

ARRANGED

"Pilot"

Written by

Helen Fernandez

ACT ONE

INT. ALEX AND RAVI'S LOFT - BEDROOM/BATHROOM - DAY

A sleek, modern bathroom ripped from a millennial's Pinterest board. So tidy, it's uncomfortable.

ALEX BARRERA is fresh out of bed, determined to get her manual toothbrush behind her weird, fourth molar. She's 27, think Diane Guerrero if instead of being Colombian she were Mexican.

ALEX

Shit.

Alex looks at the STOPWATCH set up on her smartphone. It's at 45 seconds. She regains focus and keeps brushing.

Standing at the sink next to her is RAVI SHAH, Alex's boyfriend. He's a 29-year-old Indian immigrant, a workaholic, and if it were up to him, he'd run for president one day.

Ravi is also brushing his teeth. He looks at the time and smiles to himself.

RAVI

(mumbled)

You're still on the top teeth? Wow.

Ravi brushes more intensely. Then stops.

RAVI (CONT'D)

Done. Fifty-five seconds.

ALEX

Dammit.

RAVI

Told you. Under a minute with an electronic toothbrush.

ALEX

Yeah. Okay. But at least my toothbrush doesn't sound like a power drill at seven in the morning.

RAVI

Pfff. Yeah, right.

ALEX

How did you manage to get the loudest toothbrush on the market?

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

It's great at removing plaque AND
waking up our neighbors.

RAVI

Five months ago you would have
called this loud brushing 'cute.'
Could it be that we're nearing the
end of our honeymoon phase?

Ravi flirtatiously creeps up on Alex.

ALEX

Five months, huh?

RAVI

Yep. 21 weeks.

ALEX

Or... 152 days. But who's counting?

Alex smiles. She kisses Ravi.

RAVI

Not me.

Ravi props Alex up on the bathroom sink. Alex dims the light
with her free hand as they begin to make out.

EXT. AIRPORT ENTRANCE - DAY

Dozens of cars drive by and honk at GEETA (30, Indian,
irreverent, an Indian parent's worst nightmare), as she drags
two large suitcases behind her.

GEETA

Where are the bloody taxis when you
need 'em?!

Geeta stops on the side of the road. She pulls out her phone,
but it's DEAD. She takes in her surroundings: nothing but
semis and open fields.

GEETA (CONT'D)

This better work.

Geeta turns around, faces the oncoming traffic, and lifts her
shirt.

A blue PICK-UP TRUCK screeches as it comes to a stop.

GEETA (CONT'D)

God bless Texas.

INT. ALEX/RAVI'S BEDROOM - DAY

Alex steps out of the shower and immediately goes to check her phone. She flips back and forth between her ex's social media pages.

This is JOE MENDOZA: A good-looking man with even more beautiful pictures of food on his Instagram feed. Alex scrolls and STOPS at an old picture of her and Joe.

RAVI (O.S.)

Any word?

Alex shakes her head. Ravi steps into the BATHROOM.

ALEX

No. I'm texting him again, but it's been radio silence.

RAVI

When's the last time you heard from him?

ALEX

Well, he told me he was going to Mexico right after we broke up. That was six months ago. But that's also when he turned off his phone.

RAVI

Okay.

ALEX

Then he posted a picture on Instagram last week, which means his phone works and he's just ignoring me.

Alex's anxiety is palpable.

RAVI

He's going to sign the divorce papers sooner or later. He has to. Just don't let him get to you, okay?

Alex breathes a sigh of relief. Something about Ravi puts her at ease. She joins her boyfriend in the...

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

ALEX

How'd you get to be so perfect?

RAVI
I'm really not.

Ravi starts playing with his tie. His demeanor shifts.

ALEX
Perfect job. Perfect guy. You're
making me feel inadequate.

Ravi grows quiet.

RAVI
Hey. Tell your mom I said congrats
when you see her tonight, please.

ALEX
Thanks. I will. I can't believe
she's finally a citizen.
(then)
I love my mom, but I never want to
look at the U.S. Immigration
website ever again.

Ravi doesn't say anything. Alex exits the bathroom.

INT. ALEX/RAVI'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alex sits on her bed with her laptop open. Ravi remains in
the bathroom as he fixes his hair.

ALEX
Hopefully, I can focus on school
after my mom's party tonight.

RAVI (O.S.)
Well... maybe after Katrina's
wedding.

ALEX
Oh. Don't worry. Impressing your
parents is at the top of my to-do
list this weekend.

RAVI (O.S.)
I'm not worried. They're going to
love you. Plus, they'll be consumed
with the wedding. I don't think
you'll get too much face time.

ALEX
Oh.

Alex gets dressed.

RAVI (O.S.)

All of my mom's friends are coming.
Even though they all live in the
same neighborhood back in India,
this is the one time a year they
choose to see each other.

Alex pokes her head into the bathroom--

ALEX (O.S.)

Good to know... now I won't get
excited about becoming BFF's with
your mom.

Ravi chuckles, then waits for Alex to get downstairs before
quietly closing the bathroom door.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ravi dials a number. SPLIT SCREEN now, so we see Chris at his
OFFICE and Ravi on his phone.

RAVI

Hey, Chris.

On the other end of the phone is Ravi's old co-worker, CHRIS
(30's, Black), sitting at his desk, surrounded by 20-
something bro's.

CHRIS

Ravi. How you doin' man?

RAVI

I'm fine. Thanks. How's everyone
taking the news?

Chris looks at his happy co-workers who are throwing paper
balls at each other.

CHRIS

Uhhh. We're pretty devastated.

RAVI

Were you able to get my resume to
your cousin's firm?

CHRIS

Yep. He said they're looking to
hire someone ASAP, so stay close to
your phone. They should be reaching
out to schedule an interview.

Ravi sighs with relief.

RAVI

That's great. Thanks, man. I appreciate it.

CHRIS

Of course. We all know this company's HR department is a joke, but firing you because they didn't want to sponsor your visa... that's the devil's work.

RAVI

Yeah. Tell me about it.

Ravi catches his reflection in the bathroom mirror. Something about it feels daunting.

EXT. FOOD TRUCK - DAY

As the Austin heat settles at 103 degrees, five different food trucks park alongside each other, while adventurous foodies line up to eat.

Geeta hangs from her phone's CHARGING CABLE, which is hooked up to the inside of TONY'S BBQ TRUCK.

GEETA

(to Cashier)

I just wish it were socially acceptable to eat barbecue every day... for breakfast.

Geeta devours her brisket as the Cashier calls up another customer. She looks down at her phone.

GEETA (CONT'D)

(to her phone)

Come on, baby.

Her phone TURNS ON.

Geeta scrolls through her CONTACTS.

GEETA (CONT'D)

Here we go.

She dials.

OPERATOR (O.S.)

You've reached McCombs School of Business. If you're a new student, press one--

We hear Geeta being transferred through her cell phone.

SECRETARY (O.S.)
McCombs School of Business. How may
I help?

GEETA
(into phone)
Hello. My name is Geeta Kamalapuri
and I've been admitted into the
Fall program, but I had a question
about the deposit deadline.

SECRETARY (O.S.)
Sure. All incoming students must
send in their deposit by May 15th
at 11:59pm.

GEETA
(into phone)
Okay, so I have a week? Shit. Fuck--
I mean, thank you. So much. Bye.

INT. ALEX/RAVI'S LOFT - KITCHEN - DAY

Ravi pops a coffee pod into the espresso machine.

Alex sits at the kitchen island, hunched over her computer
while chewing on her nails.

Ravi hears his phone RING and LUNGES towards Alex.

ALEX
Hey. Woah.

Alex hands Ravi his phone. He looks at the caller ID.

RAVI
Dammit.
(then, into phone)
Geeta?

EXT. SIXTH STREET - DAY

Geeta walks past a LIVE BAND playing on the sidewalk. Austin
is finally waking up and the streets grow more and more
crowded by the minute.

GEETA
(into phone)
Ravi! It's me!!

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. ALEX AND RAVI'S LOFT - KITCHEN

RAVI
(into phone)
I know...! What's up?

GEETA
(into phone)
I just landed. Well, I just got my
phone to turn on, but I'm here.

RAVI
(into phone)
How was the flight?

GEETA
(into phone)
Long. Katrina owes me. But that's
not why I'm calling. My Airbnb host
canceled last minute. Can I crash
with you?

END INTERCUT.

INT. ALEX AND RAVI'S LOFT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Ravi sees Alex focused on her work, furiously typing away on
her computer.

RAVI
(into phone)
Let me see.
(then, to Geeta)
Hey, babe?

Alex doesn't look up. Ravi hesitates.

ALEX
What's up?

RAVI
Can we host my friend Geeta for the
weekend?

ALEX
Who is Geeta?

RAVI
My friend from undergrad, remember?
... She lives in London... She's
the bride's best friend.

ALEX
Oh. Sure. What about her?

RAVI
She just landed, but her Airbnb
canceled on her.

Alex is caught off guard. She looks at Ravi, who is nervously
clinging to his cell phone, still on the phone with Geeta.

ALEX
(whispers)
She wants to stay here?

Ravi nods.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Uh. I don't know. It's kind of last-
minute, don't you think?

Ravi puts the phone down.

RAVI
It is. I'm sorry... I can just say
we're really not able--

ALEX
No, it's fine. She should come
over.

Ravi smiles.

RAVI
(to Alex)
Thanks.
(then, to Geeta)
Okay. You can stay with us! I'll
text you the address... yeah... see
you soon.

CLICK. Ravi hangs up the phone and sees Alex shuffling her
papers, nervously.

ALEX
I have so much going on today. Now
we have to get the apartment
ready...

RAVI
I'll clean up. Don't even worry.

Ravi gets to work, while simultaneously trying to keep his
cool.

ALEX
Geeta's the girl who's in all of
your college pictures, right?

Ravi scrunches his face. Crap.

RAVI

Yeah... I've told you about her,
right?

ALEX

Uhm. Not extensively, why?

RAVI

No reason. We used to be pretty
close. That's all. I think you'll
like her.

Ravi looks like he might throw up.

ALEX

Oh. Cool.

With this new information spinning in her head, Alex gathers
her belongings and goes upstairs.

INT. ALEX AND RAVI'S LOFT - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Twenty minutes later, Ravi comes down and sets out pillows
and blankets for Geeta.

There's a KNOCK on the door.

RAVI

(to himself)

Here we go.

GEETA (O.S.)

It's me! You're lucky my tits are
amazing. The doorman didn't want to
let me up, so I had to make use of
my assets...

Ravi opens the door and smiles at the sight of Geeta.

GEETA (CONT'D)

... They've come in handy twice on
this trip already.

Geeta hugs Ravi. She lets herself in.

GEETA (CONT'D)

Woah. Nice pad.

(then, jokingly)

Alex is an angel for letting you
move into her home...

RAVI

Actually, *I* found this place and then convinced her to move in with me. Thank you very much.

GEETA

You mean *tricked* her into moving in with you.

Alex comes over to introduce herself.

ALEX

He forgot to mention that I said 'yes' after only knowing him for one month. It's the craziest thing I've ever done.

GEETA

Alex! You're even prettier than the pictures.

Geeta goes in for a hug.

ALEX

Nice to meet you.

GEETA

Likewise. Thanks for letting me stay here.

ALEX

Of course, we're happy to have you.

Geeta puts her things down. Ravi notices her normal, dark-brown hair.

RAVI

I'm digging the new hair.
(then, to Alex)
Geeta used to have pink hair in college. But she would only dye the tips. It was her "thing."

GEETA

(to Alex)
Have you seen pictures of Ravi in college?
(to Ravi)
I'm surprised you're not bald after the buckets of hair gel you used.

They both laugh at the memory of their younger selves. Alex observes Ravi in this new dynamic.

GEETA (CONT'D)

Quick thing. I didn't pack a saree,
so I don't have anything to wear
tonight. Am I screwed?

RAVI

Oh. Alex, don't you need a saree
for tonight, too? We should all go
together. It's just downtown.

GEETA

Yes! I'd love that!

ALEX

Uhm. Don't you have work?

Ravi shrugs.

RAVI

I can call in sick. No big deal.

Alex hesitates.

ALEX

Sorry, guys. I still have some
calls to make for my mom's party
tonight. But you should go.

GEETA

No, please come with us... I
haven't worn a dress in ten years,
so I need your help. *Please?*

RAVI

Come on. It'll be fun. *Please?*

Geeta and Ravi look up at Alex with puppy dog eyes. Alex
looks down at her watch one last time. Clearly, there's no
way out of this.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOINT. SAREE SHOP - DAY

Inside a colorful, bustling saree shop, Geeta walks up and down the aisles ogling the various saree designs.

She picks up speed and walks ahead of Ravi and Alex, who are both distracted and looking at their phones.

GEETA

I need a place that has sunshine.
London was nothing but gloom.
Gloomy weather. Gloomy people...

RAVI

Awe, man. Alex was excited about
visiting London one day.

ALEX

I've never been out of the country.
I'll be excited to go anywhere that
isn't Texas.

Geeta laughs.

GEETA

All I'm saying is that I wasn't my
best self in London. I got wrapped
up in drama and I was always
keeping secrets for my friends.

Geeta picks out a RED SAREE and adds it to her shopping bag.

GEETA (CONT'D)

But that was London Geeta. I'm done
worrying about other people. Time
to focus on myself.

RAVI

That sounds like a great idea.

Alex looks up from her phone.

ALEX

Babe, I gotta make a call. I'll be
back.

Alex walks off.

GEETA

(mockingly)

Babe. Hey babe. You're a babe.

Ravi does not react. Geeta nudges him.

GEETA (CONT'D)
I'm joking. Relax.
(then)
Okay, I need to try these on.

Geeta heads towards the DRESSING ROOMS.

RAVI
(whispering)
I need to tell you something.

GEETA
You're pregnant?

Ravi ignores Geeta.

RAVI
But you can't tell Alex.

Geeta scoffs.

GEETA
Dude. Did you not hear my speech
five seconds ago? I'm trying to be
different.

RAVI
I lost my job.

GEETA
(concerned)
Seriously?

RAVI
Yes. Two days ago.

GEETA
Crap. Ravi, that's terrible. What
happened?

RAVI
They didn't want to sponsor my
visa. They said it wasn't the right
time to hire someone international
like me.

Geeta groans.

GEETA
You have to tell Alex.

Geeta steps into an open dressing room. Ravi sits on the nearby bench and scans the area for his girlfriend.

INT. SAREE SHOP - NEARBY AISLE - DAY

Alex hides behind a rack of sarees as she holds her phone to her ear.

ALEX

(into phone)

Joe. It's me again. I know you're avoiding my calls, but we need to talk. I've been patient with you, but enough is enough. Call me.

Frustrated, Alex hangs up and stays on her phone as she checks her emails.

INT. SAREE SHOP - DRESSING ROOM - DAY

Ravi sits while Geeta tries on dresses.

RAVI

I'm in the process of getting a new job. Why stress her out if I end up getting my visa? Plus, she just finalized her mother's citizenship, which took years.

GEETA

So?

RAVI

So... no point in adding on my immigration issues.

Ravi sighs.

RAVI (CONT'D)

Why couldn't I have been born in New York like you?

GEETA

I'm sorry, Ravi. This sucks.

Ravi stands.

RAVI

There's one more thing.

Geeta struggles to get a dress over her head.

GEETA

What?

RAVI

Alex doesn't know about our history. She knows we're friends from school, but she doesn't know our parents tried to set us up.

All of a sudden, Geeta is silent.

RAVI (CONT'D)

Geeta?

GEETA

Okay. Here's what we're gonna do. I'm going to slap you and then you're going to walk over to Alex and tell her.

RAVI

No way.

GEETA

You cannot expect me to lie for you.

RAVI

Okay! It's just that Alex has some major trust issues thanks to her ex.

GEETA

This is shady. I won't be a part of it.

Ravi feels his phone buzzing in his pocket and immediately answers.

RAVI

(to Geeta)

This is the call for the interview. I'll be right back.

Ravi steps away.

RAVI (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Hello?

RECRUITER (O.S.)

Ravi. I'm calling from Century Group. One of our analysts slid us your resume and we'd love to meet with you. Do you think you could come in at eleven?

Ravi looks at his watch. It's 10:45 a.m.

RAVI
(into phone)
Uh. Yes. Of course. I'll be there.
Thank you.

Ravi hangs up. He jumps up and down, silently.

As he makes his way back to Geeta, he sees Alex stepping into a dressing room.

RAVI (CONT'D)
Did you find anything you like?

ALEX (O.S.)
Yes. I was on the phone with the piñata people. Couldn't get the passport piñata, so hopefully, my mom will be happy with a regular piñata.

RAVI
No. I meant the saree.

ALEX
Oh yeah. I'm just trying it on to make sure it fits.

RAVI
Good. Hey. So I just got called into work...

ALEX (O.S.)
Really? Wait, but I thought you took the day off.

RAVI
I know. They said it's an emergency. Something about a spreadsheet fiasco.

Geeta steps out of the dressing room wearing a beautiful GREEN SAREE. She gives Ravi a scowl of disapproval.

GEETA
Must be important.

RAVI
But you guys should keep shopping.

Alex opens the door to her dressing room. She is also wearing a green saree. Geeta sees this.

GEETA

Oh.

Alex chuckles.

ALEX

It's okay. I wasn't loving this one anyway.

RAVI

I really need to go. I'll see you back at home.

Alex watches her boyfriend with growing suspicion.

EXT. AUSTIN STREETS - DAY

A rowdy downtown Austin street, filled with joggers, food trucks and tourists taking pictures in front of a cow statue.

Ravi dodges people left and right as he sprints down the street.

INT. CENTURY GROUP OFFICES - BATHROOM - DAY

Ravi storms into the bathroom.

Luckily, he is already dressed for an interview.

He opens his backpack, pulls out a leather portfolio, and quickly fixes his hair in the mirror.

RAVI

(to his backpack)

Stay here.

He leaves his belongings under the sink and hopes for the best.

INT. CENTURY GROUP - CORNER OFFICE - DAY

Inside this immaculate corner office, a stiff managing director, PAUL (40), reviews Ravi's resume on his computer.

RAVI

Thank you for meeting with me. I know it's very last minute.

Paul chews on his pen.

PAUL

Wow. You're actually from India?

RAVI
Mumbai, yep. Have you been?

God, no. PAUL

RAVI

Okay.

(then)

I just want to say... I'm a big fan of what you've built. Century Group's clients are exciting to me. It would be a privilege *and* a challenge to come work for you.

Paul sways in his office chair.

PAUL
Wonderful. I will run it by my hiring committee, but I'm sure they'll all agree that not hiring you would be silly.

RAVI
Thank you, Paul. I will wait to
hear from you.

Excited, Ravi stands, shakes Paul's hand and exits.

INT. UBER - DAY

The backseat of an UBER. Alex and Geeta sit in silence.

UBER DRIVER
Want some gum?

Sure. GEETA No, thanks. ALEX

Geeta takes the piece of gum. She shifts in her seat, uncomfortably.

Alex? GEETA (CONT'D)

Alex looks at Geeta with a friendly smile.

GEETA (CONT'D)
I want to tell you something. About
me and Ravi.

EXT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - DAY

A worn-out Ravi walks towards his loft. His phone RINGS.

RAVI
(into phone)
Hello. Paul, yes, hi.

PAUL (O.S.)
I hate to do this to you, Ravi, but
when you came in today, I didn't
know that you needed to have your
visa sponsored. Right now, we don't
have the resources to bring you on
board. I'm very sorry.

CLICK.

Ravi tries not to panic.

INT. ALEX AND RAVI'S LOFT - DAY

Ravi puts on a half-smile as he enters. He sees Alex cross
the living room, but she doesn't acknowledge him.

RAVI
Uh. Hello?

GEETA
(mouthing)
Sorry.

Ravi groans internally. He follows Alex.

INT. UPSTAIRS - CONTINUOUS

Ravi braces himself.

ALEX
(whispering)
How could you not tell me about you
and Geeta?

Ravi doesn't know what to say--

ALEX (CONT'D)
... I mean, I knew you guys were
close, but you're actually close...
as in you've had sex before.

Ravi opens his mouth to speak, but--

ALEX (CONT'D)
I just don't understand how you
could leave that out. There were
plenty of opportunities. I told you
all my personal stuff.
(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

Everything about Joe, my mother
being undocumented, my weird fear
of planes, but you decided to
withhold that I was about to meet
your EX-FIANCÉ?!

Alex catches her breath.

RAVI

I messed up. I'm sorry.

ALEX

We've been dating for five months,
but it feels like I just met you.

Then, the doorbell RINGS.

GEETA (O.S.)

I'll get it!

RAVI

I should have told you. But I saw
how overwhelmed you were this
morning--

GEETA (O.S.)

Oh shit.

Ravi and Alex peer over their BEDROOM BALCONY.

RAVI

Who is it?!

ALEX

Who is it!!

GEETA (O.S.)

Wow, hello!

(then, to Ravi)

It's your parents!

Ravi and Alex look at each other, completely stunned.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREEINT. ALEX AND RAVI'S LOFT - LIVING ROOM

Ravi's parents, ALKA (45, chic, but always judging you) and VARUN (50, sweet eyes, blessed with luscious black hair) enter the living room looking exhausted as they pull their heavy suitcases behind them.

ALKA

Ravi. We've been calling and calling.

VARUN

The hotel did not allow us to check-in early, so we came here.

RAVI

It's okay. Welcome.

GEETA

Here. I'll help you with your things.

Geeta takes Alka's heavy bags.

ALKA

Geeta! So nice to see you. You're looking... healthy.

Alex approaches. Alka has not turned around to see Alex.

ALEX

Hi. I'm Alex.

Alka doesn't hear her.

RAVI

Mom, dad, this is Alex, my girlfriend.

ALEX

I've heard so much about you.

Alka turns around and looks Alex up and down.

ALKA

That's hard to believe. A part of me feels like my son forgot he had parents back in India...

RAVI

That's not true, ma.

VARUN

Alka.

Alka laughs. She walks over to Ravi and fixes his shirt collar.

RAVI

See, Alex, they're harmless.
(then, to his parents)
Alex was nervous about meeting you.
Can you believe it?

ALKA

(to Alex)

Darling, we're here for the wedding. There's nothing to be nervous about. To be honest, I almost forgot that Ravi was living with someone.

Ouch.

RAVI

Ma.

VARUN

But look at this place. It's incredible.

Varun and Alka look around as they settle into the couch.

ALKA

It's charming. But the layout is strange, no? I suppose I prefer walls.

ALEX

I'm with you on that. I'm always complaining that there's zero privacy. At least the bathroom has walls!

Alex laughs. No one else does.

VARUN

This is our first time in Texas, but it feels like we're still in Mumbai with this heat.

ALKA

It's dreadful.

VARUN

But at least we're getting to see the sights.

(then, to Alex)

Are you from Texas?

ALEX

Yes. Born and raised.

ALKA

And where are your parents from?

ALEX

My mom was born in Mexico City. She moved here before I was born, but she's been undocumented until recently.

ALKA

Undocumented? You mean... she was here illegally?

ALEX

She was. Yes.

RAVI

But actually, Alex's mom just passed her naturalization test, so they're celebrating tonight.

Alex smiles.

ALEX

I'd love to show you guys around town if you have time this weekend.

VARUN

I would love that!

RAVI

Do you want anything to drink?

ALEX

Ooh. We have tea.

ALKA

That sounds lovely.

Varun and Geeta nod as well.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Ravi pulls out the tea. Alex drops her smile.

ALEX
(to Ravi)
So whose idea was it?

RAVI
(whispering)
Huh?

ALEX
To set you guys up? Your mom or
dad?

RAVI
Babe, does it matter?

ALEX
(whispering)
It matters. They're probably still
hoping you'll end up together!

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alka and Varun study Alex and Ravi's strange behavior towards one another. Geeta clocks this.

GEETA
They're so sweet together. A little
weird, but cute nonetheless.

Alka shrugs.

ALKA
How is London? When did you land?

GEETA
Today actually. London is not so
good. It made me miss Bombay.

ALKA
Of course. There's no place like
India.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Alex pours boiling water into teacups.

ALEX
(whispering)
I don't like knowing that my
boyfriend is keeping secrets from
me.

RAVI
(whispering)
I'm not...

Alex sighs. She picks up the teacups and walks away.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ravi and Alex smile as they join Alka and Varun.

ALKA
What is this?

ALEX
It's tea.

ALKA
Where's the chai?

RAVI
We don't have chai, ma. This is
green tea. It's very tasty.

Alka shakes her head. Pass.

ALKA
(under her breath)
No chai?
(to Ravi)
Two years is a long time. Are you
getting ready to come back to India
now?

Geeta's eyes grow wide.

VARUN
Don't be ridiculous. He's got a
stable American job. He's living
the American dream!

Varun gives Alex a supportive nod. Alex releases the tension
in her shoulders and sits down next to Alka.

ALKA
So. Geeta. How's the bride? Is she
excited?

Alex pretends not to be bothered by Alka's dismissiveness.

GEETA
Uhm. Katrina seems happy, but I
hear she's driving her bridesmaids
mad. If she weren't my best friend,
I'd slap some sense into her.

ALKA

Well, she has every right to want things to be perfect. She's *finally* getting married.

GEETA

(playing along)

Yes. Finally.

Varun gets a PHONE CALL and steps onto the BALCONY.

ALKA

When is it going to be your turn?

GEETA

I don't think it'll be any time soon. Ha-ha.

ALKA

You can't wait too long. I'm sure being young and single can be fun, but it's nice to have someone to share your life with.

Ravi and Geeta's eyes meet. Ravi playfully rolls his eyes at his mother's lecturing. Geeta smiles.

VARUN

That was Aamir. He said he just arrived at the hotel and he's reserved a table in the garden for all of us.

ALKA

We should go.

VARUN

Alex, you should join us.

ALEX

I wish I could. I have to go to my mom's house. But have fun. I'll see you at the rehearsal dinner.

Alka and Varun grab their luggage and head out the door.

RAVI

(to parents, Geeta)

You guys go ahead. I'll catch up.

Geeta closes the door behind her.

Immediately, Alex deflates. Partly because of Alka, but also because of her fight with Ravi.

RAVI (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry.

ALEX

You know. Geeta mentioned that you guys would have gotten married if she hadn't said "no" to you. Is that true?

RAVI

Yes. I was 19. I didn't know what I wanted back then.

ALEX

Back then? So what about now?

RAVI

I'm looking at her.

EXT. PATIO BAR - DAY

An hour later, next to a fountain in a garden, Geeta and Ravi chug their beers away from Ravi's parents.

GEETA

I'm sorry for causing drama. That wasn't my intention. I had no idea Alex would be so upset.

RAVI

She would have found out sooner or later. But yeah, Alex hates when I keep things from her.

GEETA

Speaking of... how'd the interview go?

RAVI

I didn't get it.

Ravi asks the WAITER for a refill.

GEETA

I'm sorry.

RAVI

I'm not even that upset. I'm more concerned with disappointing my parents and Alex.

GEETA

Rav, you sound crazy. Come on.

RAVI

Seriously. My dad will be devastated. Then there's Alex's expectations. She's always saying how much she loves that I can keep a steady job, unlike her ex.

GEETA

Look, I know you can't help it. It's that good old-fashioned Indian way of thinking. If you're not a CEO then you're not successful and you'll never amount to anything.

RAVI

It's that, yes, but also... what if I don't get a visa? I'll have to move home.

GEETA

You should talk to Uncle Aamir. He deals with these scenarios all the time.

Ravi nods.

GEETA (CONT'D)

Then you need to talk to Alex. Just be honest with her.

INT. HOTEL GARDEN RESTAURANT - DAY

At a table by the window, Ravi sits with his parents and UNCLE AAMIR (45, a charming immigration lawyer, not actually Ravi's uncle).

UNCLE AAMIR

Enough about me. I want to hear about the star of the moment. Ravi, you're kicking butt at your new job, I assume?

Ravi cringes at the mention of his old job.

RAVI

Pretty much.

Geeta coughs loudly, trying to change the subject--

UNCLE AAMIR

Geeta, isn't it crazy to think we could be at your wedding next year?

GEETA

Oh, you have someone for me?

Uncle Aamir laughs.

UNCLE AAMIR

I'm only teasing. But you aren't getting any younger.

GEETA

Trust me, I know. Two aunties reminded me as I walked in.

UNCLE AAMIR

When do you fly back to London?

GEETA

Actually, I might stick around. I got into business school here.

RAVI

(surprised)

In Austin? Why didn't you tell me?

GEETA

Well. I'm not sure I can afford to put down a deposit. My dad cut me off.

ALKA

Oh dear. I'm sorry.

UNCLE AAMIR

You should go. Maybe Ravi can loan you some money now that he has a fancy finance job. Right?

Geeta chuckles.

GEETA

Totally.

INT. SOFIA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

A rowdy living room party full of women playing LOTERIA, while drinking tequila.

Alex balances her mother's cake in one hand, while carrying a MINI PIÑATA in the other.

SOFIA (47, peppy) stands up and greets her daughter.

ALEX

Ma, where do you want this?

SOFIA

Put it in the kitchen! We're almost done.

(then, reading out)

La Chalupa!

INT. SOFIA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Alex's aunt, MARITZA (55, opinionated, loud), and grandmother, MAMA-MALENA (70, obsessed with Jesus) dance around the kitchen with drinks in hand.

MARITZA

How are things with that boy of yours?

ALEX

They're okay.

Sofia joins her family in the kitchen.

MARITZA

Do I hear wedding bells?

Alex scoffs.

ALEX

No. I love Ravi, but I'm never getting married again. I'm a soon-to-be divorcée.

Mama-Malena gives Sofia a worried look.

MAMA-MALENA

(to Sofia)

Tell her.

Sofia groans.

ALEX

Tell me what?

SOFIA

Joe called me.

ALEX

Why did he call you? What'd he say?

SOFIA

He said he's on a flight back tonight because he wants to talk to you in person. That's all he said.

ALEX

Wow. He has the balls to call my mother, but is too scared to answer my calls?

MAMA-MALENA

Maybe he felt comfortable reaching out to your ma because you two were together for *five* years.

MARITZA

Exactly. He's like a son to her.

Alex tries to understand, but it's not easy to process this.

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY - NIGHT

Ravi and Geeta meet in front of the ELEVATOR. They're both wearing their new clothes for the rehearsal dinner.

GEETA

You look nice.

RAVI

So do you.

Geeta presses the elevator button to go UP.

GEETA

I hate to admit this, but I feel a little responsible for all this visa drama you're going through.

RAVI

What? Why?

GEETA

If I hadn't turned you down when we were in college, maybe you'd have a green card by now.

Ravi laughs. Geeta joins him.

INT. ROOFTOP BALLROOM - CONTINUOUS

As soon as the elevator doors OPEN, a herd of excited WEDDING GUESTS pour out. Ravi and Geeta are the last to exit.

UNCLE AAMIR

There you are. Alka asked me to wait for you. There's a bit of a crowd.

Geeta and Ravi follow Aamir into the MAJESTIC BALLROOM filled with Indians from all over the world.

Ravi takes a deep breath.

GEETA

I have to go find Katrina, but I'll catch up with you guys later.

Ravi and Aamir make their way through the lines set up to get people to each food and drink station. Almost like an amusement park for food and alcohol.

As Aamir reaches for a plate--

RAVI

Can I ask you something? I need some advice.

UNCLE AAMIR

Of course.

RAVI

But it's off the record...

UNCLE AAMIR

Go on.

RAVI

I got fired from my job.

Uncle Aamir sees two OLDER AUNTIES (60's) trying to eavesdrop on their conversation. He waits for them to pass.

UNCLE AAMIR

I am so sorry. That's terrible news.

RAVI

And I went in for an interview today, but I didn't get it. No one wants to hire someone who needs a visa.

UNCLE AAMIR

I see.

RAVI

I don't know what to do. What do you suggest?

UNCLE AAMIR

You could always enroll in another school and get a student visa that way, but that's a short-term solution.

Ravi nods.

UNCLE AAMIR (CONT'D)

And you wouldn't be able to work.

RAVI

I have to work. I can't--

Aamir tries to reassure Ravi.

UNCLE AAMIR

I know. Another option is to apply for a B-1 visa, but you can't work and you can get deported if you aren't careful.

RAVI

I have to figure something out. I can't get deported before I've had a real shot at making a life here.

UNCLE AAMIR

They can't deport you right away. Don't get ahead of yourself.

Their focus is pulled to the center of the room as the bride, KATRINA (31, stunning), is hoisted in the air for her opening musical number.

RAVI

I just feel like I have no way out of this.

Suddenly, several INDIAN WOMEN in risque costumes start dancing on stage to upbeat Bollywood music.

Uncle Aamir struggles to look away from the dancing, but he manages to get a few words out.

UNCLE AAMIR

You could always marry someone to get a green card.

As these words land on Ravi, sweat trickles down his forehead. The panic settles in.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOURINT. SOFIA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Alex paces in her mother's living room while waiting for Joe. The rest of the party has moved to the back of the house.

Sofia brings her daughter a glass of water.

ALEX

I feel like I'm going to throw up.

The doorbell RINGS.

SOFIA

I'll leave you to it.

Alex opens the door and steps outside.

EXT. SOFIA'S HOUSE - PORCH - NIGHT

Joe turns around. His eyes are tired, but he smiles at Alex.

Alex doesn't know whether to hug Joe or shake his hand.

ALEX

Hey.

JOE

You look good.

ALEX

Thanks.

They both take a seat on the porch swing.

JOE

I'm sorry I didn't respond to your texts... or your calls. But I knew you'd just try to get me to sign these.

Joe takes out a file folder from his backpack. He places the divorce papers down between them.

JOE (CONT'D)

You moved on fast.

His tone changes.

JOE (CONT'D)

He's all over your Instagram.

ALEX

I moved on fast? You left the country while still being married to me. And you've been ignoring me for months.

JOE

Yeah. I know that cheating on you was-- is, inexcusable. I was ashamed for how I ended things with you, so I left. But it was wrong.

Alex looks Joe in the eye, wanting to believe him.

JOE (CONT'D)

I wanted to talk to you in person so that I could apologize for my behavior.

Alex snaps out of it.

ALEX

Joe, come on. We're a little past that.

JOE

My time in Mexico helped me see things a little clearer. I see my future here in Austin. With you.

Alex stands up from the porch swing.

ALEX

I don't have time for this. I have to go home. I have to get ready.

Alex doubles back.

ALEX (CONT'D)

But I need those papers signed the next time I see you. Please, Joe.

Alex heads back inside, leaving a disillusioned Joe on the porch by himself.

INT. WOMEN'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Young women in sarees fight for mirror time, as they attempt to touch up their lipstick.

It's tighter than the Met Gala bathroom in here.

Katrina takes pictures with her guests, while Geeta sits on top of the sink, observing the chaos.

KATRINA

Have you figured out what you're going to do about the deposit?

GEETA

No idea. I'm trying not to think about it.

Katrina squeals.

KATRINA

Can you imagine? You and me together in Austin. We'll hang out, go paddleboarding, I'll take you to my favorite barbecue spot, we can hit up Barton Springs...

Geeta smiles.

GEETA

That sounds amazing.

KATRINA

Plus, you'd be closer to Ravi... maybe you two could reconnect?

Katrina winks.

GEETA

No, God no. He's moved on, thankfully. And his girlfriend seems like a good girl.

KATRINA

Yeah, but she's not Indian.

GEETA

True. But it's also not 1999. Hopefully, Alka will be more open-minded about Alex.

Katrina raises an eyebrow. Not likely.

KATRINA

I ran into Ravi earlier. He looks miserable. I told him to perk up. It's my wedding weekend. What's his problem?

Geeta sighs.

GEETA

He got fired from his job.

Katrina gasps.

GEETA (CONT'D)
I know. He's crushed.

Two ONLOOKERS (20's) standing at the bathroom sink overhear this and whisper at each other.

EXT. ALEX AND RAVI'S LOFT - NIGHT

Alex walks out of her apartment wearing a gorgeous BLUE SAREE. She sends a text to Ravi:

ALEX
(on the phone)
On my way.

Alex looks up from her phone and sees a PEDI CAB pull up.

PEDI CAB DRIVER
Need a ride?

ALEX
Actually, yes. Downtown please.

Alex climbs into the back of pedi cab.

EXT. AUSTIN STREETS - NIGHT

Alex takes in the beautiful Austin air. She looks down at LADY BIRD LAKE, which is packed with locals and tourists kayaking the night away.

Alex's phone DINGS with an incoming text.

ON THE SCREEN:

RAVI
You close?

ALEX
Yes. Can we talk when I get there?

INT. HOTEL BALLROOM - BAR - NIGHT

Ravi sits at the bar, distressed by Alex's text.

Geeta walks up, holding a plate full of desserts.

GEETA
Who knew all our aunties and uncles
were secret alcoholics? I love
weddings.

Ravi doesn't laugh.

GEETA (CONT'D)
What's wrong?

RAVI
Did you tell Alex that I got fired?

GEETA
What! No, why?

Ravi shakes his head. He grabs a cupcake and rips it apart.

RAVI
She said she wants to talk when she gets here.

GEETA
Okay. Relax. I'm sure it's nothing.
(then)
But it's the perfect time for you to come clean with her.

Ravi swallows the cupcake and takes another sip of his drink.

RAVI
I still don't get why you didn't tell me about business school.

Geeta shrugs.

GEETA
I was embarrassed to admit that I'm out of money... And I really want to go. But I don't want to talk it up if I don't end up going, you know?

RAVI
I get it. You know I'd help you if I could, right? With the money.

GEETA
Of course. Thank you.
(then)
But don't worry. Worst case scenario, I become a surrogate for a Kardashian.

Ravi laughs.

GEETA (CONT'D)
Oh. What did Uncle Aamir say? D'you talk to him?

RAVI

(sarcastic)

Yep. Basically, as a last resort, I can just marry someone for a green card.

GEETA

Hey. Not the worst idea. I mean, Alex would *totally* help you out, don't you think?

RAVI

What? No. I don't think she would. Plus, she can't.

GEETA

What do you mean?

RAVI

She's still married to her ex.

GEETA

You're joking.

RAVI

I'm not. They're obviously broken up, but they're still legally together. They were high-school sweethearts.

GEETA

Shit. I had no idea.

INT. HOTEL BALLROOM - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT

Katrina and her fiancé, RISHAB (29, decent looking) hold each other tight while tapping their microphones.

KATRINA

Is this thing on? Hello everyone! Rishab and I are so thrilled to see everyone here. It means the world to us.

RISHAB

We just wanted to thank everyone from the bottom of our--

The back door CREAKS open and interrupts the speech. Alex shields her face from the SPOTLIGHT hovering over her.

ALEX

I'm sorry. Hi.

Alex sees Ravi waving his arms from TABLE 34. She says several '*Excuse me's*' as she makes her way over.

Ravi cringes.

ALKA

Oh my God.

INT. TABLE 34 - CONTINUOUS

Alex sits between Geeta and Ravi.

ALEX

Hi. I am so sorry.

Alex waves at the rest of the family from across the table.

RAVI

You're just in time for the dance.

ALEX

What dance?

All of a sudden, music starts playing and Katrina starts dancing up on stage. Again.

RAVI

It's a song from an old Indian movie. We all learned the dance in undergrad.

GEETA

I can't believe Katrina is making us do this.

Ravi and Geeta walk ahead of their group to join in on the choreography.

Alka, Varun and Uncle Aamir head to the dance floor. Alex sees an opportunity to talk to Alka.

ALEX

I love your saree.

ALKA

Thank you. Glad you could make it.

Alex glows. Up on STAGE, Ravi and Geeta start dancing together.

ALEX

I didn't know Ravi could dance.

ALKA
I didn't either.

Alex watches as Ravi dances with Geeta, looking happy and carefree.

ALKA (CONT'D)
They make a great team. Don't you think?

Alex grows quiet.

Katrina is now surrounded by ten other BRIDESMAIDS.

The bridesmaids dance opposite the groom and his groomsmen, Bollywood-style. Ravi tries to keep up.

Suddenly, two women, APARNA (28) and DEEPIKA (26), start waving at Alex to come over. Alex looks around the room to make sure they're talking to her.

Alex approaches.

APARNA
You're Alex, right?

ALEX
Yeah. I am. Nice to meet you.

APARNA
I'm Aparna. This is Deepika.

DEEPIKA
You and Ravi are the talk of the town tonight.

ALEX
Really, why?

The girls look shocked.

APARNA
I mean, we obviously feel terrible for Ravi.

DEEPIKA
Such a shame.

ALEX
Sorry, I'm not following.

DEEPIKA
His job?

APARNA

He got fired. That's what we've all been talking about.

ALEX

I think you're misinformed. Ravi has a job.

The Mean Girls chuckle to themselves.

DEEPIKA

If you say so.

Alex rushes off, fully embarrassed but mostly furious.

INT. TABLE 34 - NIGHT

The performance winds down. Guests make their way back to their respective tables.

Ravi walks over to his family's table. Alex is already there.

RAVI

Where'd you go?

ALEX

We need to talk.

RAVI

I know. Look--

ALEX

Me first.

RAVI

Sure.

ALEX

Did you get let go? From your job?

Ravi crumbles. He takes a seat.

RAVI

Yeah. I was going to tell you.

ALEX

What the hell, Ravi. When did this happen?

RAVI

On Monday. I was up for another gig, but it didn't work out. I just didn't want you to worry.

ALEX

I don't understand. Why wouldn't you just come to me?

RAVI

You kept telling me that you never wanted to deal with immigration issues ever again. Here I am. An Indian man who needs a visa. The biggest cliché known to man.

A couple of NOSY WEDDING GUESTS start listening in.

ALEX

Okay, but we're a team. You're supposed to tell me things. We're supposed to help each other.

RAVI

I just didn't want to put more pressure on our relationship. We've only been dating for a few months--

Geeta heads back to the table, but is fully unaware of the argument at hand. Alex sees Geeta from afar--

ALEX

Did Geeta know you got fired?

A beat.

Ravi nods.

VARUN (O.S.)

What did she just say?

Ravi looks up to see his parents standing behind Alex.

ALKA

Ravi, what happened?

Alex can't bring herself to say anything else. She grabs her purse and heads towards the door.

RAVI

I'm sorry.

He watches her go.

Ravi faces his friends and family who are all looking at him with questions he doesn't have answers to.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVEINT. ALEX AND RAVI'S LOFT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Alka and Varun are seated across from Ravi. Geeta makes herself useful by cleaning up around the house.

VARUN

I vote we sue them. It is not acceptable for companies to get away with this kind of behavior.

Alka nods in agreement.

ALKA

It's nonsensical. They just hired you!

Ravi isn't listening.

RAVI

I'm such an idiot. Alex probably hates me now.

VARUN

You're under an immense amount of stress. It's fine. We're going to help you sort this out.

An idea pops into Alka's head. She looks over at Geeta...

RAVI

Thanks. It's getting late. You guys should head back to the hotel and rest.

INT. SOFIA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Alex, still wearing her saree, sits alongside her mother and her aunt, Maritza.

SOFIA

It's just a bit of miscommunication. Everything is going to be okay.

ALEX

It just hurts. Why didn't he come to me first?

SOFIA

I'm not trying to defend him, but remember, it's only been five months. You're still getting to know each other.

MARITZA

Your mom is right. Maybe he's not who you thought he was...

Off this conflicting advice, Alex begins to spiral.

INT. ALEX AND RAVI'S LOFT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Ravi gets up from his couch, finally able to stand up.

RAVI

Okay, the Uber is pulling up.

Alka remains seated.

ALKA

I need to use the bathroom. I'll meet you two downstairs.

Ravi and Varun nod. They exit.

GEETA

The bathroom is right over here.

But Alka shakes her head.

ALKA

Come. Sit with me.

INT. SOFIA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Sofia hands her daughter a cup of tea.

SOFIA

What happens if this Ravi boy goes back to India?

MARITZA

Would you go with him?

ALEX

No. I don't think so.

MARITZA

How'd your talk with Joe go?

ALEX

He's stubborn. I didn't get anywhere with him. For a second, I thought he'd come to his senses.

SOFIA

I think he's still hung up on you.

INT. ALEX AND RAVI'S LOFT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Geeta walks over to Alka and joins her on the couch.

GEETA

Is everything okay?

ALKA

It saddens me that you and Ravi didn't work out in the past, but I respect both of your decisions.

GEETA

Thank you.

ALKA

I believe Ravi needs our help now more than ever.

GEETA

Yes. I feel terrible. He's in a tough position.

ALKA

I know. I also know that you need money to go to school. I would happily write a check so that you could fulfill your academic dreams...

Geeta hangs off Alka's every word.

ALKA (CONT'D)

... If you could help Ravi get a green card in return.

This idea hits Geeta like a ton of bricks.

INT. SOFIA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Alex is distracted. She's staring at her phone, scrolling through pictures of her and Ravi.

She pulls up Ravi's name, but her pride holds her back from dialing.

A motorcycle engine ROARS as it approaches.

SOFIA
Is that Joe?

Alex jumps up in the air and goes to check the window.

ALEX
Maybe he's signed the divorce
papers.

Alex exits onto the porch. Maritza, Sofia and Mama-Malena watch from the window.

EXT. PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Alex watches as Joe pulls up and takes off his helmet.

ALEX
What're you doing here?

JOE
I came back because I need to tell
you something.

ALEX
Do you wanna sit?

Joe nods.

INT. ALEX AND RAVI'S LOFT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Ravi enters the loft. He tosses his keys on the kitchen counter.

GEETA
Hey. Can we talk?

Ravi opens the refrigerator and pulls out a jug of water.

RAVI
Sure. Want some?

GEETA
Uhm. Maybe something stronger?

Ravi looks at Geeta. Something's up.

EXT. SOFIA'S PORCH - NIGHT

Joe and Alex sit on the porch swing.

JOE

I can't stand it when you're mad at me.

ALEX

The funny thing is... I'm not even angry anymore. I just want you to cooperate so we can get this over with.

JOE

I know this isn't what you want to hear, but I'm willing to give this another shot if you are?

ALEX

Joe. We weren't happy.

Joe stands.

JOE

That's not true.

ALEX

It is. The only reason we got married was because we thought it could fix something that was already broken.

JOE

I regret what I did. I have no excuse. I was just confused...

ALEX

Joe! Please, stop. Did you bring the papers?

JOE

No. I didn't come here to sign anything. I came here to tell you that I still love you.

Alex is speechless.

JOE (CONT'D)

I want you in my life. I'm willing to do whatever it takes for you to forgive me.

Alex shakes with rage.

ALEX

I am *begging* you to let me go.

Joe stands his ground.

JOE

How can you ask me to do that? I'm
pouring my heart out to you, Al.

ALEX

I love Ravi. I'm going to do
whatever it takes to be with *him*.
Not you.

INT. ALEX AND RAVI'S LOFT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ravi joins Geeta on the couch. He sets her drink down for
her.

GEETA

I have an idea.

RAVI

I'm all ears.

Geeta takes a deep breath.

GEETA

Marry me.

Ravi coughs up some of his drink.

RAVI

Come again?

GEETA

Earlier, when your parents were
here, Alka offered to help me pay
for business school.

RAVI

Oh my God.

GEETA

She left before I could say
anything. But maybe this is how we
both win?

Ravi looks at Geeta in the eye, trying to decipher if she's
serious or not.

RAVI

I don't know what to say right now.
(then)
Are you serious about this?

GEETA

Yes. Help me... help you.

As Geeta's forced smile evaporates from her face, Ravi can't help but consider the possibility of this proposal.

Ravi tries to keep his excitement from showing, but all of his dreams and plans for the future bubble up to the surface, as we...

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF PILOT