

ALIEN NATION

"The Surprise Farewell"

written by

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SECOND DRAFT

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## ALIEN NATION

### "The Surprise Farewell"

#### CAST

LEO... IS A 25 YEAR OLD MEXICAN PHOTOGRAPHY STUDENT STUDYING ABROAD IN THE UNITED STATES. HE'S A DREAMER, AND EXTREMELY NAIVE. IDEALIST, ROMANTIC, A BIG, HOPEFUL HEART, TRYING TO FIND HIS PLACE IN THE WORLD.

SAGE...IS 25, WHITE, AND HATES IT. SHE IS A PLASTIC ARTIST, TRYING TO MAKE IT IN THE ART WORLD THAT DISMISSES HER BECAUSE OF HER PRIVILEGE. FIERCE, BOTTLES UP EMOTIONS TO "SAVE IT FOR HER ART", BUT WILL DO ANYTHING FOR HER FRIENDS. LEO'S COLLABORATOR.

HARRY...IS 27, AND HAS LANDED A JOB AS A GAME PROGRAMER (ALTHOUGH HE'S A STREAMER ON THE SIDE). A BLACK BRITISH ON A GREEN CARD FLEEING BREXIT, IS NOT HAPPY WITH THE MIRRORING SENTIMENTS OF TRUMP'S AMERICA. PERFECTLY CHEERFUL GUY OTHERWISE. SAGE'S LONG TERM BOYFRIEND.

ERIKA...IS 24, SMART AS HECK BUT DOWNPLAYS IT TO NOT CONFORM TO HER KOREAN FAMILY'S EXPECTATIONS. SHE MOVED AWAY FOR SCHOOL BUT WANTS TO STAY WHERE SHE CAN BE HERSELF: PRETTY MUCH ALWAYS DRUNK, ALWAYS FABULOUS, AND ALWAYS TRUE. WILL CHANGE CAREER PATHS EVERY WEEK, UNSURE WHAT FULFILLS HER.

BILLIE...IS 21, A PRODIGY OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP, HAS SKIPPED COLLEGE ALTOGETHER FOR A TECH STARTUP. THE VOICE OF REASON, WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK (ESPECIALLY SUNDAYS), HAS A LOT OF UNWINDING TO DO. COLD, BUT HONEST, WHICH IS THE TRUEST SIGN OF FRIENDSHIP ACCORDING TO THEM. WILL KEEP AS BUSY AS POSSIBLE TO NOT HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IDENTITY, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY, BUT WILL INEVITABLY HAVE TO.

UNLIKELY FRIENDS, SLOWLY BECOMING FAMILY.

ALL JUST WANT TO MAKE IT IN THE COUNTRY THAT HATES THEM.

ALIEN NATION

"The Surprise Farewell"

SETS

Teaser, Scene A - EXT. WATERFRONT - DAY (**DAY ONE**)

Act One, Scene B - INT. SAGE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Act One, Scene C - INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Act One, Scene D - INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Act Two, Scene E - EXT. WATERFRONT - DAY (**DAY TWO**)

Act Two, Scene F - INT. SAGE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Act Two, Scene G - INT. SAGE'S APARTMENT - LATER

Act Two, Scene H - INT. SAGE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Act Two, Scene I - INT. SAGE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Act Two, Scene J - INT. WASHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Act Three, Scene K - INT. SAGE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Act Three, Scene L - INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Act Three, Scene M - INT. SAGE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tag, Scene O - EXT. WATERFRONT - DAY (**DAY THREE**)

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. WATERFRONT - DAY

DRESSED FOR THE BEACH, WHICH IN MID-AUTUMN AMERICA OFTEN MEANS SEVERAL LAYERS, SAGE (25) WAITS ON A COLD BENCH BY THE WATER. SHE WATCHES A SEAPLANE TAKE OFF, LONGINGLY, DRAMATICALLY EVEN IF NOT FOR THE WIND CONSTANTLY BLOWING HER HAIR ON HER FACE.

SAGE

PFT!

IN AN ATTEMPT TO CLEAR HER FACE, SHE SMEARS THE LIPSTICK ON HER CHEEK.

LEO

(O.S.)

Real smooth.

SAGE TURNS TO SEE LEO (25) GETTING OFF HIS BIKE. HE HUGS HER HELLO, AND SHE HOLDS ON A LITTLE TOO LONG.

LEO (CONT'D)

Aw, see? I knew you weren't dead  
inside.

SAGE

Shut up, it's cold. And you're late.

LEO

Hey, I'm Mexican.

THEY BREAK APART AND LEO TAKES OUT A LETTER FROM HIS JACKET.

LEO (CONT'D)

This is it. My entire future rests on  
this one, stupid piece of paper.

SAGE

Listen, Leo. We knew from the  
beginning it was a long shot --

LEO

I know, I know. I'm prepared.

THEY HOLD A GAZE.

LEO (CONT'D)

Ready?

SHE NODS.

LEO (CONT'D)

One... Two...

HE HESITATES.

SAGE

We don't have to open it right this second.

LEO

Absolutely. What's a few more minutes living in denial?

SAGE

I'm really good at that. Hey, maybe that's something I could add to my resume.

(clears throat)

Experience: 25 years with high functioning depression and anxiety.

LEO

Skills: Will use humour to cope with the impending ecological apocalypse --

SAGE

The impossibility of home ownership --

LEO

The marginalization and discrimination  
of social groups based on racial and  
sexual differences.

SAGE

Isn't 2020 beautiful?

LEO SMILES AT HER.

LEO

Sure is.

LEO OPENS THE ENVELOPE. SAGE TAKES A DEEP BREATH.

LEO SKIMS OVER THE LETTER AND LOOKS UP AT SAGE.

A KNOT IN HIS THROAT. A SMILE ON HIS FACE.

SHE LAUNCHES HERSELF AT HIM IN A TIGHT HUG.

LEO (CONT'D)

It's -- Really, it's okay --

HE STOPS FIGHTING IT AND RETURNS THE HUG, HOLDING ONTO HER  
FOR STRENGTH.

THEY BREAK APART, AND HIS HAND REACHES FOR HERS.

THEY WATCH THE SEAPLANES AS THEY TAKE OFF INTO THE CLOUDS AND  
OUT OF SIGHT.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. SAGE'S APARTMENT - DAY

SAGE ENTERS, FOLLOWED BY LEO WALKING HIS BIKE.

HARRY (27) LOOKS UP FROM HIS DESK: THREE MONITORS, A HEADSET, A GAMING CHAIR WITH FLASHING COLOURED LIGHTS.

HARRY  
(British accent)

My new bike!

HARRY WALKS RIGHT PAST SAGE WITH BOYISH WONDER IN HIS EYES.

SAGE

I missed you, too, *sweetie*.

LEO

I'm glad it's staying in the family.

HARRY HOPS ON IT TO GET A FEEL FOR IT.

HARRY

This is brilliant! It'll look  
fantastic in the background of my  
gaming streams.

SAGE

Because actually getting your ass  
outta that chair for anything other  
than raiding the fridge is  
preposterous.

HARRY

Hold on... This means...

HARRY PEDALS THE BIKE TOWARDS LEO AND HUGS HIM.

LEO

It's okay, I expected it.

THEY BREAK APART.

HARRY

This blows. What are you gonna do?

LEO SITS DOWN ON THE SOFA.

LEO

Nothing I can do, really. Unless I  
find true love in the next few days  
and she's willing to marry me on the  
spot, I have to go back to Mexico.

SAGE

It's surprising it hasn't happened  
considering you spend hours at coffee  
shops pretending to work hoping she'll  
walk in wearing a Star Wars shirt and  
reading The Lord of the Rings.

HARRY

Fat chance, mate. But you could skip the falling in love part and just get married, y'know?

SAGE LOOKS UP FROM HER PHONE (SHE'S TEXTING).

SAGE

Hold up a minute, YOU are advising people to get married? YOU? The guy who thinks marriage is a scam, a way for the government to control our lives, a lie society tells us?

HARRY

If you love someone, you don't need to sign some contract or throw an extravagant party for it. True love is quiet, in the every day details in life...

A BEAT: AW...

SAGE

Bullshit, you're afraid of commitment.

LEO

This is very sweet of you guys, but I don't mean to cause a problem --

SAGE RAISES HER HAND TO SILENCE LEO.

SAGE

Listen, I can get behind all of that  
crap cuz I love you, but don't go  
pushing others to do things you  
wouldn't do yourself.

HARRY

Maybe I would've, y'know? If I had met  
you before I applied for Permanent  
Residency, it would've saved me loads  
of time and money to just marry you.

SAGE

That's so romantic. I'm just the  
luckiest girl in the world.

HARRY

Darling, I'm only saying there are  
practical applications for marriage.  
This is one of them.

LEO

I don't think I could do that way. I  
wanna do things right.

HARRY

What does that even mean? People do it  
all the time! It's nothing more than a  
really, really big favour.

SAGE

I hit the jackpot. Gotta go meet Erika, but Leo, don't listen to anything he says. No one should.

SHE EXITS.

HARRY

On the bright side, you still have that big event tomorrow. You excited?

LEO

Yeah... absolutely.

LEO HALF SMILES AS WE:

FADE TO:

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

SAGE IS PERUSING THE SNACKS AISLE WHEN ERIKA (24) APPROACHES, WAY TOO OVERDRESSED.

ERIKA

It better be life or death, Sage, or I dunno what the hell I'm doing in a grocery store on a Friday afternoon.

SAGE

What're the most American chips?

ERIKA

What the hell do I know, I'm Korean. What's going on?

SAGE

Leo just got news he has to go back to Mexico.

ERIKA

Oh. That's awful. Poor thing --

SAGE

I know, he's trying to hide it, but I can tell --

ERIKA

-- You must be devastated.

SAGE

What? Me? Why?

ERIKA

He's your best friend. Well, after me.

SAGE

Yeah, sucks, but I wouldn't say "devastated". It's not like he's dying.

ERIKA SHRUGS.

ERIKA

Might as well be.

SAGE LOOKS CONFOUNDED. SHE MOUTHS: "WHAT?"

SAGE

Listen, I just need your help picking up some stuff for our art exhibition tomorrow night.

ERIKA

And I'm hearing of this now! What's a matter with you? I'm not some afterthought invitation!

SAGE

Erika, I invited you two months ago!

ERIKA

Hold up, was this the snobby, uptight, sober (air quotes) party?

SAGE

Yeah, we decided we're not ready to impress a sober crowd.

ERIKA

I wouldn't miss it for the world.

ERIKA BLOWS SAGE A KISS.

SAGE

I'm just glad Leo gets to do this with me before he leaves. We've been dreaming about this since like freshmen year.

ERIKA

Bummer. His one taste of the glorious American art scene right before he leaves us forever...

SAGE

Seriously, he's just moving.

ERIKA

Now, sure! Wait until the months pass, the calls get less frequent, he meets someone and stops calling altogether...

(MORE)

ERIKA (CONT'D)

In a few years, he might even forget to invite you to his wedding.

SAGE

That's crazy talk, we'd never do that to each other. I'm supposed to be his maid of honour.

ERIKA

Okay, weird? -- But trust me, it'll never be the same. You'll both move on and fall in love with different people.

SAGE

He can fall in love with a lizard for all I care, as long as he doesn't slack on work.

ERIKA

It's gunna hurt when he leaves, and you'll develop a defence mechanism. It'll be easier to ignore your phone and pretend he doesn't exist rather than face the pain of being apart, of having to pursue your dream solo.

SAGE TURNS SOLEMN AND SITS DOWN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE AISLE.

SAGE

(emotional, high pitched)

I don't wanna pursue my dreams solo...

ERIKA SWIPES THE DUST ON THE FLOOR WITH HER SLEEVE AND SITS BESIDE SAGE. SHE PUTS HER ARM AROUND SAGE.

ERIKA

There, there, you can always  
collaborate with me instead!

SAGE

I don't wanna do makeup tutorials.

ERIKA

It's life hacks now.

SAGE SOBS INTO ERIKA'S SHOULDER.

SAGE

(muffled)

Make up your mind!

THE TWO SIT EMBRACED, AND ERIKA OPENS A BAG OF CHIPS AND EATS THEM.

AN EMPLOYEE PASSES BY ON THEIR SEGWAY AND SNATCHES THE CHIPS AWAY, AND STARTS TO EAT THEM.

ERIKA CRIES INTO SAGE'S SHOULDER AS WE:

FADE TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

LEO ENTERS AND SPOTS BILLIE (21) SITTING ON A CHAIR IN THE CORNER. BILLIE WAVES AT LEO WHO SMILES AND APPROACHES, BUT IS DISTRACTED HALFWAY BY GABBY (25) READING THE LORD OF THE RINGS WITH A STAR WARS SHIRT WAITING AT THE END OF THE BAR FOR HER ORDER.

LEO LOOKS INCREDULOUS. HE MAKES EYE CONTACT WITH BILLIE AND NODS TOWARDS GABBY. LEO MOUTHS: "OH. MY. GOD."

BILLIE SHAKE THEIR HEAD, AND MOUTHS: "NO. NO. NO."

LEO TAKES OUT HIS PHONE.

BILLIE'S PHONE RINGS. FROWNING, HE LOOKS UP AT LEO, WHO HOLDS HIS PHONE TO HIS EAR.

BILLIE PICKS UP, UNAMUSED.

BILLIE

Stop. It never works.

LEO  
(acting suave and being loud)

Hey, Billie. Aw, thanks, you're too  
nice.

GABBY LOOKS UP FROM HER BOOK MAKES EYE CONTACT WITH LEO. HE  
SMILES, AND SHE POLITELY RETURNS IT.

LEO (CONT'D)

It's true, I am a great listener. I'm  
caring, and honest, and faithful. And  
yes, I've been told I'm a great  
kisser.

GABBY RAISES HER EYEBROWS, UNSURE WHETHER TO LAUGH OR RUN  
AWAY.

BILLIE

This is so cringey.

LEO

I'm sorry, I'm gonna have to call you  
back. Someone just came up.

HE SMILES AT GABBY.

BILLIE

Actually, this friendship is over.

LEO "HANGS UP" AND FACES GABBY:

LEO

I'm sorry, that was lame. I dunno if you'll believe this, but my friends were saying just today that I've been waiting for someone to walk in here with a Star Wars shirt reading Lord of the Rings, and I really don't want to upset the Universe by not talking to you.

A BEAT OF TENSION, THEN:

GABBY

That *was* pretty lame.

BUT SHE'S AMUSED.

LEO

Listen, can we start over? How about I buy you a cuppa coffee?

BARISTA

Latte for Gabby?

GABBY TAKES IT AND SMILES APOLOGETICALLY.

LEO

Some other time? Gabby?

GABBY

Sure, add me.

LEO HANDS OVER HIS PHONE, WHILE SHE INPUTS HER CONTACT. HE TURNS TO FACE BILLIE AND GIVES THEM A THUMBS UP. BILLIE LOOKS AWAY, UTTERLY EMBARRASSED.

LEO

I'm Leo, by the way. Hey, would you like to go to my art installation tomorrow night? Yeah, I'm an artist.

GABBY

Oh, I'm sorry, I'm going away this weekend. Maybe next week?

LEO

Oh, see, the thing is, I might have to leave the country soon, so it would probably be best for us to get those first few dates through as fast as possible, a date-marathon if you will--

BILLIE COVERS THEIR FACE. GABBY LOSES INTEREST.

GABBY

I'm sorry, I'm not looking to hookup.

LEO

No, no, god no. I meant going out, seeing if the Universe is right about us being together...

GABBY

Yeah... I dunno. That seems a bit intense.

LEO

Gabby, come on, this is destiny we're talking about.

(MORE)

LEO (CONT'D)

What difference does it make if we get  
married now or in a couple years?

GABBY DASHES OUT OF THE COFFEE SHOP.

LEO SIGHS AND SITS DOWN AT BILLIE'S TABLE.

LEO (CONT'D)

It was worth a shot.

BILLIE

That was a shot in the foot, my  
friend.

LEO SHRUGS.

LEO

I guess it's hopeless. Harry said I  
should try and find a spouse to keep  
me in the country.

HE LOOKS AT BILLIE FUNNY.

BILLIE

As tempting as you may find an  
American, single, and extremely  
attractive individual --

LEO

Sage isn't single, she's with Harry.

BILLIE

-- such as myself, I have to politely  
pass.

LEO

You're missing out. Do I need to  
repeat the moves?

HE SIGNALS THE BAR WHERE HE JUST STRUCK OUT.

BILLIE

If you have a shred of self-dignity  
left, you will never do that again.

LEO

I'm screwed.

BILLIE

So you have to go back to Mexico for a  
few years. Can't you just apply for  
jobs and get a Green Card like Harry?

LEO

That could take ages! Years of  
stalling my career; everything I've  
worked for with Sage, the whole life  
we've built here. Besides, back home  
you can't just say you're an artist  
without being a joke to everyone. It's  
honestly a bit dangerous, and hella  
lonely. I was never truly happy there.  
(beat)

This is my place, with you and Sage.  
You all are my family now.

BILLIE

Look, Leo, no matter what, that won't  
change. You'll always have us. We're  
just a call or a flight away.

LEO FAKES A SMILE AND TAKES A SIP OF COFFEE.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

That's my coffee.

LEO RETURNS IT FROM HIS MOUTH TO THE CUP BY ACCIDENT, AND OFFERS IT TO BILLIE, WHO IS GROSSED OUT.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

Keep it, to remember me by.

BILLIE SHAKES THEIR HEAD, AS WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. WATERFRONT - DAY

LEO SITS ON THE BENCH BY THE WATER AGAIN. HE TAKES OUT HIS PHONE AND VIDEO CALLS "MAMA Y PAPA".

HIS SISTER, ANA (19) PICKS UP.

ANA

What?

LEO

Hi, Ana, nice to see you, too.

ANA

What do you want, LEO?

LEO

Mom and Dad there?

ANA

Yeah, he's watching the soccer game while she yells at him from the kitchen.

LEO

Oh yeah, it's Friday. Listen, can you tell them I'm coming home soon?

(MORE)

LEO (CONT'D)

I'll probably need to stay with them  
while I find an apartment.

ANA

Ooh, big shot artist is coming back to  
live amongst us mortals?

LEO

Ana, just tell them, okay? Please?

ANA

Why are you coming back? I thought you  
were miserable here blah blah blah?

LEO

Well, yeah, but it's not that easy to  
stay here. I wish I could.

ANA

Listen, I dunno if anyone's told you,  
but things haven't been all that great  
here.

LEO SITS UP.

LEO

No... What's up?

ANA

Dad's shop got shut down.

LEO

What!?! How?

ANA

It was scary, they got him leaving the  
bank.

(MORE)

ANA (CONT'D)

He thought it best to lay low for awhile. They haven't let me leave the house other than for class for the past three weeks. Even then Dad's with me the whole time, it's embarrassing.

LEO

Oh my god, Ana. Why didn't you tell me?

ANA

Because there's no point worrying you. What're you gonna do from there? Text them an angry emoji to leave us alone? It'll be fine, this happened to my friend Christy. It all dies down after a few weeks.

LEO

You should leave that place. Come live here, with me.

ANA

Leo, you can't even stay there.

SILENCE.

LEO SIGHS, PENSIVE, AS WE:

FADE TO:

INT. SAGE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A HANDFUL OF ECCENTRIC PEOPLE IN THEIR MID-TWENTIES ARE GATHERED AROUND THE APARTMENT. AT THE CENTRE HANGS A LARGE B&W PORTRAIT OF A NAKED, PREGNANT LADY DRAPED IN THE AMERICAN FLAG, WITH RED BLOOD PAINTED ONTOP, NEXT TO THE BOOZE TABLE.

BILLIE

I don't get it.

HARRY

Neither do I, but don't tell Sage.

SFX: KNOCK, KNOCK.

SAGE

FINALLY.

SAGE OPENS THE DOOR, AND ERIKA ENTERS.

SAGE LOOKS AROUND DISAPPOINTED.

ERIKA

Party's here, bitches!

ERIKA STUMBLES AS SHE TAKES OFF HER COAT AND THROWS IT OVER SAGE LIKE SHE'S THE COATRACK.

SAGE

(under the coat)

Erika, are you already drunk?

ERIKA HICCUPS.

ERIKA

Always.

ERIKA BECOMES AWARE OF BILLIE, WHO IS SIPPING A CUP IN THE CORNER.

ERIKA (CONT'D)

And who's this (hiccup) piece of

(hiccup)? Hello, gorgeous.

BILLIE LOOKS AROUND IN PANIC.

SFX: KNOCK, KNOCK.

SAGE

Ugh, this better be him.

SAGE OPENS THE DOOR, AND LEO ENTERS.

ERIKA

SURP (hiccup) PRISE!

LEO LOOKS INCREDULOUS.

LEO

Hi, Erika, always great to see you.

SAGE

(stopping herself from  
choking him)

You are 37 minutes late.

LEO

Wow, it looks great!  
(spots Harry and Billie)

What d'you think?

BILLIE

Honestly? --

HARRY PUTS HIS HAND ON BILLIE'S SHOULDER.

HARRY

-- No luck on that soulmate search  
then, mate?

BILLIE

Oh, no, that was tragic.

SAGE CLEARS HER THROAT.

LEO

I'm sorry, I really tried, but the  
rain... Ah, who am I kidding? I  
brought tequila though.

HE SMILES HALF-HEARTEDLY. SAGE ROLLS HER EYES.

SAGE

If I can have everyone's attention for just one sec, we're about ready to get started.

THE CHATTERING DIES DOWN.

SAGE (CONT'D)

Thank you. For those of you who don't know us, I am Sage Bates and this is Leo Lopez.

LEO WAVES NERVOUSLY, THEN REALISES HE HAS A TEQUILA BOTTLE IN HIS HAND AND HASTILY SETS IT ASIDE.

SAGE (CONT'D)

Welcome to our first expo, "Dying Birth in America".

LEO

Our work is about... well, perhaps we should let you decide for yourself. Sage is the visual artist, I'm the photographer. I also do portraits, headshots, weddings, you name it!

SAGE WANTS TO KILL HIM.

LEO (CONT'D)

We'd love to talk to you about our work, so don't be shy!

HE APPROACHES THE BOOZE TABLE AND UNSCREWS A TEQUILA BOTTLE --

LEO (CONT'D)

Salud!

AND HE DOWNS THE BOTTLE --

EVERYBODY

All right! You go! Yeah! LEO!

BUT HE DOESN'T STOP.

EVERYBODY (CONT'D)

Okay, enough! Stop! Somebody do something!

SAGE'S FACE SAYS "THIS ISN'T GONNA END WELL" AS WE:

FADE TO:

INT. SAGE'S APARTMENT - LATER

HALF A BOTTLE LATER.

HARRY

Has anyone besides LEO even touched that tequila?

BILLIE AND SAGE SHAKE THEIR HEADS.

SAGE

This is a disaster. I'm so stupid for trying to do this with him.

HARRY

Hey, don't say that. He's just going through a rough time. Maybe if this doesn't go anywhere, it'll be easier for him to leave.

SAGE

I should've cancelled. Erika was right, things are already changing.

ERIKA

I *am* right.

BILLIE

I'll talk to him. Don't feel bad,  
Sage. This is actually a great party,  
and I hate parties.

BILLIE WALKS AWAY.

ERIKA  
(out of earshot)

Hurry back, sexy! (hiccup)

ERIKA GROWLS AND MIMICS A PAW WITH HER HAND.

SAGE

I just... I'll be right back.

HARRY

Sage...

BUT SHE GOES INTO THE BEDROOM AND CLOSES THE DOOR.

MEANWHILE:

LEO IS TALKING TO THREE GIRLS, PRETTY CLOSE TO WHAT YOU CAN  
SAY "HAMMERED".

LEO

... People do it all the time! Think  
of it like a really, really big  
favour. Huh? Any takers?

THE GIRLS SHAKE THEIR HEADS AND WALK AWAY.

LEO (CONT'D)

I've heard I'm a great kisser!

BILLIE APPROACHES HIM.

BILLIE

Leo, take it easy, my friend. You can't start proposing three at time now.

HE TAKES THE BOTTLE AWAY FROM HIM.

LEO

I'm gonna die alone, Billie.

BILLIE

You're twenty-five, you've got time.

LEO

Nobody wants to marry me.

BILLIE

Look at you, would you marry yourself right now?

LEO

That's cold, Billie, cold.

BILLIE

I give it to you straight. Like the fact that you've been a jerk tonight.

LEO

Oh, there's more.

BILLIE

Sage went through all of this effort to put this together, and instead of taking things seriously you've been getting drunk proposing to anything on two legs.

(beat)

(MORE)

BILLIE (CONT'D)

This was both of you's dream, and  
you're ruining it. You owe her an  
apology.

OUCH.

LEO

I'll go talk to her.

BILLIE

Dude, find a mint first.

LEO NODS AND EXITS INTO THE WASHROOM. WE

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. SAGE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

SAGE'S DOOR OPENS AND HARRY ENTERS, CLOSING IT BEHIND HIM.

SAGE IS SITTING ON THE BEDSIDE, CRYING.

HARRY

Darling...

HE HURRIES TO HER SIDE AND HUGS HER.

SAGE

I don't need him. I could teach anyone  
to point a camera and click. Hey...

You could be my photographer!

HARRY

As much fun as that sounds, we can  
worry about that later. Right now, you  
should talk to some people out there.  
I'm sure they want to talk to the  
artist.

SAGE

What if this is the last time we like hang out, and this is how it ends?

HARRY

That's crazy talk. He'll visit, we can fly down there... We've always talked about going on a holiday that's inaccessible via transit.

SAGE

But if time passes and we change, we grow apart, we forget we exist...?

HARRY

That's part of life, too. Think of all the childhood friends that meant the world to you once. I bet you don't remember half of their names now.

SAGE

That's different, though. I haven't dreamt of creating my life's work with them.

HARRY

Is it? Maybe we're only meant to come into people's lives for a limited period, leave our mark, and move on? Maybe it's not about forever, but rather what we did with the time we had.

SAGE

Is that why you don't want to get married? Are you just in my life "for a limited time to leave a mark" and then leave?

HARRY

Absolutely not! I see my present and my future with you as clear as crystal. But I want to prove it to you with actions, not a signature, not a circle-moulded metal and a stone the product of exploitation, forced labour, and fake limited supply to drive up prices --

SAGE

Honey, you lost me.

HARRY

Sorry. Point is, I think there are better ways to prove how much I love you. I would do anything for you.

SAGE SMILES AT HIM, COMFORTED.

SFX: KNOCK, KNOCK.

LEO

(O.S.)

Sage...? It's me, Leo. Can I talk to you for a second?

HARRY LOOKS AT SAGE. AFTER A SECOND, SHE NODS.

HARRY WALKS UP TO OPEN THE DOOR.

LEO (CONT'D)

You got... taller.

HARRY LOOKS OVER LEO'S SHOULDER AT BILLIE, INQUISITIVELY.

BILLIE

He's fine.

HARRY

(to Sage)

I'll be right outside, darling.

HARRY STEPS ASIDE TO LET LEO IN AND CLOSES THE DOOR BEHIND HIM.

LEO

I'm an idiot.

SAGE

I know.

LEO

I'm so sorry.

SAGE

I know.

LEO

I love you.

LEO APPROACHES SAGE. SHE TURNS TO HIM.

LEO (CONT'D)

That's why this hurts so much. I love my life here. I love my friends. I love people taking art seriously. I love the ocean and the mountains and the city. I love the sushi and the ramen.

(MORE)

LEO (CONT'D)

I love that I can ride the bus or walk downtown at 3 AM without a constant fear for my safety. I love that I can start a business and not be afraid of criminals shutting it down and scaring my family from leaving their home.

SAGE STARES AT HIM.

LEO (CONT'D)

I can't bring my family and my old friends with me. I can't bring with me the reunions, celebrations, and made-up holidays. The tacos here suck and there's like one good place to dance to Latin music -- sweaty, gross grinding dancing and all. The bad tequila and Coronas cost at least three times as much. But all of that is worth sacrificing, to just feel safe, at least for the most part. Where people line up to ride the bus and thank the driver just for doing their job. Most of all: you. Billie. Harry. Erika, sometimes.

SAGE

We love you, too. This hurts us as much as you, believe it or not.

(MORE)

SAGE (CONT'D)

What I love most about us is that we all bring something unique. You're the one with the jokes, the spicy food and saucy dancing. Without you, it's just tea, kimchi, and... what's American?

THEY TAKE A MOMENT.

LEO

You're not getting rid of me easily, even if I have to run back.

SAGE NODS WITH A SMILE. LEO WALKS TO THE DOOR. HE TURNS BACK.

LEO (CONT'D)

Sage?

SHE TURNS TO SEE HIM.

LEO (CONT'D)

You did amazing. Thank you.

SHE SMILES AND HE EXITS.

HARRY GOES BACK INTO THE BEDROOM AND SHUTS THE DOOR.

HARRY

I take it I missed quite the Hallmark moment.

SAGE

I guess you're right about all that "in the moment, leave a mark" crap.

HARRY

Sometimes.

HE GIVES HER A HUG, AND THEY EXIT AS WE:

CUT TO:

INT. SAGE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

EVERYBODY EXCEPT BILLIE, ERIKA, AND LEO HAVE LEFT.

ERIKA

Oh, hi, you guys, thank you for coming  
to your party, in your apartment.

SAGE

I see you sobered up.

ERIKA PANICS AND RUNS TO THE BOOZE TABLE.

BILLIE

I think people really responded.

ERIKA

I took a bunch of photos and vids you  
can use to promote it.

SAGE

Thanks, you guys. Where's Leo?

HARRY

In the washroom.

SAGE

If he's sick, he's not leaving the  
country without cleaning it up.

CUT TO:

INT. WASHROOM - CONTINUOUS

LEO SPLASHES WATER ON HIS FACE. HE TAKES A DEEP BREATH. AND  
ANOTHER.

HE TAKES OUT HIS PHONE.

LEO

Hey Siri, can you show me the next  
flight from Vancouver to Mexico City?

SIRI

The weather in London will be foggy --

LEO

No, dammit. Show. Me. Flights.

Vancouver. Mexico. City.

SIRI

The next flight from Vancouver to  
Mexico City leaves in eighteen hours.

DEEP BREATH.

LEO

Should I do it?

SIRI

I can't answer that.

LEO

No point prolonging the inevitable.

Goodbyes suck.

SIRI

If you say so.

LEO

I'm not talking to you anymore.

SIRI

I don't know what that means.

LEO SHAKES HIS HEAD AND POCKETS THE PHONE AS HE EXITS.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. SAGE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

BILLIE, ERIKA, SAGE AND HARRY SIT IN A CIRCLE ON THE FLOOR.

LEO JOINS THEM.

LEO

What're we playing?

ERIKA

We're taking turns to guess the next card to come out of the deck, and if you get it right, you take a shot!

LEO

Sweet! I'm in.

EVERYBODY

No! Not you! No more!

LEO

Relax, I'm just on water now.

SOUNDS OF RELIEF.

SAGE YAWNS.

HARRY

I think that's enough for tonight, you guys. We're gonna call it.

LEO

Thanks so much for the party. You're all the best friends I could ever ask for.

ERIKA  
(holding back tears)

Stop it, you're gonna make Billie cry.

BILLIE IS A ROCK.

HARRY  
(to Billie)

You okay to take him home?

BILLIE

Yeah, he can crash with me. Safer.

HARRY

Excellent. Good night everyone!

HE EXITS INTO THE BEDROOM.

ERIKA

'Nighty night, everybody!(hiccup)

SHE SLUMPS ONTO THE COUCH, ONE GLAMOROUS LUMP.

SAGE

I'll lock the door.

SHE WALKS WITH BILLIE AND LEO TOWARDS THE DOOR.

BILLIE EXITS, AND IT'S JUST LEO AND SAGE.

LEO

Seriously, thank you. You are amazing.

I dunno what I'll do without you.

SAGE

You can hurry back.

LEO SMILES SADLY.

THEY HUG.

SAGE (CONT'D)

I'll call you everyday.

LEO

I'll hold you to that.

AFTER WHAT SEEMS HOURS, THEY BREAK APART.

SAGE

Don't be late tomorrow. I hate having  
to tell the waiters fifty times I'm  
waiting for someone.

LEO

I'm just gonna tell you right now I'm  
already running behind.

SAGE LAUGHS AND CLOSES THE DOOR.

SAGE  
(out of earshot)

I love you, too.

FADE TO:

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

LEO CATCHES UP TO BILLIE.

LEO

I should probably head back to my  
place, I'll be okay.

BILLIE

To pick up your bags for your flight  
tomorrow?

LEO

No... How did you know?

BILLIE

Please.

LEO

It's for the best. Easier this way.

BILLIE

You must really love apologizing.

LEO

What? No. I just dunno if I can do it if everyone is there to see me off.

BILLIE

Did you even ask her?

LEO

Yeah, I'm sure she'd break up with her boyfriend just to marry me. We're close, but I can't ask her to do that.

BILLIE

Would it hurt to just ask?

LEO

Yeah, she could hate me for it! I don't want to risk our friendship.

BILLIE

Or she could do it, you would stay in the country, and be even "closer".

LEO

Hey, I don't like her like that! We're purely platonic.

BILLIE LAUGHS.

BILLIE

You better start packing.

FADE TO:

INT. SAGE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

ERIKA SHUTS THE DOOR BEHIND HER.

SAGE

They're gone. Well, everyone except Erika, who's taken over the couch.

HARRY

That'll be a night to remember.

SAGE CLIMBS INTO BED.

SAGE

Thanks for being so supportive of everything.

HARRY

You know how I told you I'd do anything to prove my love for you?

SAGE

Yes...

HARRY

What if there was one way to keep LEO in the country?

SAGE

He should absolutely do it!

HARRY

That would make you happy?

SAGE

Yes, are you crazy!? Of course! He's like family, if there's anything we can do to help, we should.

HARRY

All right, then. Billie said LEO can't marry a guy because no one would buy it, and sadly I agree. Erika could marry him, but that would only make him Korean.

SAGE

We need more friends.

HARRY

So that rules me out, too.

SILENCE.

SAGE

Hold up a minute --

HARRY

It's an idea --

SAGE

You're saying I --

HARRY

Worth exploring --

SAGE

While I'm still with you --

HARRY

We'd have to fine tune some details --

SAGE

Pretend to break up --

HARRY

Still be together in secret --

SAGE

Lie to everyone --

HARRY

Kind of exciting --

SAGE

Marriage is a scam anyway --

HARRY

Lies, deception --

SAGE

HARRY (CONT'D)

Oh my god.

Oh my god.

SAGE

Are we really doing this?

HARRY

I said you didn't need my signature.

SAGE HUGS HARRY TIGHT. THEY TAKE A DEEP BREATH.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

EXT. WATERFRONT - DAY

LEO SITS ON THE COLD BENCH BY THE WATER, ALONE, HIS BAGS  
PACKED BESIDE HIM.

SAGE RIDES THE BIKE AND HAS A HARD TIME BRAKING.

SAGE

I almost died! Seriously, did you know  
this thing has no brakes!?

LEO

I live dangerously, my friend. What  
are you doing here?

SAGE

Please, I didn't need Billie to text  
me your stupid plans to know you'd  
come here first. You're hopeless.

LEO

Always been a hopeless romantic.

SAGE

No, just hopeless. Kinda creepy  
actually. I heard you proposed to  
everyone last night?

LEO

Yeah, well, got any better ideas?

SAGE

So you're just gonna give up? I'm supposed to be the realist, please don't make me have to be the one to pretend to believe in dreams and all that crap.

LEO

What can I do, Sage? I can't overstay my visa. That's just not worth it.

SAGE

How's that any different than faking a marriage?

LEO

I must be suffering from amnesia and forgotten my spy skills to forge a new identity. Hello? I'm THE capital R romantic. I AM that guy that would get married spontaneously after only a few dates.

SAGE

And you wonder why you're still single.

LEO

Billie thinks I should've asked you to marry me.

SAGE

What did you say?

LEO

That I didn't want to risk our  
friendship. Plus, you're not exactly  
available.

SAGE

What if we found a way around that?

LEO

Honestly, don't wanna test if Harry's  
fighting game skills translate to the  
physical world.

SAGE

I need my partner here. You know I  
hesitate and freak out and need your  
stupid, illogical resilience to power  
through.

LEO

Speaking of...

HE HANDS HER A BUSINESS CARD.

SAGE

Who makes these anymore?

LEO

The manager at The Warehouse, that's  
who.

SAGE

You're joking?

LEO

Went to see them this morning. They said they'll give you a space in their gallery next month.

SAGE

What? How? Why?

LEO

I showed them videos of the expo. Erika has like forty minutes worth of stories on her profile.

SAGE STARTS LOSING IT, THEN --

SAGE

What d'you mean "give me a space"?

LEO

You'll be fine. You're crazy talented.

SHE LOOKS AT HIM.

SAGE

Stay.

LEO

Have you not been paying attention?

SAGE GETS DOWN ON ONE KNEE. LEO IS DUMBSTRUCK.

SAGE

Stay.

WE PULL BACK TO SEE HER KNEELING BEFORE THE OCEAN WITH NO END IN SIGHT ON THE HORIZON. A SEAPLANE TAKES OFF INTO THE SUN.

AND ON THIS, WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF EPISODE