

INT. SMARTLY DECORATED LIVING ROOM - MORNING

A hand reaches up and tugs a blanket off the back of a couch. A SIGH fills the room.

The blanket swings through the air. A pair of shoulders appears. A hand tugs the blanket over them.

ALICE, a lean, attractive woman wearing her move into middle age like a well tailored suit, stands.

She pulls the blanket tighter over her shoulders and closes it over her chest. Her eyes drop to the couch.

Birds CHIRP. JENNA (20's) a tall, energetic young woman, smiles in her sleep. She turns out of a sheet.

Alice touches Jenna's bare shoulder. Jenna exhales a slow breath. Alice pulls the sheet over her.

She pads down the hall. Her bare feet make a quiet sound on the hard wood. CLINK CLINK.

A hand escapes the blanket. A pair of FUZZY HANDCUFFS dangles off one wrist.

INT. SMARTLY DECORATED BEDROOM - DAY

Alice leans over a tiny desk in the corner. An open window fills half her face with a square of sunlight.

The desk is covered with sculpting supplies. She works on a tiny, vaguely horrible looking doll.

It's five inches high and naked. There's no way to tell what it will end up looking like.

Jenna comes up behind her. She snakes her hands from Alice's shoulders down the length of her arms.

JENNA

Whose that going to be?

Alice nuzzles Jenna's arm with her cheek.

ALICE

It's a surprise.

JENNA

Are you stressed about dinner with Ellie and Max? You can tell me.

ALICE

A little. There's only so much I can do to make them comfortable, though. They have to try too.

Jenna kisses Alice.

JENNA

Oh oh! I heard from Dee. She talked to her friend doing your website. It should be ready in a couple of days.

Jenna snakes her arms away from Alice's body and sits on the bed. Alice turns her chair around.

ALICE

You're sure he won't let me pay him anything?

JENNA

Nah. Cash isn't really a thing these days. We'll have him over for dinner or something.

Alice takes a cloth and cleans off her scalpel. Jenna makes her face look adorable.

JENNA

Speaking of cash...I was gonna hop out and get some party favors from Juliette. For later. Would you mind?

Alice grins without looking at her.

ALICE

Not at all. Take whatever you need out of my pokka book.

Jenna leans back on the bed and poses, all sultry like.

JENNA

Are you dead set on working right now, or can you come play with me?

Alice puts the scalpel down. Tootsweet. She moves for the bed. Jenna rolls off the other side and moves to the door.

JENNA

We don't play in the bedroom. Remember?

She arches her body in the doorway. Alice chews on her thumb. An idea occurs to her.

ALICE
(Excited/Embarrassed)
Would it be OK if. Do you think we
could. Would you mind.

She covers her face.

ALICE
I can't believe I'm doing this.

She slides open a drawer on her bedside stand and takes out
a slim, purple vibrator.

ALICE
Can we use this?

Jenna's pose droops. She looks a little disappointed. She
grins through it and nods slightly. CLICK. BUZZZZZZ.

INT. SMARTLY DECORATED APARTMENT - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Alice walks in the front door. She's overburdened with
grocery bags. There's a quiet in the apartment.

ALICE
Jenna?

Jenna's laugh flows down the hall.

INT. SMARTLY DECORATED LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jenna lies on the couch with headphones on. She balances a
glass of wine on her chest. The bottle is on a coffee table.

It's half empty. She bolts upright when she see's Alice.

JENNA
Oh my god, you have to listen to
this. It's amaze.

INT. SMARTLY DECORATED KITCHEN - LATER

Alice moves between three or four pots and pans. Jenna leans
on the counter. She refills her wine glass.

Alice notices. A spherical bluetooth speaker sits at the end
of the counter. Jenna holds her phone.

JENNA

It's called The Limerick Rake. Check it out. The dudes a total prick.

She presses play on a podcast.

BENDIX (V.O.)

So anyway, guys, I'm at this party, and I don't want to be at this party, because who wants to be at a party. Ever. Parties are filled with millenials. And so this one guy comes up to me and asks to be on the show because he had a funny thing happen to him after a one night stand. It wasn't really a one night stand, he confesses, but he claims it works better for the story.

Alice stops stirring a soup or a stew and cocks an eyebrow. She motions at Jenna to pause the show.

ALICE

Who is this? Whose talking?

JENNA

This ol' cranky pants named Bendix.

ALICE

Not...Willy Bendix? He used to be a stand up comedian?

JENNA

Bill Bendix, yeah. You've heard of him?

ALICE

I know him. Or knew him. We went to college together.

JENNA

Get out.

ALICE

No, it's true. We went on a few dates, actually. He was funny but - you know - kind of nutty.

Jenna stares at her.

JENNA

God I love you.

Alice stops a ladle halfway to her mouth. It's clearly the first time the ol "L Word" has been used.

Jenna moves to throw her arms around Alice and kiss her. Alice holds the ladle out at an awkward distance.

Jenna accidentally presses fast forward and play.

BENDIX (V.O.)

- so I told the guy "Why the fuck would anyone care that you wazzed a condom off your wang?" Guys, I'm nervous as hell about what passes for entertainment this days.

Jenna presses into Alice with genuine passion. Alice tries not to laugh at the podcast.

INT. SMARTLY DECORATED LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Alice sits rigid on the couch. She's dolled herself up a little. She straightens snacks on the coffee table.

A table in the corner is set for a nice dinner. A salad sits in the center. There are four place settings.

Jenna appears in the hallway. She wears a real KNOCK OUT of a dress. Low cut. Backless. Strapless. Along those lines.

She strikes a pose.

JENNA

Ta da!

ALICE

Wow. I mean. Wow.

Jenna struts to the couch and sits.

JENNA

It's a bit much, I guess. But I want to show Ellie no amount of her grumping around can get in the way of our good time.

ALICE

It's perfect.

They make out. Jenna lifts her hand, palm out. Two pills sit in the middle. She holds one up to Alice's mouth.

ALICE
What is it?

JENNA
Party favors. I told you.

ALICE
I thought you meant a little bit of weed or something.

JENNA
It's Molly. You'll dig it, I swear.

ALICE
I don't know, Jenna.

JENNA
Are your wicked step daughters going to get in the way of our good time?

ALICE
Former step daughters.

JENNA
Well, are they?

Alice smiles and shakes her head. Her mouth opens. Jenna slips the pill on to her tongue.

A doorbell BING BONGS. Jenna hops up.

JENNA
Show time.

She hurries to the door. Alice spits the pill into her hand.

INT. SMARTLY DECORATED KITCHEN - NIGHT

ELLIE (30's) a stunning, fashionably good looking woman, whose SUPER PREGNANT, hands Alice a baking dish.

It's covered with tin foil. Ellie sits.

ELLIE
I didn't get a chance to cook it before we left. It needs to go in at 450 for half an hour.

ALICE
Oh. But everything else is almost ready. I thought you had to leave before nine.

ELLIE

I do.

Alice checks the clock on the stove. It's 8:15.

ALICE

Ellie, if you didn't want to come you should have just said so.

ELLIE

I'm here. I came. What does it matter how long I stay?

Alice slides the baking dish into the oven.

ALICE

You probably won't be able to eat this, you know. By the time everything is ready and set up.

ELLIE

I can't eat it anyway. It's got bacon in it. It's what you made Max when she graduated from culinary school.

Alice pauses. She's touched. She takes a step closer to Ellie. Ellie looks at her phone.

ELLIE

Close the stove. I'm sweltering.

INT. SMARTLY DECORATED LIVING ROOM - TABLE - NIGHT

Jenna sits across from JOANNA "MAX" MAXWELL (30's), a very specific kind of pretty.

They stare at each other. Jenna fills her glass, polishing off the bottle as she does so.

She grabs a full one.

JENNA

You want?

She shakes the bottle at Max. Max shakes her head. Jenna holds a corkscrew in one hand, the bottle in the other.

She appears to have no idea what to do with either. She holds them out to Max.

JENNA

Can you open this?

MAX

Um. Yeah, OK.

Max takes the bottle and corkscrew. Jenna watches her open the wine with a rapt expression on her face.

Her eyes are open a little too wide.

JENNA

Girl, I'm not gonna lie to you. I am totally fucked up right now. Me and Alice gobbled some Molly.

POP. Max gets the cork out of the bottle.

MAX

You don't have to tell me stuff like that. You did it when you worked at the Cafe. I didn't know what to say then, and I don't know what to say now. It's bizarre of you.

JENNA

Is it?

Jenna smiles. And keeps smiling. She touches her face.

JENNA

Sorry. I'm not smiling because I think you're funny. I'm just smiling because I'm smiling.

MAX

Great.

Max sets the wine next to her. Jenna reaches for it with both hands. Her fingers wiggle at it.

Max reluctantly passes it to her.

MAX

How's Alice doing? I heard she finally opened an Etsy shop.

Jenna fills her wine glass to the brim.

JENNA

Yeah. It took a shit load of pillow talk, but I managed to get her to take the plunge. I'm really proud of her. She already sold a few. Dee's friend is setting her up with her own website.

MAX

That's great, Jenna. That's really great. I lost the ones she made me when I was little. Ellie still has hers on her desk.

JENNA

Seriously? Seriously?

She draws out the vowels in the second "Seriously?" Max rubs the bridge of her nose.

MAX

Oh boy.

Jenna fills a different, empty glass to the brim.

INT. SMARTLY DECORATED LIVING ROOM - LATER

Alice sits in the corner of the couch. Jenna drapes herself over her excessively.

Max and Ellie both sit in armchairs. Ellie fills a napkin on her lap with snacks from the coffee table.

JENNA

Can you believe this broad right here knows Bill Bendix? Isn't that wild?

MAX

Who?

ELLIE

The podcast guy? He's local. You know him. He comes in to the cafe sometimes. The knit beanie guy.

Max shrugs.

ELLIE

You know who I mean.

MAX

OK.

ELLIE

He's huge.

MAX

OK.

ELLIE

Max. I know you know who he is.

ALICE

It's not a big deal. I haven't seen him in a long, long time.

JENNA

Since college, right?

Alice thinks.

ALICE

The last time I saw Willy was...my brothers funeral, I think. I'm pretty sure. So not long after college.

Ellie holds a snack halfway between her lap and her mouth.

ELLIE

I didn't know you had a brother. Shouldn't he have been our uncle?

ALICE

Oh, he died before you were born.

Jenna rubs Alice's shoulder to comfort her. Alice is fine. She made peace with her brothers death a long time ago.

JENNA

Yeah, of cancer right? I remember you telling me.

Jenna looks at Ellie when she says it.

ELLIE

Seriously? I'm sorry to hear that.

ALICE

It's all in the past. He's been gone more of my life than he was alive. Wow. That's weird to say out loud.

A silence grows a little too long. BLOOP BLOOP. Ellie gets a few texts in rapid succession.

ELLIE

Dammit.

MAX

What?

ELLIE

Alice, you have to do me a huge favor.

She looks at Alice but doesn't say what the favor is.

JENNA

(Aggressive)

Why don't you say what it is first?

ELLIE

I need to go to a community board meeting to get the Cafe's liquor license approved. Max can't go because she has to get up at two to start cooking for a catering job. Is there anyway you could come with me? Brucey's working and it's up a really long flight of stairs. I'm not all that comfortable going alone.

MAX

I thought dad was going.

ELLIE

Max.

ALICE

Sure, maybe. When is it?

ELLIE

Does it matter? It's not like you have anything else going on.

MAX

Ellie.

ALICE

(Gently)

Max.

JENNA

(Drunk & Protective)

Jesus.

DING DING DING. Jenna taps the side of her glass with a pen and stands. She holds up the glass.

JENNA

To Dick Maxwell, never there when you need him. Amirite?

ALICE
(Impatient)
Jenna.

JENNA
Here are some of the things our great
Mister Dick Maxwell didn't do that he
should have.

ALICE
Sit. Down.

JENNA
No baby, it's OK. I got this.

Alice reaches for Jenna. Jenna steps away. Max reads an
email on her phone. Ellie fumes.

JENNA
He didn't love, honor, or support his
wife. He didn't show up to either of
his daughters graduations. From high
school or college. He didn't help his
pregnant daughter put the second hand
crib he sent together. I know,
because Alice did that.

Alice reaches her hand for Ellie's.

ALICE
I am so, so sorry.

Ellie jerks away from her.

JENNA
And you know what else he didn't do?
Never, ever, ever? He didn't go down
on her. Not once.

She gestures the wine glass at Alice.

JENNA
I, on the other hand, went down on
her four times last night. Four.

Alice hops to her feet.

ALICE
OK, enough. Go to your room. My room.
Our room. Whatever. Just go.

JENNA
But...

Alice turns Jenna in the direction of the bedroom. She gives her a little scoot. Jenna stumbles off.

The bedroom door SLAMS. Alice turns to Max and Ellie.

ALICE
Ellie, Max. I'm -

ELLIE
Don't you dare say anything.

Ellie gets to her feet. She snatches her purse and marches directly to the front door. She SLAMS it behind her.

ALICE
Max. I never meant for her to get involved like that. I talk to her, you know. She listens. She's a really good listener.

Max stands.

MAX
It's fine, I get it. I've seen Jenna drunk before. No worries.

ALICE
OK, OK. Thank you. I don't even know what to do. Should we eat? I'm sure everything's done by now.

MAX
I. Um. I'm not going to storm out or anything, but Ellie's kind of my ride.

ALICE
Oh.

MAX
Yeah. So.

ALICE
OK, of course.

They hug. Max walks to the door.

MAX
I don't know if this will ever get any less weird, but if you're happy, I'm happy for you. It's great about the dolls. Really great.

Alice stares at her. Max lets herself out.

INT. SMARTLY DECORATED BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alice lies in bed. Her eyes are wide open and she stares at the ceiling. WRETCHING sounds from the bathroom.

She forces her eyes closed. Jenna makes some drunken, pathetic noises.

Alice's eyes open. She pulls the covers up to her chin. CLATTER, CLUNK, THUNK. Jenna MUTTERS.

Alice whips the covers off and gets out of bed.

INT. SMARTLY DECORATED LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jenna lies with her head in Alice's lap. Alice strokes her hair. Jenna's eyes open and close at irregular intervals.

JENNA

- and I'm so so sorry, you have no idea how sorry. But Ellie looks at you and all she see's are her dads side of things and earlier I said I love you and you didn't say it back and you had to use a vibe to get off and I'm so so sorry -

ALICE

It's OK, sweetie. I'm here. I'm right here with you.

Jenna SNIFFLES and GULPS until she falls asleep.

INT. SMARTLY DECORATED BEDROOM - LATER

Alice sits at her tiny desk, carving away. The little wooden doll starts to resemble Jenna.

BLOOP BLOOP. She gets a text from Ellie. It reads "Tuesday, 9:30, Fig Hall." The three dots of a new text show up.

No new text arrives. Alice stares at the phone until the screen goes black.

She moves to the bed and opens a drawer on her bedside stand. She has to fish around for what she's looking for.

It's a tiny, portable address book. She flips through it. Every page is filled with impossibly small writing.

She stops at the "B's."

INT. SMARTLY DECORATED APARTMENT - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Alice stands in the bedroom door with a landline phone pressed to her ear. She looks down the hall at the couch.

Jenna SNORES away. Alice dials. She waits. Someone picks up on the other line.

ALICE

Hi, is this Willy? Willy Bendix? Oh my god, that's right. It is Alice. What a terrific memory. It's so good to hear your voice.

CREAK. The bedroom door slowly closes. CLICK. It closes.

CUT TO BLACK: