA

You go, they don't need the both of us.

Kiera walks away.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE CHURCH - DAY

Michael and Mica hold hands.

Seventy-year-old BARBARA JENKINS, hugs Michael, and pats on his cheek.

BARBARA

Make sure you bring your family
over for dinner real soon now. We
so happy to have you here with us.

Kiera walks away while she is talking.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

Where you going chile?

MICHAEL

She has a headache. I will most
definitely bring my family over for
that dinner.

INT. MICHAEL'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

KIERA

Did you have fun in there?

MICHAEL

Sure did. Your pastor wants to
remarry us. He doesn't like that we
eloped. Says we need God's
protection over our nuptials to
make it stick.

KIERA

Never going to happen.

Mica interrupts them.

MICA

Mom, I'm hungry, can we get
something to eat?

KIERA

Yea. We can pick up take-out. I'm
pretty sure you have more important
things to do Michael.

MICA

Can we go to the Barbecue Palace?

MICHAEL

Barbecue sounds really good. Let's
go.

MICA

Mom ask Uncle Tony if he wants to
come.

She blows out a loud breath.

KIERA
I'll see if he's busy.

MICA
Put it on speaker phone, I wanna
talk too.

Tony answers after the first ring.

TONY
Hey. I was just dialing you guys.
What's up?

KIERA
I have you on speaker phone. Your
nephew and I wanted to know if you
could do lunch.

TONY
I'm starving. Sorry I missed
church, I was going through some of
dad's old stuff and lost track of
time. You doing BBQ or Chinese?

MICA
The Q.

TONY
That's what's up. I can be there in
about twenty minutes. Fifteen if
Mica admits that I'm going to whoop
his tail in table hockey.

MICA
No way old man, you're going down.

KIERA
There is a catch though, it's not
my idea, but your brother will be
there too.

Silence.

TONY
See you soon.

INT. RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON

The restaurant is filled with the Sunday crowd. Mica chooses a booth at the back, near the game room. Kiera sits down first, expecting Mica to sit right beside her.

MICA
 Hey dad, you should sit next to
 mom.

Michael takes his orders and sits down. Tony arrives.

TONY
 Sup youngin, you ready to get
 smashed?

MICA
 Whatever Oldilocks!

TONY
 Order the usual, Kiera. Come on
 mini-me.

After they leave, Kiera moves a little closer to the wall.

MICHAEL
 I hired a Private Investigator.

KIERA
 Are you investigating me?

MICHAEL
 No. Not for you, to find Calvin.

KIERA
 Forget that question. Why would you
 investigate me?
 (weary laugh)
 God, I need sleep.

MICHAEL
 You're not sleeping?

KIERA
 Don't look at me like that.

Kiera raises her hand to the waiter.

KIERA (CONT'D)
 Waiter...Waiter. Can we switch from
 a booth to a table? It's a little
 stuffy over here.

INT. PHILLIP'S RESIDENCE - EVENING 3 DAYS LATER

Kiera paces around the telephone.

KIERA (CONT'D)
 Come on, Kiera. You can do this.
 It's one phone call.

She walks to the phone, picks up the receiver and looks at it for a moment. She dials the number.

KIERA (CONT'D)

Hey Chad, it's me Kiera. You remember that date you asked me on a couple of weeks ago? Yes, the one I turned you down for. Don't rub it in, I know. Yea, let's go soon. OK, see you this weekend.

She hangs up the phone.

KIERA (CONT'D)

Why did you do that? Do you really think he is going to distract you from your feelings? And, why are you talking to yourself?

She throws her hands up in the air.

KIERA (CONT'D)

You're nuts. Relax, it's only one date. Going out will do you some good.

She picks up the phone again.

KIERA (CONT'D)

Tony, will you do me a favor? Watch Mica Friday night. You can, great. Thanks.

EXT. PHILLIP'S RESIDENCE - DATE NIGHT

Kiera opens her door. It's Michael.

MICHAEL

You've been avoiding my calls. We need discuss my spending more time with Mica.

KIERA

We can do that another day, I'm leaving as soon as your brother gets here.

MICHAEL

No Tony tonight, you're stuck with me. He had a problem at the art gallery in New York. He asked me to watch Mica. What are your plans, you got a hot date?

He laughs, but her expression stops it.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

I never asked if you were seeing someone. How long have you known this guy?

KIERA

I've worked with Chad for four years. I pull a few of his kids for speech.

MICHAEL

Four years huh. Is it serious? How many dates have you been on?

KIERA

That's none of your business.

MICHAEL

What a person wears on their dates tells you what to expect of them. On our first date you wore a cute sun dress and sandals. My first thoughts were: Natural beauty, caring, and no drama.

KIERA

Two out of 3 ain't bad. You had on a suit and tie. That means you're always about your business.

MICHAEL

I had tickets to the ballet that night.

KIERA

Why didn't you tell me, I could have changed.

MICHAEL

You were too cute, I didn't want you to. We had our first kiss that night at Piedmont. Probably wouldn't have happened if you'd spent your time bawling over an Italian woman getting shot.

KIERA

OK wardrobe whisperer, this is officially my first date with Chad.

MICHAEL

And that's what you are wearing?

KIERA

Yes, what's wrong with it?

MICHAEL

It doesn't do you any justice. You look like a mom.

KIERA

I am a mom.

MICHAEL

Sure, but you're a gorgeous mom. You can be eloquent and beautiful, without showing too much skin.

KIERA

Have you been drinking?

MICHAEL

I wouldn't do that and come watch our son. I know you haven't forgiven me, but we can at least try to be friends. In fact, I want to prove to you that my jealous streak is gone.

KIERA

Oh really?

MICHAEL

Right now, you're covered from head to toe. That screams, I don't want to get close, and I don't want to be here.

KIERA

Fine. I'll change.

INT. PHILLIP'S RESIDENCE - LATER

Kiera enters the room in the dress she wore the last night Michael left town. Michael's ticked.

The doorbell rings and she starts walking towards it. Michael moves quickly to answer it for CHAD, 20's, eye candy.

MICHAEL

Hello there, so what plans do you have for my wife tonight?

CHAD
(steps back)
I thought she was your sister-in-law.

KIERA
No, you're thinking about Tony.
This is actually Michael, Mica's
father. He's the nanny for tonight.

MICHAEL
You touch her and body parts will
go missing.

KIERA
He's just joking. He loves the
dramatics.

She places her hand on Chad's arm, and pushes him out the door.

INT. CHAD'S CAR - NIGHT

Chad turns the ignition, and puts the car in gear.

KIERA (CONT'D)
Sooooooooo, my ex and I are still
married, and I really needed a
distraction from him. I'm sorry I
pulled you into this soap opera
called my life. If you want, you
can drop me off at the restaurant,
and I'll take a cab back.

Chad speeds up the car.

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - LATER

The restaurant is beautiful, but the atmosphere is dry. The two wait for their food in silence before the RESTAURANT WAITER comes in.

RESTAURANT WAITER
Can I get you something to drink?

CHAD
A coke.

KIERA
Wine for me. Just bring the whole
bottle. I'm not driving.

RESTAURANT WAITER

Your orders will be out in a moment.

KIERA

You know you don't have to stick around. I can find my way back home.

CHAD

No use letting good reservations go to waste. Does he live with you?

KIERA

No, he stays at one of his hotels.

CHAD

Your husband owns a hotel?

KIERA

Ehhh, maybe 1 or 2.

CHAD

Well, how many is it? 1 or 2.

KIERA

More like 12 in America. Not sure about overseas. He doesn't run them per say. Technically he finds run down hotels, rebuild and restores them, and hire other folks to run them.

CHAD

Are you kidding me, you waste your time on a job making 40 grand a year and your husband owns hotels. What is wrong with you?

KIERA

It's complicated. And life isn't always about what you can buy. Look, I don't want to talk about Michael anymore.

CHAD

Waiter, bring us another bottle of wine. And the number to a taxi. We need to uncomplicate some things.

Kiera picks up her glass for a toast.

EXT. PHILLIP'S FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

Chad escorts Kiera to the front porch, as the taxi waits.

KIERA

I really had a wonderful time.
Don't forget church Sunday, and
bring your little girl. I would
love to meet her.

She leans in to hug him, but to her surprise, he leans her back, and gives her a Hollywood kiss. He places his hand on her mouth, and kisses it. The front door rips open.

MICHAEL

Kiera!

CHAD

That's my cue. I better run, before
your hubby Hulks out.

Chad jogs to the cab. Kiera walks into the house, Michael follows.

MICHAEL

That, is not going to happen again.

KIERA

You have no right to determine what
will and will not happen here.

MICHAEL

I have every right.

In an instant Michael has her pinned against the door with his body pressed against hers.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Every right.

He kisses her aggressively, but she stands there stern face with no reaction. He pulls away from her mouth and stairs into her angry face. He moves back in with a new tactic. Slow, sensual kisses. She wraps her arms around his neck.

FADE OUT.

INT. KIERA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Kiera wakes up smiling. The smiling stops when she sees Michael staring at her.

MICHAEL

You still talk in your sleep. I felt like a voyeur listening to you, but I couldn't help myself. Especially when you call my name.

She starts to get out of the bed, but Michael holds on to her.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

You are perfection.

KIERA

Get off me, I need to get up.

He tries to kiss her, but she turns her face. He kisses her neck instead.

MICHAEL

Mmmmm. You smell good.

KIERA

Michael, I'm serious. Let me up.

He tries to kiss her again, but she rolls to the side, her elbow makes contact with his eye. Michael rolls over in pain. Kiera rushes to the bathroom.

Michael walks to the bathroom door and beats on it.

MICHAEL

Open the door.

INT. KIERA'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kiera slides to the floor, with her back against the wall.

KIERA

I need you to leave. And stop banging on the door, Mica is sleep.

MICHAEL

Not till you tell me what just happened in there.

KIERA

I had a lot to drink last night. You were just the guy who was here. Don't make this more than it really is.

MICHAEL

I'm not just some random guy, but I get it you're upset this little game of yours just blew up in your face. This isn't over Kiera, no matter what you keep telling yourself.

Michael leaves.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING - 6 WEEKS LATER

Kiera frantically tries to get Mica dressed.

KIERA

Hurry up Mica, we need to go.

She goes into the kitchen, and throws the telephone into his lunch kit. Mica watches her in confusion. His hair is wild, his cloths are wrinkled, and he has on mix-matched socks. Kiera is moving around quickly, walking back and forth.

MICA

Mom, are you OK, cause you're acting really, really, really, really, really, weird?

She ignores him. Mica stands on his chair.

MICA (CONT'D)

Hello, Earth calling Mom. School starts at 8:30.

Clock shows its 7:00.

MICA (CONT'D)

If I go too early I have to sit in the kiddy room with the pre-k kids until Mrs. Nelson shows up.

He takes the phone out of the lunchbox and waves it at her. She stops and looks at her son's disheveled state.

KIERA

I'm so sorry Mica, your old Mom has a lot on her mind. How about we go back up stairs and give this getting ready thing another try.

INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

MICA

Are you sure you're alright mom? I can stay home from school today if you want, no worries.

KIERA

Good try mister. I have a speech session at noon, so I'll see you later hun.

She leans over to kiss him.

MICA

Ewww mom, not here.

KIERA

Get your little hinny out of my car.

MICA

I love you too mom. Glad you are feeling better.

Kiera looks at the dashboard. It's 8:15. She drives away.

RESET TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT - 1 HOUR LATER

Kiera is in a convenience store stalking the aisles. She picks up a basket, keeps her head down.

She walks to the pregnancy test rack and stops in front of a variety of boxes. She grabs 5 different brands, and place them in her basket. She bumps into the buggy of a little old woman and one test falls out. Kiera picks it up and places it under her arm.

She walks over to the CASHIER and hands him her basket. The old women has followed her to the line, and taps the box under her armpit with her walking stick. Kiera hands it to him. He scans the tests. Kiera looks at the register screen for the cost, and hands him the money.

The woman continues to stare at her.

KIERA

Don't judge me.

The woman shrugs her shoulder and grunts.

CASHIER

Here is your change ma'am. Hope everything turns out alright.

She nods her head and leaves store.

INT. SCHOOL RESTROOM STALL- DAY

Kiera sits on a closed toilet, looking at the final pregnancy test. The other four boxes are in the trash can.

Kiera stares at the plus sign on her stick.

INT. KIERA'S OFFICE - DAY

Kiera's going through paper work in her office when her cell-phone rings. Michael's name shows up on the ID, she lets it go to voice mail. She waits a moment before checking the message.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

Hey, Kiera. I'm back in town. I was hoping I could come see Mica in the morning. Call me back.

Mica enters the office.

MICA

Hi mom.

KIERA

Hey hun, how was your day?

MICA

Good, we got our art projects back. See!

He holds up the pictures.

KIERA

They're fantastic, son. You're uncle better watch out, pretty soon you'll be taking his job.

MICA

Really?

KIERA

Yes, they're great.

MICA

Was that dad on the phone?

She gets up and starts gathering her stuff for the day.

KIERA

Yes, he's back in town. If you want, you can spend Saturday with him while I work in the office.

MICA

Oooh, can we stop by on the way home? I want to give him a picture. Please!

KIERA

Fine.

INT. HOTEL - EVENING

Michael and Jack are in his hotel room going over files.

JACK

With the testimony of the woman he hired to cash Kiera's checks, we officially have enough evidence on him. He's committed career suicide and will never work in this industry again. And to top it off, all of his accounts have been frozen.

MICHAEL

Good, I'm ready for this to be over with.

JACK

You should have been back home a long time ago.

MICHAEL

I was helping with the investigation.

JACK

I'm a professional, I know how to do my job. But this was something you needed to see through personally. I understand. You should call her again.

MICHAEL

I did earlier, she's still ignoring me. I haven't even decided what I'm going to say when she finally picks up.

JACK
It's not like you ran off this
time, you talked to your son
everyday. You deserve your happy
ending.

A knock at the door interrupts their conversation.

JACK (CONT'D)
Great, room service.

Jack opens the door. It's Kiera and Mica.

KIERA
I'm sorry, I must have the wrong
room.

She looks on the door again.

JACK
No problem. Did you see a room
service guy out there anywhere, I'm
starving?

Kiera sees Michael, but he doesn't see her.

KIERA
Not, again!

JACK
What?

Michael appears behind Jack with his wallet opened. He smiles
when he sees Kiera. She doesn't.

KIERA
We're sorry, if this is a bad time.
We'll come back later.

Mica interrupts her departure.

MICA
Hey dad.

MICHAEL
I've been gone for weeks, and
that's all the love I get. I can't
get a hug, or something. Just hey
dad!

Mica giggles as his father picks him up, and gives him a huge
hug. Kiera turns away to leave but Jack grabs her arm and
pulls her into the room.

JACK

You must be Kiera. Hello, I'm
Jacquelyn Sprouse, PI, but most
folks call me Jack. I've heard so
much about you.

Kiera doesn't say a word.

JACK (CONT'D)

We were just finishing up some work
here, but it can wait. I'm going to
go across the hall, to my own room.

(with emphasis)

Have a nice night with your family
Boss.

Noticing the room service waiter at the door, she waves
goodbye to everyone.

JACK (CONT'D)

I love waiters, you guys have such
impeccable timing. Give me just a
moment.

She runs back inside and takes Michael's money from his hand.
She gives the waiter the cash and laughs as she takes all of
the food to her room.

INT. HOTEL ROOM -CONTINUOUS

Mica shows his dad the pictures.

MICA

This one is me and Uncle Tony
playing video games.

MICHAEL

And I bet that's you, your mom and
your uncle watching TV?

MICA

No, that's me, you, and mom.

MICHAEL

These are amazing son. You might be
even better than your uncle.

Mica smiles with pride.

MICA

Mom said that too.

MICHAEL
Let's get to that gameroom.

INT. HOTEL LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Michael enters the living room. Kiera is sleep on the couch, but dreaming aloud.

KIERA
Don't go please.

He leans forward to wake her up, but stops.

KIERA (CONT'D)
Just one kiss, and you never have
to see me again.

Michael bends down until he is an inch from her face and pauses.

KIERA (CONT'D)
Please...

He kisses her. The kiss lingers on until Kiera's eyes open. She promptly gets up and runs to the bathroom where she empties her stomach.

When she exits the bathroom, he is standing there with a wet cloth for her.

MICHAEL
Kiera?

He lifts his hand up to touch her face, but she flinches.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Do you hate me that much?

When she doesn't answer, he walks away.

CUT TO:

EXT. MRS. DAVIS HOMES - LATER

Jack knocks on the ex MRS. DAVIS door.

MRS. DAVIS
Who are you?

JACK
Hello, I'm Jack Sprouse.

She shows her the PI badge.

JACK (CONT'D)

I have reason to believe that your ex-husband is in town. He is under investigation for fraud and embezzlement.

MRS. DAVIS

I knew he was up to no good. He hasn't paid his spousal support in 3 years. Came here the other day, and got cash from a safe in here that I didn't even know about.

She steps away from the door, and waves Jack inside.

MRS. DAVIS (CONT'D)

Come in, sit down.

JACK

I need the basics. How you met him, his likes, dislikes, favorite spots to hang out, etc...?

MRS. DAVIS

We went to school together, but we were never officially an item, in public, that is. Cal wasn't the best looking guy, but he was sweet on me, and I liked it. Plus his pops was loaded. We broke up for a little while junior year though. He found out I hooked up with Mike, the quarterback. Mike was hot, but broke. Him and his mom lived in a trailer park while his dad lived in a nice house up the road.

JACK

Was his name Michael Phillips?

MRS. DAVIS

Yea, Michael. That's him. I figured I hit the jackpot with Calvin, but the idiot nearly gambled away everything we had. I should have stuck with the QB.

Jack interrupts her talking.

JACK

You believe Calvin had a gambling problem when you were married?

MRS. DAVIS

Sure did... does.

Jack interrupts her by standing up and extending her hand.

JACK

Thank you Mrs. Davis you've been very helpful.

MRS. DAVIS

I haven't even told you the stuff he does that annoys the mess out of me. Like the time he sold pictures of me.

JACK

(interrupting)

There's no need to give me any more information, you've been a great help.

MRS. DAVIS

When you catch him, any money that's in his possession belongs to me. He did technically take it from my house.

JACK

I will let the arresting officers know this information. Thanks for your time Mrs. Davis.

Jack takes out her cell phone.

JACK (CONT'D)

Nancy, send a photo of Calvin to every Casino hot spot in the South.

INT. MICHAEL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

JACK (CONT'D)

Calvin's ID was checked in at Sam's Town in Shreveport. I've booked us a couple of rooms. I knew you'd want to see him face to face.

MICHAEL

I still can't believe he destroyed my life because of some girl that I can't even remember from highschool. We weren't even friends when they were married.

JACK

People do crazy things for love.

MICHAEL

That's not love, it's insanity. He had the girl, there was no reason to come after me.

JACK

I think jealousy and greed played the biggest factors. He loved the money so much he lost the girl. You on the other hand, had both. He despised you for it.

INT. SHREVEPORT CASINO HOTEL - 24 hours later

Michael is waiting anxiously in the hotel room. He is pacing around, and looking at his watch. Michael takes the ice container and the bottle of champagne and pours the ice out. He sticks his head out the door, and looks left to right.

As he heads towards the machine, Calvin exits one of the hotel rooms. He takes off running when he sees Michael. Michael drops the bucket and follows. They run down the stairwell, and through the mostly empty lobby until they reach the kitchen. Michael is closing in on him when Calvin pulls out a gun and starts firing behind his back. The few people in the area duck down, and scream. 3 shots are heard. The third shot connects and Michael falls down. A waiter carrying a tray full of alcohol ducks low in the corner as he sees Calvin running his way. His alcohol spills all over the floor. Moments before Calvin reaches him, the waiter stands up and smashes the metal plate across his face. Calvin hits the floor.

INT. KIERA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Kiera's phone rings. She reaches over and answers it.

TONY

Kiera, hey, it's Tony. I don't want to alarm you or anything, but there's been an accident. Michael's in the hospital. He's been shot.

KIERA

How? When? Where? We were just with him yesterday. How could this have happened?

TONY

He will survive. I don't know everything yet, but some chick with a dudes name said that he was in Louisiana. I was listed as his In Case of Emergency.

KIERA

Do you know where they will take him when he gets back?

TONY

He bought a new house last week. They'll probably take him there. I'll text you the address. If I find out anything new, I'll give you a call.

INT. HOSPITAL - MORNING

Jack is in the hospital room with Michael. He is awake, and speaking.

JACK

How are you feeling?

MICHAEL

Like I've been shot.

JACK

All you had to do was stay in your room. You're lucky it was only a flesh wound. That's like an ant bite, so stop you're whining.

MICHAEL

Yes ma'am.

She gives him a mean look.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

I mean, yes sir.

JACK

That's much better.

But really, I was just getting ice.

JACK

Ice my arse. You were snooping.

MICHAEL

Well I'm done with the heroics. I really thought it was over for me when I heard the first shot. It happened so quick, I couldn't get down.

JACK

I'm just glad you didn't leave your wife a widow.

The doctor walks in.

DOCTOR

I have been informed that you wish to leave Mr. Phillips. That is not recommended for a gun shot victim even if the injury is not life threatening. I can't force you to stay but I do need you to sign this document stating that you refused our medical advice.

MICHAEL

Tell me where to sign.

DOCTOR

I will get those release papers taken care of right away sir. Here is the number to one of the best Doctors in Atlanta, Dr. Nick Mooreland. He was one of my fraternity brothers. If you have any questions give Nick a call. The wound is not deep, but it's going to hurt. I've given you some sample pain pills, and a sedative for your ride home. You might feel pretty loopy when you get there, but it comes with the territory.

INT. MICHAEL'S BEDROOM - LATER

Michael is lying on his bed. Kiera is in the chair beside him, watching him sleep. Michael opens his eyes.

KIERA

You're awake!

She smiles and grabs his hand. Michael looks at their connected hands. There is an awkward moment when she realizes what she is doing and lets his hand go.

MICHAEL

How long have you been here?

KIERA

You've been asleep for 8 hours.
I'm glad you're alright. Do you
have anyone that can stay the night
with you? I don't feel comfortable
leaving you alone.

MICHAEL

No, I don't.

KIERA

I will call around and see if there
is a nurse available at the
hospital to come over tonight.

Kiera gets up and starts getting her things together. Seeing
her about to leave, Michael places his hand on his temple and
starts moaning.

KIERA (CONT'D)

Are you in pain?

He nods his head 'yes.'

Kiera goes to the medicine bag, and finds his pain pills. She
leaves the room and returns with a glass of water. He closes
his eyes, and moans.

She helps him sit up, and he moans in pain before taking his
medicine.

KIERA (CONT'D)

I should call your doctor.

MICHAEL

No--No--I'm starting to feel
better. The medicine is helping
already. I can even sit up without
the pain. Don't look so sad Kiera,
I'm not worth your tears. You can
go home, but before you leave, can
you help me to the restroom? My
body is still a little off balance.

She helps him out of bed. He wraps his uninjured arm around
her. She stands him in front of the toilet and walks away.

KIERA

Holler when you're done.

Michael lets down the stool, and sits on it. He stares at himself in the mirror. When he finally stands, a wave of nausea hits him. He sits back down and breaths heavily.

MICHAEL

O God, am I being punished?

He changes positions and places his head above the toilet stool.

INT. MICHAEL'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kiera hears the sounds coming from the bathroom. She knocks on the door.

KIERA

Are you OK Michael?

When he doesn't answer, she walks into the bathroom and sees him on the floor. She rushes to him.

KIERA (CONT'D)

Michael, what's wrong?

MICHAEL

I don't think this medicine agrees with me.

She takes out the medicine package and reads it.

KIERA

I'm so sorry Michael. It's my fault. It says take with food.

MICHAEL

I feel fine, as long as I don't move.

She sits beside him, and rubs his temple.

INT - MICHAEL'S BEDROOM - LATER

Kiera helps him back into bed.

KIERA

You are looking much better. How about you stay in bed, and I will fix you something to eat? What do you want?

MICHAEL

I'm not sure what's in the kitchen, I'll come help.

KIERA

No you won't, you stay in bed.

MICHAEL

I was shot in the arm, not my legs.
It will take my mind off the pain.

KIERA

Just be careful.

INT. MICHAEL'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Kiera opens the refrigerator and looks in.

KIERA

Hmmmm, you have more than I
expected. Thought you'd have the
basic bachelor necessities.

MICHAEL

What's that?

KIERA

Frozen dinners, noodles, and beer.

MICHAEL

Maggie would never let me get away
with that. She stocked up a few
days ago.

KIERA

Maggie?

MICHAEL

My cook, I stole her from the
hotel. She's in San Antonio. Her
daughter is having her first child.
But she's only been gone 2 days, I
can't promise you what it will look
like in a few weeks.

KIERA

Good luck with that.

MICHAEL

You know what I want! You remember
the night after our honeymoon and
you made me breakfast in bed. You
made this cute little smiley face
on the pancake with peanut butter
chips and whip cream. With bacon,
eggs, orange juice, and something
else, I can't recall.

KIERA
Mangos and Strawberries.

MICHAEL
Yes. That's it. That's what I want.

KIERA
But, you hate breakfast.

MICHAEL
I never said that.

KIERA
Fine.

She grabs the necessary items from the fridge, and searches the cabinets for the pancake mix. She slams the cabinet shut once she finds it.

MICHAEL
Did I say something wrong?

KIERA
You barely touched it. And the next morning I cooked and you didn't bother to taste anything. So yea, what else was I suppose to think.

She cracks the egg and places it in the mix.

MICHAEL
Do you remember what you were wearing that morning?

KIERA
The outfit you bought me. The red one.

MICHAEL
Exactly.

KIERA
What does my clothing have to do with whether or not you ate breakfast? And can you not stand so close to me please! How about you wash the strawberries with your good arm.

MICHAEL
Your clothing had everything to do with it, I couldn't concentrate on the food.

KIERA

Well, it takes more than 2 weeks of dating and a couple of months of marriage to figure someone out.

MICHAEL

I agree we needed more time. At least with Mica in the picture, we're connected for life. That should be plenty of time to figure each other out.

KIERA

No thanks, I think I know enough.

RESET TO:

INT. MICHAEL'S KITCHEN TABLE - LATER

The food on the table is almost gone.

MICHAEL

I have a proposition for you.

KIERA

It's peaceful. We are getting along in our silence. Please don't ruin it.

MICHAEL

You haven't even heard what I have to say yet.

KIERA

Cause I know whatever it is, it's a bad deal for me. Why did you have to use the word proposition anyway? It's so Pretty Woman-ish. I'm not for sale.

MICHAEL

Move in with me.

KIERA

And there it goes.

She gets up and goes to the kitchen, he follows.

MICHAEL

This house is too big for just one person. You don't have to pay rent, and it's walking distance from school.

KIERA

It's a nice gesture, but no.

MICHAEL

How about a trial period, one month, while I'm recovering? You wouldn't leave me here to fend for myself with one arm, would you?

KIERA

You'd probably manage either way.

MICHAEL

What if I give you a divorce? I was going to fight you on it, but if you do this for me, you're free.

KIERA

Seriously, you can't just sign the papers? You have to resort to emotional blackmail.

MICHAEL

It's not blackmail, it's just a way for both of us to get what we want. I get time with my son and you get your freedom.

KIERA

We can't live together for a month. Somebody is bound to end up in the morgue.

MICHAEL

I really doubt that's likely.

KIERA

Think for yourself.

MICHAEL

You'd harm a man in a sling?

KIERA

If pushed. Really Michael, there is nothing to gain from doing this.

MICHAEL

If you want, once the nurse comes, you can just leave him here for a month. Same deal.

KIERA

I'm not letting my son stay with practically a stranger.

MICHAEL

See, you said it yourself. I'm a stranger to him. Let him stay, but you stay too.

KIERA

One month.

MICHAEL

Yes.

KIERA

I don't want to confuse Mica. I can't have him thinking this make-shift family thing is for real.

MICHAEL

We can just tell him you guys are getting me healthy. Will you do it?

KIERA

Seems like I don't have a choice, if I want to get out of this marriage before... as quick as possible.

MICHAEL

The choice is yours. How fast do you want to get rid of me?

KIERA

Fine, I'll do it.

MICHAEL

How about we seal this deal with a kiss?

He leans in for a kiss, but just before they connect, she reaches for the egg cartoon on the counter and cracks an egg on his forehead.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

What the...

KIERA

No kissing, no touching, or no deal.

She stomps out of the kitchen.

INT. MICHAEL'S KITCHEN - MORNING

Michael is teaching Mica how to play dominos. Kiera watches.

MICHAEL

Dominos is a man's game. It's about numbers, thinking, and anticipating what the other player is going to do. It's about focus. You have to watch all the dominos at the same time so you know what's going on.

Michael demonstrates by holding them all. Mica tries, but he constantly drops them. He tries several different methods before he lines them on the table on their side facing him.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Smart kid.

The doorbell rings. Kiera goes to answer it. It's Tony.

KIERA

I'm so glad you're here.

TONY

Trouble in paradise?

KIERA

It's some kind of happy Armageddon. I'm just waiting for the meteor to strike. Am I wrong for wishing he wasn't good at this parenting thing? Mica adores everything about him.

TONY

You almost sound jealous?

KIERA

No, I'm not jealous. It's...It's just sometimes I forget it's all a show. None of this is real. I don't know if I should be hot or cold. And every time I try to be cold, I end up being lukewarm. He could be pretending he cares and the whole thing is gonna blow up in my face.

They walk back into the kitchen. Mica and Tony give each other a fist bump. He nods his head at Michael.

TONY

When did they start letting babies play dominoes? This is a man's game. Are you even old enough to count?

MICA

I can count your grey hairs.

Tony stops and starts laughing. So does Michael and Kiera.

TONY

I'm done. Kiera I'm sorry for what I've done to your sweet, little boy.

KIERA

See what happened to your son in your absence? This is the model of a man he had to learn from.

MICHAEL

The kid's a little rough around the edges, but he turned out alright.

TONY

Woooa, I'm not sure Kiera, but I think that was a compliment.

MICHAEL

Don't let it go to your head.

TONY

I'll try my best. How's the arm?

MICHAEL

Not bad, I have an excellent nurse taking care of me.

TONY

She is the best in the world. I can attest to that. Pulled me out of more bars than I can count.

KIERA

Probably more than you can remember.

TONY

Ohhhh. That was a low blow sis. True, but still low. I'm 8 years, 3 months, and 62 days sober.

MICHAEL

You're an alcoholic?

TONY

Recovering alcoholic.

MICHAEL

I had no clue.

TONY

It's not really something I jump from the rooftops singing about. My fiance was killed by a drunk driver. Losing the love of your life can make you become the thing you despise the most. But that lady right there, (points at Kiera) never gave up on me.

KIERA

Ehhh, I figured I'd keep you around a little while.

A knock at the door interrupts their conversation.

KIERA (CONT'D)

Busy day.

Kiera leaves to open it.

MICHAEL

Is it tough, being around alcohol?

They survey Michael's kitchen, with various displays of liquor.

TONY

It can be sometimes. But I manage and try not to dwell on the difficult parts. My work, Kiera and Mica. That's what keeps me sober.

Kiera returns to the kitchen with Jack.

JACK

Hey boss, didn't mean to interrupt the family get-together.

MICHAEL

It's no problem.

TONY

I recognized that voice. So you're Jack? Thanks for calling the other day.

JACK

No problem, glad it was only a...

MICHAEL
(interrupting)
Heyyy, Jack. I remembered something
about the shooting I need to
discuss with you, follow me.

Michael and Jack leave the kitchen.

TONY
Who is she, and what is she to
Michael?

KIERA
She's the PI that helped find
Calvin.

MICHAEL
Anything going on between them?

KIERA
Like romantically? I thought so at
first, but Jack said nothing was
going on. Do you think she's lying?
Did you get a romantic vibe between
them?

TONY
No, no, not that. Is she from here,
or does she work from out of town?

KIERA
She's a local. Why so curious?

TONY
You know, it's important to be
familiar with, you know...the
people who visit your family.

KIERA
Hmmm. Sounds more like fishing.

TONY
Can't a guy just ask a question
about a pretty girl without it
sounding fishy? Goodness.

KIERA
Sureee. But on a serious note, you
have to go for it. It's time for
you to move on. Allow yourself to
be happy again.

TONY
I'll try.

INT. MICHAEL'S OFFICE - DAY

Michael has just spilled the beans about his lying.

JACK

If it was unintentional, as you say, why can't you just come clean?

MICHAEL

I want to spend time with my family. I need this, so please don't say a word.

JACK

You don't pay me speak to your family.

MICHAEL

Thanks, I owe you one.

JACK

Just don't make this a habit. I'm not a fan of lying or liars.

MICHAEL

I won't. Speaking of liars, what's the verdict on Calvin?

JACK

Chilling in his cell with his new best friend.

CUT TO:

INT. PRISON - DAY

Calvin is in his prison room sitting on the bed. He looks over to the room toilet at his roommate, who is sitting on it. The man, 80ish, smiles at him with only a couple teeth in his mouth. Calvin turns over in his bed and covers his head with his pillow.

INT. MICHAEL'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Tony and Mica are still playing dominoes. Michael and Jack come back into the room.

JACK

It was nice to see you guys again, and it was nice to meet you Tony.

TONY
You too, ma'am.

MICHAEL
Uh oh!

TONY
What?

JACK
Nothing... It was nice to meet you
too Tony.

KIERA
I'll show you out.

TONY
Hey bro, you remember when we were
kids, and I had this girlfriend I
was crazy about. And you came
around with your muscle car, and
your smooth lines and stole her
away from me. Well, I'm still a
little heartbroken about that. I
lived my teenage years in a state
of depression.

MICHAEL
You want Jack's number don't you?

TONY
Absolutely.

EXT. MICHAEL'S BALCONY - NIGHT

Kiera sits outside stretched out on a cot, looking up at the
stars. Michael uses his free arm to lift her legs and sit
down. He then places her feet back on his lap.

MICHAEL
You look exhausted.

She attempts to move her feet, but he holds on and begins
giving her a foot message.

KIERA
Don't do that. Hmmm, never mind,
that feels amazing.

MICHAEL
No talking. Just lay back and
relax.

INT. MICHAEL'S BALCONY - LATER

Kiera is sleep on the cot, and wakes instantly to a sharp pain. She bends over and weeps at the intensity of the pain.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Kiera, what's wrong?

KIERA

I can't move. It hurts.

MICHAEL

I'm calling 911.

He picks up the cordless phone.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

I need an ambulance, something is wrong with my wife. I don't know. She says she can't move. Yes she can talk. OK. They want to speak to you.

KIERA

I don't know. I think something is wrong with my baby. It hurts so bad. Yes, my back, and it's hard to breath. OK, I will try, please hurry.

Michael makes another phone call.

MICHAEL

Tony, we need you to come watch Mica for us, it's an emergency.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM- NIGHT

DR. ANN RICHLAND enters Kiera's room. She is resting in her hospital bed.

ANN

Young man, you're going to walk a hole into my floor. Please sit down. Do you want to hear the good news or the bad news first?

KIERA MICHAEL

The good. The bad

ANN

Ladies first. The good news is, the babies are fine.

KIERA

Thank God. Wait, don't you mean the babies are fine?

ANN

Yes, they both are. You're having twins.

MICHAEL

Wait, I just found out one kid existed. Are you telling me there's two in there?

ANN

Yes, that's usually what twins mean.

KIERA

Twins!

ANN

There is more news Kiera.

KIERA

O no, you said there was something bad. Is something wrong with my babies?

ANN

We have everything under control for now, but I'm worried. You are stressed Kiera, and the babies are as well. We have to figure out a way to protect all of you. I don't want to put you on blood pressure medicine, but I will if I have to. I'm assigning you bed rest until further notice. That means no strenuous activities, and no stressful job.

MICHAEL

What do I need to do for her?

ANN

Your job, dad, is to make sure she does everything I say.

MICHAEL

I won't let her out of my sight.

INT. MICHAEL'S HOTEL - EARLY MORNING

Tony sits on the couch, in the dark. The sound of a key in the door, makes him sit up, he watches as the door opens.

TONY

Kee Kee.

KIERA

I'm fine, I'm fine, just had a bit of a scare. That sometimes happens when you're pregnant.

TONY

No kidding!

KIERA

Yes, with twins.

TONY

Another dynamic duo huh... Don't you ever scare me like that again OK.

KIERA

I won't I promise.

TONY

Now get over here and hug me. You take care of yourself young lady. See you tomorrow, I haven't slept all night worried about your butt. And that stash of Merlot over there did not help my mood.

MICHAEL

You didn't?

TONY

No. Can't say I wasn't tempted though. But it's all good. See you later.

MICHAEL

We need to talk about some things Kiera.

KIERA

Not now Michael, I'm tired.

MICHAEL

I know. Just sit for a minute. I know I made a promise, but I can't keep that deal. I won't give you a divorce right now. Not while you're pregnant.

KIERA

Who's to say you're even the father?

KIERA (CONT'D)

You're not a cruel person, Kiera. You're just scared right now. I have no doubt in my mind that you're having my child, no matter how you try to spin it. I know now that you will always respect our vows.

KIERA (CONT'D)

Can we do this another time?

MICHAEL

Yes, we can. Get your rest, I will take care of Mica.

INT. BATHROOM - AFTERNOON

Kiera is in the bathroom, looking at herself in the mirror. She touches her belly and takes a deep breath.

She walks to the living room, where Mica and Michael are eating lunch.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

You're up. I was just about to bring you a sandwich. Shouldn't you be in bed?

KIERA

It's been a week. I'm going crazy in this house. I need to run to the grocery store for some kid friendly food items for Mica, and some household stuff.

MICHAEL

No way. Do you not understand the definition of bed rest? You're not going anywhere.

KIERA

It's a quick stop, I will be careful.

MICHAEL

You're not going anywhere, doctor's order.

KIERA

You know, not only did the doctor tell me to rest, but she also said avoid stressful situations. And this, husband, is a stressful situation.

MICHAEL

Compromise then? I will escort you to the store, as long as you get on one of those electric carts.

KIERA

Deal.

INT. STORE - DAY

They walk into the store and Kiera test drive the electric cart. It takes her a moment to figure it out.

KIERA (CONT'D)

A car is much easier to drive than this thing.

MICA

Can I use one?

MICHAEL

No son, they're for people who seriously need them. It would be wrong of us to take one away from someone with a disability.

MICA

Yes, sir.

KIERA

Does that mean I can walk then?

MICHAEL

No!

KIERA

Yessss, sirrrrr!

MICHAEL

See that, agreeing with me isn't that difficult. Just like we should continue this marriage.

KIERA

(talks over him)

How about we split-- the list in half, and meet back in 15 minutes?

(MORE)

KIERA (CONT'D)

You take the household items, and I will grab some items for myself and Mica.

MICA

I want to go with dad.

MICHAEL

Come on son, two sets of hands are better than one.

He looks at Kiera, she rolls her eyes at him.

INT. PRODUCTS AISLE - DAY

Michael looks at the list.

MICHAEL

Starch, hand sanitizer, toothpaste, and some more stuff. Do you know where any of these things are?

MICA

I think the starch stuff is over there.

MICHAEL

What kind does your mom get?

MICA

Ummm, I dunno. They all look the same to me.

MICHAEL

Me too. We'll just get them all.

He piles the different brands into the shopping cart.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

That was easy. Off to the next item.

INT. STORE ISLE - 15 MINUTES LATER

Kiera looks at his buggy and picks up one of the starches.

KIERA

Um, Michael. Why do you have 8 different starches?

MICHAEL

Your list wasn't specific enough. You should write down which brand you want and what kind. This one holds firmly, this one is extra crisp, and this one smells like lemons. How was I to know which one you would want?

KIERA

There is this invention called a cell-phone. But you are completely right, next time I will make sure I let you know if I want, heavy, light, or industrial strength starch.

MICHAEL

You're laughing at me?

KIERA

No, it's cute. Mica usually plays his game the whole time and never looks at anything I pick up. I bet he didn't help at all.

MICA

Yes, I did. I told him what tooth paste to get.

KIERA

Yea, cause it tastes good... I know it's a little early, but I figured it's a good idea to buy some things for the twins. Maybe their strollers.

MICHAEL

Yes, we should.

Michael follows her over to the children's section.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

I'm so glad you didn't send me here alone.

KIERA

Me too. This looks like a good one, it has two seats.

MICHAEL

No, get the singles. We should protect their individuality.

KIERA

What about when you're not around?

MICHAEL

We'll just get all 3.

KIERA

You're paying.

MICHAEL

Of course.

KIERA

Just for the strollers. I can buy my own things.

MICHAEL

Don't be silly, Kiera.

KIERA

It's not silly. I will allow you to pay for your children's items, but nothing of mine.

MICHAEL

If that's what you want.

KIERA

It is.

INT. CHECK OUT LINE - CONTINUOUS

While they are standing in line someone calls Michael's name, he realizes it's the doctor that treated him.

DOCTOR

Mr. Phillips, is that you?

Michael turns the other way, trying to ignore him.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Small world isn't it? My friend is getting married this weekend. We're putting down our stethoscopes for some tequila.

Michael nods, and they shake hands.

MICHAEL

Kiera that line over there is shorter, let's move.

KIERA

I don't want to have to maneuver this thing way over there. We aren't in that big a hurry. Move out the way so I can say hello to the man that saved your life.

She extends her hand.

KIERA (CONT'D)

Hi. I'm Kiera, nice to meet you.

DOCTOR

Same to you. I see you're still wearing that arm strap. Is everything OK, with that arm?

MICHAEL

Nothing is wrong, just sore that's all.

DOCTOR

Pull-up your sleeve and let me see the wound. The only reason for a minor injury like that to still require a sling is an infection.

Michael pushes the doctors arm away.

KIERA

How could a gunshot wound be considered minor?

DOCTOR

The healing process is a little quicker for flesh wounds. Nothing vital was damaged. Just some bleeding and some pain. He should have been back to his old self in no time.

Mica is unaware of what's going on. He puts the items on the check-out counter.

MICHAEL

It's not what you think Kiera.

KIERA

How do you know what I'm thinking?

MICHAEL

Let me explain.

KIERA

Explain what, that I can't trust you. Or explain why after all this time, you still only care about yourself. Please, Michael, explain.

MICA

Mom?

Kiera drives out the store in her cart leaving everything. Michael starts to follow, he grabs Mica's arm.

CASHIER

Sir, sir. What do I do with all this stuff, I have customers? Srrrrrr.

EXT. STORE PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Michael has caught up to Kiera.

KIERA

Give me the keys.

MICHAEL

Listen to me, let me explain.

KIERA

I don't want to hear your excuses.

MICHAEL

I just needed time. Time to prove to you that we are good together.

KIERA

And you thought lying would win me back?

MICHAEL

I was desperate.

KIERA

I need the key.

MICHAEL

Where does this leave us?

KIERA

There is no us. Now give me the key.

He hands her the key.

KIERA (CONT'D)
Mica, get in.

Kiera speeds off. The store CLERK has followed him outside.

CLERK
Sir, I need you to come back in and
pay for your items.

Michael walks back inside.

INT. PHILLIP'S RESIDENCE - DAY

Michael is standing outside of Kiera's door. He knocks, but no one answers. He sits on the porch and waits until he hears a voice calling his name.

DENNIS
Michael! Hey there, good to see you
old friend. Kiera told me to watch
out for you, she left your car keys
with me.

MICHAEL
Thanks Dennis, good to see you too,
it's been a while.

DENNIS
Yep, I heard about the bum deal
Calvin gave you. He was such a fun
guy. I never saw it coming.

MICHAEL
Yep, he won't be showing his face
around here for a very long time. I
see your house is still green.
Sorry, I never got around to that
quote. I'll get it fixed up for
you, no charge.

DENNIS
Naw, it kind of grew on me. My wife
calls it her little Italy.

MICHAEL
Really, you like it?

DENNIS
Sometimes it takes time for an idea
to grow on a person. That, and I
just kept telling myself, if it
makes her happy, then it can't look
that bad.

MICHAEL

Valid point. Thanks for the keys man, I'm going to head out.

DENNIS

Alright, don't be a stranger.

MONTAGE

-Michael comes to visit, Kiera peeps around the corner waiting for him to leave.

-Kiera at church, Michael watching from the back pew.

-Kiera getting an ultrasound, alone.

-Michael sitting in a meeting, distracted.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. TONY'S DAD'S HOUSE - DAD

Tony and Kiera are sitting on the couch watching a movie.

TONY

We've watched the Notebook 8 times in the past 6 months. Some thing has gotta give. I'm usually not the Ambassador of Michael, but you should really call him.

KIERA

What he did was unforgiveable. He will never change.

TONY

Maybe it was pretty bad, but, you are wrong about one thing.

KIERA

I don't think so.

TONY

Trust me. He has changed. I know Michael pre and post you. I could say I never would have introduced the two of you if I'd known you'd fall for him, but because of you, he's a different man. When you guys were first married, you could literally count the veins in his forehead when I touched you. Now, I could probably sneak a kiss on your cheek and not fear for my life.

(MORE)

TONY (CONT'D)

I'm not condoning the injury mishap, but he did it to be with you. Heck, I'd fake amnesia if it would get me back the woman I loved.

KIERA

I don't know if I can forgive him.

TONY

Seven times, seventy times. That's how it works in the bible right? You will find a way to forgive, just take it one day at a time. You love him. He doesn't deserve a woman like you, but I know you are the only woman out there that can make him a better man. It's who you are.

KIERA

I don't know.

TONY

Just don't hide when he comes, he should be here any minute.

KIERA

You told him I was here?

TONY

Nope, told him I was selling the house. You guys have to figure out what you're going to do once the babies come, so talk.

KIERA

You better not sell this place.

There is a knock at the door.

KIERA (CONT'D)

Speak of the devil.

TONY

Play nice.

Tony gets off the couch to answer, Kiera remains on the couch.

INT. TONY'S CORRIDOR - DAY

The corridor view and the living room are separated by a tiny wall.

TONY

Hey, Mike, thanks for coming by.

MICHAEL

You can't sell the house without my signature, and I have no need for anything in it.

TONY

You might be surprised about the treasures this old place still holds.

MICHAEL

Not likely.

TONY

I know you and I have had some pretty low points in our lives, but we're family. And even though I don't want to admit it, you made my best friend happy once upon a time. She's not happy now, and I don't like it.

MICHAEL

I've demanded, propositioned, and bargained, but she doesn't want us.

TONY

You can't just write a fat check and expect things to work out with her. You have to be willing to wait on her to do... to say, what she needs from you. Don't force anything on her. She can be just as stubborn as you.

MICHAEL

I'm willing to do anything. But she has to be willing to see me.

TONY

Lucky for you she's in there sitting on the couch. Don't you do anything stupid to mess this up. And FYI, I'm not selling this house, I'm actually moving in.

(MORE)

TONY (CONT'D)

You'd be signing the rights over to me.

MICHAEL

You know Tony, when you sent that letter about dad, I really thought you were being a tool.

TONY

You got the letter? Man, I was in a bad place that day. I was so upset with you for not coming to the funeral, I just sent it. But I never thought it would reach you.

MICHAEL

That's why I came home. Thank you.

Michael hugs him. Tony stands there in shock from the hug. Michael has already left the room before he reacts.

INT. TONY'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

MICHAEL

Hi, Kiera, good to see you. How are the little ones?

KIERA

Doctor says they are healthy and growing strong.

MICHAEL

That's good. Really good.

KIERA

You've lost weight?

MICHAEL

Isn't the guy suppose to say that?

KIERA

Not in my situation. I've gained a ton. I look like a whale.

MICHAEL

You're perfect, I mean you look good. Are you're staying off your feet?

KIERA

The doctor took me off bed rest. Everything is looking great. But seriously, you've lost weight.

MICHAEL
I'm fine, just been fasting.

KIERA
Nuh Un! You!

MICHAEL
You sound shocked.

KIERA
I am, I never expected you to do something so, I don't know...

MICHAEL
Spiritual?

KIERA
Yea, that's it.

MICHAEL
You've taught me a lot, Kiera. About myself, about my faith, and about how I should treat people. I needed to fast to figure out some life stuff, and pray God shows me the right path.

KIERA
That's amazing. I hope you discover what you're looking for.

MICHAEL
Seems like things are turning around. I feel, at peace. That anger I had for my father leaving us... Once I let it go, everything else just fell into perspective. Heck, I don't even hate Cal anymore.

Beat.

KIERA
Well, these little rascals are not at peace. They play soccer in here 24/7. Non-stop kicking.

MICHAEL
That's crazy. I couldn't imagine what that feels like.

KIERA
Do you want to feel it?

MICHAEL
Of course, I would.

Michael sits down on the couch beside her. Kiera places his hand on her stomach.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Amazing, does it hurt?

KIERA
It's more of a surprise than a hurt. Mica thinks it's the coolest thing in the world. Especially when he listens to their heart beats, while he's getting kicked in the head. Such a weird kid, but you have to love him anyway.

MICHAEL
Can I listen?

KIERA
I don't think that's a good idea.

MICHAEL
That was too forward wasn't it?
Forget I asked. This is enough.

He keeps his hand on her stomach and waits for another kick.

KIERA
You can listen.

He places his ear on her large stomach.

MICHAEL
Is that them? It's so fast.

KIERA
I know. I got a chance to listen during my check-up.

MICHAEL
I'll never forget this moment.

He lifts his head back up, but leaves his hand there.

KIERA
Michael, I know we haven't had a real conversation since that day. I just want to go back to how it was, you know when we were starting to develop a friendship.
(MORE)

KIERA (CONT'D)

We have children together, they need to know that their parents at least like each other.

MICHAEL

I don't want to be just your friend. I made a vow to be your husband. I know I was a jerk, and I don't deserve your forgiveness, but I need it. I need you, and Mica, and whoever just kicked me in the head. I get it now. I can't force you to love me back, no matter how hard I try, but I will keep on trying for as long as it takes. And if friendship is what you want at the moment, I will try to be that for you. But I can't promise that I won't steal a kiss from time to time.

KIERA

If that's the case, I don't think we should be friends either.

MICHAEL

We can at least be cordial then. Months without talking is not a good thing. Kids pick up on things like that.

KIERA

You're right.

MICHAEL

Tell Mica I will see him tomorrow.

KIERA

Where are you going?

MICHAEL

I'm respecting your wishes. I'll come back when you're not here.

KIERA

Michael, sometimes friendship can lead to much more. I'm willing to take that leap of faith. Just don't lie to me ever again.

MICHAEL

Cross my heart, stick needles in my eye, ears, whatever the kids say. I promise.

He pulls her in for a long embrace.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

How quickly can we bump this up
from friendship to going steady?

KIERA

Depends on what you wear on our
first day. It's a very pivotal
moment. What a man wears on his
first date shows you what to expect
of your future with them.

MICHAEL

I will definitely make sure I'm
wearing something tight. Might even
show a little bit of skin.

KIERA

How about some sexy scrubs.

MICHAEL

Really?

KIERA

Yes, my water just broke.

CUT TO:

INT. CHURCH- DAY

Kiera and Michael are standing at the alter. Jack is holding
one twin and Tony is holding the other(girls). Mica hands
them their rings.

PASTOR FRANKLIN

Michael, repeat after me. With this
ring I the wed.

MICHAEL

With this ring, I the wed...
(speaks directly to Kiera)
I wanted this ring to be special,
something that represents our
family.

She looks down at the ring for the first time. It has a large
Emerald stone in the center and is surrounded by diamonds of
their family birthstones.

KIERA

O my goodness!

MICHAEL

Kiera, we're renewing our vowels
here. Focus.

KIERA

O my God Michael. This...this...is
amazing.

She lifts up her hand and shows the audience. There are some
ohhs and ahhs.

MICHAEL

Sorry for the interruption, she's
usually not this materialistic.

KIERA

Shut up and kiss me.

PASTOR FRANKLIN

We're not at that part yet.

MICHAEL

We're already married, just finish
it up already.

PASTOR FRANKLIN

I now pronounce you husband and
wife, again. Go ahead and keep
kissing.

The audience laughs and applauds.

THE END

FADE TO BLACK.