

MAN OF THE HOUSE

Written by

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Based on, Question Tool

INT. MOVING VEHICLE - DAY

Alex (24), tall, dressed in military attire, sits in the back seat of a 64 Mustang with his fiancé, Candace (24). She holds his hand staring down at the very modest ring on her finger. He stares out the window at the planes overhead.

Mr. and Mrs. Baker (50's), Alex's parents sit up front with David (22), Alex's younger brother. David appears to be of a little persons stature. Large head. Short legs that don't extend past the seat.

Mr. Baker pulls up to the airport and parks the car. Everyone gets out. Car doors slam shut. Endless chatter.

EXT. AIRPORT - MOMENTS LATER

Alex is the first one to hop out. Everyone heads to the trunk where Alex is getting his bags out.

ALEX

(to his parents)

Thanks for seeing me off, again.

MR. BAKER

(Proud)

You're carrying on my legacy.

You'll do the same for your son.

Mrs. Baker grabs her son and hugs him tight.

MRS. BAKER

(clinging)

You be safe son. Love you.

Alex kisses his mom and hugs his dad. Candace pulls him off to the side.

CANDACE

(emotional)

Can we set a date for the wedding?

ALEX

(pulls away)

Let's talk about that when I get back.

Alex kisses her on the forehead and walks over to his younger brother.

ALEX (CONT'D)  
(bends down)  
Hey buddy! You're the man of the  
house until I get back, ok?

David comes off socially slow. Holds on to Alex's hand that  
he'd just placed on his shoulder.

DAVID  
(smiles)  
Ok Alex.

ALEX  
You take care of Candace ok?

They both look at Candace.

DAVID  
(understands)  
Ok Alex. I'll take care of Candace.  
I'm the man of the house until you  
get back.

Alex hugs his brother, grabs his bag and heads inside the  
airport.

SEVEN MONTHS LATER..

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM- AFTERNOON

Candace cries after giving birth.

Mr. & Mrs. Baker feels her agony as the doctor gives the news  
about the condition of the baby.

Mrs. Baker goes over to console Candace.

MRS. BAKER  
(touches her hand)  
It's going to be ok. The baby will  
be fine. He will grow up just fine.

Mr. Baker leaves the room to place a couple phone calls.

INT. HOSPITAL OUTSIDE CANDACES ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

MR. BAKER  
(Tense)  
Hello son. How are you?

ALEX (V.O.)  
(surprised)  
Hey Dad. I'm heading over to see my  
commander. Can you say promotion?

MR. BAKER  
It's not about a promotion son. I  
just got off the phone with him.

ALEX (V.O.)  
(Alarmed)  
What's going on dad?

MR. BAKER  
Son, you need to come home.

ALEX (V.O.)  
(fearful)  
Dad, you're freaking me out. I  
won't be home for another three  
months. Is everybody ok?

MR. BAKER  
I had to pull some strings but they  
cleared you to come home early.

ALEX (V.O.)  
Dad, where's mom? Can you put her  
on the phone, please?

Mr. Baker taps Candace's window. Mrs. Baker turns around and  
he motions her to come out.

MR. BAKER  
(To wife)  
He wants to talk to you. I can't  
tell him.

MRS. BAKER  
(The shakes)  
Hey Sweetheart.

ALEX (V.O.)  
(pleading)  
Mom, what's going on?

MRS. BAKER  
We didn't want to tell you over the  
phone. But Candace just delivered  
your baby.

ALEX (V.O.)  
(Completely shocked)  
What baby? HOW? I've been gone 7 months.

MRS. BAKER  
Sweetheart, It doesn't take long to make but 9 months to bake. We found out a couple months after you left. She wanted to wait til after the baby was born.

ALEX (V.O.)  
(Pissed)  
How the fuck does something like this happen?

MRS. BAKER  
(Looks at the phone)  
Language! I think we both know how something like this happens.

ALEX (V.O.)  
Mom, I'm sorry. I'm just upset. She was on the pill and I...

MRS. BAKER  
...Shhh It's ok sweetheart. We're going to get through this together.

ALEX (V.O.)  
Ma, they don't just let us come home for birth.

MRS. BAKER  
We'll talk about that when you get here. Here's your dad.

Mrs. Baker passes the phone back to her husband.

ALEX (V.O.)  
(feeling defeated)  
Dad, I'm not ready for this.

MR. BAKER  
Son, I'll pick you up from the airport. Love you.

INT. NAVY BASE - MOMENTS LATER

ALEX walks in to see his commanding officer.

ALEX

(Salutes)

Commander Sir, I was requested to see you sir.

COMMANDER

At ease airman. I hear you have a family emergency.

ALEX

(let's out a sigh)

Yes, Commander sir.

Commander walks from behind his desk in front of Alex.

COMMANDER

You good son?

ALEX

(emotional)

I don't know sir. No one will tell me what's going on with the baby.

COMMANDER

(Stern)

Keep your head up son. Go home, handle your affairs and bring your ass back. You're up for that promotion.

ALEX

(Stands with purpose)

Yes. Commander Sir.

INT. NAVY BASE BUNK - NIGHT

Alex is infuriated as he packs his bag. He dials Candace but there's no answer. He gives his brother a try.

ALEX

Pick up, pick up, dammit.

DAVID

(delayed)

Hello?

ALEX

(anxious)

Hey buddy. What the hell is going on? I left you in charge.

DAVID  
(tortoise-like)  
Hey Alex. I am the man of the house.

ALEX  
Yes you are buddy. How's Candace?  
What's going on with the baby?

DAVID  
She's sleeping. I'm taking care of her just like you said. They won't let me see the baby Alex.

Alex takes in a long breath and let's out a big sigh.

ALEX  
Ok buddy. I'll be home tomorrow.

DAVID  
Ok Alex.

Alex balls his fist tight and slams it into his bunk. Again. Again and again. He grabs his passport; throws it in the bag.

INT. AIRPORT - MORNING

Alex makes his way outside the airport. He sees his dad standing outside next to his newly painted 64 Mustang.

Alex and his dad exchange smiles and hugs.

MR. BAKER  
(Hugs Alex)  
Hey son. It's good to have you home.

Alex tosses his bag in the back seat.

ALEX  
I don't know if it's good to be home dad. I'm glad to see you finished restoring your car though.

Dad smiles as he gets in the driver seat.

MR. BAKER  
This will be passed down to you then your son....

ALEX  
...Dad, let's skip the small talk. I haven't been to sleep.  
(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

I'm mentally and emotionally exhausted. Unless you're going to tell me what the hell is going on, take me directly to the hospital.

Mr. Baker nods in agreement. He texts his wife telling her to meet them at the hospital.

Alex lets his seat back and closes his eyes.

Mr. Baker pulls off.

INT. HOSPITAL - MORNING

Alex rushes to the desk asking to see Candace.

Mrs. Baker walks up to the desk and grabs her son.

MRS. BAKER

Son, I can take you to her room.

ALEX

(relieved to see his mom)

Hey mom. Sorry, I just need to know what's going on. I don't understand how this happened.

MRS. BAKER

(hugs and kisses Alex)

Sweetheart. It's going to be ok. I thought you were coming by the house first. I made you breakfast.

Alex stomach growls but he doesn't have an appetite.

They make it to Candace's room. He stands in the doorway. She's sleep. He turns to his mom.

MRS. BAKER (CONT'D)

She's ok baby. She keeps having panic attacks so they sedated her.

Alex looks at his mother with tears in his eyes.

ALEX

Ma, I'm not ready to have kids and marriage is questionable. She knew this. How does this happen?

MRS. BAKER

(Tugs his arm)

You had sex!

(MORE)



MRS. BAKER (CONT'D)

And now you take care of your responsibilities. I raised you better than that.

David charges at his brother and hugs his leg.

Alex turns around, backs against the wall and slides down to see his brother eye to eye.

ALEX

Hey buddy! How are you?

David charges at his brother again, with joy.

DAVID

(hugs his brother)

Alex. I missed you. Is Candace ok?

ALEX

Mom said she's going to be fine.  
She's just sleeping.

DAVID

I took care of her just like you said.

Alex stands as he sees the doctor walking towards him.  
Reaches in his pocket and grabs a few bucks.

ALEX

Hey buddy, why don't you go get us some sodas or something.

David grabs the money.

DAVID

Ok.

Mr. & Mrs. Baker walk over to Alex for support.

DOCTOR

(to Alex)

I understand you want to see me.  
Are you the husband? Father?

ALEX

(Rubs head)

I'm confused. Hoping you can fill me in.

DOCTOR

Let's head over to the NICU.

Alex follows the doctor and his parents trail closely behind.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
He was born a dwarf like your brother. Your mother said you knew this was a probability as the gene can be inherited.

ALEX  
(Heart races)  
Doc, How does this happen?

DOCTOR  
What do you mean?

ALEX  
She was on the pill.

Mrs. Baker looks disappointed in her son.

MRS. BAKER  
(Upset)  
Son, don't do this. Are you ashamed?...

DOCTOR  
(intervenes)  
...If she was on the pill there's still a 9 percent chance she could get pregnant.

ALEX  
(exasperated)  
What about a vasectomy?

Mr. and Mrs. Baker faces drop to the floor.

DOCTOR  
(Lifts his glasses)  
Come again son? Did you have a vasectomy?

ALEX  
YES!  
(Looks at his parents)  
Sorry Mom. Sorry Dad. I didn't want to tell you.

DOCTOR  
Did you have it reversed?

ALEX  
No sir. I don't want to have children so I took the precautions I thought would insure that.

MRS. BAKER  
When did you have this done?...

MR. BAKER  
...Son, why didn't you tell us?

ALEX  
I wanted to Dad, but you're so  
fixated with legacy and lineage.

DOCTOR  
Son, if you had a vasectomy, you  
are not the father of this child.  
  
Everyone looks at each other in confusion.

ALEX  
So, how does this happen?

DOCTOR  
Is there anyone else with...  
  
David walks up to Alex with soda's in his hand.

DAVID  
...Here you go brother.

Alex looks down. Mr. and Mrs. Baker look down. The doctor  
looks down. They all look at each other then at the baby.  
  
All Gasps.

ALEX  
(perplexed)  
Buddy? Did you sleep with Candace?

DAVID  
I took care of her like you said  
Alex. I'm the man of the house,  
right?

Everyone is in disbelief. Mrs. Baker collapses in her  
husband's arms. Alex is fucking relieved and restrains  
himself from doing a Maury Povich victory lap.

ALEX  
(eyes circle the area)  
U n f u c k i n g believable!  
(to the doctor)  
You heard him Doc! He's the man of  
the house; draw up his blood. I'm  
heading home.

Stomach growls. Alex eagerly makes his way towards the exit.