

Alone, Together

by

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INT. PRISON MUG SHOT AREA - NIGHT

AYLSSA, an intelligent woman in her late-20's with natural beauty, is standing in front of a white wall with height measurements painted on it. She is carrying a black plaque with white letters that read: MOORE, ALYSSA / 27-6-07

She is looking directly at us dazed, yet ecstatically happy. Her face is all made up and her hair down and wavy, and she is wearing a wedding dress. A MALE VOICE over the intercom gives her directions.

MALE VOICE

Please stand still Ms. Moore. We will take your picture in three, two, one.

We hear a SHUTTER SOUND and then: THE PICTURE APPEARS. Alyssa is sporting an extremely huge, genuine smile. It's almost as if she is playing with the camera.

MALE VOICE (CONT'D)

Now turn to your right and look straight ahead.
Three. Two. One.

At "one", Alyssa turns her head back towards us and gives a wink. The picture is frozen on screen and the title appears:

HAPPY WITHOUT YOU

INT. PRISON - DAY

We see various moments of Alyssa going through the standard procedure one goes through when arriving at jail. Her possessions are confiscated, she is given her orange jumpsuit, checked for lice, etc. Finally a GUARD, a tall authoritative man, walks Alyssa down the hall. She is wearing the orange jumpsuit and her hands are handcuffed in front of her.

GUARD

Was it worth it?

ALYSSA

(with a huge grin)
Absolutely.

We focus on her happy smile.

INT. ALYSSA'S OFFICE - DAY

We see a SMILE and pull back to see Alyssa. This smile is different from before; this one is for appearance.

She is more tightly wound and plain looking than the scene before. On her desk we see a calendar that says 5-27-07, one month earlier. BRODY, a yuppie in his mid-40's, and SERENA, a gaudy wanna-be socialite of the same age, are fighting.

BRODY

Who the heck is "Ping"?!

SERENA

Oh come on! I know you know our Japanese maid Ping, Pong, whatever her name is. I saw you checking her out.

BRODY

Are you talking about Emily? She's Korean!

SERENA

(places hand on her heart)
You know her name!

ALYSSA

O.K. That's enough for today. I think we made some progress. Go outside and my receptionist will help schedule your next appointment.

(she stands)

Now please try to focus on your relationship. A happy relationship results from finding happiness from each other. Bye now!

INT. ALYSSA'S LOBBY - DAY

Alyssa is carrying her briefcase, impatiently pressing the button for the elevator. When the elevator doors open it is empty; Alyssa enters and takes a deep breath, and smiles.

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

Alyssa walks to the corner of the elevator, and drops her briefcase. She rolls her head and shoulders in circular movements to help her relax.

INT. SECURITY ROOM DAY

There are two guards in the room: HANK and LARRY who are elderly men. Hank is watching THE MONITOR SCREEN where Alyssa is in the elevator. Hank turns from bored to thrilled.

HANK

Larry it's time! Quick change the song!

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

Suddenly, A NEW UPBEAT SONG starts in the elevator. Alyssa starts DANCING.

INT SECURITY ROOM DAY

The guards are dancing along with her as she increases in intensity. She looks uninhibited and free but she is interrupted and brought back into reality when the elevators open and an elderly chubby MAN enters.

LARRY

(turns down the music)

Ah doggone it!

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

MAN

(points up to speaker)

Good song.

Alyssa is ashamed and dashes out when the elevator doors open.

INT. HALL FLOOR 4 - DAY

As Alyssa walks down the hall we hear voices. One voice coming from a rambunctious 7-year-old kid with glasses named RICKY, and the other from Alyssa's boyfriend DAVID, a levelheaded man in his late 20's. Suddenly the door opens and Alyssa stops. Ricky steps out with only a big T-shirt on. They look at each other for a beat, and then Ricky pulls his elephant shirt over his head, thrusts his hips, makes an elephant noise, and runs down the hall with his shirt still over his head. Soon after, David and RICKY'S MOTHER, a stressed out middle-aged woman, walk out of the same door.

RICKY'S MOTHER

Thank you for your help. He's been wearing a shirt now for a whole week.

DAVID

Next week we'll work on making him wear underwear.

Ricky's mother runs after Ricky leaving only David and Alyssa in the hall. Alyssa approaches David.

ALYSSA
I can never look at an elephant the
same way again.

They smile. David goes in to kiss her. As they kiss, Alyssa
looks at her watch and pushes him away.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)
David, we got to hurry. It's rush
hour traffic.

She grabs his hand and they exit the building.

INT. CAR- NIGHT

Alyssa is maneuvering her way through traffic. David is
still not used to her frantic driving so he is tense and
holding on to anything in arms reach as she makes turns.

DAVID
I don't know what you're worried
about. They're just parents.

ALYSSA
That's easy for you to say. You
have such nice parents.

DAVID
Well, my parents aren't perfect
either.

ALYSSA
Oh no, you said before, your
parents are "lovely". My parents
don't possess love.

DAVID
O come on. Everybody has love in
them.

David takes Alyssa's hand.

DAVID
I love you.

Alyssa doesn't notice David's affection and instead makes a
drastic turn causing David to let go of her hand and clench
it back on the car.

ALYSSA
Like do you know what I got for my
graduation gift? Hm?! Jenny Craig!
(MORE)

ALYSSA (CONT'D)

"Mommy Dearest" said that my hips
had no chance against the freshman
30.

DAVID

Honey, it's the freshman 15.

ALYSSA

It is?! See that's what she does:
she puts misery into my life.

DAVID

She doesn't put misery in your
life. You allow her to affect you
and. . .

ALYSSA

(interrupting)

Don't use that psycho-bullshit on
me! I'm a psychologist too!

DAVID

What about your dad then?
(in a mocking tone)
Did he not give you enough
attention when you were younger?

ALYSSA

Oh God, my dad! Listen to this.
He keeps mints in his pocket for
the sole purpose of throwing them
at unsuspecting victims. My cousin
Ronnie still has scars from the
time he said he liked boys.

DAVID

That's kinda funny.

ALYSSA

(pointing and shaking her
index finger)

O that opinion will change once you
get hit on the head with one. O
crap, here we are.

Alyssa slams on the brakes making a huge SCREECHING NOISE
while simultaneously parking on the sidewalk and hitting a
trashcan.

INT. MOORE'S DINING ROOM- EVENING

Alyssa's mother, DIANE, an outspoken middle-aged woman, slams
a plate of asparagus on the table.

Alyssa's father, JAY, a goofy but stern man in his 50's, is sitting across the table from Diane. Alyssa and David are sitting next to one another.

DIANE

Jay would you wipe off your face?
You look like a pig!

Jay takes a big bite of his turkey leg.

JAY

Oink, Diane. Oink!
(to David)
So, David what do you do for a living?

DAVID

I'm a child psychologist.

DIANE

Oh isn't that sweet. I always wanted more children. One just wasn't enough for me. I feel unfulfilled.

ALYSSA

(under her breath)
The Valium helped with that...

JAY

So wait, do the children pay you in cash or gumdrops? Do children even have an I.Q. yet?

David senses Jay's mocking tone and gives a hesitant chuckle. David avoids confrontation by changing the subject.

DAVID

What do you do for a living, Jay?

DIANE

I see Alyssa hasn't told you much about us. Typical. Jay used to own a construction business but recently he has decided to give away any authority he has and start building for himself. He couldn't even build a birdhouse if he tried.

JAY

Pick up your left boob sweetheart. It seems to have fallen on the table.

DIANE
Screw you Jay.

JAY
Please go right ahead. God knows
I've been waiting.

DIANE
Oh whatever Jay. I bet you haven't
even seen your dick in ages.

JAY
That insult doesn't work on me.
I'm not fat Diane.

ALYSSA
That's true mom. Daddy's not fat.
That de-insults the insult.

DIANE
Sweetie, please don't stick either
of your chins in where they don't
belong.

Alyssa crouches back into her chair, defeated. David notices
this and brings the conversation back on topic.

DAVID
How did you come to own a
construction business?

Jay decides to lighten up the mood.

JAY
Well at 15, I became a fisherman.
Well, actually, I was more of a
fisherman's aid. I was the guy who
put the bait on the hook, and every
single hook I baited caught a fish.
Soon enough everyone started
calling me the master baiter!

He laughs. David gives a reserved laugh. Diane and Alyssa
looked annoyed as if they have heard this joke a million
times.

DIANE
(annoyed)
Jay! Please.

JAY
And then when I was 18, I got a job
at my friend's candy factory.

(MORE)

JAY(CONT'D)

I was in charge of the fudge department. I had to make sure that all the individual fudge squares got put in the correct boxes.

DIANE

(throws her hands up)

I don't want to here this again!

Diane stands up and walks to the kitchen. Jay doesn't even notice and continues his story.

JAY

They called me the fudge-packer!

Jay lets out another big laugh. David gives another reserved laugh.

JAY

Laugh like a man!

DIANE

Leave "Davie" alone. Give him some credit for sticking with our Alyssa. We all know how tough that is.

JAY

(to Alyssa)

Don't worry. Watch this.

Diane walks in from the kitchen carrying a bottle of wine and Jay throws a mint that hits her directly in the head.

DIANE

God dammit Jay!

Diane takes a big gulp out of the wine bottle and puts it on the table in place of her glass. David attempts to keep the mood light by saying:

DAVID

(to Jay)

And then I bet you thought of a "rich-quick" scheme by naming a brand of shoes "ISH" that way people could say, "I've got Ish shoes"!

David laughs. Jay stays silent.

JAY

You saying I have issues?!

DIANE

We all know you have issues Jay.

Jay lets out a huge burp as if to say, "Fuck you Diane". An awkward silence follows. Alyssa breaks the silence.

ALYSSA

Well, mom, dad, I actually came here for a reason.

DIANE

O God, she's pregnant.

JAY

Let the girl speak Diane.

ALYSSA

David and I have an announcement.

DIANE

Now that you mention it, your father and I have one as well.

JAY

(bothered)

This isn't a competition Diane.

Diane shoots Jay a look.

JAY

So what's your news Alyssa?

Diane gets frustrated causing Alyssa and Diane to speak at the same time.

ALYSSA

DIANE

We're getting married.

We're getting a divorce.

A moment of silence.

DIANE

(to Alyssa)

Kitchen. Now.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Alyssa is sitting on the bar stool, shocked, while Diane is standing pouring two glasses of wine, enthused.

DIANE

Why did you wait until now to introduce me to your fiancé? Oh what am I saying? Drink up. I never thought this day would come, not with your hips.

ALYSSA

Mom, how did this happen? I know you and Dad bicker but I thought that was your "thing".

DIANE

So, where's the ring?

Alyssa grabs her necklace to reveal her ring dangling from the chain.

DIANE

Oh smart.

She takes Alyssa's hand.

DIANE

You do have chubby fingers.

Alyssa glares at Diane.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Jay and David sit at the table, dinner still laid out, in awkward silence. They overhear Diane and Alyssa. David shifts in his seat uncomfortably. Jay sighs.

ALYSSA

Forget about the ring mom. It's not important. What's happening with the divorce?

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

DAINE

Not important?!
 (yelling to the dining room)
 The only thing your father gave me was a ring!

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

JAY

(yelling to the kitchen)
 HA!

(MORE)

JAY(CONT'D)

The only thing your mother gave me
was herpes!

(to David)

Oh yeah. Herpes! I fought those
things off. I'm completely cured
now.

DAVID

Herpes are incurable.

JAY

Riiight, Child's psychologist. Mr.
"I promise I'm a real doctor". Did
you even go to med school?

DAVID

Well, no.

JAY

So my kid's marryin' a doctor who
ain't even a doctor then. The hell
is that?

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT
(MORE)