

Paranoia (Working Title)

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## CHARACTER BREAKDOWNS:

**Alison** - Female, early 30's. Cute, successful non-profit executive / humanitarian. Financially sound. Mother and glue of the group. Fit, organized, self-sufficient, understated, well-read, worldly.

**Blake** - Male, early 30's. College friends with Alison. Most financially well-off of the group. Works for a well-known and powerful politician. Pretty, suave, persuasive, real boys-club type (comes off as cocky and boastful). Shows one brief moment of empathy.

**Sloane** - Female, late 20's. New lawyer who just passed the bar, and is very proud of it. Outspoken, blunt, abrasive, no-filter. Career-driven. Professional / workplace sexy. Went to college with Jackson. Butts heads with Blake.

**Jackson** - Male, late 20's. Has a quiet confidence. Owns his own businesses making furniture. Artsy but rugged. Gay, but not over the top (you might think he was straight). The College friends with Sloane. Supporter of Alison - makes furniture for her charity events. Likes to "quote people." Voice of reason.

**Everyman A, B, C** - Male, mid-30's everymen. Cute, charismatic, innocent.

**Strigoi** - Male, mid-30's everyman, but slightly off. On the edges of society. Borderline homeless. Squats from place to place, or sleeps in his car. Obsessive.

### 1 INT. ALISON'S TOWNHOUSE - DAYTIME

OVER OPENING CREDITS

ALISON, early 30's, prepares her townhouse for a dinner party. She is a cute but understated humanitarian-type. She sets the table for four. Her apartment is effortlessly organized. Photos of her humanitarian work fills the rooms - in third-world countries building schools, in Africa with groups of children, passing out **winter coats to the homeless**, etc. Half-packed boxes and suitcases occupy corners.

### 2 INT. ALISON'S TOWNHOUSE - 6PM (MEET & GREET)

Alison is rushing to get ready. She sets the table with silverware, but drops a knife. She pulls the appetizers out of the oven, but one falls on the floor. She thinks about putting on a colorful **hemp bracelet**, but decides not to wear it. She chooses basic, silver stud earrings instead.

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The doorbell rings. Alison opens the door and we notice a **BIG SEASONAL WREATH** hanging on it.

SLOANE, female late 20's, an outspoken just-passed-the-bar lawyer, and JACKSON, late 20's, artsy but rugged furniture maker, arrive. Immediately behind them arrives BLAKE, early 30's, a suave but cocky lobbyist.

They all enter and say their "hello's." A close group of friends, it's been a few months since they've all been in the same place at the same time. Lots of friendly hugs and smiles to go around. SLOANE gives ALISON a bottle of cheap wine and compliments the **BIG SEASONAL WREATH**.

SLOANE  
That is gorgeous.

ALISON  
Oh thanks, I made it.

SLOANE  
(annoyed at Alison's  
craftiness)  
You what? You made that?

JACKSON  
(hugging Alison)  
I swear girl, how do you have the  
time?

ALISON  
Oh, I dunno. Come on in guys.

BLAKE  
(looking at the wreath,  
confused)  
It's, um, colorful.

They are all welcomed inside.

3

**INT. DINING TABLE - 8PM**

Cut to post-meal. Three empty bottles of wine sit on the table, alongside half-finished wine glasses. Plates have been eaten on. A handful of mini-cupcakes remain in the center. Everyone is full, relaxed and having a good time.

BLAKE  
Well, Alison, I think Sloane will  
really miss you this time.

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SLOANE

Oh please, Blake. We'll all miss you Ali. But you get to travel, make people's lives better, blah, blah, blah. Don't listen to him. He is humanly incapable of feeling feelings.

BLAKE

(to Sloane)

You're right. I'm an emotionless robot.

SLOANE

I knew it.

ALISON

First, it's not that long. Second, you guys can just follow my blog.

SLOANE

(sarcastic)

Ohhhh, the blog!

Sloane and Blake share a brief moment of agreement over the annoyance of Alison's blog.

JACKSON

(defending Alison)

I like it. "He who does not travel does not know the value of men."

BLAKE

(rolling his eyes at Jackson)

Okay.

ALISON

Thank you Jackson.

SLOANE

(still picking at dessert)

Like, what kind of stuff do you eat over there?

ALISON

Um, normal stuff. You know, rice, fish, noodles.

BLAKE

(overly sarcastic)

Oh god, Sloane? What would you do without a Chipotle?!

(CONTINUED)

SLOANE

Hey, I've lost 10 pounds.

BLAKE

You know, I've always admired your refined diet of alcohol and alcohol.

ALISON

Yeah, you lost 10 pounds dragging me to those horrible boot camps.

SLOANE

I don't like working out alone OK?

BLAKE

Oh we know. You always need someone to spot you from behind.

ALISON

(ignoring Blake)

I know love. Really you look great.

SLOANE

Thank you, I know. And you look fabulous too. (To Blake and Jackson) She almost got a guys' number in the park the other day.

BLAKE

(doubtful)

Really?

JACKSON

(excited)

Really?!

4

**FLASHBACK - EXT. PARK BOOT CAMP, DAY**

Cut to Alison and Sloane with about 10 other young people doing abs in the park, led by a tough, boot camp instructor. Sloane nods her head over to a bench where EVERYMAN A, a cute mid-30's everyman, sits reading a book and watching the girls. Alison makes a face and shakes her head "no." She tries to ignore him as she continues working out.

ALISON (O.S.)

(To Blake and Jackson) No, it's not like that. There was a cute guy reading his book, but he kept staring at us...at me. It was actually super weird.

5

**INT. DINING TABLE**

ALISON

Like one of those guys who pretends to read an intellectual book, but is actually just checking girls out. Gross.

JACKSON

I dunno, maybe he was into you. You could have talked to him at least. "Never was anything great achieved without danger."

ALISON

Well, I'm not dangerous. Call me old-fashioned, but I'd like my future husband to be a normal person.

SLOANE

Hah, good luck with that.

ALISON

Look, I would date more, but lately it's just been all these... creepers. (To Blake) Like that guy at your fundraiser.

BLAKE

What guy?

ALISON

That guy. You know the one that was... looking at me.

BLAKE

I have no idea what you're talking about.

6

**FLASHBACK - INT. ART SHOW FUNDRAISER, NIGHT**

Cut to Blake and Alison inside a crowded corporate fundraiser event. They are dressed very fancy and are holding champagne. Modest modern art adorns the walls. Almost everyone in the gallery is crowded around one painting, listening to the ARTIST explain his / her inspiration. All eyes are looking at the piece, except for one person. EVERYMAN B, a different but similar mid-30's everyman, stares at Alison.

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ALISON (O.S.)

That artist was talking about that painting, and everyone was looking at it. Except that one guy. He was looking right at me. Like I said, creepy.

7

**INT. DINING TABLE**

JACKSON

Sounds like you have an aura or something happening.

BLAKE

Oh lord. Here we go.

ALISON

A what?

JACKSON

You know, a magnetic force that is drawing men to you. I mean, this man would rather look at you than a painting - that's poetic.

BLAKE

(mocking Jackson)

You know, a magnetic force of unicorn farts and glitter follows you everywhere.

Alison gives Blake a long "fuck you" glance.

ALISON

I happen to like unicorn farts and glitter, so...

SLOANE

Like I told you a million times, you are almost as sexy as me. You just have to let that tiger out of its cage.

BLAKE

(growling like a tiger)

Raaaar. That's what I'm talking about. (To Jackson, mocking his sexuality) Right Jack-y boy?

Jackson rolls his eyes at Blake, refusing to get involved.

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BLAKE

What, no inspirational quote for me?

JACKSON

No.

ALISON

(a bit shaken)

Look, guys, I mean, this is really strange right?

BLAKE

What?

ALISON

The men! The men staring at me!

BLAKE

But don't women like to be looked at? Isn't that the whole point?!

SLOANE

Watch it Blake. I will kickbox that sneer right off your face.

BLAKE

I'm just saying, I like to look at a beautiful woman. Short skirt, long legs, that's my type.

SLOANE

That's disgusting.

JACKSON

(trying to lighten the mood)

Oh my gosh, that's my type too!

BLAKE

Now, that's disgusting.

ALISON

(remembering, shocked, to Jackson)

Oh my gosh, like the guy at the mall!



8      **FLASHBACK - INT. MALL, NIGHT**

Cut to Jackson and Alison walking in the lower-level of the mall. Jackson greets a male friend. As they are talking Alison looks up and sees EVERYMAN C, on the upper-level, staring down at her. Jackson introduces his friend, Alison shakes his hand, and then looks up again. EVERYMAN C is gone.

ALISON (O.S.)  
Jackson and I were at the mall and  
this man was standing on the upper  
level, looking down at me. When I  
turned back, he was gone.

9      **INT. DINING TABLE**

JACKSON  
Oh, I don't remember that.

ALISON  
(wrapped up in her developing  
conspiracy theory)  
Oh my gosh. I forgot about that.  
No, this can't be coincidence.

ALISON  
(To Jackson)  
I didn't tell you, but after we  
left. Someone sort of followed me.

SLOANE  
Wait, what do you mean someone sort  
of followed you?

10      **FLASHBACK - EXT. MALL PARKING LOT, NIGHT**

Cut to Alison and Jackson saying goodbye in the parking lot and getting in their respective cars. As Alison pulls away, a small run-down car follows her.

ALISON (O.S.)  
I mean, we said goodbye, I got in  
my car, and then I noticed someone  
following me.

11      **FLASHBACK - INT. ALISON'S CAR**

OVER THE SHOULDER: INSIDE THE CAR WITH ALISON DRIVING,  
LOOKING IN THE REAR-VIEW AND SIDE MIRRORS.

Through the mirrors, we see the car following her. She turns, the car turns. With each turn, Alison gets more nervous. Suddenly, we see her front door, with the **BIG SEASONAL WREATH** on it. She slows down for a moment, but decides to keep driving.

ALISON (O.S.)  
He followed me the whole way. I  
looped around the neighborhood  
until I lost him.

12      **INT. DINING TABLE**

BLAKE  
Ok, when was this?

ALISON  
Yesterday.

SLOANE  
Wait, Jackson, what were you doing  
at the mall?

JACKSON  
Ugh I know right?! It was horrible.  
They were having this sale at West  
Elm. I made Ali go with me for  
emotional support.

ALISON  
Oh god... what if... what if he was  
actually following me?

BLAKE  
Listen, Alison, I'm sure there is  
nothing to be worried about.

SLOANE  
Yeah, strange men follow me home  
all the time.

JACKSON  
And you don't know who was in that  
car. Who's to say it was a man? Did  
you get a good look? Maybe just  
some harmless, lost soccer mom.

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ALISON  
(clearly scared)  
Yeah, maybe.

BLAKE  
Look, you're leaving the country tomorrow. What is this person going to do? Follow you halfway across the world?

ALISON  
You're right, you're right.

JACKSON  
Speaking of which, we should get out of your hair. You have a long day tomorrow love.  
(standing)  
Help you clean up?

Everyone starts to stand up, gather their belongings.

ALISON  
No, I'm fine.

SLOANE  
You sure?

ALISON  
Yes, yes. You go enjoy the rest of your night.

SLOANE  
Alright. C'mon Jackson. Mommy needs a ride home.

13      **INT. FRONT DOOR**

Sloane and Jackson hug Alison, as all four move towards the front door. Words of goodbye all around.

SLOANE  
Love you, miss you. Bring me back a rich husband ok?

ALISON  
Ok. I'll miss you too.

JACKSON  
And if you need me, I can Skype anytime. Remember "A journey is best measured in friends, rather than miles."

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BLAKE  
Oh, come on.

ALISON  
(to Jackson)  
Thank you, I needed that. See you  
in 8 months.

JACKSON  
(they hug)  
Bye love.

Sloane and Jackson head to their car. Blake sticks around  
for a moment.

BLAKE  
You know if you need me, I'm always  
here for you.

ALISON  
I know.

BLAKE  
Really, be careful over there. You  
are a wonderful human being. I know  
the world is important to you, but  
my world would be empty without you  
in it.

Alison is caught off-guard by this, and a little speechless.

SLOANE  
(from the car, with love)  
C'mon you loser!

BLAKE  
Bye.

ALISON  
Bye.

14

**INT - ALISON'S TOWNHOUSE**

Alison shuts the door, still bewildered by Blake's comment.  
She begins to clean up. She gathers up dishes and wine  
glasses and heads into the kitchen.

15      **EXT - ALISON'S APARTMENT - PARKING LOT**

Jackson, Sloane and Blake pull away - Alison is alone. As they leave, we see the small run-down car pull into the parking lot, park and turn off its lights.

16      **INT - ALISON'S TOWNHOUSE**

THE CAMERA REMAINS OUTSIDE, LOOKING IN. WE FEEL THE PRESENCE OF **SOMEONE (STRIGOI)** WATCHING HER.

Through the window, we see Alison enter the living room. Now changed into just a tank top and sweats, Alison finishes cleaning up - wiping down the table, blowing out the candles, re-organizing the dining room.

17      **INT - ALISON'S TOWNHOUSE**

THE CAMERA MOVES BACK INSIDE.

Alison continues cleaning, lost in thought. She shakes off the paranoia in her head. Everything will be fine.

18      **INT - ALISON'S TOWNHOUSE**

Alison goes back into the kitchen. She leaves frame. Then, in the shadows of the empty living room we barely make out a figure. Strigoi is now **INSIDE** the house. Watching her.

The kitchen lights go out, and Alison re-enters the living room. She walks right by Strigoi, and does not see him in the shadows. She turns off the lights and heads upstairs. Moments later, Strigoi's feet follow up the steps.

19      **INT - ALISON'S TOWNHOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY**

While Alison is in the **BATHROOM**, Strigoi walks down the hallway, his back to the camera. He pauses by the **BATHROOM** door. He changes his mind and decides to enter the **GUEST ROOM** instead. As he opens the **GUEST ROOM** door, we see a hemp bracelet on his wrist. Similar to the one Alison has, but the colors are faded and it is much dirtier.

AUDIENCE REVELATION:

20      **FLASHBACK - EXT. PARK BOOT CAMP, DAY**

We see EVERYMAN A reading on the bench. Only this time we notice STRIGOI, sitting only a few benches down. He is staring at Alison, gently caressing his hemp bracelet.

21      **FLASHBACK - INT. FUNDRAISER, NIGHT**

We see EVERYMAN B looking in Alison's direction. Only this time we barely notice STRIGOI in the darkness outside, staring at Alison through the window.

22      **FLASHBACK - INT. MALL, NIGHT**

We see EVERYMAN C, looking down in Alison's direction. Only this time we notice STRIGOI staring at Alison on the lower-level, walking right behind her and Jackson.

23      **FLASHBACK - INT. STRIGOI CAR, NIGHT**

The man following Alison in his car grips the steering wheel. We see the hemp bracelet on his wrist...

Someone HAS been following Alison this entire time.

24      **INT - ALISON'S TOWNHOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY**

Just as he enters into the GUEST ROOM, Alison comes out of the bathroom mid-brushing her teeth and goes into her BEDROOM. Seconds later she goes back into the BATHROOM.

Strigoi exits the GUEST ROOM and enters the BEDROOM.

Alison comes out of the BATHROOM and pauses in the hallway. She looks at a picture on the wall from a previous trip. She takes a moment. Something feels off, but she can't put her finger on it. She enters the BEDROOM and shuts the door.

25      **INT - ALISON'S TOWNHOUSE, LIVING ROOM**

THE CAMERA MOVES BACK DOWNSTAIRS TO A TABLE OF PHOTOS

The camera slowly zooms into one specific photo.

We see Alison in a church basement with her charity group. A flyer taped to a big box of coats reads "St. Joseph's Winter Coat Drive." A big pile of hemp bracelets sits on the table. She poses with a young girl, who is wearing a big winter

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coat and has a hemp bracelet on her wrist too. Both have big smiles. Behind them, almost out of focus, we see Strigoi, waiting in line. He is staring into the camera lens.

CUT TO BLACK