

SCRIPT TITLE

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INT. BARCLAYS CENTER - NEW YEARS EVE 2019

The Strokes is playing on stage, the crowd sings along to the song "You only live once". ALEX YANG (30) sits in a seat far away from stage. A timer above the stage is counting down the time till new year.

Alex's P.O.V:

THE LEAD SINGER ON STAGE
New York City, thank you so much
for joining us on New Year's Eve!
Now please join me for the final
countdown. Ten, nine,..

CROWD
Eight, seven, ... three, two, one,
Happy new year!

The crowd cheers and the couple next to Alex start kissing. Alex stands awkwardly. He turns to Carlie, who's sitting next to him.

ALEX
So..Carlie..This is fun huh?

The camera reveals Carlie to be a 6 year-old girl.

CARLIE
So...When can I see my mommy?

FIFTEEN HOURS BEFORE 2020

INT. ALEX'S BEDROOM - DAY

A king size mattress with no bed frame and a night stand from IKEA are the only furnitures in this room. There are clothes, video games, charging cables, and empty beer cans on the floor. ALEX YANG is sound asleep in his bed.

The doorbell rings. Alex turns in bed, but ignores it.

The doorbell rings more urgently.

Alex struggles but finally jumps up from bed, walks out to the living room and opens his front door. Standing outside is BRIAN and his daughter CARLIE. Carlie is dressed like a boy with a hoodie and a baseball cap.

ALEX
BRIAN? What the hell?

BRIAN

Hey...hi Alex, I'm really sorry but Lynette is going into labor early and I can't find anyone to babysit on NYE, and my whole family is in Miami for Christmas. Could you and Karen please watch Carlie for me for a while...

ALEX

But...

BRIAN

Come on man you would be doing me a huge favor! Just let Karen play with her! Carlie loved her from her 6th birthday party.

ALEX

Yeah...but...

BRIAN

(pushes Carlie through the door and runs away)

Thanks man you're a life saver! Bye sweetie daddy will pick you up later!

Alex sighs and closes the door. He looks at Carlie and looks around the living room. The only furniture is a big flatscreen TV connected to video game controllers. Alex hands Carlie a game controller and the TV remote.

ALEX

Alrighty kid, these should keep you busy for a while. Make yourself at home.

CARLIE

Where are you going?

ALEX

(walking back into his bedroom)

Back to bed!

CARLIE

Can I have a juice box?

ALEX

There's soda in the fridge. Don't touch the beer!

Alex closes his bedroom door, slams himself into his mattress.

INT. ALEX'S BEDROOM - DAY

Carlie walks to Alex's mattress and lightly pats his face.

CARLIE
Alex, alex, wake up!

Alex turns his face away and keeps on snoring. Carlie walks to the other side of the bed and pinches his nose to stop his breathing and Alex opens his eyes after a few seconds.

CARLIE (CONT'D)
Alex, I'm hungry.

ALEX
(half awake)
There's food in the fridge...I think.

Carlie runs out to the kitchen.

INT. ALEX'S KITCHEN - DAY

Carlie opens the fridge, which contains nothing but beer and energy drink. There's also a small mountain of ketchup packets in the corner of the bottom shelf. Carlie stands on her tip-toe to open the freezer, which reveals several containers of ice-cream. Carlie opens one box and digs in with a dirty spoon from the kitchen counter. But she quickly spits out the ice-cream.

CARLIE
Alex!! This ice-cream is so yucky!

ALEX
What?

CARLIE
The ice-cream in your freezer! I think it has gone bad!

Alex runs out from his room and grabs the container from Carlie's hand, whose label says "rum & chocolate ice-cream".

INT. ALEX'S KITCHEN - DAY

Alex checks all his cabinets and finally finds two packs of ramen noodles. He reads the labels.

ALEX
 Alright kid, do you want... chicken
 teriyaki..or spicy shrimp?

CARLIE
 Where's Karen? I like her better.

ALEX
 Karen is not coming.

CARLIE
 Why not? I miss her. She was so
 good at guitar hero at my birthday
 party.

ALEX
 Look, Carlie, chances are you're
 never going to see Karen again. Now
 chicken or shrimp?

CARLIE
 Shrimp.

Alex starts boiling water to cook the noodles. Carlie stands
 and watches.

CARLIE (CONT'D)
 Did Karen dump you?

ALEX
 Where did you get that idea?

CARLIE
 I heard mommy and daddy saying
 you're a selfish ding dong and
 Karen is gonna leave you sooner or
 later.

ALEX
 All right kid. You don't know what
 you're talking about.

CARLIE
 Mommy also says you are probably
 gonna die alone. Are you gonna die
 alone Alex?

ALEX
 (mutters)
 That actually doesn't sound so bad
 now.

Alex finishes cooking the noodles and puts it in a bowl in
 front of Carlie.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Listen kid, Karen and I are just taking a little break. And, no, I'm not gonna die alone. Now, eat your ramen noodles.

CARLIE

But Carlie brought me chocolate chip cookies last time.

ALEX

Cookies are very bad for you! Now eat!

While Carlie eats, Alex and tries to call Karen on his cell, but goes straight to voicemail. Alex slams his phone on the kitchen counter frustratedly.

INT. ALEX'S LIVING ROOM

Alex is sitting in front of his laptop looking at charts from a recent ground-breaking discovery in chemistry, and Carlie is playing video game in front of the TV. After finishing a game, Carlie puts down the game controller and goes to Alex.

CARLIE

I'm bored.

ALEX

Um...play a different game then.

CARLIE

All the one player games are so boring. Why don't you play with me Alex?

ALEX

I'm working.

CARLIE

On new years' eve? Mommy says people don't go to work today.

ALEX

Well I don't really consider this work. This is more like...studying.

CARLIE

But daddy says you're a doctor. Aren't you supposed to be smart enough? Why do you need to study more?

ALEX
You can never know too much stuff,
kid.

Alex continues to read. Carlie looks at his screen. She reads the words out loud:

CARLIE
"The use of the Synthesis of
Chiral..."

She mispronounces synthesis and chiral. She stops.

CARLIE (CONT'D)
Alex, do you think my mommy will
bring me a baby sister or baby
brother?

ALEX
(half-heartedly)
They didn't tell you?

CARLIE
No they didn't know. They wanted to
be surprised.

ALEX
Oh ok. That's very...old-fashioned
of them.

Beat.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Do you want a sister or a brother?

CARLIE
I really really want a bunny. But I
know it doesn't work like that. So
if I have to choose between a
sister and a brother...I would want
a baby brother I think. I don't
like girls, girls are hard to get
along with.

Alex couldn't help but chuckles.

ALEX
(murmurs)
You've got that part right.

ALEX (CONT'D)
You do know you're a girl right?

CARLIE

I know. It's just that, most of the girls in my class don't really like me. They don't like playing with me. (Carlie gets really sad and a bit choked up)

Alex finally looks away from his laptop. He looks at Carlie.

ALEX

You know what kid, that's because they're not cool like you. They're not cool enough to play with you.

Carlie sniffles and laughs.

CARLIE

I know!

CARLIE (CONT'D)

I think you're pretty cool Alex, will you play with me? Daddy says you used to play the guitar, do you wanna play guitar hero with me?

ALEX

(stands up begrudgingly)
Alright kid.

INT. ALEX'S LIVING ROOM

Alex and Carlie each wears a toy guitar connected to the TV. They're playing "Reptilia" by the Strokes. Alex's missing lots of notes nad Carlie is on a winning streak. The game ends and the TV screen says "Player 2 win! You rock!" Carlie takes off the guitar and throws her hands up in the air.

CARLIE

I won!!! I won!!!

ALEX

How did you get so good at this kid?? You're almost as good as...

Alex stops mid sentence.

CARLIE

As good as who?

ALEX

Nothing.

Flashback

INT. AN ARCADE STORE IN SUBURBAN NEW JERSEY - NIGHT

This arcade store has a strong vintage feel to it. It's a bit crowded. A large group of people surrounds the guitar hero station. KAREN (20) and Alex are playing guitar hero in competition mode. Karen is hitting every notes and apparently very into the music. She moves her body and jumps to the rhythm, as if she is playing a live concert.

The game ends and Karen beats Alex. Karen takes off her guitar and raises it up into the air. People cheer for her.

KAREN

I won!!! Suck it grandpa with your
sausage fingers!!

ALEX

Oh stop being so smug! One day I
swear I will beat you at this
game!!

KAREN

And I will patiently wait for that
day to come baby.

ALEX

It's not a fair competition I mean
you had your rock band in high
school.

KAREN

And you played the guitar in
college.

ALEX

Well but high school was like last
year for you and it has been 9
years since I was an undergrad.

KAREN

Just FYI, I graduated high school 2
years ago. Also, I played bass in
that band, how was it supposed to
help me with guitar hero?

ALEX

Alright...fine...You won fair and
square, happy?

Karen throws her arm around Alex and plants a kiss on his
face.

KAREN
Yes, I couldn't be happier if I
tried.

Ends flashback.

INT. ALEX'S LIVING ROOM

Alex is staring at the TV screen with a blank expression on his face and Carlie is poking him with her finger.

CARLIE
Alex...Alex!

ALEX
Wha..what?

CARLIE
Are you okay? You look kinda...sad

Alex tries to laugh but only puts on a fake smile.

ALEX
Yeah I'm fine kid.

It gets quiet for a while and Carlie puts her arm on alex's leg (because she's short and Alex's too tall so she can only reach his knee).

CARLIE
Everything's gonna be okay Alex.

Alex squats down and pats Carlie on her head.

ALEX
Yeah, it is.

A MONTH BEFORE 2020

INT. A SPORTS BAR IN SUBURBAN NEW JERSEY - NIGHT

Alex and Karen sits at a table, across from them is Brian (32) and his very pregnant wife LYNETTE (30). A WAITER is taking their order.

KAREN
And I'll have the seasonal Sangria.

WAITER
Can I see your ID please?

KAREN
(Flaunts her vertical
driver's license)
Yes you absolutely can!

WAITER
(Studies the ID for a few
seconds)

BRIAN
Oh hey did you turn 21 Karen?

KAREN
Yeah! Just 2 weeks ago!

The waiter gives Karen back her ID and leaves.

KAREN (CONT'D)
So Lynette, when are you due?

LYNETTE
January 2nd.

KAREN
Oh my god this is so exciting!!

ALEX
What are you excited about? It's
not your baby.

Karen rolls her eyes at Alex.

KAREN
So do you guys know if it's a girl
or a boy yet?

LYNETTE
No, we want to be surprised.

KAREN
That's amazing!!

BRIAN
So Karen, how's Princeton?

ALEX
You know, still full of little
brats... right Karen?

Karen doesn't respond.

LYNETTE

(laughs awkwardly)
Hey I'm sure that's not true for
all of them.. You're a computer
science major right? That's
impressive! How's that going?

ALEX

She's not really doing anything.

KAREN

What do you mean I'm not really
doing anything?

ALEX

You know you're just going to
classes everyday. It's not like you
have a serious job or anything.

KAREN

Neither did you when you were 21.

BRIAN

Hey food's here!

INT. ALEX'S CAR - NIGHT

Alex's driving and Karen's looking out the window, neither of
them says anything.

ALEX

I feel so sorry for Brian. That
poor SOB is gonna be stuck taking
care of a baby for the next few
months.

Karen doesn't say anything.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I sure hope I don't end up like
him! I mean he's only two years
older than me and already has two
kids.

KAREN

I think it's wonderful that Brian
and Lynette are growing their
family.

ALEX

Are you kidding? That sounds like a
total nightmare to me!

Karen is silent for a while, then looks at Alex.

KAREN

You know what Alex, I'm done with you.

ALEX

What do you mean you're done with me?

KAREN

I am breaking up with you.

Alex stops the car on side of the road.

ALEX

What's that for Karen? I thought we had fun tonight. Is this another one of your little stunt?

KAREN

Alex, I am really done with you. I mean it. You're just a very cold, and mean, and terrible person and I just can't handle it anymore. You're always trying to debase me. I don't know if that makes you feel good or you just find it funny. But your so called humor is really just you being an inconsiderate asshole.

Karen gets out of the car. Alex follows.

ALEX

Wait!! Karen!! Stop!!

KAREN

(turns around,
impatiently)

What!?

ALEX

What...what about the Cullen Omori concert at your school tomorrow night?

KAREN

Go f yourself, Alex!

THE NEXT DAY

EXT. TURNER HOUSE - NIGHT

It's a frat house looking building, with two preppy looking guys at the entrance. Alex walks up the stairs to the door.

ALEX

Hey what's up guys I'm here for the Cullen Omori concert.

GUY 1

Can I see your student ID please?

ALEX

I don't go here, but my girlfriend does.

GUY 2

Sorry man, it's Princeton student only.

ALEX

Come on man, I mean, I've already got the ticket. Why would they sell tickets to the public if it's Princeton student only?

GUY 1

I didn't make the rules bro. No student ID, no entrance.

ALEX

Can I at least come in to pee? I really need to pee.

A group of Princeton students walk to the entrance and show the guys their IDs. The guys ignore Alex's request.

ALEX (CONT'D)

(Lowers his voice)

Alright man, I'm gonna be honest with you. My girlfriend got pissed at me and left dinner. According to her Instagram, she's at this concert right now. So if you would just let me in, I will find her, apologize, and get out of your way.

GUY 1

Nice try bro, but guess what, not our problem.

Alex walks down the stairs, walk around to the back of the building.

It's dark and you can hear music coming from the inside of the building. He looks around and sees no one. He starts peeing at the back of the building.

THREE WEEKS BEFORE 2020

INT. ALEX, SCOTT AND TONY'S OFFICE - DAY

The sign on the office door says: "Senior Chemist: Scott Argo; Junior Chemists: Alex Yang, Tony Grey".

Alex sips coffee and works in front of his computer. His desktop is a logo that says "GTC Therapeutics". Scott walks into the office and walks to his desk. A balloon is next to his desk, it has flowery childish pattern and says "birthday girl".

SCOTT
(walks towards Alex's
desk)
Damn you, Yang!

ALEX
(turns around)
Happy birthday man! What are you?
33 now? You should be thankful that
Emma still sleeps with you, you old
creep!

SCOTT
Yeah speaking of that...Emma and I
kinda broke up two weeks ago

A moment of awkward silence. TONY GREY walks into the office. He is a middle aged man who's visibly starting to bald. He is of medium height but his bad posture makes him look shorter.

SCOTT (CONT'D)
(happy to change the
subject)
Hi Tony!

ALEX
Morning Tony!

TONY (SUPRISED BY THE GREETING)
Oh..Hi guys!

He proceeds to his desk and turns on his computer.

ALEX
(awkwardly)
Um..I'm really sorry about Emma
man...(coughs) Let me know if you
wanna grab a drink after work.

SCOTT
Yeah thanks man...I'll be fine...
Oh by the way, some guys at the bio
lab are throwing Lukiana a baby
shower on Thursday, you coming?

ALEX
No! You kidding? I don't believe in
babies.

ALEX (CONT'D)
(Punches Scott lightly on
the shoulder)
Think I'm gonna hit the lab ese!

INT. A CHEMISTRY LAB - LATE AFTERNOON

The lab has two aisles of four work stations. Alex and Scott
work on two neighboring stations. They have on blue lab coats
and googles.

Alex checks his test tube repeatedly, seems frustrated. Scott
notices.

SCOTT
What's up man?

ALEX
Can't seem to get this shit to
crystallize.

SCOTT
Did you use the 3% solution for
that or 5%? You know the 5%
actually slows down the reaction by
as much as 3 times.

ALEX
Ah shit I forgot about that!

He puts away the test tube and restarts the experiment.

SCOTT
Are you okay? You seem distracted.

ALEX

Nah...I'm fine. Just didn't get much sleep last night.

SCOTT

Well...that sucks. The good news is, I've got to run a meeting so you've got the chromatography machine all to yourself!

ALEX

Great! Get the hell outta my way then!

Scott leaves. Alex proceeds with his experiment. He repeatedly shakes a sealed Erlenmeyer flask containing a small amount of murky liquid, but is not getting the result he wants.

ALEX (CONT'D)

(Mutters under his breath)

What the fuck?

He takes out the cork at the top of the flask and carefully adds in a few drops of a blue liquid. He puts the cork back and shakes the flask again but is still not getting the ideal result.

Alex gets frustrated and slams the flask down on the countertop. The flask breaks.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Oh shit! Shit! Shit! Shit!

He covers his nose and mouth with one hand and tries to wipe up the liquid with a cloth, but faints after 5 seconds.

INT. A ROOM IN A HOSPITAL - EARLY MORNING

Alex wakes up to find himself in a hospital bed. There's no one in the room and the clock on the wall says 6:23. Alex reaches over to ring the nurse bell on the nightstand.

A NURSE walks into the room with a clipboard.

NURSE

Hello Mr. Yang, I'm glad you're awake! How are you feeling?

ALEX

What the hell happened?

NURSE

(looks at the clipboard)
Um...it says on here you are a
chemist? Apparently you inhaled an
excessive amount of tin and fainted
during an experiment. Your
colleagues called the ambulance.

ALEX

Ahh shit!!! Sorry... can I have my
cell phone please?

The Nurse picks up a plastic bag on the table near the bed
and hands it to Alex.

NURSE

Here, and all your personal
belongings should be in this bag.

The Nurse walks out.

Alex takes out his cell phone. The phone starts ringing as
soon as Alex turns it on. The caller ID says "MOM". Alex
hesitates for a second before picking up.

MOM

(In Chinese)
Oh my god Alex are you okay? Your
co-worker called and said you got
sent to the hospital! What
happened?

ALEX

Mom, how are you still up? It's
three a.m in California!

MOM

(In Chinese)
How can I fall asleep not knowing
how my baby is doing? I was going
to take the first flight out
tomorrow if I don't hear from you
soon.

ALEX

Mom relax. I'm fine. It's just a
small accident. It happens all the
time in pharmaceutical labs.

MOM

What do you mean all the time? I
would have never let you get into
chemistry if I had known how
dangerous it would be! Oh..

(MORE)

MOM (CONT'D)

and is Karen there to take care of you? I can't seem to reach her cell.

ALEX

Um... yeah..yeah! She was just here! She just went to get me something to eat. Her phone died a long time ago.

MOM

Good! You know Karen is a good girl. You guys should get married after she graduates. Get married and have babies. You remember our neighbor's son Billy? His wife just got pregnant with their second baby...

ALEX

Alright mom you need to go to bed! Karen's here with the food! I'll talk to you in the morning!

Alex hangs up. He checks his text messages. There are a few from his co-workers asking if he's okay. He clicks on Karen's name and reveals lots of messages sent by him during the past few days, unreplied by Karen.

First the messages are like: "stop being dramatic", "When are you gonna talk to me again?", "You're being unreasonable". Then the messages become more apologetic: "Hey listen I'm sorry for what I did", "Okay I admit I'm a jerk but please talk to me".

Alex starts sending a new text to Karen: "Hey funny story, I almost died". A notification appears on the screen: "Failed to send message. You may have been blocked by this contact."

Alex throws his phone onto the bed. DOCTOR WHITIN walks in.

DOCTOR WHITIN

Hello Mr.Yang, I am the doctor in charge in of you and I just got in for my shift, so I want to check on you a bit. How are you feeling?

ALEX

I'm fine. It was just a small accident. I have inhaled tin before but I've never fainted like this.

DOCTOR WHITIN

Yeah that's what I wanted to talk to you about. The amount of tin you inhaled should have given you a headache, at most makes you really dizzy for a few hours; definitely not powerful enough to knock you out for almost 12 hours. Now we have run some basic tests on you and everything looks normal. But I highly recommend you go to your regular physician for a more comprehensive check up.

ALEX

What? You're saying there's something wrong with me? You can't be serious.

DOCTOR WHITIN

There's nothing to be too worried about. You work in pharmaceutical right? I know it can be a high stress job. And as you're getting older, your body is just not as powerful and energetic as it used to be. So it might be a good idea to not overwork it as much.

ALEX

Okay...

DOCTOR WHITIN

But it's never a bad idea to be cautious. If I were you, I would definitely do the check up as soon as possible. But as of now, you're free to go.

Doctor Whitin walks out.

INT. ALEX, SCOTT AND TONY'S OFFICE - DAY

Scott is working at his desk and looks up as Alex walks into the office.

SCOTT

Hey Yang! How are you doing! That was some scary shit last Friday!

Alex sits down in his office chair.

ALEX

I know! That was such a stupid mistake. But I'm good as new now. Also, were you the one who called my mom?

SCOTT

Yeah. We tried calling your emergency contact, aka your teenage girlfriend like a million times but she's not picking up. So I called your mom from your cell.

ALEX

Dude you have no idea the torment you have put me through. Whatever happens, never call my mother!!

SCOTT

Haha okay You got it man.

ALEX

Alright I'm gonna hit the lab now. I'm ready to poison myself with something else.

SCOTT

Yeah actually about that...Gary wants me to talk to you.

Alex rolls his chair next to Scott's desk (while sitting in it).

ALEX

What's up?

SCOTT

You know...that accident...um...you kinda broke lots of lab protocols, and Gary is worried about your safety in lab. Um...He wants you to stay off the lab work for a few days and focus on analyzing the data you got. He'll put you back in the lab when he thinks you're ready.

ALEX

What the hell are you talking about? So one little accident and now I can't even do my experiments?

SCOTT

I'm sorry Yang, but Gary is actually being quite lenient with you on this one, considering you've only been working here for a few months. He wants to be sure you can operate safely in the lab so accidents like that wouldn't happen again.

Alex rolls his chair back to his desk without saying anything. But after a few seconds, rolls back to Scott.

ALEX

Do you know who's the primary care physician on our company's health insurance policy?

SCOTT

Yeah I just went for a checkup last month. Why?

ALEX

The doctor at the ER suggests that I get a more comprehensive check up, something to do with my body getting old and being more precautionary.

SCOTT

Yeah of course I think that's the smart thing to do! I'll text you the name and address.

TWO WEEKS BEFORE 2020

EXT. A PARKING LOT - DAY

Alex walks out of his car and in front of him is a one story brick building. The sign outside the building reads "Nagashima Women's Wellness Center". He double checks the address on his phone, hesitates, but walks through the glass doors.

INT. A RECEPTION ROOM - DAY

Alex walks up to the RECEPTIONIST, a white lady in her 50s. She is reading a magazine and ignores Alex.

ALEX

Hello, I made an appointment with Dr. Nagashima, the PCP on my health insurance policy. But there must be some kind of mistake...

RECEPTIONIST

(without looking up from her magazine)

You work for GTC therapeutics?

ALEX

Yeah..

RECEPTIONIST

Well then you're at the right place. Dr. Nagashima is an experienced gynecologist who also provides primary care. Take a seat and fill out this form.

The receptionist hands Alex a form on a clip board. Alex takes the form and walks to a seat.

ALEX

(Mutters under his breath)

You've got to be freaking kidding me.

After finishing the form, Alex walks up to the receptionist and hands her the form. The receptionist reads the form, looks up at Alex.

RECEPTIONIST

You're six foot three?

ALEX

Yeah?

RECEPTIONIST

Young man...I have got to tell you, you're the largest oriental person I have ever seen.

INT. DR.NAGASHIMA'S OFFICE - DAY

There's a treatment table with leg holders(sorry I couldn't figure out what those are called). Alex sits awkwardly on the side of the table.

DR. NAGASHIMA

So, your medical record says that you had accidentally inhaled some tin last week and fainted?

ALEX

Yes, it was just an accident at work. I'm a chemist so things like that happen pretty often.

DR. NAGASHIMA

But I'm pretty sure chemists don't just pass out at work all the time right? Or do they?

ALEX

Nah...I didn't really get any sleep the night before so that might have something to do with it.

DR. NAGASHIMA

Well you are turning 30 in a few months aren't you? For men that's kind of an important age. Your metabolism slows down and your joints and back are going to start giving you problems. So I'm gonna start you off with some blood test and urine test today. We're also gonna schedule you to come in for a CAT scan...

ALEX

Okay.. but I don't see why that's necessary. I mean, I'm perfectly healthy.

DR. NAGASHIMA

Mr. Yang, may I ask you how often do you exercise?

ALEX

Um.. I play basketball sometimes? Why?

DR. NAGASHIMA

You know Mr. Yang you're not what people would typically consider as out of shape, but to doctors you're a great example of skinny fat. Your life style is highly sedentary and that's not good for your metabolism or your organ functions.

(MORE)

DR. NAGASHIMA (CONT'D)
You could really benefit from some regular exercise.

ALEX
Right! Exercise! Got it!

DR. NAGASHIMA
Also Mr. Yang, there is something else I think you should know..

ALEX
What is it? Do I have cancer? Am I finally gonna "breaking bad" it?

DR. NAGASHIMA
Well..unfortunately no. When you passed out the other day, the ER did some hormone tests on you, and they forwarded me the results. The test shows that you have extremely low levels of endorphins, dopamine and serotonin. Now as a chemist, do you need me to tell you what that means?

ALEX
It means... I'm not happy?

DR. NAGASHIMA
Mr. Yang, I'm not a licensed psychiatrist, so I can't give you any psychological advice. But medically speaking, you need to do something to make yourself more balanced, hormonally speaking.

ALEX
But... I'm perfectly happy. I have a good job, a nice apartment, I get to do basically whatever I want.

DR. NAGASHIMA
Do you mind me asking, how are your personal relationships?

ALEX
What?

DR. NAGASHIMA
You know, do you get along with your colleagues? How are things with your parents? Do you have close friends? How's your love life?

ALEX

Um...

DR. NAGASHIMA

You don't have to answer any of those questions. Those are just somethings for you to think about. You know hormonal imbalance can be the gateway to lots of potential disease. It would be good for your physical health to work on your relationships with people.

ALEX

Sure... I'll see what I can do.

SIX HOURS BEFORE 2020

INT. ALEX'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Alex tries to call Brian but goes straight to voicemail. Alex leaves a voicemail.

ALEX

Hey man how's it going? I have a concert to go to so I really need you to come pick up Carlie. Please call me back. And oh by the way I hope your wife is doing well with the whole...um...giving birth.

CARLIE

How's my mommy doing?

ALEX

I don't know, Brian is not picking up.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Carlie, I have a concert to go to and I have been looking forward to this for months. Is there any place you could go to when I'm gone? You know an auntie or a friend from school?

CARLIE

All the aunties and uncles are in Miami and Lily's family went to Europe for Christmas.

ALEX
Who's Lily?

CARLIE
Lily's my best friend! Karen knows her.

Alex's phone starts ringing and the caller ID shows Brian.
Alex picks up.

ALEX
Hey Brian listen I'm really sorry to do this to you when your wife's in labor but I really have to go to this concert...

OFFICER BRADLEY
Is this Mr.Alex Yang?

ALEX
Yes, whom am I speaking to?

OFFICER BRADLEY
This is officer Bradley. There has been a car accident and I'm sorry to tell you that your friends Brian and Lynette Meyers and their new born daughter have passed away. Now it is my understanding that at the moment you're looking after their daughter Carlisle Meyers, correct?

ALEX
Yes...

OFFICER BRADLEY
We're trying to contact the rest of the Meyers family. In the meantime can you take care of Carlisle until her family flies in from Miami?

ALEX
Sure. But how...how did it all happen? That's not even possible...

OFFICER BRADLEY
Mr.Yang I'm really sorry for your loss. The accident is still under investigation. I will make sure to keep you updated.

Officer Bradley hangs up. Carlisle looks up at Alex.

CARLIE

What did daddy say? How's mommy doing? Do I have a baby brother or sister?

ALEX

(squats down)

Um...Your mommy is still trying to bring the little baby to the world, and your daddy is right there with her.

CARLIE

Okay... Are you gonna leave me here and go to the concert now?

ALEX

That depends. Have you heard of the band the Strokes?

CARLIE

No?

ALEX

Well kid, this is gonna change your world. Come on!

Alex helps Carlie put on her jacket and the two leaves the apartment.

TWENTY MINUTES INTO 2020

INT. BARCLAYS CENTER

The band is playing encore, and all the audiences stand up and sing along to the band. Alex, however, sits in his seat, lost in thought, while Carlie plays candy crush on her cellphone. Carlie notices Alex's not as excited as he should be.

CARLIE

Alex, are you okay?

ALEX

You know what kid...no, not really, but everything's gonna be okay eventually, trust me.