

I AM HERE

The True Story of How I Became a Backup Singer for P!nk

Written by

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Based on, the music of P!nk

Of course, this is not true.

"If I'm a mystery to you, how can I expect you to connect with me? ...I want you to know me" - P!nk 2023

LISTEN ALONG:

(cut, copy, paste)

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/4vSwGnW5VWe7SKM0ZcMdWq?si=c f955b848c8e458a>

EXT. UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - DORMS - DAY

MUSIC CUE: "Try Too Hard" by P!nk

It's Texas-hot, y'all.

Freshman move-in day! MOMS try to hold back the goodbye waterworks while DADS move all the shit in.

From behind, one "dad" trudges along, wearing a massive IKEA tote as a backpack freeing their arms to lug a fabric headboard and an electric drill case.

Reveal: this ain't a Dad; it's a BADASS MAMA in a Mexican Muumuu and ugly-ass sandals.

ALEXIS NEEDHAM, 45. Yeah, she's a frumpy, sweaty mess, but she's doing the damn thing. Alone.

EXT. DORM ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

She holds the drill case awkwardly under her chin so she can grasp the door handle. It's heavy. As she pulls harder --

The drill FALLS... smashes her foot. She YELPS.

The case pops open, and fifty drill bits fly loose.

As she carefully squats to the ground, a MOM and DAUGHTER pass by arm-in-arm. Lorelei and Rory vibes.

Alexis' longing gaze follows. Cranes her neck too far, the huge backpack tilts --

Takes this turtle DOWN to her back. Dress slides up around her waist.

Hands full with an iced frappucino AND her phone, JOY, 18, stands over her mom. MORTIFIED.

She's not a bitch, she just doesn't realize her mom is a person.

She helps Mom onto her side, then smacks the handicapped door button as if to say, "Look, dummy." The door opens smoothly.

As Joy escapes inside, Alexis pushes to her knees. Her hitched-up dress exposes incontinence panties. On the ass --

Title Card: I AM HERE

INT. JOY'S DORM - DAY

Alexis limps in, drops her load. She takes in the room.

One half already set up -- basic dorm decor. The other half is chaos. Clothing, bedding, Target bags, but no Joy.

Disappointed but not surprised, Alexis tackles it like she's on an HGTV show. Solo.

QUICK CUTS

-Alexis puts up wallpaper!?!

-She uses the drill to hang drapes; the headboard.

-Punches a duvet inside its cover.

-Hangs clothes in rainbow order.

-Organizes beautifully: socks, desk items, makeup.

-Alexis places the last pillow on the bed. Karate chops it.

END QUICK CUTS

MUSIC FADES

ROOMMATE (O.S.)

Ho-ly shit.

Joy's ROOMMATE gawks at Alexis' finished half of the room -- it's every college girl's Pinterest wet dream.

Joy can't believe it, either.

JOY

It's a lot.

ALEXIS

(Texas twang)

You like it, Joy? I have backup pillows...

She gives her mom the best thank you ever -- a hug. See? Totally not a bitch.

Alexis' face is rapturous. But then --

JOY

You've got that party tomorrow, you'd better hit the road.

Alexis' face: a deer in headlights.

She buries her face in Joy, inhales her scent.

ALEXIS
 (rehearsed speech)
 College is such a wonderful time.
 You get to discover who you are,
 and the whole world is out there
 waiting for you.

The hug turns desperate. Joy tries to escape. She can't.

JOY
 You're getting your sweat on me...
 I'm gonna be late for my first rush
 party... Mom!

Alexis couldn't let go if she tried.

JOY (CONT'D)
 (gentle)
 You have to let me go. You'll be
 okay. You have Daddy and... the
 house.

ALEXIS
 (lies)
 I'm fine.

Joy finally pries Mom off of her to reveal --

Her mascara runs so bad, looks like she's been hit by a car.

JOY
 I'll see you in a few weeks. You,
 me, and Dad in Cabo for Labor Day!

ALEXIS
 I can't wait.

INT. JOY'S DORM - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Joy gently pushes her mom through the door. Closes it.

ALEXIS
 I love you!

ROOMMATE (O.S.)
 This room is low-key amazing. I
 want to be a designer too.

That's sweet.

JOY (O.S.)
Designer? She's a housewife. I want
to be a badass lawyer like my Aunt
Ellen.

That fucking hurts.

INT./ EXT. ALEXIS' CAR - PARKING LOT

Barely holding it together, Alexis climbs into her SUV.

ALEXIS
Siri, play Joy's playlist.

SIRI
Now playing Joy's playlist.

Music Cue: "Please Don't Leave Me" by P!nk.

ALEXIS
Are you fucking kidding me?

INT./ EXT. ALEXIS' CAR - HIGHWAY - DUSK

MUSIC continues.

Winding road in the Texas Hill Country.

Full-on "ugly cry," Alexis barely keeps the car on the road.

ALEXIS
How do people do this? It's like
I'm leaving my newborn in a hot car
with no A.C. or in front of a
lion's den or --

Suddenly, a DOE and her FAWN cross the highway. The mama deer
looks up -- literally, a deer in headlights.

Alexis SCREAMS. Slams on the brakes.

The Fawn gets safely across, but the Doe takes a fender to
the shoulder. She goes down. Hard.

Alexis hurtles out of the car. Stares in horror at the downed
deer. The Doe slowly, painfully comes to her feet.

The Mama Deer stumbles in circles like she's drunk. She
searches, BLEATS for her baby.

Alexis spots the Fawn frolicking in a field without a care.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
Hey, your mom is here. She's hurt.

The Fawn doesn't care. Nibbles some grass.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
Look, you little self-involved
asshole, this woman has devoted her
entire existence to taking care of
you!!!

The Fawn runs off, terrified of this shrieking woman.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. Come back.
(to the Doe)
What are we supposed to do now?

Mama Deer locks eyes with Alexis. A look of shared misery.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
At least you still have her dad,
right? He should be here, dammit.

The Doe drops her head.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
Fucking bucks.

INT. GARAGE - DAY

CARTER, 55, thrusts into a lanky BLONDE, 36, against the side of a Bentley.

This high-tech garage is so immaculate you could eat off of the floor. A car lift stacks two six-figure sports cars on top of each other like kids on bunk beds.

Short, but compensates with muscles, Carter is turned on as much by the cars as the sex. His gaze moves from the cars to the chick and back.

CARTER
I fucking love this.

BLONDE
I love you too, Carter.

MOMENTS LATER

They put their discarded clothes back on -- seersucker jacket and bow tie for him, a flirty fascinator for her. She YAWNS.

CARTER
Wore you out, huh?

Narcissist.

EXT. ALEXIS' HOME - DAY

Could be the cover of Southern Living Magazine.

Not quite a mansion, but way too big for three people.

A small GREEN SNAKE slithers through the grass. He finds a gap in the fence into the --

BACKYARD

A fancy, Kentucky Derby-themed party around a pool,

Tents protect nattily-dressed PARTY GUESTS from the sun. BIG ASS FANS cool them off.

A massive platter of perfectly arranged shrimp.

Alexis melts as she carries the platter through the scorching heat. Her shapeless dress shows stains of perspiration. Even her floppy hat is sweating.

AT THE BUFFET

Alexis unloads the heavy platter. Her red, puffy eyes betray she's been crying.

RONNIE, 65-70, snags a shrimp from the plate, careful not to drip sauce on her pink power suit.

Ronnie has all the sass and spunk of Jean Smart.

RONNIE
You look like shit. Party's great,
though.

ALEXIS
(fuck you)
Thanks, Mom.

RONNIE
Damn, your shrimp are good.

ALEXIS
 (almost a fuck you)
 My stepmom's recipe. She taught me
 everything I know about cooking.

Ronnie scowls, takes in the rest of the perfect party.

RONNIE
 You do all this yourself?

She gestures to a giant ROSE-STUDED HORSESHOE.

Alexis hides her hands behind her back. Her fingers are covered with puncture wounds and bandaids.

ALEXIS
 This is my job, helping Carter's
 career. And I'm good at it.

Carter grabs a shrimp, GROANS with pleasure, but otherwise ignores Alexis and Ronnie.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
 (pathetically pleasing)
 I'm glad you like 'em.

Ronnie glares at him.

RONNIE
 Hope your husband realizes what a
 lucky motherfucker he is.

Oh shit. Carter. The garage fucker. He is Alexis' husband!

ALEXIS
 Carter says if I raise enough money
 for Judge Fitzpatrick today, we can
 take Joy to Cabo for Labor Day. Joy
 is so excited.

Carter kisses the ass of JUDGE FITZPATRICK, 60, next to a
 SIGN: "Hats Off for Judge Fitzpatrick's Re-election".

Carter GUFFAWS loudly at everything the judge says.

RONNIE
 Doesn't seem right that a divorce
 attorney can raise money for the
 same judge who rules on his trials.

A BARTENDER waves an empty bottle of champagne at Alexis. She races off, muttering as she goes --

ALEXIS
Buys him whores, too.

Speaking of whores, the Blonde from the garage piles food on a plate. She takes a shrimp, places it between two cookies, and takes a bite. Gross.

AT THE BAR - LATER

Mint juleps served in tin cups and champagne in icy flutes.

Alexis lugs a case of champagne. It's fucking heavy.

Two COUPLES, 50s, stop her. They give her the social "air kiss" as she struggles to hold the wine.

Carter interrupts. Big fake smile for the Wives.

CARTER
Hello, gorgeous ladies.

This was not meant for Alexis. Now, he turns to her.

CARTER (CONT'D)
Babe, they need you at the buffet.

BUFFET - LATER

As Alexis chats with a SERVER behind her parents. Ronnie bickers with her ex-husband, STEVE, and second-wife, PAIGE.

Paige looks at least ten years younger than Ronnie and Steve.

RONNIE
Steve, I can never tell 'em apart.
Is this the wife or the daughter?

STEVE
This is Paige, the one that raised
your daughter.

Ouch. Ronnie takes a drink.

Her stiletto heels *slowly* sink into the grass.

RONNIE
I was busy working my ass off. And
guess what? After forty years of
giving makeovers in every podunk
Texas town, I finally did it --
Mary Kay saleswoman of the year!
Can you believe it?
(MORE)

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Giving me the award at the national conference in Las Vegas. So cheers to me.

She raises her glass, and the heels sink further.

She tilts backward and flails her arms towards Steve, but he offers no help.

Alexis hesitates. Ronnie falls in slow motion. Just before she hits the ground...

Alexis catches her.

As Ronnie regains her balance, her stiletto pierces the top of Alexis' foot. She YELPS, pushes Ronnie away.

STEVE

Shouldn't drink so much.

RONNIE

Christ on a cracker! I'm not drunk. You think I could be this successful if I was an alcoholic?

(to Alexis)

You should think about selling Mary Kay now that JoyJoy's off to college.

Alexis tears up instantly. Step-mom puts an arm around her.

PAIGE

Don't say the "C" word.

RONNIE

Cancer?

PAIGE

(whispers)

College.

RONNIE

Good grief.

PAIGE

(to Alexis)

How is rush going? She gonna be a Dee Gee like us? Or a Kappa like your sister?

RONNIE

Half-sister.

ALEXIS

Half-sister.

STEVE
Where is Ellen?

Alexis frowns like she has a bad taste in her mouth.

The Snake slithers unnoticed behind her.

SILENT AUCTION TENT - LATER

The same hot Blonde adjusts Judge Fitzpatrick's bow tie so he can get a good look down her dress.

BLONDE
I can't believe you ruled against
me last week, you mean thing.

He giggles. Yes, giggles.

ALEXIS (O.S.)
Want to buy a chance to win a
designer handbag?

Alexis hoists Mardi Gras Beads on her arm. Her "hostess face" slips as she scans the Blonde. **Slut**

The Blonde returns the look. **Hag**

Spotting the LOUIS VUITTON purse on a pedestal, the slut makes a pouty face, uses a baby voice.

BLONDE
I don't have my wallet with me...

JUDGE FITZPATRICK
How much?

ALEXIS
Uh, Twenty-five dollars each or
five for a hundred, but --

The Judge peels two crips hundreds from a money clip.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
You can't pay, Judge. This is your
fundraiser. Carter will kill me --

JUDGE FITZPATRICK
I insist.

BLONDE
Louis is going home with me.

Alexis reluctantly takes the judge's money.

BAR - LATER

Exhausted, Alexis finally sits. She examines her feet, blistered despite her sensible (ugly) shoes.

A WAITER brings her an ice-cold mint julep. She closes her eyes and savors the sweet bourbon.

CARTER (O.S.)
Babe, the microphone isn't working.

She startles to her feet. Like he's doing her a favor...

CARTER (CONT'D)
Not gonna get you to Cabo if I
can't give my speech.

POOLSIDE - MOMENTS LATER

A small raised platform with an amp and microphone.

Alexis frantically attempts to turn the amp on. Discovers it is not plugged in. She sees an outlet fifty feet away.

MOMENTS LATER

Alexis plugs a long GREEN EXTENSION CORD into the outlet.

RONNIE (O.S.)
Watcha doin' now?

ALEXIS
Carter needs the amp for his
speech.

The cord is tangled. Alexis looks near tears of frustration.

RONNIE
Let me help you.

ALEXIS
I don't need your help.

RONNIE
You need somebody's.

Ronnie helps her detangle the cord. They run it a safe distance around the pool to the amp.

Alexis picks up both cords to connect them, but...

The "extension cord" winds itself around her arm. It is the SNAKE!

Alexis SCREAMS bloody murder.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

What the --

Ronnie SCREAMS with her.

ALEXIS

Get it off me!

Alexis shakes her arm to get the vile reptile off her. She flings it onto Ronnie. It slithers inside HER suit jacket.

Ronnie comes unglued. Shakes and shimmies to get it out. Strips off her jacket but it is inside her camisole.

When it finally falls out, Ronnie does not hesitate. She stomps it with her stiletto. Dead.

Ronnie and Alexis SHUDDER as its body slithers and twists post-mortem.

As Carter hurries to them, Guests titter at the spectacle.

RONNIE

Christ on a cracker, now you show up.

CARTER

Alexis, you're making a scene.

ALEXIS

A snake was on me. You know how scared... sorry.

Carter stalks away.

RONNIE

Are you never gonna stick up for yourself?

Alexis ignores her, plugs the cords together.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Why do you stay with that shit-heel when he don't appreciate all you do?

ALEXIS

I... that's just Carter. He appreciates me. He does.

Ronnie ain't buyin' it.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
 What? I should leave him because
 he's snaps at me sometimes?

Alexis gestures to the house, the beautiful people, Carter.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
 I have a beautiful life with a
 husband that loves me.

She believes it.

POOLSIDE - LATER

Carter has ditched his jacket, his shirt a size too small to
 make his muscles look big.

When you give a douche-ey divorce attorney a microphone...

CARTER
 So I'm interviewing my client's
 wife on the stand, and she starts
 crying.
 (old lady voice)
 "Carter, why are you being so
 mean?" And Judge Fitzpatrick
 laughs. Tries to hide it, but soon
 he and I are laughing our asses off
 and poor lady can't stop crying.

Carter's POV: he has the crowd eating out of his hands.

CARTER (CONT'D)
 Finally, I said, could somebody get
 my mom some tissues?

The crowd DIES LAUGHING. Except for his wife and mother-in-
 law.

CARTER (CONT'D)
 All kidding aside, Judge
 Fitzpatrick is one of the finest
 judges I know, and we are here to
 get him re-elected!

CLAPS and CHEERS from the crowd.

CARTER (CONT'D)
 I want to thank the person
 responsible for this fantastic
 fundraiser. Without her, this never
 would have happened.

He gazes adoringly at... the Blonde he just fucked.

CARTER (CONT'D)
My junior partner, Ellen.

The Blonde is Ellen, aka his junior partner, aka Alexis' half-sister! Carter is fucking the slutty sister.

CARTER (CONT'D)
She came up with the theme and the guest list.

RONNIE
What about your wife?

Carter pulls his attention to Alexis, a sweaty, exhausted workhorse. She may as well be wearing a sign that says, "You hurt my feelings."

A pang of guilt.

CARTER
Of course. Alexis, thank you...
(narcissist returns)
for the shrimp. They're my favorite.

RONNIE
(mutters)
Heard he's got a shrimp dick.

CARTER
Who's ready to play heads or tails?

POOLSIDE - MOMENTS LATER

A sunbeam lands on the LOUIS VUITTON HANDBAG.

Carter holds up a coin.

CARTER
Ladies, pick heads or tails.

Alexis fans her red face with her floppy hat as she glares at her half-sister. Ellen has the perfect appearance of one who hasn't worked all day.

Alexis fumes quietly; only Ronnie can hear.

ALEXIS
Fucking princess since the day she was born. Dad's favorite, Joy thinks she shits rainbows --

Ronnie tosses two necklaces on her neck.

RONNIE

Come on. You're playing too.

Determined WOMEN GUESTS have Mardi Gras beads on their necks, but Ellen has the most.

They put both hands either on their head or their tail (ass).

Carter flips the coin.

CARTER

And it is heads. If you picked tails, take off a necklace and toss it aside.

Alexis wins. She notes Ellen's nine remaining necklaces to her two meager strands. Ellen smirks.

They pick, and again, Alexis wins, Ellen loses.

Ronnie loses her last necklace.

RONNIE

Dammit. Let me see that coin.

FAST FORWARD

Ellen loses again. Again. Alexis loses once, down to one necklace.

Guests slowly trickle out of the game until...

LATER

Only Alexis versus Ellen. Each has one necklace remaining.

Ellen looks a little peaked but dead-set on winning.

CARTER

Who wants this handbag more?

He eyes his mistress like... she's his mistress.

CARTER (CONT'D)

For the final time, heads or tails?

Ellen puts her hands suggestively on her ass, does a sexy shimmy forcing Alexis to put her hands on her floppy hat.

Everyone, including Steve and Paige, watches to see which sister will take home... the purse.

Carter tosses the coin. We see that it lands on HEADS. Ronnie peeks over his shoulder.

CARTER (CONT'D)

And it is... Tail --

RONNIE

That is heads right there, you idiot.

Alexis lets out a WHOOP of joy. Before she can finish --

Ellen collapses to the ground in a dead faint.

Everyone rushes to Ellen; Alexis almost bumped into the pool.

Carter, Paige, and Steve all kneel down around Ellen.

Completely forgotten, Alexis makes eye contact with her mom. Ronnie shrugs, then holds up the purse as if to say --

At least you won something.

INT. ALEXIS' HOME - BEDROOM - DAY

Equally magazine-worthy on the inside.

ALEXIS (O.S.)

Divorce?

Alexis looks like a patient just diagnosed with cancer as she packs FOR Carter.

She's not a doormat, she's just an amazing packer -- uses a special shirt fold-y thing, puts them into packing cubes.

CARTER

Babe, don't worry, I'll always take care of you. You can trust me.

ALEXIS

You got my sister pregnant.

CARTER

Half-sister.

ALEXIS

I changed her diapers.

Like he's doing her a fucking favor --

CARTER

I'll give you a couple weeks to find your own place. Co-sign the lease since you don't have a job.

She stops packing as his words sink in.

ALEXIS

This is my home. I picked out every antique, every fabric...

CARTER

Best place to raise your little niece -- Ellen thinks it's a girl. She can have Joy's room.

Her legs give out, she sits on the bed. Sets out pajamas.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Not gonna need those.

She wretches, swallows it down.

ALEXIS

How could Ellen get...? We... every night...

He cups Alexis' face with his tiny hands. He loves her, just not as much as he loves himself.

CARTER

I'm sorry, babe. My sex drive is just too strong.

ALEXIS

(teary)
What about Joy?

A guilty look, he squashes it.

CARTER

I'll break the news when she and I go to Cabo.

ALEXIS

But that's my only chance to see her!

Carter reaches for the suitcase, she holds it to her.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

You and Joy are my whole life.

CARTER
 No offense, babe, but that's pretty
 pathetic.

Carter frees the suitcase, then wheels it towards the door.

CARTER (CONT'D)
 Great job on that fundraiser.
 Raised a shit-ton of money.

He strolls out, leaving Alexis clutching his pajamas.

His FOOTSTEPS echo, as does his jaunty WHISTLE.

INT. ALEXIS' HOME - JOY'S BEDROOM - DAY

SUPER: "One Week Later"

A NEON SIGN lit up above the bed, "JOY."

A beautifully decorated room that is now disgusting with
 dirty dishes and empty cereal boxes.

Also disgusting is Alexis. Unwashed and unloved, she wallows
 in Joy's bed.

She makes a call, waits, it goes to voice mail. In a perky
 voice that doesn't remotely resemble the person --

ALEXIS
 Hi, Joy. It's Mom. I know today is
 bid day. No pressure. Call as soon
 as you make your pick. Love you.

She ends the call. Flips the pillow and SNIFFS long and hard.

Her phone RINGS. She grabs at it frantically, but when she
 sees "PAIGE CALLING," she sends it to voicemail.

ON PHONE we see a screen filled with missed calls from her
 stepmom as well as Ronnie.

She plays one of Paige's voicemails.

PAIGE (O.S.)
 Hi, honey. It's Paige again. I
 stopped by with a casserole, but I
 guess you weren't home.

INSERT IMAGE -- Three casseroles sit at the front door.

PAIGE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 I'm sure this will all work out...
 somehow. Your dad and I love you
and Ellen. Carter says you move out
 next week --

Alexis hits delete. She hits play on a message from Ronnie.

RONNIE (O.S.)
 It's your mother. Again. Enough
 with this. Get over it and get a
 life for yourself. Did you tell Joy
 what a shit he is --

She hits delete on this one too.

Alexis stares morosely at a tasteful poster collage on the wall across the room -- Avril Lavigne, Ke\$ha, and P!nk along with some inspo art, "Use Your Voice."

She resumes her favorite pastime -- cyber snooping Joy.

ON PHONE she opens the location app. Follows Joy's moving dot as she moves from the dorm and toward sorority row.

Alexis sits up.

ALEXIS
 Please pick Dee Gee.

She watches as Joy's dot passes different sorority houses -- Chi Omega, Zeta. She pauses, resumes walking. Passes Theta.

She stops between two houses -- Delta Gamma and Kappa Kappa Gamma. Slight movement back and forth, but then...

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
 No, no. Don't do it.

Her dot flies towards Kappa Kappa Gamma.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
 No!

ON PHONE, Alexis toggles over to Instagram. Clicks on Joy's story and waits...

Three seconds later, a PHOTO of an ecstatic Joy in a KAPPA T-SHIRT.

Alexis' face is beyond wrecked, and then --

Another POST: Joy hugs Ellen with the caption, "It's a Kappa Key for me, just like my Auntie E!"

Alexis lets out a PRIMAL SCREAM of pain.

The bedroom door flies open and SMASHES into the wall.

A terrified Ronnie bursts in, holding a cute PINK PISTOL. She waves it crazily, looking for an intruder.

Alexis and Ronnie look at each other in shock.

RONNIE

Christ on a cracker. Thought you were being murdered.

ALEXIS

I wish. Shoot me. Please.

RONNIE

It ain't that bad.

Alexis throws her phone at her mom who snags it one-handed.

ALEXIS

Joy pledged Kappa. Posted photos with Ellen. Ellen with my Joy.

Ronnie somehow knows the passcode. Enters it. She scrolls through the posts --

RONNIE

Oh, gee. I don't know what that's like. Hmm... oh wait. I do. If my memory's right, my daughter joined her step-mom's sorority.

ALEXIS

That was different. You weren't in a sorority, and you didn't care.

RONNIE

I didn't, huh?

Ronnie takes in the scene.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Don't you got friends to come pester you outta bed?

ALEXIS

I have Paige, but she...

RONNIE

Chose her bio-daughter?

Eww.

ALEXIS
We have "couple friends," but
they...

RONNIE
I know all about what happens to
those.

A fly buzzes around the dirty dishes on the nightstand.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
You've got to get a life. One that
ain't Joy's or Carter's.

ALEXIS
I don't want my own life.

RONNIE
Yeah, you do. You just don't know
it yet. Come on, get out of that
bed.

ALEXIS
No.

RONNIE
I'm not leaving until you do.

Alexis doesn't budge, pulls the covers over her head.

ALEXIS
I just want to sleep. Forever.

Ronnie sighs, leaves.

MOMENTS LATER

Ronnie returns with a vacuum cleaner and a trash bag. She
sweeps everything from the nightstand into the bag. Dishes
SHATTER.

ALEXIS
What are you doing?

RONNIE
What do you care?

Alexis turns her back, pretends to sleep.

Ronnie vacuums. With a vengeance. She bangs into the bed,
knocks over a lamp.

ALEXIS
(yells over the vacuum)
Go away.

RONNIE
(yells back)
I'm not going to let you give up on
your life.

Ronnie turns off the vacuum, but Alexis still yells.

ALEXIS
I don't. have. a life.

Ronnie leaves again.

MOMENTS LATER.

This time Ronnie holds a bucket of water.

ALEXIS
Don't you dare.

RONNIE
Last chance. It's ice cold --

ALEXIS
You're mean, but not that mean --

SPLASH! Alexis is shocked and soaked. So is the bed.

Alexis crosses her arms.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
I'm a grownup. You can't make me --

Ronnie grabs an ankle and DOES NOT LET GO. She pulls Alexis like a wet, pissed-off cat clawing at the bed.

Her nightgown slides up, exposing a pair of seriously awful underwear.

She lands on the floor with a THUD. Both of them breathe heavily in the silence.

INT. ALEXIS' HOME - BATHROOM - DAY

Ronnie bathes her daughter like an invalid. Alexis has no fight left in her.

RONNIE

You've got to be out by Friday.
Come with me to Vegas. Mary Kay
could be your future --

ALEXIS

I'd rather light myself on fire.

RONNIE

Then get your shit together. I'm
not gonna be around to make sure
you're alive.

Her mom dries her off, at once motherly and rough.

ALEXIS

I'm not going to hurt myself or
anything.

RONNIE

Yeah, you're the picture of mental
health. Here.

She tosses Alexis a PRESCRIPTION bottle. Alexis reads it.

ALEXIS

Zoloft?

RONNIE

Why I'm so happy all the time. Keep
it. I got extra at home.

ALEXIS

You're not supposed to take meds
that aren't prescribed to you.

RONNIE

Just take a half and see how you
feel.

Alexis squints to read the fine print.

Words HIGHLIGHTED for a quick read.

ON LABEL: **"Warning: Contact doctor immediately if patient experiences manic episode.** Symptoms of Mania include: **hallucinations**, decreased need for sleep, unusual talkativeness, saying things that are out of character, agitation, **poor decision-making** – e.g., **taking sexual risks**, spending large sums of money, or **making foolish plans.**"

Alexis studies herself in the mirror. So sad.

She pops a whole pill.

INT. ALEXIS' HOME - ALEXIS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ronnie tucks her into her bed like she's a little girl.

RONNIE

You're not allowed back in Joy's room. Hear me?

ALEXIS

It doesn't smell like her anymore.

RONNIE

Alexis, you're gonna survive this. Tomorrow we'll find you a job. Mary Kay --

Alexis turns on the TV to shut her up.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Or catering, decorating... then we'll go find you an apartment --

ALEXIS

Sounds great. I'll re-enter the workforce after eighteen years with my degree in English lit. Somebody will snatch me right up. Then I'll come home to some lonely, sad apartment.

RONNIE

I'll come over --

Alexis' glare cuts her off.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

It sucks. I've been there. We'll find you a cute place that doesn't have any of Carter's shit.

As Ronnie leaves she takes in the room.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

(to herself)

Ain't gonna be this nice.

ON TV: Alexis selects Amazon Prime. It asks her, "Who is watching? Carter, Joy, or Mom"

Alexis selects "Joy". Her recently watched: a special about the artist P!nk called "ALL I KNOW SO FAR". Alexis hits play.

Music Cue: P!nk's "All I Know So Far"

P!NK (O.S.)
*I haven't always been this way/ I
 wasn't born a renegade...*

Alexis watches passively at first, then sits up, mesmerized.

SERIES OF SHOTS

ON TV/ INTERCUT WITH ALEXIS' REACTIONS

-P!NK swings upside down on a giant chandelier. Holy shit!

-P!nk with her DAUGHTER on a plane. Aww...

-BACKUP SINGERS belt it out with P!nk. That looks so fun!

-P!nk eats with her Singers and Dancers like they are family.

P!NK (V.O.)
 There are people that can be
 carnies and run away...

ALEXIS
 Run away...

P!NK (V.O.)
 If you find good people, you keep
 them forever.

ALEXIS
 Forever?

-P!nk gives her guitarist, JUSTIN DERRICO, a fierce hug.

-Alexis stares -- M.K. Ultra-style brainwashed.

ALEXIS' IMAGINATION - VARIOUS

-P!nk hugs Alexis! She doesn't let go.

-Alexis eats with P!nk, her Singers, and Dancers. She makes a
 toast, and everyone CLAPS.

-Alexis rides in P!nk's tour bus with her and her family.

P!NK (V.O.)
 We're a traveling circus family...
 family... you keep them forever...

BACK TO ALEXIS' BEDROOM/ REALITY

-Alexis jumps out of bed.

P!NK (O.S.)
*You throw your head back/ And you
 spit in the wind...*

-Alexis throws her head back and spits *on the floor*.

INT. ALEXIS' HOME - DAY

Still in another Mexican muumuu, Alexis seems on a mission.
 She approaches a bookshelf. Poetry -- Keats, Emerson, Rumi.
 She examines PHOTOS of her family in happier times.
 She whisper-sings in her own voice --

ALEXIS
This used to be a fun house...

She picks up a PHOTO of Carter, *his smile turns sinister*.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
But now it's full of evil clowns.

She drops the PHOTO like it burns her fingers.

Warning label on Prescription bottle. Highlighted, "Symptoms of mania to include: hallucinations."

Note: Hallucination Montages are in Pink.

HALLUCINATION MONTAGE - INT./ EXT. ALEXIS' HOME - CONTINUOUS

Tendrils of Pink smoke swirl.

MUSIC CUE: "Funhouse" by P!nk

Alexis begins to skip and sing. In her manic mind, she sounds EXACTLY LIKE P!NK! Not only does she sound like her, Alexis embodies all of P!nk's bravado and kick-ass confidence.

ALEXIS
 (P!nk's voice)
I dance around this empty house...

REALITY THROUGH A WINDOW

No music. Alexis does an awkward gallop, mumbles to herself.
 SHE IS NOT ACTUALLY SINGING!

BACK TO HALLUCINATION

Alexis snatches every PHOTO of Carter or Ellen.

ALEXIS

*Pictures framing up the past/ Your
taunting smirk behind the glass...*

BACKYARD

Alexis dumps the PHOTOS in a pile. Races back inside.

ALEXIS

*This used to a Funhouse/ But now
it's full of evil clowns...*

BEDROOM/ BATHROOM/ CLOSET

She grabs Carter's toothbrush, dress shirts.

ALEXIS

*I'm gonna burn it down, down, down/
I'm gonna burn it down.*

BACKYARD

Alexis squeezes lighter fluid on Carter's shit.

Is this reality?

ALEXIS

*Nine, eight, seven, six, five,
four, three, two, one...*

She tosses a lit match on the pile, *MANIACAL LAUGH.*

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

FUN!

DINING ROOM

Alexis watches a FLASHBACK: Carter, Joy, and herself eat together. Laughing, happy.

ALEXIS

*Echoes knocking on locked doors/
All the laughter from before/ I'd
rather live out on the street/ Than
in this haunted memory...*

A KNOCK from the front door. Alexis ignores it.

BACKYARD

Alexis drags her mattress to join the burn pile.

ALEXIS

*Drag my mattress to the yard/
Crumble tumble house of cards...*

LIVING ROOM TO DINING ROOM

Alexis contorts herself to enter through a doggy door for a dog they don't have.

ALEXIS

*Oh, I'm crawling through the doggy
door/ My key don't fit my lock no
more...*

Alexis yanks down the drapes, the curtain rod CRASHES. She pulls wedding china out of an antique china cabinet and SMASHES it on the floor.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

*I'll change the drapes/ Break the
plates/ I'll find a new place/ Burn
this fucker down.*

The KNOCKING becomes ALARMED BANGING.

END HALLUCINATION MONTAGE/ END MUSIC

EXT. FRONT DOOR - DAY

Alexis opens the front door to a frantic Ronnie.

RONNIE

Christ on a fucking cracker! I saw
smoke. Thought your house was on
fire.

Oh shit. She wasn't singing, but **SHE REALLY DID BURN STUFF.**

Ronnie waves a key and the fake rock it was hidden in.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Why isn't my key working?

ALEXIS

His keys don't fit the locks no more.

(1.5 speed)

Locksmiths work twenty-four hours, did you know that?

RONNIE

What? You sound different.

Prescription bottle warning label with parts of the warning highlighted, "unusual talkativeness, making unusual plans".

ALEXIS

Hank told me he gets called all the time after divorces. I don't want Carter to have a key. He doesn't live here yet. He and Felon can --

RONNIE

Hold up, you locked Carter out? Good for you. You look better too. See? My pep talk worked.

ALEXIS

I took charge of my life. I've been cleaning house and...

Ronnie follows her inside.

INT. ENTRY TO DINING ROOM TO LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ronnie stares incredulous at ripped drapes and broken plates.

RONNIE

What happened in here?

Through the window she spots the smoking pile in the backyard.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

And out there?

ALEXIS

I just told you. Cleaning house.

RONNIE

Damn.

Alexis babbles as her confused mom follows.

ALEXIS

What time is it? Is it nine?
Linda's about to call. This is a
very important phone call. Last
night, well, it was morning for her
in Australia. She's going to call
me before she leaves for the day --

RONNIE

Did you sleep at all last night?

ALEXIS

Too busy planning.

RONNIE

Planning what?

INT. CARTER'S STUDY - MOMENTS LATER

Room in shambles, paper pandemonium.

ALEXIS (O.S.)

My new badass life.

Gobsmacked, Ronnie stares at a CRAZY WALL like in a detective
show or A BEAUTIFUL MIND.

RONNIE

What the hell is that?

PHOTOS, MAPS, LYRICS pasted/scribbled DIRECTLY ON THE WALL.

ALEXIS

I'm going to Vegas, obviously.

Ronnie transforms from confused to soft and vulnerable.

RONNIE

For me? Alexis, to have you there
when I get my award means
everything to me.

ALEXIS

What award?

RONNIE

Saleswoman of the year.

ALEXIS

(eww)

I'm not going to Vegas for you.

RONNIE
 (hurt but hiding it)
 Of course not. Then why?

Alexis' phone RINGS, she answers desperately.

ALEXIS
 Linda? Babe, will he see me?
 (pause)
 Friday. By four at the Venetian.
 You're the best. Thank you!!!!

She leaps in the air, attempts a pathetic cheerleader move.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
 Yes!! Wooooo!!! I got all good luck
 and zero fucks --

RONNIE
 What are you talkin' about?

Alexis gestures to the wall like Vanna White on speed.

ALEXIS
 Fly to Vegas and audition for
 Roger. Then start rehearsals --

RONNIE
 Who the fuck is Roger?

ALEXIS
 Roger Davies, P!nk's manager. He
 leaves Friday night to fly back to
 Melbourne, so I have to meet him
 before he leaves.

Alexis DIGS through the piles of paper on the desk.

RONNIE
 P!nk, the singer? How do you know
 where her manager is gonna be?

Alexis pauses her search, SIGHS like she has a remedial student. Points to a PHOTO of LINDA, a sassy fifty-something.

ALEXIS
 Linda, Roger's assistant.

RONNIE
 Why the heck would she tell you?

ALEXIS

Linda has a shitty ex-husband too.
We're gonna hang out when we tour
Australia. Her cat's name is
Freckles.

Resumes searching, getting frantic.

RONNIE

Tour? P!nk's manager? WHAT ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT???

Alexis throws a stack of paper across the room in
frustration. Faces Ronnie head on.

ALEXIS

I am going on tour with P!nk. As
her backup singer.

RONNIE

Have lost your ever-loving mind?

Alexis drops to her hands and knees, digs through paper like
a deranged gopher.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

What the Hell are you digging for?

ALEXIS

My driver's license. I can't fly
without it. Carter was going to get
me a passport for Cabo...

As Alexis continues chaotically searching, Ronnie spots
Alexis' DRIVERS LICENSE on the floor.

RONNIE

So if you don't find your license,
you can't fly?

ALEXIS

Yes, Mother. That is how T.S.A.
works.

RONNIE

Let me help you look.

Ronnie steps on top of the license, hiding it.

HALLUCINATION MONTAGE - INT./ EXT. ALEXIS' HOME - DAY
BEDROOM

Tendrils of Pink smoke swirl.

MUSIC CUE: "Runaway" by P!nk (2006 version)

Alexis takes a PILL.

Dressed like a new woman or a sk8ter kid -- concert tee, black skinny jeans, and slip-on Vans.

She packs, but this time, like an angry teen running away from home. Crams shit in a tote bag.

She stomps to the door, returns to snatch --

The sister-fucking Louis Vuitton handbag.

Again, she sings EXACTLY LIKE P!NK.

ALEXIS

*I've got my things packed... Climb
out the window...*

KITCHEN

Alexis writes a NOTE: "Carter and Ellen, left you some of my **special shrimp**. Enjoy!" Her pen STABS the exclamation point.

ALEXIS

*All the pictures and pain/ I left
behind/ All the freedom and fame/
I've gotta find...*

LIVING ROOM/ DINING ROOM

She carries her bags through the rooms, pauses to look at the CURTAIN RODS back on the wall. An EVIL GRIN spreads.

ALEXIS

*And I wonder/ How long it'll take
them to notice that I'm gone...*

FRONT DOOR

She hesitates. This is is hard.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

*And I wonder/ How far it'll take
me?*

Then kicks her "NEEDHAM FAMILY" doormat into the bushes.

DRIVEWAY

Head out the sunroof, the wind blows Alexis' hair.

ALEXIS

*To run away... Chase the rainbows
in my mind/ And I will try to stay
alive/ Maybe the world will know my
name/ Why won't you help me run
away?*

RONNIE (O.S.)

Get your feet off my Goddamn
leather!!

END HALLUCINATION MONTAGE/ END MUSIC

EXT. RONNIE'S CAR - ALEXIS' HOME - DRIVEWAY - DAY

THE CAR IS NOT MOVING. Alexis' head IS out the sunroof.

Ronnie's car is a PINK CADILLAC ESCALADE with the license plate "MKRULZ".

A peeved Ronnie stands with her hands on hips. Her cheetah-print athleisure suit is both sporty and ridiculous.

RONNIE

That's my baby.

ALEXIS

(hurt, doesn't want to be)
Your baby... yeah.

INT./ EXT. RONNIE'S CAR - TRAVELING - DAY

Ronnie drives her Escalade like it's a boat, and she's a drunken sailor.

Alexis grabs the "oh shit" handle.

Prescription bottle warning label, highlighted, "agitation".

Alexis slumps in the seat, still an angry teenager.

ALEXIS

This was a terrible idea.

RONNIE

Makes perfect sense. Both going to
Vegas, may as well --

ALEXIS

We can't stand each other.

Puts her sk8ter shoes on the dash. Ronnie smacks her foot.

RONNIE

I get why you wanna run away --

ALEXIS

(protests too much)
I'm not running away.

RONNIE

Could sing someplace close to home.

ALEXIS

I want to sing with P!nk.

RONNIE

I'd a thought you were more of a
Swifty.

ALEXIS

P!nk is a badass. Joy loves P!nk.
And when she sees me up there with
her, she's gonna see I'm a badass
too --

When Ronnie tailgates, Alexis braces for impact.

RONNIE

Yeah, you got badass written all
over you. What are you gonna do if
this don't pan out?

A moment. Should she trust her mom with her feelings?

ALEXIS

(vulnerable)
You know how in CASTAWAY, that ball
is the only thing keeping Tom Hanks
from losing it? I need this.

RONNIE

What's Joy think about you
abandoning her to go on tour?

This hits Alexis right in the lady balls.

ALEXIS

I would never abandon my daughter.
I'm doing this for Joy.

RONNIE
So you told her already?

Alexis doesn't answer.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
Badass.

Alexis turns her wrist over, reveals letters written on her skin, "WWPD?"

She places the call.

JOY (O.S.)
(grumpy)
Whaaaat?

INTERCUT

INT. JOY'S DORM - DAY

Phone to her face, Joy's eyes are closed.

ALEXIS
(peppy mom voice)
Good morning! Called you yesterday.
A bunch of times --

JOY
Mom! I'm sleeping. I picked ten AM
classes for a reason.

ALEXIS
Sorry, honey. I just wanted to hear
your voice and --

JOY
Is this about Labor Day? Dad says
you're not coming. As if you'd miss
your chance to see me --

ALEXIS
I'm not going to Cabo.

This wakes Joy.

JOY
What?

ALEXIS
I have a better plan. P!nk! She
performs in Austin that weekend.

JOY
I'd rather do Cabo --

ALEXIS
Front-row tickets! For you and your
pledge sisters.

RONNIE
Oh boy.

JOY
(excited)
Front row? For all of us? Are you
serious? What about you and Dad?

ALEXIS
Oh, I'll be there. I'll let you get
back to sleep. Love you, honey.

Call ends.

Joy's face: **what the fuck?**

END INTERCUT

A satisfied smile covers Alexis' face.

RONNIE
Well played. But you haven't told
her what a philandering cocksucker
her dad is? Or that the Aunt she
idolizes is a thieving cunt?

ALEXIS
I don't want to hurt her.

RONNIE
You're scared she won't take your
side.

Alexis puts in AirPods, gets out a notebook.

ALEXIS
(bratty teen)
You don't know me.

Ronnie keeps quiet and drives.

Alexis writes in HER NOTEBOOK, "Know that I'll be ready when
the devil is near." Draws a pic of Ronnie with devil horns.

LATER

Ronnie touches up her lipstick as she drives. Terrifying.

RONNIE
Two peas in a pod.

Alexis takes out one AirPod.

ALEXIS
Pardon?

RONNIE
I know you 'cause we're just alike.

ALEXIS
I'm nothing like you. We don't talk alike or dress alike, certainly don't act alike.

RONNIE
Both our husbands got other women pregnant -- left us for them, daughters don't want to spend time with us, and both ran away for pink.

ALEXIS
None of that is true. Ellen wasn't born til years later.

RONNIE
Paige lost the first one.

Alexis' face: **Damn**

RONNIE (CONT'D)
Thought maybe he'd come back to us, but... anyway. Know how else I know we're alike?

ALEXIS
How?

RONNIE
I know we've been driving less than thirty minutes, and we already have to pee.

ALEXIS
(lying)
No, I don't. I'm not a child.

RONNIE
I gotta pee real bad.

INT./ EXT. RONNIE'S CAR - BUCCEE'S - DAY

A huge mega-gas station filled with SUV's and RV's.

Ronnie stops at a gas pump.

Alexis crosses and uncrosses her legs.

RONNIE
You gonna wait out here? Since you
don't have to go? Pump gas? Listen
to that liquid gushing?

Alexis squirms.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
Real nice bathrooms in there.

ALEXIS
I've never been in a Buccee's.
(a beat)
Carter says they're trashy.
(another beat)
I'd better check it out.

She jumps out of the car, followed by Ronnie's CACKLE.

Both women speed-walk inside.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
Just because we both have small
bladders...

INT. BUCCEE'S - CONTINUOUS

Alexis pauses a second to take in this unbelievable t-shirt,
outdoor, home decor, jerky, bakery, and slushy store.

BUCCEE'S BATHROOM

They bolt into side-by-side stalls. Sit. Pee.

RONNIE
Like it or not...

From above, we see they both fold their toilet paper in an
identical manner before they wipe.

ALEXIS
Not. Not, not, not.

BACK IN THE STORE

Alexis marvels at this roadside paradise.

RONNIE
Want some fudge?

Alexis notices a CARTER LOOK-A-LIKE.

ALEXIS
Carter doesn't like fudge.

RONNIE
Do you like fudge?

ALEXIS
I don't know.

RONNIE
Why don't you sample some things
while I get extra gas? Single gals
gotta be prepared.

Alexis takes a sample of fudge on a toothpick. Delicious!

RONNIE (CONT'D)
When you're divorced, you can like
what you like, do what you want,
just 'cuz.

Alexis tastes other samples.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
Don't take too long. Not waiting
around all day.

ALEXIS
(unreasonably fearful)
Don't you dare leave me.

RONNIE
Why would I leave you here?

Alexis doesn't answer.

She spots "Carter" at the soda fountain.

HALLUCINATION MONTAGE - INT. BUCCEE'S DAY - CONTINUOUS

Pink smoke seeps out of the soda machine with a bajillion flavors.

Music Cue: "Cuz I Can" by P!nk.

She moves in. Picks up a cup at the same time as "Carter". Glares all her frustration at him. His eyes widen in fear.

ALEXIS

*We're gonna rock and roll/ Ra-
bra...*

She tosses back soda like it's a shot of tequila.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

*Alright I drink more than you/ I
party harder than you do...*

She samples another flavor, sprays it on him.

"Carter" jerks back. Hurries away. Alexis puts on a pink BUCCEE'S BEAVER SHIRT and stalks him.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

*P-I-N-K... I know y'all missed
me...*

REALITY AT THE GAS PUMP

Ronnie puts a CAN OF GAS in the back of her Escalade.

ALEXIS (O.S.)

*My life's a fantasy/ That you're
not smart enough to even dream*

HALLUCINATION BACK INSIDE

Alexis samples all the things: a huge ICEE, Buccee's Nuggets, and ten kinds of jerky. Some she likes, some she spits out.

ALEXIS

*My ice is making freeze/ You can
try and try you can't beat me...*

She dances as she pushes a shopping cart, tosses in a cooler and a deer feeder.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

*But it's alright/ I don't give a
damn...*

Alexis does a dance number with VARIOUS PATRONS -- a TRUCK DRIVER, a SOFTBALL TEAM, an OLD COUPLE.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

*Tonight/ I'll do what I want/ Cuz I
can... Break it down... Yeah I'm
super thick/ People say I'm much
too chick...*

She chases the freaked-out Carter double with her cart.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

What are you scared?

Alexis rides her cart to the checkout, flings stuff to the CHECKER.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

*So I'll cash my checks and place my
bets/ And hope I'll always win/
Even if I don't I'm fucked because -*

CHECKER

That will be three hundred and
twenty-seven dollars and seventy-
three cents.

END HALLUCINATION MONTAGE/ END MUSIC

INT. BUCCEE'S - CONTINUOUS

Alexis' face: **oh shit**

Highlighted warning label: "spending large sums of money."

She takes in her PILE OF CRAP. Swipes her platinum Amex.

CHECKER

Card declined.

ALEXIS

Declined?

EXT. BUCCEE'S - CONTINUOUS

A car behind Ronnie HONKS to use her pump. She pulls forward and is forced by traffic to circle behind the store.

INT. BUCCEE'S - CONTINUOUS

Alexis tries another card. Declined. DEBIT CARD. Declined.

CHECKER

I thought I had bad credit. Ma'am,
do you have a way to pay for this?

Alexis digs in her expensive purse, spots some loose change.
Pays for TicTacs and moves towards the door.

As she shakes mints into her mouth, she spots the letters on
her wrist. "WWPD?"

ALEXIS

P!nk would not take this shit.

Alexis whips out her phone.

INTERCUT

EXT. GOLF COURSE - DAY

Carter almost makes a putt, cheats to knock it in. His GOLF
BUDDIES exchange a look of disgust but keep quiet.

He takes the call.

CARTER

Hey, babe. Thanks for the shrimp.

As he walks past, Alexis yells at the poor Carter Clone.

ALEXIS

Why aren't my credit cards working?

"Carter" gets the Hell out.

CARTER

You came at me first, changing the
locks, throwing out my stuff. And
trying to steal Joy for Labor Day.

(impressed)

Didn't expect that of you.

She follows her "husband" outside.

EXT. BUCCEE'S - CONTINUOUS

Twin-Carter hauls ass to his car and speeds off.

ALEXIS

I'm not stealing her.

CARTER

Bribing her with expensive tickets.

ALEXIS

I don't need money to get those tickets. I'm on my way to Vegas to audition --

CARTER

Audition? For what, showgirl?

He covers the phone and laughs with his buddies.

ALEXIS

For your information, I'm going --

She stops short when she sees Ronnie's car is gone. Looks around frantically. It's not a car you could miss.

And then it hits her. Her mom has left her. Her phone falls from her hand.

END INTERCUT

HALLUCINATION - EXT. BUCCEE'S - CONTINUOUS

Alexis drops onto the curb, her ass lands on a pink cloud.

She breaks into a melancholy a Capella chorus of "Please Don't Leave Me" by P!nk.

ALEXIS

*I always say how I don't need
you... Please, don't leave me.*

Face down on her knees, she cries like a little kid.

HONK.

Alexis looks up with tears on her face to see the Escalade.

END HALLUCINATION

INT. RONNIE'S CAR - TRAVELING - LATER

Alexis is hyped up -- poppin' TicTacs like drugs. Crunches them to emphasize her words.

ALEXIS

You don't just leave your daughter.
P!nk would never leave Willow.

RONNIE

I told you, already. I didn't leave you. I had to make a loop around the back.

ALEXIS

Yeah, yeah, yeah --

RONNIE

Where's your food?

ALEXIS

Carter froze all my cards.

RONNIE

That fucker! I'm gonna give him a piece of my mind.

ALEXIS

I already did.

RONNIE

You did?

Out of TicTacs, she throws the box in frustration.

ALEXIS

See? This, is why I have to go on the road with P!nk. Craft service.

RONNIE

I got a cooler full of food in the back if your hungry.

Alexis turns, opens a cooler to see it full of --

ALEXIS

Lean Cuisines?

RONNIE

I'm on the road two hundred days a year. I can't be eating Sonic in every tiny town or I'd weigh six hundred pounds.

Alexis takes the meal out of the box. Frozen solid.

ALEXIS

What am I supposed to do with this?

Ronnie turns in her seat, causing them to swerve. HONK!

Ronnie uncovers a MICROWAVE, plugs it into the cigarette lighter.

She expertly pierces the plastic wrap with two pointy fake nails, pops the Lean Cuisine inside. Hits start. The interior lights up, the meal spins.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

Wow.

EXT. RONNIE'S CAR - TRAVELING - DAY - LATER

Alexis scribbles in a notebook. She fills the page, turns it.

RONNIE

Whatcha doin' over there.

ALEXIS

Writing down all her lyrics.

RONNIE

All of them?

Alexis fans her notebook filled with pages of copied lyrics.

ALEXIS

She's not afraid to tell the ugly truth about anything.

RONNIE

Mary Kay once said --

ALEXIS

I hate Mary Kay.

RONNIE

How can you hate Mary Kay? She didn't just sell cosmetics, she changed lives.

ALEXIS

Changed mine, alright.

FLASHBACK - INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

A YOUNG RONNIE, 30s, points out all her Mary Kay products as a YOUNG ALEXIS, 6, pretends to be her customer.

Young Ronnie puts lipstick on her little girl.

END FLASHBACK

RONNIE

Baylor called her the Greatest
Female Entrepreneur in American
history.

Alexis plugs her ears.

ALEXIS

La, la, la...

RONNIE

We stopped testing on animals way
before the libs made it cool. And
this car? My beautiful Escalade!

ALEXIS

More like an Esca-labia.

RONNIE

I think I liked you better when you
kept your mouth shut.

This. Is a slap in the face.

ALEXIS

Once we get to Vegas, we'll barely
see each other anymore.

Ronnie scowls. Alexis gets out her phone.

ON HER PHONE: Alexis scrolls through YouTube videos about
singing -- head voice, chest voice, belting, harmonizing.

MILES LATER

Alexis still watches videos, ignores Ronnie.

RONNIE

I know you were in church choir as
a kid, but when's the last time you
sang?

Alexis doesn't look up.

ALEXIS

This morning. Remember? You yelled
at me?

Oh, snap. Alexis thinks she is singing out loud?

RONNIE

What are you talkin' about?

Alexis rolls her eyes.

They pass a SIGN: "Lubbock 385 miles"

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Why we stoppin' in Lubbock? We can
make it further today?

ALEXIS

College was the closest to being
like P!nk I've ever been.

RONNIE

Then you met that shit-heel and
turned into a doormat.

ALEXIS

Well, I'm not a doormat anymore.
I'm a rockstar.

Ronnie's face: **yeah, right**

INT./ EXT. CAR - LUBBOCK, TX - DUSK

ESTABLISHING SHOTS:

-SIGN: Welcome to Lubbock

-Texas Tech University -- Home of the Red Raiders

-A COUNTRY BAR with a SIGN: "Open Mic Night".

-A HOTEL next door.

EXT. HOTEL - PARKING LOT - DUSK

Mother and Daughter get their bags from the Escalade.

Both the tailgate and the back driver's side door are open.

RONNIE

Close the back, will ya?

Alexis ONLY closes the tailgate.

INT. HOTEL - DAY

Texas Tech theme. Red, white, black, and cartoon Yosemite Sam
dude with pistols.

The HOTEL CLERK is probably a retired rodeo cowboy.

ALEXIS

Two rooms --

RONNIE

One room. I'm paying, you're stuck bunking with me.

Does this make Alexis mad or happy?

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Ronnie waits impatiently on the bed. She wears a figure-hugging pink dress. Next to her --

Alexis' phone BUZZES quietly, "Paige Calling". Ronnie answers and immediately hangs up on her. Flips off the phone.

RONNIE

Ready yet?

Alexis opens the bathroom door. She obviously "tried" to do something to her hair, but mostly looks the same.

Ronnie rises, takes in Alexis' ripped black jeans, Green Day t-shirt, and Vans.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

You look like Avril Lavigne got old. Where'd you get these clothes?

ALEXIS

These are my rocker clothes.

She attempts a P!nk snarl and some devil horns.

RONNIE

Rocker clothes? Sad.

ALEXIS

Fine, they're Joy's old things from her emo phase.

Alexis looks at her mom with longing as Ronnie puts her hands gently on Alexis' shoulders... and RIPS the neck of the t-shirt, exposing her shoulder and one bra strap.

RONNIE

Better. M.K. says, "Clothes may not make the woman, but they have a strong effect on her confidence."

Alexis rolls her eyes but submits as Ronnie sits her on the bed and gets out her "kit" -- a massive pink toolbox filled with cosmetics. She sets to work.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

When your dad left me, I didn't take care of myself for a bit. Once I found Mary Kay, just the act of fixing up my face changed the way I looked at myself. I stopped being so damn pitiful.

She applies a bold shade of magenta lipstick. **Reminds us of the flashback when young Ronnie put lipstick on kid Alexis.**

RONNIE (CONT'D)

"Give a girl the right lipstick, and she will conquer the world."

ALEXIS

Not going to convert me to your cult.

Ronnie turns, riffles through her suitcase. She hands over sexy heeled sandals and a pair of BLACK SHINY LEATHER PANTS.

RONNIE

Put these on.

Alexis shimmies out of her ripped jeans and attempts to get the pants on. They are TIGHT. Can't even get her feet in.

She tugs. And tugs. Finally lies on the bed. Ronnie pushes her down while Alexis gets leverage with the headboard.

Success! But...

Alexis can't bend, so Ronnie puts the heels on for her.

Reveal -- Alexis looks hot! Well, might-have-a-hot-flash hot.

INT. COUNTRY BAR - NIGHT

Music Cue: Any Kelly Clarkson song.

Alexis and Ronnie strut in, hair fanning out behind them.

On stage, a singer is killing it. This is DESTINY, 30s. Her voice, emotion, and stage presence are 10/10. She might be cis-gender, trans, or nonbinary, but she is FIERCE.

Alexis and Ronnie halt, intimidated as Hell.

RONNIE
I'll get us some drinks.

Destiny's song ends to major APPLAUSE.

An ANNOUNCER gets on stage.

ANNOUNCER
Give it up for Destiny. Next up,
Cecilia. Where are you, Cecilia?

Crickets. CECILIA shrinks.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)
Guess she doesn't want to go after
that last performance. How about
Jenny?

JENNY, her necklace says "Jenny," searches like it's not her.

Alexis rubs the letters on her wrist, "WWPD?"

Ronnie returns with their drinks --

RONNIE
Whatcha got? A tattoo? Ha! Like
you'd ever get a tattoo.

Alexis sneers back.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
Shannon?

SHANNON runs into the bathroom.

ALEXIS
It's a reminder.

RONNIE
To do what?

ALEXIS
Be brave. What would P!nk do?

Nose to nose, Ronnie dares.

RONNIE
Well? What would a rockstar do?

Alexis glares, then marches her shiny ass to the stage.

ANNOUNCER
Finally. A brave woman.

Alexis shields her eyes from the stage lights, leans awkwardly into the microphone. Her voice is tiny.

ALEXIS

This one's for my husband, ex...
almost, and my mother.

Silence. And then --

HALLUCINATION MONTAGE - INT. COUNTRY BAR - NIGHT

Pink fog floods the stage.

MUSIC CUE: "So What" by P!nk.

Alexis snatches up the microphone and launches into it.

ALEXIS

*Na-na-na-na, na-na, na/ Na-na-na-
na, na-na/ I guess I just lost my
husband/ I don't know where he went*

Alexis steals a beer from someone, takes a swig.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

*So I'm gonna drink my money/ I'm
not gonna pay his rent*

REALITY

Alexis is NOT singing. Eyes closed, she does a weird shimmy.

RONNIE

Christ on a cracker. Sing, Alexis!

BACK TO HALLUCINATION

She dances and prances with "go fuck yourself" confidence.

ALEXIS

*I gotta brand new attitude/ And I'm
gonna wear it tonight...*

She air boxes, jabs, upper cuts.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

*I wanna get in trouble/ I wanna
start a fight!*

She takes a leap from the stage, to the nearby bar. Marches it like a catwalk.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
*So, so what?/ I am a rock star/ I
 got my rock moves/ And I don't want
 you tonight.*

She squats down to sing into Ronnie's face.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
*You weren't there/ You never were/
 You want it all/ But that's not
 fair... You weren't there...*

Alexis turns her back to her mom and does a TRUST FALL into Ronnie's waiting arms!!!

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
You let me fall...

END HALLUCINATION MONTAGE/ END MUSIC

Only Ronnie DOES NOT catch her. Alexis SPLATS onto the floor.

RONNIE
 Christ on a mother fucking cracker!

Alexis opens her eyes. Hair splayed on the filthy bar floor.

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)
 Lexie? Are you okay?

Alexis turns to the voice.

ALEXIS
 Marshall?

MARSHALL, 45, gently helps her from the floor.

He looks exactly like Eminem... if Eminem had a mullet and wore Wranglers.

RONNIE
 What in the Hell were you doing
 taking a header like that?

ALEXIS
 A trust fall. You trust the person
 to catch you. You didn't.

Marshall sticks his hand out to Ronnie.

MARSHALL
 Marshall Mathers, ma'am. Friend of
 Lexie's from college.

Ronnie looks him up and down, takes to him immediately.

RONNIE

Call me Ronnie. Why don't you take
this poor girl to get a drink.

Alexis' eyes scream, "Mom!"

MARSHALL

Happy to.

AT THE BAR

Marshall asks her drink order.

MARSHALL

Fifty-seven Chevy?

ALEXIS

Yes, please. Extra --

MARSHALL

Cherries. I remember.

He orders their drinks. Gets a good look at her.

MARSHALL (CONT'D)

What the Hell happened to you?

Ouch.

MARSHALL (CONT'D)

I mean on stage. The Lexie I know
would have crushed it.

ALEXIS

A lot has happened to her. What
about you?

MARSHALL

Yeah, a lot's happened to me too.

BEHIND THEM

Ronnie chats with the first singer, Destiny.

RONNIE

You were great up there.

DESTINY

Thank you. Love your makeup.

RONNIE

Yours is good too. I might add a little sparkle just here. Really make your cheekbones pop.

BACK TO ALEXIS AND MARSHALL

Alexis eats cherry after cherry in a very flirty manner. Who is this girl? P!nk would be so proud.

MARSHALL

Took three years of catching her cheating before I realized she wasn't gonna stop.

ALEXIS

Carter got my half-sister pregnant and kicked me out of our house so they can raise the baby there.

MARSHALL

Damn. You win. Kids?

ALEXIS

(teary)
A daughter. Freshman at U.T.

MARSHALL

I'm so sorry... that she's a longhorn.

They laugh. He moves closer.

MARSHALL (CONT'D)

Damn, it's good to see you. How long are you in town?

ALEXIS

Just tonight.

She moves closer.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

Tomorrow we leave for...

RONNIE (O.S.)

...Las Vegas.

RONNIE AND DESTINY

These two are bosom buddies now.

DESTINY

Y'all are driving to Vegas so your daughter can audition to be a backup singer for P!nk?

RONNIE

(a little drunk)

Crazy, right? I don't even think she can sing.

They burst into laughter only to look up and see --

ALEXIS

(also drunk)

You don't believe in me.

RONNIE

You gotta admit it's a little outta left field.

Ronnie and Destiny GIGGLE.

ALEXIS

You have never been there for me.

RONNIE

I'm the only one here now.

ALEXIS

Not because you care, you just wanna recruit me for your bullshit **Multi-level Marketing!**

DESTINY

Oh, snap.

Ronnie looks like she's been slapped.

Alexis covers her mouth to take it back, grasps for Ronnie.

ALEXIS

I didn't mean...

RONNIE

Yeah, ya did.

Ronnie stomps away. Turns back at the door.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Mary Kay is dual-marketing, dual!
Not M.L.M.

And she's gone. Alexis' lip quivers.

A few notes of P!nk's "Please Don't Leave Me," but then...

Fueled by alcohol --

ALEXIS

She is the worst mother EVER!!! All she does is leave, leave, leave.

MARSHALL

Aren't y'all staying next door?

ALEXIS

You don't understand.

Alexis chugs her drink, chokes on a cherry. Motions to the bartender that she'll have another.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

(ranting)

I'm nothing like her. She doesn't know me. I'll prove that I'm --

MARSHALL

Let me get you some water.

She locks eyes with Marshall.

ALEXIS

I know what I want.

Does she mean...

HALLUCINATION MONTAGE - EXT. TATTOO PARLOR - NIGHT

A strip mall tattoo parlor. More pink fog.

Music Cue: A country version of "Revenge" by P!nk And Eminem.

INSIDE TATTOO PARLOR

Warning label on prescription bottle -- highlighted, "poor decision making, taking sexual risks."

PHOTOS of Tattoos: Leo DiCaprio, a bear, Cane and Abel.

ALEXIS (O.S.)

Like Leo and the Revenant/ Abel in that bible bit/ Revenge is sweet, isn't it?...

A TATTOO ARTIST shows Alexis designs, she's so drunk they blur together.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

You pick. Something to symbolize my
new life.

This beefy redneck "artist" goes to work where Alexis' ripped
shirt exposes a bare shoulder.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

*I wish I was a lawyer I could sue
you/ Sue you, take your dog, take
your house/ Take your shoes, take
your heart*

Now it's Marshall's turn. He points to a PHOENIX RISING FROM
THE ASHES and takes off his shirt.

The Tattoo Artist begins.

MARSHALL

*...Feels like it'll take a century
to heal, but just know that I will*

Marshall changes his mind, points to a different design.

MARSHALL (CONT'D)

*First you turn your back on me then
tell me that I stabbed you in it/
Stabbed you in it, SLUT!*

That tattoo on his chest in flaming red letters, "SLUT!"

INT. MARSHALL'S PLACE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

MUSIC AND HALLUCINATION CONTINUE

Alexis wants Marshall. Bad.

ALEXIS

*I'm daydreamin', let me count the
ways/ How I'll get you, or how I'll
make you pay...*

She pulls him close, and they... Texas two-step together.

ALEXIS AND MARSHALL

*We could do revenge, revenge,
revenge, revenge/ Together,
together, together/ Revenge is
sweet.*

MARSHALL

Fuck yeah.

They make out like horny teens.

END HALLUCINATION MONTAGE/ END MUSIC

INT. MARSHALL'S PLACE - BEDROOM - DAY

Alexis wakes. Last night's makeup smeared on Marshall's pillow.

Fuck yeah, they did it. She smiles.

She rolls onto her shoulder and stifles a SCREAM.

They really got tattoos, too.

Marshall stirs. He pulls her close and stifles his SCREAM.

MARSHALL

Fuck, that hurts.

They snuggle carefully.

INT. MARSHALL'S PLACE - BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Partially dressed, Alexis stands with her back to the mirror. Marshall hands her a hand mirror so she can see her back.

MARSHALL

Ready to see?

ALEXIS

I can't believe I got a --

She sees her new tattoo. A cute little... SNAKE.

She SCREAMS for fucking real! Drops the mirror and spins in circles trying to see it and --

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

Get it off, get it off, get it off!!!

Marshall busts out laughing.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

It's not funny. I hate snakes. Why did you let me --

He pulls her in for a gentle hug.

MARSHALL

Let you? I would never try to
control you, Lexie.

Alexis likes this bit.

INT./ EXT. MARSHALL'S TRUCK - HOTEL - DAY

Alexis and Marshall kiss sweetly.

She climbs out looking happy, but also a hot-ass mess.

MUSIC CUE: P!nk's "Walk of Shame"

No hallucination here.

Alexis carries her heels, limps toward the hotel.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Scans the lobby filled with GUESTS for anyone familiar.

Pushes the elevator button multiple times.

Alexis spots a PARTY GUEST whose eyes widen when they take in
her disheveled look. Alexis freezes.

Glances at her wrist. **The tattoo is now legit. WWPD?** She
surprises them both with a badass P!nk-worthy snarl.

INT. HOTEL - HALLWAY - DAY

Alexis struts her stuff in her shiny pants. This girl just
had sex.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Alexis loses her swagger when she sees her mom just chillin'
in bed on her phone.

END MUSIC

RONNIE

What happened to you last night?

ALEXIS

Not that you care, but I was doing
badass rockstar things.

Alexis' phone RINGS. "Carter Calling".

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
(guilty)
Hello?

INTERCUT WITH CARTER

INT. ALEXIS' HOME - ALEXIS' BEDROOM - SAME

An AIR PURIFIER and lots of CANDLES.

Carter and Ellen lie in bed. She doesn't look thrilled.

CARTER
Are you on drugs?

ALEXIS
What?

CARTER
I just got a text that you're in
Lubbock and look like you're on
meth.

ALEXIS
I am not --

CARTER
If Joy goes to Cabo with me, I
won't have to tell her about your
little drug problem.

ALEXIS
Have you always been this awful?

CARTER
I'm just trying to be a good dad.

CALL WAITING appears on Alexis' phone, "Joy Calling."

ALEXIS
I'm not on drugs!

She ends their call, answers Joy.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
Hi honey!

INTERCUT WITH JOY

INT. JOY'S DORM - SAME

JOY
What the fuck?!?!!!!!

ALEXIS
What did Dad say --

JOY
I saw your post!!!

She yells so loud that Ronnie can hear.

ALEXIS
What post?

Ronnie pulls up Alexis' Instagram on her phone.

RONNIE
Christ on a tattooed cracker.

ON PHONE: Alexis' post -- series of PHOTOS: Alexis makes out with Marshall; drinks a blue-colored cocktail; gets a tattoo.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
(reading)
Getting screwed, blued, and tattooed tonight. Now who's a rockstar?

ALEXIS
Honey, let me explain --

JOY
You're cheating on Dad?

ALEXIS
No, your dad is the one --

JOY
Who are you? What happened to my mother?

ALEXIS
I'm trying to get a life of my own as a backup singer for P!nk.

JOY
You think YOU are going to sing with P!nk?

ALEXIS

Won't that be exciting? I'll bet I can even get you and your friends backstage --

JOY

You're not going to Cabo because --

ALEXIS

I'll be on tour. Your mom is gonna be a badass rockstar!

JOY

ARE YOU ON DRUGS???

Joy hangs up on her.

END INTERCUT

Ronnie scans her.

RONNIE

You wouldn't go that far to prove you're a rockstar, would you?

ALEXIS

I'm not on drugs!

Alexis slams into the bathroom.

INT. HOTEL BATHROOM - DAY

Alexis digs in her toiletries, finds her "HAPPY PILLS", and takes one dry. Looks in the mirror. Takes a second pill.

EXT. HOTEL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Alexis and Ronnie carry their bags over hot asphalt. Ronnie fishes in her leopard-print fanny pack for the keys.

ALEXIS

Get me to Vegas, and then you don't have to act like you care.

A PING from Alexis' phone. She pauses to read her text.

MARSHALL

Break a leg in Vegas! Where I can come see you in concert?

ALEXIS

Someone believes in me.

She sees Ronnie hasn't waited for her.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
And there you go again. Leaving me.
Just like last night.

RONNIE
I was next door --

ALEXIS
(too much emotion)
No, you weren't!

Ronnie, pauses. Realizes she's talking about --

FLASHBACK - EXT. DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Young Ronnie drives away in a retro PINK CADILLAC leaving behind a crying Young Alexis.

END FLASHBACK

Ronnie turns away.

RONNIE
Best to leave the past alone.

They arrive at the car, the back door is still open.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
I told you to shut the dang door.

ALEXIS
I did, I --

RONNIE
Car probably all funky smelling.
Thanks a lot.

As she slams the door we see the microwave and coiled next to it -- a small brown SNAKE..

INT./ EXT. CAR - TRAVELING - COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Ronnie drives with her usual "skill."

The Snake explores the back seat.

RONNIE
I know I ain't a perfect mother,
Alexis.

ALEXIS
You can say that again.

RONNIE
But I've always done what I thought
was best.

ALEXIS
Best for who?

RONNIE
Best for you.

ALEXIS
I could have been killed last
night.

RONNIE
Don't be so dramatic.

ALEXIS
And you wouldn't even know where to
find my body --

RONNIE
For cripes sake, I was following
you on the location app the whole
damn time!

ALEXIS
(touched)
You were?

RONNIE
Did you really get a tattoo?

And then, the tiny but terrifying SNAKE slithers onto the
armrest. Both women SCREAM in unison.

Both try to escape out the windows as the car STILL MOVES.

ALEXIS
Stop the car, stop the car, stop
the car! Let me out!!!!!!

The pink-mobile swerves crazily, jerks to a stop.

Both women eject, still SCREAMING, shaking their bodies in
case the snake somehow attached to them.

Alexis flings off her fancy purse and removes her shirt just
in case.

Seeing the snake, Ronnie slaps Alexis' new tattoo. Alexis YELPS in pain.

RONNIE

That's your tattoo? Why the Hell --

Alexis pushes her a safe distance away.

As they breathe heavily, they watch the car as if the snake might oblige them by exiting on his own.

ALEXIS

Do something!

RONNIE

You left the door open!

They circle the vehicle cautiously.

Alexis pops the tailgate, jumps back. Waits.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Get my gun. In my makeup case.

The pink makeup case rests next to the GAS CAN.

Alexis finds a stick, uses it to knock the case out.

She gets out the tiny PINK GUN, points it at the car.

The reptile slithers onto their bags.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

I see him. Shoot the dang thing!

Alexis hesitates.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Shoot!

ALEXIS

What about your precious car?

RONNIE

That's just a tiny ole .38. I can get it patched right up --

Alexis locks eyes with the little Snake. She takes aim. FIRES.

The bullet moves in slow motion. Snake ducks for cover.

A SPARK as the bullet pierces the full GAS CAN.

Alexis and Ronnie make a face: **oh shit**

An EXPLOSION rocks them onto their asses.

Ronnie sits up to see her precious, hard-earned, pink Cadillac Escalade engulfed in flames.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
Jesus mother fucking Christ on a
Goddamn cracker!

The flames burn HOT. They scooch back to escape the heat.

Alexis looks fearfully at Ronnie.

ALEXIS
I'm sorry, Mom.

Ronnie doesn't say a word.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
You worked so hard...

Ronnie remains stone-faced as she watches the car burn.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
You love that car more than
anything in the whole world.

Ronnie gets to her feet and marches away from Alexis.

Gut punch. Her mom cares more about the car than her daughter. And she's leaving her behind. Again.

But then... Ronnie turns back. Motions Alexis to catch up.

RONNIE
Had to be done.

ALEXIS
(sooooo relieved)
Right? It could have had snake
babies.

Alexis grabs her mom's makeup case. A peace offering.

Ronnie retrieves Alexis' prize purse. Her own peace offering.

They exchange them.

RONNIE
Can't sell a snake car to some poor
unsuspecting person.

ALEXIS
Snake juices everywhere.

RONNIE
I'll bet he shit tiny snake
droppings.

They shudder in unison and head toward a small town in the distance.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
The world's greatest victories have
been born of defeat. -Mary Kay.

ALEXIS
Where there is a flame, someone's
bound to get burned/ But just
because it burns doesn't mean
you're gonna die. -P!nk

The Escalade EXPLODES again behind them.

RONNIE
Don't let the negatives of life
control you. Rise above them.

ALEXIS
I'm not dead just yet.

Ronnie and Alexis continue their battle of quotes.

INT./ EXT. BUS - DAY

An exhausted Alexis and Ronnie climb aboard a Greyhound bus.

ALEXIS
I have to be at the Venetian
tomorrow by four. Bus drives
through the night, I should get
there in time --

RONNIE
Plenty of time to rest up for the
Mary Kay conference on Saturday --

ALEXIS
No freaking way.

They find seats near the bathroom and... Destiny!

RONNIE
Fancy meeting you here.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

*Why I'm still here, or where could
I go?/ You're the only love I've
ever known...*

BATHROOM MAN finally comes out -- the SMELL! They gag --

And then they FIGHT FOR IT.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

*But I hate you, I really hate you/
So much I think it must be...*

INSIDE BUS BATHROOM

Alexis and Ronnie sit back to back to SHARE the toilet!

ALEXIS AND RONNIE

*True love, true love/ It must be
true love...*

Both fold their toilet paper the same way, wipe in unison.

ALEXIS AND RONNIE (CONT'D)

*No one else can break my heart like
you/ You/ You...*

As they right their clothes in the small space, elbows JAM into ribs.

ALEXIS

*Just once, try to wrap your little
brain around my feelings/ Just
once, please try not to be so
mean...*

Alexis turns on the water, it splashes Ronnie in the face.

Ronnie's face **payback's a bitch**

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

*Why I'm still here, or where could
I go?/ You're the only love I've
ever known/ But I hate you, I
really hate you/ So much I think it
must be...*

They get in a water fight that ends with Ronnie holding Alexis' head inside the toilet.

ALEXIS AND RONNIE

*True love, true love... And no one
else can break my heart like you.*

They look at each other -- two drowned rats. LAUGH hysterically.

END MANIC MONTAGE

Music continues in the background.

INT. BUS - NIGHT

Alexis writes in her notebook while Ronnie sleeps on her.

Warning label on prescription bottle -- highlighted, "decreased need for sleep."

ON NOTEBOOK: a song NOT by P!nk. Alexis writes, scratches through, writes. The lyric, "*So tired of being/ A little girl abandoned/ I want to expand and/ set her free.*"

EXT. BUS - SMALL TOWN - DAY

Steam hisses from under the hood of the bus.

INT. BUS - DAY

Alexis pops another PILL.

BUS DRIVER (O.S.)
 Sorry folks. Enjoy a layover here
 in the beautiful town of...
 wherever the fuck we are. Should
 have another bus by end of day.

Warning label on prescription bottle -- highlighted, "agitation".

Alexis shoves her way out of the bus, followed by Ronnie and the other Passengers.

ALEXIS
 We have to get back on the road or
 I'll never make it to the Vegas by
 four. I have to make this audition!

RONNIE
 Geta a grip, girl.

EXT. SMALL TOWN CAR LOT - DAY

SIGN: "Fred's Used Cars -- They Don't Make 'Em Like This Anymore!"

A Thelma and Louise look-a-like convertible. Ronnie at the wheel, Alexis in the front seat... Destiny in the back.

Ronnie peels out.

DESTINY
Woohoo! Vegas, baby!

INT. GARAGE - DAY

Carter COUGHS as he leaves the house.

He gets out his phone, smirks, sends a text.

He slithers into one of his fancy cars and pops it in reverse, almost runs over an EXTERMINATOR in a jumpsuit.

EXT. CONVERTIBLE - TRAVELING - DAY

A different car. Also driving recklessly.

Alexis receives a text, but not from Carter.

JOY
*I'm going to Cabo with Dad for
Labor Day.*

ALEXIS
NOOOO!!!!

RONNIE
What?

ALEXIS
She's going to Cabo.

RONNIE
Tell her the truth about that
dickweed!

Alexis looks away.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
At least give her a chance to
choose you.

WWPD? Alexis places the call.

INTERCUT with Joy

INT. KAPPA HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Joy answers, on a sofa surrounded by her PLEDGE SISTERS.

JOY

What are you doing now, stripping
on a pole?

Pledge Sisters GIGGLE.

ALEXIS

Of course not. I'm with RonRon.

RONNIE

Hi, JoyJoy.

ALEXIS

Almost to Vegas. My audition --

JOY

Not this again.

ALEXIS

Please, Joy. I need to see you.

JOY

Then come to Cabo. Maybe Dad will
forgive you. He said I can bring my
friends.

PLEDGE SISTERS

Cabo Baby!/ Yeah!/ We can drink in
Mexico, right?

ALEXIS

I can't --

JOY

Singing is more important than me?

ALEXIS

Nothing is more important --

JOY

Whatever. Good thing Aunt Ellen is
taking your spot.

The PAIN!!! Ellen in Cabo with Joy???

PLEDGE SISTERS

We love Auntie E!/ She's so cool!

Alexis can't speak.

ALEXIS
 (tight voice)
 I'm going to have to call you back.

END INTERCUT

Alexis HURLS her phone away, but Ronnie SNAGS it mid-air.
 Alexis SHRIEKS with thirty years of repressed rage.

RONNIE
 Let it out!

Fueled by Alexis' rage, the car picks up speed.

ALEXIS
 I hate him! I want to, I want to...

DESTINY
 Tell him to go fuck himself.

ALEXIS
 Yes! I'm going to!

DESTINY
 What'd he do?

Ready to explode, Alexis grabs the phone back, dials.

INTERCUT

INT./ EXT. CARTER'S SPORTS CAR - DRIVING - CONTINUOUS

Carter smiles an evil smile.

CARTER
 Hey, Babe --

ALEXIS
 Do you get off being such a
 horrible human?

Carter ends the call. He CACKLES. Looks down at his BONER.

END INTERCUT

Alexis throws the phone down on the seat.

RONNIE
 Mary Kay says, "The real test of a
 champion is being able to put on a
 happy face when deep down you're
 suffering."

ALEXIS
Shut it.

DESTINY
I want to hear.

RONNIE
"The first step toward getting
people to respect you is to respect
yourself."

ALEXIS
Mary Kay can't fix this!

SIGNS: "Welcome to Nevada" followed by "Las Vegas 37 miles"

RONNIE
See? Told you I'd get you to Vegas
on time.

Alexis looks at her phone, eyes widen in alarm.

ALEXIS
WHAT TIME IS IT?

DESTINY
Three-thirty. Oh shit. Three
thirty!

RONNIE
How did we lose an hour?

DESTINY
Time zone, Arizona doesn't do
daylight savings. Go, go, GO!!!

Ronnie puts the pedal to the metal! VROOOM.

ALEXIS
This is all your fault.

RONNIE
My fault? You blew up my car.

Ronnie hunches over the wheel, zips between cars.

Woo WOOOOOO. A Police SIREN wails at them from behind.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
Christ on a cracker.

Ronnie pulls over.

INT./ EXT. CONVERTIBLE - ROADSIDE - CONTINUOUS

A local police car with old-school cherries on top.

A heavy-set FEMALE COP climbs out. Approaches *slowly* with her hand on her weapon. Her speech is also ridiculously slow.

FEMALE COP
License and insur --

Ronnie tosses them at her.

RONNIE
Write me a ticket. I know I was speeding -- but do it quick-like.

Female Cop searches every pocket for her ticket book.

FEMALE COP
I got quotas. Even if you'd been one mile over, I'd have gotten you.

She meticulously writes the ticket.

ALEXIS
Can you go any faster? I have to make an audition.

The Cop finally hands over the ticket.

FEMALE COP
Got you a QR code right here, can scan it and pay --

RONNIE
Well isn't that somethin'.

ALEXIS
We've got to go!

FEMALE COP
Tell you what, I'll give you a pass to speed the rest of the way.

DESTINY
God bless you!

Ronnie steps on the gas, gravel shoots from her tires.

Woo WOOOO!! The SIREN again.

RONNIE
But she said --

FEMALE COP (O.S.)
(on her loud speaker)
Just messing with ya. GO!

They gun it.

EXT. CONVERTIBLE - LAS VEGAS STRIP - DAY

Ronnie races as Alexis and Destiny point directions.

A yellow light.

DESTINY

Run it! Or I'll be too late.

Alexis whips around to face her.

ALEXIS

What do you mean, you'll be too late?

Destiny: **Busted, for reals**

DESTINY

Okay, listen, when your mom told me about the audition --

ALEXIS

(accusingly to Ronnie)
You told her?

RONNIE

I didn't know it was a secret.

DESTINY

I have just as much right as you to further my career.

ALEXIS

This is about more than career.
This is for Joy. This is the only thing keeping me from LOSING IT!!!

Ronnie's look says she's already lost it.

DESTINY

I'm a better singer.

Boom. Truth bomb.

Alexis and Ronnie exchange a look: **Destiny IS better. If she auditions there is no way Alexis will get the gig.**

They pass THE BELLAGIO, PARIS, CAESAR'S PALACE, and finally --

EXT. THE VENETIAN HOTEL - CONTINUOUS

Ronnie nearly runs over DAVID SPADE in the valet line.

DAVID SPADE
Fuck you, Thelma and Louise.

Alexis checks the time.

ALEXIS
Five minutes.

Ronnie squeezes her hand.

RONNIE
I believe in you, baby.

Alexis has no chance to appreciate this as she launches from the car. Phone to her ear --

ALEXIS
Linda? I'm here. What room? Don't
let him leave!!!

As Destiny moves to get out, Ronnie steps on the gas, trapping her in the back.

DESTINY
Hey! I thought we were friends?

RONNIE
Sorry. Blood's thicker than water.

Ronnie is forced to slow for an OLD LADY. Destiny jumps out of the moving car and nails the landing in heels.

HALLUCINATION MONTAGE - EXT. VENETIAN HOTEL - CONTINUOUS

Pink exhaust comes from a car as Alexis hustles past.

Music Cue: "How Come You're Not Here" by P!nk

INSIDE HOTEL

Like the Italian Renaissance vomited gold shit everywhere.

Alexis SPRINTS ahead... but she's no runner. Destiny catches her, passes her up.

But Destiny doesn't know where to go, follows Alexis.

ALEXIS

*Where have you been?/ Where have
you gone?...*

INSIDE ELEVATOR

Alexis gets on, hits the "door close button" on Destiny.
Haha, too bad. But Destiny magically appears inside.

ALEXIS

*You're the tooth fairy/ You're like
Santa Claus...*

The elevator door opens, they spill out.

HALLWAY

Alexis and Destiny push and shove each other down the hall.

ALEXIS

*Just come on back/ And come on
home/ It ain't super smart...*

Alexis pretends to walk past an open door --

FANCY SUITE

Alexis ducks inside. Locks it.

ALEXIS

To leave me alone...

Alexis turns to find an empty room. She searches everywhere.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

Are you hiding in the closet?

Checks under the bed.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

Are you underneath the bed?

AT THE VENETIAN "CANAL"

Alexis leans over the water, searches up and down the canal.

ALEXIS

Did you go for a long walk/ Off a short pier?/ How come you're not here?

CUT TO:

A GONDOLIER propels a gondola with Alexis balanced precariously at the front.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

Quick, come back/ Or I might just die!/ How come you're not here?

She yells to HOTEL GUESTS as they boat past.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

Has anyone seen?/ Has anyone seen why/ He's hiding from me?... Let's play hide and seek!

THE CASINO

Alexis ducks in and out of SLOT MACHINES.

Pops from under a CRAPS table.

ALEXIS

Are you hiding in the closet?/ Are you underneath the bed?... How come you're not here?

LOBBY

Alexis snarls at a TINY DOG in a purse.

ALEXIS

Should I worry you've been bitten?

She races outside.

AT THE VALET

Alexis takes a hit off a PRETTY MAN'S vape.

ALEXIS

Or somebody got you high?

Then... from the corner of her eye, she spots him. P!nk's manager, ROGER DAVIES!!!

He climbs into a LIMO and drives away.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
*Quick, come back/ Or I might just
 die...*

END MANIC MONTAGE/ ABRUPT END TO MUSIC

Alexis stares in disbelief as the limo disappears.

ALEXIS
 NOOOO!!!!

She runs and pathetically hurls herself --
 Into the back seat of Ronnie's convertible.

RONNIE
 Jesus H. Christ on a cracker! You
 scared the shit out of me.

ALEXIS
 (out of breath)
 Air... airport. Private...

Ronnie gets it. Whips the convertible around.

Alexis pulls herself to sit. Destiny chases on foot.

Alexis sets Destiny's wheeled suitcase on the trunk. Pushes
 it off. Gives a finger wave that ends with the middle finger.

INT./ EXT. CONVERTIBLE - TRAVELING - CONTINUOUS

They zing through less-traveled streets toward planes taking
 off ahead of them. Alexis rolls clumsily into the front seat.

Freaking, the fuck, out --

ALEXIS
 He can't leave without me. I've got
 to audition. I've got to join the
 tour. I've got to...

Ronnie checks her out in concern.

RONNIE
 Alexis, you'll be okay if you
 don't.

ALEXIS
Joy's never going to want to see
me.

RONNIE
Of course, she will.

ALEXIS
I'll be all alone with nobody.

RONNIE
You have me.

Alexis spirals down.

ALEXIS
"When you find good people, you
keep them forever. We're like a
traveling circus family. Family..."

RONNIE
(to herself)
Something wrong with those damn
pills.

(to Alexis)
Why don't you practice your
singing?

ALEXIS
What?

RONNIE
For when we catch him at the
airport. Practice your singing.

ALEXIS
That's all I do is sing.

RONNIE
What are you talking about?

ALEXIS
I've been singing and singing.

RONNIE
I haven't heard you sing once --

ALEXIS
Cause you never listen. You never
listen cause you NEVER STICK
AROUND!!!

Ronnie takes the hit. Continues the drive.

EXT. PRIVATE AIRFIELD - CONTINUOUS

The gate opens for a BLACKED-OUT SUV ahead of them.

Before the gate can shut, Alexis reaches her foot over Ronnies and STOMPS on it -- they ACCELERATE past the GUARD.

RONNIE

What are you doing?!? We're going
to get arrested.

Alexis yanks the steering wheel toward the manager's limo,
parked beside a small PRIVATE JET.

ALEXIS

He's leaving me!! I have to catch
him!!!

The jet rolls forward. Moves to the runway. Picks up speed.
Ronnie chases the plane.

She looks with concern to see Alexis stand in the seat, arms
raised like she's --

RONNIE

Christ on a cracker.

HALLUCINATION

Music Cue: "Please Don't Leave Me" by P!nk in a minor key

Alexis sings for Roger Davies in the plane.

ALEXIS

*Can't you tell that this is all
just a contest?... Please, don't
leave me...*

REALITY

The plane takes off. P!nk's Manager is gone.

Ronnie slows the car, stops. SECURITY vehicles rush them.

Ronnie reaches for Alexis, but she slides out of the back
onto the tarmac.

HALLUCINATION

Alexis continues singing

ALEXIS

*Please, don't leave me/ Please,
don't leave me...*

REALITY

Alexis runs to a plane with the stairs open. Climbs, but --
She's tackled. They handcuff her.

They cuff Ronnie, too. She only cares about Alexis.

RONNIE

Don't you hurt her. She's having
some kind of breakdown. Her husband
got her sister pregnant and kicked
her out, and I... I...

HALLUCINATION

Alexis sees her mom being pulled away.

ALEXIS

*I always say how I don't need you/
But it's always going to come right
back to this/ Please, don't leave
me.*

HALLUCINATION FLASHBACK - JOY'S DORM

Alexis can't let go of Joy.

ALEXIS (V.O.)

*I forgot to say out loud/ How
beautiful you really are to me...*

HALLUCINATION FLASHBACK - ALEXIS' HOME

Carter leaves with his suitcase.

ALEXIS (V.O.)

I can't be without...

HALLUCINATION FLASHBACK - BAR

Alexis yells and Ronnie leaves.

ALEXIS (V.O.)
*You're my perfect little punching
bag...*

HALLUCINATION FLASHBACK - 1980

Seven-year-old Alexis cries as Ronnie drives away in an OLD PINK CADILLAC. Her dad and Paige try to comfort her.

ALEXIS (V.O.)
*And I need you/ I'm sorry/ Please,
please don't leave me.*

She is inconsolable.

END FLASHBACKS/ END HALLUCINATIONS

EXT. AIRPORT TARMAC - DAY

Ronnie watches helplessly as Alexis is strapped to a gurney.
Ronnie doesn't cry, but she shares her daughter's pain.

END MUSIC

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT

Alexis is semi-conscious as a DOCTOR explains her status.

DOCTOR
The police have agreed to drop the charges after a seventy-two-hour psych hold. Your mother arranged...

EXT. BOUGIE MENTAL HOSPITAL - ESTABLISHING SHOTS - DAY

Grand entrance, tropical pool, horseback riding.

SIGN: "The Dunes Center for Mental Health"

TATIANA, Russian runway model, curses as she's helped inside.

HALLUCINATION MONTAGE - INT. BOUGIE MENTAL HOSPITAL - ALEXIS' ROOM - DAY

Music Cue: "Just Like a Pill" by P!nk

Pink steam escapes an essential oil mister.

A king-size bed with fancy bedding.

Alexis opens her drugged eyes. They widen when she sees a
PACK OF EVIL BUNNIES -- an original Hunt Slonem painting.

ALEXIS

*I'm lyin' here on the floor where
you left me/ I think I took too
much...*

She loses consciousness again, wakes.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

*I'm cryin' here, what have you
done?...*

Alexis pulls at her I.V. and tries to get out of bed. Ronnie,
wearing a nurses uniform, stops her.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

*I can't stay on your morphine,
'cause it's making me itch/ I said
I tried to call the nurse again but
she's being a little bitch...*

Alexis sees she's alone.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

*I think I'll get out of here, where
I can...*

She climbs out of bed and...

HALLWAY

RUNS! Like a marathoner on a mission.

ALEXIS

*Run just as fast as I can/ To the
middle of nowhere/ To the middle of
my frustrated fears...*

Her mania fades.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

*And I swear, you're just like a
pill...*

END manic MONTAGE/ END MUSIC

INT. BOUGIE MENTAL HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - DAY

**Alexis jogs pathetically down the hall, her ass hanging out
of a hospital gown.**

She stops at a locked door, suddenly completely sober. And out of breath.

A PSYCH TECH (seen it all) approaches.

PSYCH TECH
You good?

ALEXIS
(normal rate of speech)
Yeah. Have you seen my mom?

PSYCH TECH
Nope. But --

ALEXIS
Figures.

She covers her ass, heads back down the hall. Doesn't hear --

PSYCH TECH
No visitors your first three days.

INT. BOUGIE MENTAL HOSPITAL - DAY/ NIGHT

Alexis sleeps through the day. And the night.

INT./ EXT. BOUGIE MENTAL HOSPITAL - VARIOUS - DAY

QUICK CUTS

-Her room. Alexis wakes, her vision clear.

-Yoga. Alexis attempts a very shaky down-dog.

-Equine Therapy. Alexis attempts to get a horse to raise it's hoof. He resists. She tries again.

-Therapy. Hippie-looking-therapist, his name tag: DR. GROOVE.

DR. GROOVE
Everyone calls me Groovy. So,
Alexis, tell me about your mother.

ALEXIS
This has nothing to do with her!!!

DR. GROOVE
I was kidding, but let's explore.

END QUICK CUTS

INT. BOUGIE MENTAL HOSPITAL - COMMUNITY ROOM - DAY

Music therapy. Patients sit in a circle with a GUITARIST, 40.

Bent over his guitar, his long, curly blonde hair covers most of his face, but he looks familiar.

He plays CeeLo Green's "F You" for --

Tatiana. She sings an angry version, stands and screams.

TATIANA

*And although there's pain in my
chest/ I still wish you the best
with a FUCK YOU and FUCK HER TOO!*

PSYCH TECH

You good, Tatiana?

Tatiana gets it together. Sits back down.

The Guitarist looks to Alexis. His eyes and voice are kind.

GUITARIST

What do you want to sing?

She cocks her head. Does she recognize him?

GUITARIST (CONT'D)

I heard you're a P!nk fan. Me too.

ALEXIS

I was, I... am. But, I can't...

He chooses a song. P!nk's "The Last Song of Your Life"

GUITARIST

*If you had one song left inside
your soul/ What would you sing
tonight?*

He pauses, waits for her to join... continues.

GUITARIST (CONT'D)

*If you had one chance left before
we're old/ The last song of your
life...*

Alexis tries, but barely a whisper comes out.

ALEXIS

*What is it you wait for?/ Tell me
who you are...*

Her voice completely gives out.

LATER

Alexis helps the Guitarist put the chairs away. He spots Alexis' open notebook.

GUITARIST

May I?

She nods.

GUITARIST (CONT'D)

You write songs? These are good.

ALEXIS

Just lyrics. I wrote poetry in college, but this feels... bigger. Like I can almost fit everything I feel in them and the music will bring them fully to life.

GUITARIST

You should show them to Groovy.

EXT. BOUGIE MENTAL HOSPITAL - PATHS - DAY

Alexis walks and talks with Dr. Groove.

DR. GROOVE

Why did you want to sing with P!nk?

ALEXIS

Mania-fueled fantasy?

DR. GROOVE

What does P!nk symbolize to you?

ALEXIS

She sings the fucking truth even when it's brutal, and people love her for it.

DR. GROOVE

Do you sing, say, the truth?

Alexis crouches down to admire a fascinating plant.

DR. GROOVE (CONT'D)

What would happen if you told people the truth?

She takes a while to respond, finally whispers.

ALEXIS
They'd leave.

DR. GROOVE
Hasn't that already happened?

ALEXIS
"I've already faced the bottom so
there's nothing to fear."

DR. GROOVE
Exactly. Do you want to keep hiding
yourself, or do you want to give
people a chance to love you?

ALEXIS
Fuck you, Groovy.

DR. GROOVE
Progress.

INT. BOUGIE MENTAL HOSPITAL - DAY

Alexis helps set out the chairs for Music Therapy.

GUITARIST
What are we singing today?

ALEXIS
Not happening, sorry.

GUITARIST
"Sadly, most people live and die
with their song unplayed."

ALEXIS
Bob Dylan?

GUITARIST
Mary Kay Ash.

Alexis drops a chair.

ALEXIS
Are you fucking kidding me?

PRE-LAP: "Just Like Fire" by P!nk

INT. HOTEL CONCERT VENUE - SAME

Mary Kay Cosmetics convention.

This is not a ladies luncheon, this is a ROCK CONCERT.

A massive SCREEN: "Saleswoman of the Year -- Ronnie Roberts."

Enthusiastic APPLAUSE as Ronnie dances her way across the stage. She is loving this! She changes the lyrics.

P!NK (V.O.)	RONNIE
...Get 'em running, running, running...	...Get 'em Ronnie, Ronnie, Ronnie...

MUSIC FADES.

The applause dies down. Ronnie takes it all in. Her life's work finally recognized.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
"What you believe..."

AUDIENCE
"...you can achieve."

RONNIE
This has been my dream since I
first started selling Mary Kay way
back in 1984. And here I am. Yeah!

Enthusiastic APPLAUSE.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
All those years on the road, giving
makeovers... and here I am. All
those years making my own damn
money... and here I am.

Her mood now introspective.

INT. BOUGIE MENTAL HOSPITAL - MOMENTS LATER

Alexis stares incredulous at the Guitarist?

ALEXIS
Mary Kay?

GUITARIST
What do you want for this next
chapter of "your one wild and
precious life?"

The other Patients join them and wait for her. She resists. Then points to her open notebook.

GUITARIST (CONT'D)
Never done it acoustic.

He plays the intro to P!nk's "Courage".

Alexis' voice is rough, but it is HER VOICE.

ALEXIS
*I'm walking up hill both ways it
hurts...*

Off-key on the last note.

He nods encouragingly to keep going.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
*Bury my heart here in this dirt/ I
hope it's a seed, I hope it
works...*

She gains momentum. Staff gather to listen.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
*I need to grow, here I could be/
Closer to light, closer to me/
Don't have to do this perfectly...*

Tatiana claps the beat.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
*Rain it pours, rain it pours/ It's
pouring on me... We don't have to
stay, stuck in the weeds/ Yeah...*

Alexis belts it out. Damn.

No one is more surprised than the Guitarist.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
*Have I the courage to change?/ Have
I the courage to change today?*

Tatiana joins --

TATIANA
Oh, oh, oh, oh...

ALEXIS AND TATIANA
*Have I the courage to change?/ Have
I the courage to change?*

ALL THE PATIENTS join, and finally... Psych Tech. Somewhere between a church choir and One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest.

ALEXIS AND PATIENTS
*Have I the courage to change?/ Have
 I the courage to change today?*

Alexis adds riffs and runs and fucking nails it!

ALEXIS AND PATIENTS (CONT'D)
*Oh, oh, oh, oh... I need to grow,
 here I could be/ Closer to light,
 closer to me...*

ALEXIS
*Don't have to do this perfectly/
 Today.*

All the Patients congratulate Alexis.

She looks to the Guitarist and mouths, "Thank you." He nods.

INT. HOTEL BALLROOM - SAME

Ronnie continues her speech.

RONNIE
 Here I am. Alone.

She clears her throat.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
 I didn't pay attention to all of
 Mary Kay's wisdom -- thought it
 didn't apply to me.
 (quoting)
 Put family before career. There's a
 price for success.

MARY KAY EXECS up front are not loving this downer speech.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
 Told myself after I reached the
 next level, I'd find a way for my
 daughter to come live with me
 again...
 (emotional)
 But I never did. So here I am at
 the top. Dammit.

She wipes at a tear.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
 I should have done both. Maybe I'd
 be driving the Chevy Malibu instead
 of the Caddy.

The Audience looks horrified at the thought.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Maybe I still wouldn't have been
the world's greatest mom, but I
should have tried.

A single CLAP from the front row -- Destiny!

DESTINY

Yeah! That woman is a badass!

Scattered APPLAUSE.

EXT. BOUGIE MENTAL HOSPITAL - DAY

Psych Tech pushes Alexis in a wheelchair out the entrance.

PSYCH TECH

You got this girl. Your mom picking
you up?

ALEXIS

No! I'll figure something out.

As he walks inside he sings to himself.

PSYCH TECH

*Have I the courage to change/ Have
I the courage to change/ Today.*

Alexis scrolls through the contacts on her phone. No good options. She dials Paige.

PAIGE (O.S.)

Alexis? Are you okay? I've been
worried sick. Where are you?

ALEXIS

Actually... I'm in Vegas and... I
need you to come get me.

PAIGE

Honey, I can't come to Vegas right
now. Ellen needs me --

ALEXIS

I have needed you. I know I'm only
you're step-daughter, but... I
drove you to your colonoscopy!

PAIGE

Alexis, you don't understand --

ALEXIS

I understand perfectly.

She ends the call. The hot Nevada sun blazes down on her.

For a moment we think she's going to do the crying little girl thing...

Instead, she does some weird calm-breathing.

Types ON HER PHONE, "How to fly when you've lost your license?"

As she reads... a convertible zooms into the circle drive on two wheels. Ronnie.

RONNIE

Need a ride?

ALEXIS

Not from you.

Ronnie climbs out. Outfit from the conference + fanny pack.

Alexis unlocks the brakes on the wheelchair, wheels away.

RONNIE

Come back. I wanna talk --

ALEXIS

You're just going to leave the second things get uncomfortable.

Ronnie catches her. Pulls at the wheelchair handles.

RONNIE

Alexis, stop.

Alexis pushes the wheels HARD to propel forward.

ALEXIS

I'm putting up boundaries!

They play tug-o-wheelchair. Alexis remembers she can walk. Hops out. Takes off.

RONNIE

Tell me what it was like when I left.

This stops Alexis.

ALEXIS

You really want to have this out?

RONNIE

No. But a good mom doesn't leave.

This is a big moment. Will Alexis risk this?

ALEXIS

I complained about your cooking. Paige always made these great dinners, and you always made us TV dinners or canned soup.

RONNIE

Burnt those too -- never been much of a cook.

ALEXIS

The next thing I knew, you dropped me off to live with Dad and Paige.

This part hurts. So much.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

You drove away without looking back. I never complained again for fear...

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

I'd be left again.

RONNIE

You'd be left again.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

I thought I was giving you what you wanted -- a good mother.

ALEXIS

I didn't want a good mother, I wanted you.

Ronnie laugh/sob/snorts.

RONNIE

I didn't look back to see if you were okay because I was ballin' my eyes out.

ALEXIS

You didn't want to leave me?

RONNIE

Hell no. Thought if I made enough money, could hire a cook or something, but every time I saw you, you were so cold. I thought you fell outta love with me, wanted Paige as your mom.

Alexis shakes her head "no."

RONNIE (CONT'D)
I shoulda kept tryin'. Admitted I
made a mistake.

Alexis swipes at a tear.

ALEXIS
You kinda suck at admitting you're
wrong.

RONNIE
Get in here.

Ronnie pulls her in for a hug, but it's awkward after so many
years -- they don't know whose arms go where.

Finally, they settle into the hug, and it's so. damn. good.

When they separate, Ronnie wipes her tears with her sleeve.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
You wanna drive home?

ALEXIS
I don't have my license, remember?

Ronnie pulls it out of her fanny pack.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
You found it?

RONNIE
Had it all along.

ALEXIS
The whole time? What the Hell? I
could have flown. Or driven alone.

Ronnie pulls her in for another hug.

RONNIE
Then ya wouldn't have gotten
screwed, blued, and tattooed.

EXT. ALEXIS' HOUSE - DAY

A new Pink Escalade -- license plate: PINKAF.

As Alexis climbs out, Ronnie yells through the open window.

RONNIE

Give him Hell, baby. I'll wait for
you. I promise.

Alexis takes in "her" home. It looks the same except all the
doors and windows are open.

At the front door, she sees FANS and DEHUMIDIFIERS inside.

And then it hits her -- the SMELL! She wretches, covers her
mouth. She hits the doorbell, runs to a safe perimeter.

Wearing an N-95 respirator, Carter comes outside. He looks
like shit -- hair sticking up, skinny.

When he reaches her, he doffs his mask. Smacks a kiss on her
lips before she can react.

CARTER

Craziest damn thing -- the whole
house smells like something died in
there. I've had eight exterminators
and none of them can find the
source.

She pulls the mask off of his head. The elastic SNAPS him.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Ow. What are you --

She dons the mask. Marches bravely into the house.

Carter pulls his shirt over his mouth and nose, follows.

INT. ALEXIS' HOME - CONTINUOUS

Alexis marches to one of the dining room drapes and YANKS it
off the wall -- it SMASHES to the ground.

CARTER

You are crazy, aren't you?

Alexis ignores him, unscrews one of the FINIALS at the end of
the rod.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Got a bill from the psych ward. A
hundred grand for less than a week?

ALEXIS

Consider it payment for services
rendered... shrimp.

Alexis gets the finial off and dumps ROTTING SHRIMP on his Ferragamo loafers.

His face: **WHAT THE FUCK?**

She turns on her heel. He chases after her.

EXT. ALEXIS' HOME - CONTINUOUS

Carter's face still reads absolute shock.

CARTER

You!?! But you would never...

Mask off, Alexis smiles. Hell, yeah she would.

ALEXIS

Where's Ellen? Fumes too much for her with the pregnancy?

CARTER

Ellen had a miscarriage.

ALEXIS

Oh, Carter. I'm sorry. Truly. I would never wish that on anyone... Paige did need to take care of her... It wasn't the fumes...?

CARTER

Nah, chromosomal thing. Dumped me afterward 'cause she thinks my sperm are too old. My sperm are fucking awesome. Anyway, once she left, I realized how much I need you.

Alexis does a double take.

CARTER (CONT'D)

I miss you. Come home. This is your home. We'll get it cleaned up, now that we know the source.

ALEXIS

Are you joking?

CARTER

We'll go to Cabo for Labor Day just like we planned.

He reaches for her, she pulls away.

CARTER (CONT'D)

We can be a family again. You, me,
and Joy.

He puts his arms around her and she lets him. Alexis frowns,
actually considering it. For Joy.

But then he has to go and say --

CARTER (CONT'D)

Judge Sanchez ruled against me.
Need you to throw him a big ole
fundraiser a-sap.

Alexis pulls back. Is he joking?

CARTER (CONT'D)

Ellen thinks you should do a Texas
Tailgate theme --

ALEXIS

Go fuck yourself.

CARTER

Babe, come on, you don't mean that.
Kinda turns me on though.

He rubs crotch.

ALEXIS

Tell me how important I am to your
career.

CARTER

Huh?

ALEXIS

Tell me the parties I throw your
crony judges win you cases. Tell me
all the school mom's I've referred
you have doubled your business.
Tell me you're sorry you fucked
half of them -- yes, I know about
that. Tell me you're sorry you
fucked my sister and sorry you
(emotional)
kicked me out of my home when I was
already heartbroken from leaving
our daughter at college... alone.

Carter's face reveals he knows all this to be true. This is
the moment he can show remorse and get his wife back.

CARTER

Babe, I... have no idea what you're talking about. You should be thanking me for offering you your life back.

Alexis LAUGHS. And LAUGHS some more.

ALEXIS

I don't want that life.

MUSIC CUE: "Blow Me One Last Kiss" by P!nk

She turns, walks away. Carter yells after her.

CARTER

I'll make sure you get what you're worth in the divorce -- nothing!

She keeps walking.

CARTER (CONT'D)

I'll move some other hot piece of ass into "your home".

She yells over her shoulder.

ALEXIS

Better redecorate. I might have a few more shrimp hidden somewhere.

CARTER

Joy's gonna choose me. Every holiday she has, I'm going to take her and her sorority sisters to some fabulous place. You'll spend them all alone.

Alexis whips around to face him.

RONNIE (O.S.)

(from inside the car)
Listen you little twat --

ALEXIS

If my daughter doesn't love me enough to spend time with me unless I bribe her, then she doesn't really love me.

CARTER

What are you gonna do? Live with your mother? You hate her.

Alexis opens the passenger door, climbs in.

RONNIE
No, she don't!

ALEXIS
I am going to speak the truth and
find people that fucking love me.

With that, she blows him one last kiss.

And "PINKAF" peels out leaving Carter all alone.

END MUSIC

INT. JOY'S DORM - HALLWAY - DAY

Alexis KNOCKS on the door. Waits. KNOCKS again.

A just-woken, cranky Joy opens the door.

JOY
Mom? What are you doing here?

ALEXIS
Come on, get dressed. You have two
hours before your first class.

Alexis turns on her heel for the exit.

JOY
What the Hell?

INT. KERBEY LANE CAFÉ - DAY

Over a stack of pancakes, Joy has no clue what is up.

ALEXIS
You're going to have to get used to
some things --

JOY
Like you destroying our family?

ALEXIS
Dad has been having an affair with
Aunt Ellen.

Joy's face **damn**

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

When she got pregnant, your dad told me he was divorcing me and kicked me out of the house.

Double damn

JOY

That's fucked up. And... gross.

ALEXIS

They lost the baby and I'm sorry about that. But I'm not sorry about any of the rest of it. It took that and a whole lot more to change.

JOY

You've changed all right.

ALEXIS

And I can't go back, to your dad or the way I was with you. I will be here for you, emotionally, always. But you need to see me as a person, with feelings and a life of her own.

(echoes her words to Joy)

I get to discover who I am now. The whole world is out there waiting for me.

Joy sees her mom, the person, for the first time.

JOY

Can I get a tattoo too?

ALEXIS

Yes. When you turn forty.

Joy digs into her pancakes. Talks with her mouth full.

JOY

What about Labor Day?

Alexis smiles bright to cover her pain.

ALEXIS

I know you promised your friends... You guys will have fun in Cabo.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

SUPER: "Labor Day Weekend"

Ronnie puts the finishing touches on Alexis' makeup.

This is more than a makeover. This is mama cat grooming her kitten, an apology, and a promise all in one.

RONNIE

Want me to do your hair?

ALEXIS

I got it. Go get dressed.

Alone, Alexis picks up an electric razor and without blinking, SHAVES from over her ear down to her nape. She does a second pass right above it.

She flips her hair to expose her badass half-shave. Wow!

INT. RONNIE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

Way too many cheetah-print pillows.

On the sofa, Ronnie's outfit blends into the pillows.

RONNIE

Do not come out here in some ratty
t-shirt. Or a Muumuu. Or sneakers --

Alexis struts out in heels and a cool black jumpsuit.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

Christ on a cracker.

Joy checks out her mom: RESPECT, ADMIRATION. **A total 180 from when her mom dropped her at college.**

JOY

Damn, Mom. You look hot. And your
hair is cool!

Wait, Joy is here!!! Labor Day Weekend.

Alexis cups her daughter's face.

ALEXIS

You have no idea how much it means
to me that you chose to spend this
weekend with me.

It means EVERYTHING!

EXT. ARENA - NIGHT

A huge SIGN announces: "P!nk's Trustfall Tour"

Alexis, Joy, and Ronnie walk arm-in-arm through the crowd.

Music: "Trustfall" by P!nk blasts from a --

TRUSTFALL PHOTO BOOTH

QUICK CUTS

The three women stand in line, chat with other concert-goers.

Alexis easily catches Joy in a trust fall.

Alexis crosses her arms. Ronnie stands at the ready. Alexis checks back several times to make sure her mom is ready --

She FALLS...

Her head almost hits the ground, but Ronnie catches her at the very last second. Yay!

END QUICK CUTS

INT. ARENA - NIGHT

As they move through the crowd, Alexis comes to a stop. She looks sweaty and pale.

RONNIE

Hurry! I want to get in our seats.

ALEXIS

My stomach, I need to go to the bathroom.

RONNIE

You look like shit.

JOY

Want me to come with?

Who is this thoughtful chick?

ALEXIS

No thanks, honey. I don't want you to miss anything. I'll find you.

INT. ARENA - NIGHT

Music Cue: P!nk's "Get the Party Started"

Our P.O.V is from the front row.

Ronnie and Joy SCREAM with the rest of the CROWD as they spot her -- the legend, Alecia Moore, aka, P!NK.

Holy shit! She descends from the ceiling on a giant chandelier.

Still no Alexis.

JOY

I can't believe Mom's missing this.

RONNIE

Don't tell your mom, but P!nk's way better than Mary Kay.

LATER

P!nk runs off-stage for a quick costume change.

The stage goes dark.

TRANSITIONAL MUSIC

Ronnie and Joy look to see if Alexis is on her way back.

RONNIE (CONT'D)

I'll go check on her --

P!NK (O.S.)

If you have anything you need to let go of, now is your moment.

Music Cue: "I Am Here" by P!nk

RONNIE

I'll go right after this song!

Dressed in flowy white, P!nk makes her way to the stage.

More CHEERS.

The shadows of her BAND and BACKUP SINGERS surround her.

The GUITAR picks the intro.

Eyes closed, Alexis smiles into the light. Is she here?

FLASHBACK - QUICK CUTS

-Alexis splats on the bar floor.

P!NK (O.S.)
*I open up my heart, you can love me
 or not...*

-The snake tattoo.

P!NK (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I wanna make some mistakes...

-Alexis burns shit at her house.

P!NK (O.S.) (CONT'D)
*I wanna burn it all down, so let's
 start a fire...*

-Head out Ronnie's sunroof, wind blowing her hair.

P!NK (O.S.) (CONT'D)
*I wanna be lost, so lost that I'm
 found...*

-Naked and laughing with Marshall.

P!NK (O.S.) (CONT'D)
*Naked and laughing with my blood on
 the ground...*

BACKUP SINGERS (O.S.)
My blood on the ground.

P!NK
*I am here, I am here/ I've already
 seen the bottom, so there's nothing
 to fear/ I know that I'll be ready
 when the devil is near...*

Joy sings along as Ronnie throws up some devil horns.

P!NK (CONT'D)
I am here, (Hell yeah) I am here...

Lookie who else is here, Marshall! Joy glares as he sits --

JOY
 Hey! That's my mom's seat.

MARSHALL
 She sent me this ticket.

RONNIE
What the Hell?

P!NK (O.S.)
*I don't have the answers, but the
question is clear...*

Full stage lights.

JOY
RonRon, look!

BACKUP SINGER 1
*Where does everybody go when they
go?*

BACKUP SINGER 2
*Where does everybody go when they
go?*

Wait for it...

ALEXIS/ BACKUP SINGER 3
*Where does everybody go when they
go? Let me ask you...*

Alexis SINGS BACKUP for P!nk!!!!

RONNIE
Christ on a cracker. She did it.

How the Hell? And then we see the music therapy Guitarist. He is P!nk's lead guitarist, JUSTIN DERRICO. He winks at Alexis.

BACKUP SINGERS
*Where does everybody go when they
go?/ Where does everybody go when
they go?/ Let me ask you...*

Joy, Ronnie, and Marshall cheer her on from the front row!

Alexis feels every word.

P!NK
*May the light be upon me/ May I
feel in my bones, that I am enough
I can make anywhere home/ My
fingers are clenched, my stomach's
in knots/ My heart it is racing,
but afraid I am not...*

BACKUP SINGERS
Afraid I am not.

P!NK AND BACKUP SINGERS
*I am here, I am here/ I've already
 seen the bottom, so there's nothing
 to fear... Let me ask you*

Everyone on stage and the crowd dances crazily.

P!NK AND BACKUP SINGERS (CONT'D)
*Where does everybody go when they
 go/ Where does everybody go when
 they go?...*

This song fades into other SONGS in the show --

NEVER GONNA NOT DANCE AGAIN

Alexis gets pushed on stage wearing roller skates, barely makes it to her microphone. Hangs on for dear life.

ALL I KNOW SO FAR

Joy cries at this one.

F**KING PERFECT

Ronnie pretends she's not crying.

SO WHAT

P!nk flies through the arena like the fucking fearless female she is.

Every woman in the crowd soaks up that bravery to keep with her, especially Alexis.

EXT. UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - DAY

Just like the opening sequence, Alexis hugs Joy.

RONNIE (O.S.)
 She ain't dying.

But this time, Alexis ends the hug. And Ronnie's here.

RONNIE (CONT'D)
 You really gonna do this?

ALEXIS

Alecia is even more awesome than I imagined. And Justin and I are going to put my lyrics to music.

JOY

What about your new boyfriend?

Alexis giggles. Yes giggles.

ALEXIS

We'll see...

RONNIE

Gonna point out that you're leaving me this time.

Alexis glares but there is no heat .

RONNIE (CONT'D)

What? Too soon?

Alexis pulls her into a now familiar hug. Joy joins too.

A DIESEL BUS ENGINE starts.

ALEXIS

I got to go.

She pulls away and climbs into her car -- the CONVERTIBLE! Top down and ready to roll. That purse in the front seat.

As she starts the car, MUSIC blasts: P!nk's "Runaway" (2023 version)

As Alexis drives off, she looks in the rearview mirror. Her mom and daughter wave crazily, she waves right back.

EXT. HIGHWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Alexis' hair flows in the wind as she follows a TOUR BUS on the open road.

FADE TO BLACK.