

Love

Always

Wins...

A Romantic Comedy with Music
By David Strumsky

Cast of Characters: (order of appearance)

2

SCENE 1

(It's wedding day! The stage is set up to look like a Catholic Church. As the lights come up the wedding march is heard and we see the priest center stage. The bride and groom are facing each other hand in hand. The church looks as if it was created right from the pages of a fairy tale. The painted stained glass windows symbolizing the stations of the cross, flowers of every type imaginable, in full bloom dress the alter and the pews in the precise excellence fit for a king and a queen. What else could one ask for, a day filled with peace, love and happiness. The bride and groom are facing each other hand in hand. The wedding party is complete with three attendants on each side the people in each of their lives who mean the most.)

PRIEST

We are gathered here today in the sight of God and angels...and in the presence of friends and loved ones...to celebrate one of life's greatest moments. To give recognition to the worth and beauty of love, and to add our best wishes and blessings to the words which shall unite Alex and Brooke in holy matrimony

.
(The lights begin a slow fade to a spotlight on the groom as the priest continues)

Marriage is a most honorable estate, created and instituted by God, signifying unto us the mystical union, which also exists between Christ and the church; so too may this marriage be adorned by true and abiding love.

(The groom steps out in the spot light. The lights dim on the rest of stage as song begins)

The song *This is me*... begins...

1. *This is me*...

This me...

This is who I am...

A hopeless romantic

Wearing my heart on my sleeve

Giving all I have to give...

And always a little bit more...

Forever in the name of love...

Because I... I still believe...

It has taken some time
And now I am ready once again
My heart which was shattered and broken
Is finally on the mend
It took someone as special as you
To come into my life
And as I look into the future
I see us... As man and wife

Nobody does for me...
What you do for me...
You are my world
You are my everything

You are my lifetime of smiles
You heal my soul
I realize it was love at first sight
"You had me at... hello"

I lay awake at night,
And watch you sleeping...
Counting all of my blessings...
Of having you forever with me...
I wake in the morning looking into your eyes
Knowing in my heart...
This is where I was always meant to be

Nobody does for me
What you do for me
You are my world...
You are my everything

You are my lifetime of smiles
You heal my soul
I realize it was love at first sight
"You had me at hello..."

Nobody does for me
What you do for me
You are my world...
You are my everything

You are my lifetime of smiles
You heal my soul
I swear it was love at first sight
You had me at hello

This is me...
This is who I am
A hopeless romantic...
Wearing my heart on my sleeve
Giving all I have to Give...
And always a little bit more
Forever in the name of love...
Because I... I still believe

ALEX (voice over as song ends as a spot light follows groom in thought)

This is me Alex Hunter... Here I am on the verge of making all of my dreams come true. I mean this is it! The culmination of everything I ever thought or learned about love. Is right here! EVERYTHING! Our wedding day The love of my life... The lady of my heart... My everything...My bride...(excitedly) EVERYTHING IS RIGHT HERE!

(The voice over stops as the groom walks D.S. center and begins speaking to the audience. The curtain behind him closes. To each side of him are projection screens to show slides on.)

ALEX

Look around at this amazingly beautiful church. All of my family and friends... All of Brooke Kramer's family and friends... They are all there celebrating the culmination of our everlasting love. It's absolute perfection. The moment... The place... The atmosphere...

Now, I know what you're thinking, he's getting "cold feet." He's going to bolt for the door at any second. (Sarcastic) AHHH! No! I was just thinking about the roller coast of a ride... this thing called love has been... to get to this point and time in my life. (Slides of the bride come up on the screens) There are no second thoughts here. No "Cold Feet!" I'm telling you every part of me love's this woman! Look at her! (Gestures) What's not to love? She has it all! (As he is speaking the slides will be changing to different photos of the bride) Brains! Beauty! Kindness! Strength! She makes my world complete! All right, all right guys I know what you are thinking... This guy is a "wuss!" For those of you who don't know... what a "wuss" is, it is defined in the ultimate high school teen flick *Fast Times at Ridgemont High* as; the cross between a pussy and a wimp. On the other hand all of the women are thinking why can't my man be more like that? Romantic! Sincere! Am I right? (Kramer... like) Oh yeah! You better believe it! IT'S TRUE! IT'S VERY TRUE!

Anyway, back to how I ended up here in this particular moment in time, talking about the ultimate four-letter word... love. L-O-V-E! Oh sure there are other four letter words that demand attention and when used correctly cause commotion, stir up emotions and sometimes leave people speechless. But when it's right, the word love stands alone. Webster's defines love as, a deep affection and or liking for someone or something. A passionate affection of one person for another person: the object of this, sweetheart. (5 beat pause) Interesting, if love was just that simple? (5 Beat pause) This just in... IT'S NOT! Like most things in life, to be successful at love, you have to work at it. What you are about to see is how the man here before you, learned about, talked about, dreamed about, sang about and let's face it lived about love.

BLACKOUT

SCENE 2

(The lights come up dim a room that looks like a school cafeteria. S.R. is table of four teenage girls (Lisa, Tracy Lynne and Brooke) and on S.L. is a table of three teenage boys (Zach, Ben and Davey. Alex enters from s.l. in front of the scene, the spotlight follows. The other actors on stage are in tableau.)

ALEX

I am pretty good guy I think. I live by something my parents taught me years ago. Treat people the way you want to be treated.” That is exactly what I do and the benefit of that is I have a lot of friends. I would have to say my life day in and day out is happy. I am financially secure. My richness is in pretty much all of the other aspects of life. Family, friends, acquaintances, etc... I try greet everyone with a smile and treat people with respect. As I said before that is how he was raised. My life revolves around what he can do to keep my family and friends in peace, love and happiness. Now I realize that this sounds too good to be true, maybe it is and I make mistakes. It is however what I try to do every day. So maybe that makes me a rare breed.

As a thirty something male it is possible this has cost me somewhat. Up until this point of my life, finding Brooke again, true love, real love, everlasting love, has yet to find their way into my life. Get use to the words in the last sentence because they will be repeated. This is an ironic situation because I have had my share of romance and relationships. Some of those relationships inspired me, especially as a singer/songwriter of mostly love songs. Which has allowed me to make a living of something I truly love to do. I have my critics. Some might call it cheesy or bubble gum. I don’t let that effect/affect me. The songs touch the masses in their hearts, minds and souls which in turn makes other people happy. This of course makes me happy. Now that you know somewhat of who I am and what makes me tick. I am going to continue to tell you my quirky story of love and how finally Love Always Wins...in my life.

Do you remember the first time you started having "those" feelings. (Pause for reaction) Do you know what I mean? You know the first time, you started feeling...differently...about...girls. The best way I know how to explain this is by using the Kevin and Winnie, *Wonder Years* way. The first time you really "Liked, Liked" somebody. This is the feeling that is much more than a crush or what some refer to as puppy love. At this particular moment, in our lives, when this, “love,” (Hand gesture) happens, it is REAL.

For most of us it was probably around the time we were in junior high. You know hanging out with your friends, acting, dressing a certain

way. Letting anyone over the age of 18 know that you are not a little kid anymore. The nervousness! The angst! The anticipation! The first date! Going steady! Having a girlfriend! It's a lot of pressure for an adolescent. I remember the first time I really "liked, liked" a girl. It was junior high school and all the players are there.

There's us... Your friends, the guys! You know, your buddies. (Alex points to each individual as he describes them) Up first is the one who has already been there and done that, the stud of the group. (Zach) Then there is your best friend who is just as confused as you are. (Davey) Finally it's the friend who really took one step at a time while growing up. (Ben) He actually went on his first real date to the senior prom.

On the other side there's them. **GIRLS!** (Alex points to the table where the girls are sitting) Look at them... Oh yeah! From this moment on, your life will never be the same. Everything about them is different. Everything about them is starting to look, sound smell and feel good to you. In fact one has even caught your eye...

(The lights come up full as Alex enters the scene. sits at the lunch table s.l. having lunch with the guys. The girls, Brooke, Lynne, Tracy and Lisa sit at a table across from them. Every now and then Brooke sneaks a peak and a smile at Alex and vice versa)

ALEX (holding his head in his hands)
Zach, how do you it? How do you do it? You style and profile! You're not intimidated! You ooze confidence! I just want to know how you do it, because, I don't understand them! **SERIOUSLY I'M TOTALLY LOST!** I don't understand girls period! (Gesturing towards them) They drive me crazy!

DAVEY
I know what you mean. Just when I think, I'm ready to make a move, I get really nervous. My stomach gets upset! I tense up! I physically break into a cold sweat! I start stuttering... It's extremely painful! Look at me now! Just talking about them I'm starting to sweat.

BEN (nervously playing with his drink)
Yeah Zach, You, You're fearless! You da man when it comes to chicks! I want to know how I can be more like you. How do you do it? I mean...I

don't know...What if? What if? What if they say no? I don't think I could deal with the rejection.

ZACH (full of himself consoling Ben in ball busting sort of way)
It's all in the attitude boys, not to mention the fact that, (posing like a stud, clearing his throat) it doesn't get any better than this! (Ben, Davey and Alex throw napkins and pieces of food at Zach) All right! All right! (Zach puts his hands up to block the attack) Listen up, boys... (Motions for them to lean in closer) Class is now in session. It's time for "CHICKS 101"with Dr. Z...
The Doctor of Love!

ALEX (Shaking his head in disgust)
JESUS CHRIST! We don't have time for this B.S.! What's wrong with you? Just for once would act normal! (Pleading) Be serious, would you! I am! I'm asking you for some serious advice and you come back with bull shit like "CHICKS 101." What's wrong with you? Why do you have to be like that?

DAVEY
Then he wouldn't be the "Super Prick" we've come to know and loathe. (To Zach) Don't you ever take anything seriously? Do you take it upon yourself to pile the crap you spew out higher and higher every day?

BEN (motioning Zach to continue)
Speak for yourself! I need all the help I can get! All the babes want him. You know that! How many times a day, do you get asked if Zach and Lynne are still going steady! He's a chick magnet for Christ sakes! Hey Zach! I'm ready! Willing! And Able! Fire away...I want to know "The Master's Plan." (He leans toward Zach listening closely) What does the Doctor of love prescribe for me?

DAVEY (to Ben)
Doctor of love...HOLY SHIT! YOU ARE COMPLETELY OUT OF YOUR MIND! Like we need his head getting any bigger? Who are you kidding with the ready, willing and able bullshit! You need to get a life ! Alex and I are just nervous. You are downright scared. (Shaking his head) Ready! Willing! Able! You got to stop memorizing the forum letters you read in
DAVEY (cont.)
your brothers Penthouse Magazin. You are living in a fantasy world. I've never even seen you talk to a girl. Now Zach put the ego overload on

autopilot for a moment and be serious for once. I agree with Alex, Chicks 101...You are such an ASSHOLE sometimes... Are you kidding me!

(Ben rolls his eyes at the other two and motions Zach to cont.)

ZACH (ego still on overload and being sarcastic)
That's OK Ben at least one of my boys will benefit from my expertise.
Besides I guess young Alex doesn't want to know who thinks he's a...
STUD! I believe the word "HOT" was also used.

ALEX

You're so full of sh..! What an asshole! (he gives Zach the middle finger)

BEN (cutting Alex off)

No it's true Alex! Lisa and Tracy (pointing at them s.r.) told me the same thing. (Leans over and whispers Brooke into Zach's ear and Zach nods yes)
Right! (Looking at Zach)

ZACH (still arrogant and cocky)

It's too bad Alex thinks I'm so full of it. You're the ones who asked for advice. I being a good friend and all, I was trying to help you the best way I know how. You asked me to be serious so... Here's serious for you....First and foremost it's all about attitude. Some of us have it (He pats his chest) and some of us (He hand gestures toward the three of them) don't. I'm actually in a class all by myself. (Zach flicks his hair and straightens himself out)

ALEX (getting increasingly aggravated)

You are such a douche bag! So are you going to tell me who it is or not. (Nobody says anything 3-5second pause) Who? Who is it? Son of a b... Come on you got to tell me. You're my friends!(Sulking and being apologetic) I'd tell you, if I knew something like that. Come on don't be a ...! (Pleading) Just tell me!

DAVEY (agreeing with Alex)

Alex, if I knew, I would tell you.

BEN

I think we should tell him...

ZACH (cutting him off)

Not so fast, first let's give him a hint or two to see if he can guess who it is?

BEN

Yeah right!

(Going along with Zach)

ALEX

PLEASE! STOP PLAYING GAMES, WILL YA!!!

(they all just sit in silence for a few moments)

BEN (jumping the gun and blurting out)

It's someone in this room.

ZACH (in all his vain, glory and cockiness emphatically states)

As matter of fact it's someone at that table.

(Points to were the girls are sitting)

DAVEY (realizes what they are saying is true and joins in on the fun)

Alex, I think they are on the level. I noticed one of the, oh so fine looking ladies over there checking you out from time to time. (They all look at the girls)

BEN (ball busting and ecstatic for once they aren't busting him)

Z... we can't keep these lovebirds apart... Tell him!

(Alex is getting increasingly aggravated)

ZACH (matter of factly but laughing a bit)

Wait a minute, one more clue. Now that I think about it, I think you told me you think she's..."UNBELIEVABLE!"

ALEX (shocked look then a smile)

BROOKE! Are you sure? Get the... Come on, I swear I'll kick your ass if your busting my balls!

DAVEY

Hey Alex, She's the one I was talking about. I have seen her sneaking peeks at you in English, Math... as a matter of fact in all our classes.

BEN

I swear Alex! On my Albert Pujols Rookie card!

ZACH (sarcastically)

So what are you going to do about it stud?

ALEX (nervous confusion...rambling)

What do you mean? I can't go up to her... (Getting really nervous)

Look at her... She's beautiful! I wouldn't know what to say... Are you absolutely sure? I don't want to make a fool out of myself! What am I going to do? I...I...I...

(He looks at each one of them for advice)

ZACH (pumping Alex up)

Go for it dude! You like her, she likes you....

GO FOR IT!

BEN

Zach, don't push him. He doesn't want to do something that will make him look stupid. I know I wouldn't

DAVEY

Don't look at me. I'm as confused as you are when it comes to this shit.

ALEX (Breaking into a sweat) I can't... It's not the right time or place...

ZACH (frustrated, rolling his eyes, shaking his head)

NOT THE RIGHT TIME OR PLACE!!! ARE YOU KIDDING ME!!!

WHAT THE ..! I don't understand it... I don't understand it... Sometimes you guys are so pathetic...IF I (he stops for a moment) If I was you, and thank God I'm not! I WOULD MAKE A MOVE! You want some serious advice... I don't think you are going to use it but here it is. (Zach starts and stops several times to say something. He throws his hands in the air) Forget about it.

(He throws his hands in the air. Zach exits s.l. Alex, Davey and Ben stare at each other)

DAVEY

It's a tough call kid, (gives Alex a playful jab on the chin) I'm just glad I don't have to make it. (He exits s.l.)

BEN (Excited and nervous at the same time)

Hey Alex, just remember that you are friends with her now. Why ruin a good thing. There is nothing wrong with just being friends... Is there? (Ben exits s.l.)

(Alex sits for a few moments pondering the situation. He gets up and straightens himself out and crosses s.r. to Brooke and the girls at the other table. As he reaches the table the Bell/buzzer sounds ending the lunch period. Brooke gets up without looking and runs right into Zach dropping all of her books on the floor)

ALEX

I'm sorry Brooke... let me help you! I'm such an idiot!

(Alex and Brooke kneel down and nervously pick up the books. At the same time they grab the last book and stare at each other. The other girls start to giggle and whisper as they turn and walk away from Alex and Brooke. They both slowly stand up and coyly smile. As they start to go their separate ways Brooke turns back.)

BROOKE

It was kind of my fault too...you don't have to be sorry. Oh yeah and thanks for the help...I'll see you next period in English

(Alex nods his head ok as hos stands there and watches her leave as the lights fade)

BLACKOUT

SCENE 3

(It's a few days later. The scene is Alex's bedroom. 1-2 am... It is designed

like teenager's room with CD's, posters etc. The bed is s.r. There is a keyboard set up s.l. As the lights come up Alex is tossing and turning in bed. He gets up from his bed takes his class picture with Brooke in it stares at it and starts to do busy things. tossing a ball... looking at magazines etc.)

ALEX (talking to himself out loud as he keeps looking back at the picture)
This Sucks! Here we go again...I can't keep going on like this. I'm going out of my mind! I can't sleep... Every I thought I knew is falling apart. She is driving me crazy! I can't stop thinking about her! I can't stop dreaming about her! At school, at practice at home, 24-7-365 is all about BROOKE! This has been happening on for weeks! It's all I do. I try pick up the phone to call her and I don't go through with it. Before I dial the last number I put it down. I had my chance the other today when I ... (smacks his hands together) ran into her after lunch (shaking his head) it's not like we don't talk to one another because we do...Just not about that kind of stuff. (clenching his fists he lets out a louder) UGH!!! Maybe Zach was right, Maybe, I am pathetic! I'm such a 'wuss'! Why can't I just, this one's for you Zach... GO FOR IT! Why am I making this so hard? The worst thing that could possibly happen is that she will say no. If she does I guess we'll still be friends...Thanks Ben....

(Alex keeps moving around the room. After a few minutes he sits sulking at his keyboard He turns it on and starts hitting keys. After a few moments the random notes start to sound melodic Alex sits up straight up and the song Midnight Fantasy begins...)

2. *"Midnight Fantasy"*

If you... Looked into my eyes
You would see
Love, in my stare
If you, Looked into my heart
You would find out
How much I really care

Now since I've been watching you
My feelings have grown
And When I talk to you

I want to let you know
I want to show you
All of my love
Because it's you
Who I am thinking of
And I want you to see
How much you mean to me
Oh I want you to see...
You're my midnight fantasy

You...You are always on my mind

The perfect love

In this world one rarely finds

You...You are forever in my dreams.

Is this love?

To me that's what it seems

So should I let you know?

Or should I let you go

It gets so much harder everyday

To find the strength to say,

I love you,..

More and more each and everyday

Forever you will be

Now since I've been watching you

My feelings have grown

And when I get a chance to talk to you

I want to let you know

I want to show you

All of my love

Because it's you

Who I am thinking of

And I want you to see

How much you mean to me

Oh I want you to see

You're my midnight fantasy

my midnight fantasy..

(when the song ends Alex sits for a moment. Then shuts the keyboaed off
and the light and goes to bed)

BLACKOUT

SCENE 4

(Spotlight...Alex enters s.l. the curtains are closed behind him or lights are

dark. Once again the spot follows him. He is dressed to look a little older than the previous scene. High School age)

ALEX

Well, I bet you're wondering if Brooke and I ended up... dating? The answer is... yes! In fact, Brooke was the first girl I really kissed. Most of that time we spent together back then was with our friends. The usual adolescent fun, spin the bottle, hanging out at the local pizza parlor, movies, arcade, football games etc. From what I remember we lasted what seemed like forever then...about 3 or 4 months, well at least until the end of the school year. It was fun. Over the next few years not much changed. Davey, Zach and I, went through the dating cycle, with the same girls, Brooke, Lynne, Tracy and Lisa. Ben continued to play the friend card and couldn't get past, "What if they so no?" We went steady with each one of them several times. Of the four though, Brooke was different. She was special to me. Time after time over the years she was the one I kept coming back to. It was like we were meant to be. When we weren't dating someone we ended up together. "Déjà vu all over again" Baseball Hall of Famer Yogi Berra once said. It really hits home for me. You'll understand what I mean when all is said and done. It wasn't until we started adding to our circle of friends that things started to get really interesting.

Zach, Ben, Davey and I stayed best friends even to this day. Zach continued toward his ultimate goal to become the "**American Gigolo.**" As far as women go, he had what we called the "flavor of the week." Without a doubt he was and will always be a "chick magnet." He was the first one to move outside of our little circle. I got to give him credit. He was the man, when it came to babes. Zach has what some call the "IT" quality, animal magnetism, that a very few people have. He knows he has "IT" and he has perfected the use of it.

Ben was well...Ben. He shied away from dating girls even when the opportunity presented itself. He remained true to his word and took it slow. He never caved in to the peer pressure or ball busting. Like I said before, and Zach and Davey will back me up. He did not go on his first real date until the senior prom. He seemed content to be, friends. This is something that I didn't understand at the time, but it would haunt me later in life. As a nice guy he may have finished last in this part of his life, but boy did he reap the profits of being patient and understanding. Today he has a best of all worlds life filled with the love of his wife, baby, family and friends.

Davey did all right with girls. Like me he kept coming back to the same one. Half way through our sophomore year Davey and Tracy started

dating off and on. By the time they turned 25 they were, extremely happy and *Married, with Children*...ba dum bump.

I realized that like Zach, I had to carve out my own little niche' when it came to girls. I found a way to combine two of my emerging talents as a singer and as a writer to get the girl. I always found it difficult to deal with girls verbally so I let my talent take over. You see I knew early on that I could write. I have a vivid imagination and was often told I was very creative. The icing on the cake however was being able to sing. The songs I liked to sing most were...love songs. I am crooner, a balladeer. Oh those silly little love songs. They worked like a charm melting a girl's heart.

Let's face it, as we get older the songs we remember most are songs that touch our hearts...love songs. Most couples have their song. There is the song that was playing during your first kiss. The song on the radio of your first date... The song that is used for the first dance as husband and wife. The theme song used at the prom. The list goes on and on. Love songs capture the special moments of romance and love in our lives. So for me, being able to write and sing took me a long way. I started to write my own songs. Not being an egomaniac or anything but, they were pretty good. Most of the people I showed them to liked them. I even went so far as to use them in English class as poetry. I had the ability to express myself lyrically so, I used this talent as often as I could. Let me tell you they really helped when it came to extra credit, improving grades and getting girls. I was thrilled. I pictured myself as the next Elton John, Lionel Ritchie or Dennis DeYoung for my generation or a song writer for the teen artists on the Disney Channel for this generation. The best thing about this new found talent is something I mentioned before. I could melt any girl's heart by letting them know I wrote a song for them. I used my best songs, quite a few times to get the girl. 'It was a beautiful thing.' I was known to be sensitive, a real gentlemen. (Chuckles) I know what some of you are thinking, but I swear I'm not a pig. It was part of adolescence, growing up, maturing. When I was attracted to, or, actually dated someone. I was a gentleman. It's just that... well... Like I said it is all a part of growing up... (Alex enters the scene as lights come up)

(In high school on a typical date, It's late in the evening Alex and Stephanie e. s.r. are on a date after a football game they are walking through the local park before closing, which was something they did often. Stephanie is a dark haired, pretty, athletic, smart young lady, who by all accounts was a female version of Alex. Both are dressed in jeans, Alex long sleeve shirt Stephanie with One of Alex's jersey on. They are walking hand in hand. They stop

several times and kiss)

STEPHANIE (awkwardly)

I've been thinking a lot about us lately. (Pointing at him) you and me? Now before I go on I want you to know... I think I already know what the answer is. It's just that... I need to know completely to ease my mind. I need for you to say it... I need to hear it... Just for peace of mind. Do you ever get the feeling like you are missing out on something?

ALEX (confused)

What do you mean?

STEPHANIE (fidgety and awkward)

Other girls...Dating...Do you feel like you are missing out on dating other people? There are people who are extremely close to me who believe that we should not date exclusively for a little while. Then after a little time has passed if we still feel the same way about each other then, we can go back to how it is now.

ALEX

Steph, I don't believe that at all. We're happy, aren't we? (Stephanie nods) Look I know you don't want to come right out and say it was your parents, but I know it was them. (Turning her holding both of her hands) I think your parents are great and that they think they have your best interest at heart when they said this to you...Steph we're not little kids anymore! We are going to have to make our own decisions at some point. The important thing is how we feel...How you feel? You must think it's a valid point or you wouldn't have brought it up.

STEPHANIE(still a little fidgety)

I don't think it is entirely valid. I told them I would think about it. I thought by bringing it up. Talking it over... We could... I wanted to know how you felt about it. Any way I thought this would be a good time to talk about something else that's been on my mind, which is kind of along the same subject matter...

ALEX

You are starting to scare me a little with all of this Steph! I thought everything was going great. You're listening too much to what other people

are saying. Listen to your heart. A pair of very wise people said these words to me often. BELIEVE! TRUST! FOLLOW! Believe in yourself... Trust your instincts... Follow your heart...

(the conversation continues with Stephanie passionate and sincere and Alex sincere and understanding)

STEPHANIE

Alex...I swear this is all me...Straight from my heart!

ALEX

OK Doll I'm all yours.

STEPHANIE (gaining confidence)

O.K... Are you... Are you, were you wanted to be right now at rthis point...? Wait that came out all wrong! What I mean is... I think you're great! I think we are great! Together that is, you and me. (Pointing at him and then herself) I was just wondering if you feel the same way? (Alex looks at her and giggles a little bit) It's not funny! I'm not joking! (She's a little upset and slaps him on the arm) Honestly! Seriously! We really seem really good together... (Alex just keeps looking at her with a coy smile. Stephanie starts to plead in an authoritative way) Alex! Alex! Are you listening to me! This is the first time I have ever felt this strongly about someone... Are you just going to sit there with that stupid grin on your face? (Alex continues to look at her. she raises her voice to get a response)?

ALEX!

ALEX (Calming her down... He is amused and flattered)

Steph look, I have trouble saying how I feel out loud. But I agree with what you just said. (She looks at him with that that's not the right answer look) What do you want me to say?

STEPHANIE

Just tell me what you are feeling! Tell me what's inside here. (She points at his heart)I'm not going to laugh. I'm not going to turn and walk away. I just want to know if we are on the same page.

ALEX

All right, look there's something I've been... I have trouble saying these things...I want to be sure this comes out the right way. I...You...We...

(Comforting her, sitting her down) Just relax for a bit and listen. This is the only way I know how to tell you, show you...Steph look when I'm finished you will have no doubt about how I feel. I promise!
(He takes her hand and starts to sing.... Heaven on Earth)

3. Heaven on Earth (Right Here With You)

Your smile brightens my darkest days
Looking into your eyes
Helps me find my way
With you by my side
There is nothing I can't do
Together ... Forever...
I want to spend my time with you

I've found heaven on earth
Right here with you
I know its real love
Because you feel just like I do
This is more than just a fantasy
It's a dream come true
To find heaven on earth
Right here with you

I may be crazy, But it's true
I can't live without you
You were the one
I once wished for upon a star
And now and forever
I want to know right where you are

I've found heaven on earth
Right here with you
I know its real love
Because you feel just like I do
This is more than just a fantasy
It's a dream come true
To find heaven on earth
Right here with you

You are the one
I will always desire
You fill my life with passion
You light my fire

(solo)

You are the one
I will always desire
You fill my life with passion
You light my fire

I've found heaven on earth
Right here with you
I know its real love
Because you feel just like I do
This is more than just a fantasy
It's a dream come true
To find heaven on earth
Right here with you...

(When the song ends Alex and Stephanie look at each other for a moment.
Then Stephanie moves in and gives him a big hug)

STEPHANIE

YOU ARE SO AMAZING! (They kiss)

**MY HEAVEN ON EARTH... REALLY IS HERE WITH YOU! (They
kiss again)**

BLACKOUT

SCENE 5

(The scene opens once again with Alex entering s.l in front of the closed

curtains or in blackout. The spotlight follows him. Alex is dressed professionally or if he was going on a date for dinner)

ALEX

That worked out pretty well. The feelings I expressed to Stephanie at that time were real. Let's face it when you're in high school romance and loves are feelings that are relatively new. Most of the time you fly by the seat of your pants when it comes to relationships...I was raised to have respect for people. If I truly considered someone to be a friend, a girlfriend or even an acquaintance, there was something special about them. They are special to me. I can honestly say that 99 percent of the girls I dated remained a friend of mine. Well, at least a cordial acquaintance. Stephanie was very special to me for several reasons. The first reason is, that on the night I sang her that song, we made love for the first time. As a matter of fact it was the first time for the both of us. (Pause) The second reason is that, Stephanie and I dated for almost a year. To that point and time, that was my longest relationship. To this day we still remain friends. To this day we even have lunch on occasion. She's one of the best friends I have had in my lifetime.

There is always one question that comes to mind, when I think about Stephanie. Was she the first real love of my life? I have heard people say that, "If you are lucky you will have three great loves in your life." Does the first time you ever have sex constitute a "great love." (Pause) I mean it's like your first kiss; it is something you never forget. Was Stephanie my first great love? We were young, we dated, and we had a lot of fun. The best part is that she is still a close dear friend. So I guess the answer is both yes and no. It all comes down to this. You've probably heard this before. I love her dearly, but I was never in love with her. Like I said this is another one of those situations, which continues to bite back at me. It was my next romantic relationship that really played with my head

For the longest time, I thought the first real love of my life was... Kristina! She is undoubtedly one of the "REAL" loves of my life. I know this is confusing. Hopefully when all is said and done you will understand. Kristina was the first relationship in which our destiny seemed to be marriage. I even got to the point of proposing to her... Kristina brought out the best in me in every way. Romantically! Physically! Mentally! Professionally! I really thought she was the one. Like most things with the good also came the bad. She also brought out some of the worst in me. The main problem with us was how volatile the relationship was. When it was good it was really good. Romance ... Honesty... Sincerity, they were all there. When things were bad, well...they were really

bad...It's hard to explain. This will make it easier to understand...

(The curtain opens and Alex walks into the scene)

(The scene is the living room of Alex's apartment. Alex and Kristina have returned from dinner. There is tension in the room. Several items displaying his athletic background and appreciation are spread around the stage along with the furniture representative of a bachelor pad)

KRISTINA (Dressed for a dinner date... She is s.r. Her arms are folded, she is angered and very annoyed. Alex and Kristina are in a heated argument) I can't take this anymore! Sometimes you act like such a child!

ALEX (gesturing or pointing at Kristina, confrontational)

What do you mean I act like a child? Why is it every time we have a disagreement, I'm the one who is always wrong? I'm the one who is acting like a child. I'm the child, because I cracked a joke, or walked away. Be serious!

KRISTINA

If the shoe fits...By the way...I am being serious YOU ARE THE ONE who thinks everything is a joke! By making everybody laugh then the problem will go away. Well this just in...IT'S NOT GOING AWAY!

ALEX

That's bullshit Kristina! You always blow things way out of proportion.

KRISTINA (Confronting him, talking with her hands)

I BLOW THINGS WAY OUT OF PROPORTION! Is that you said! I thought just for once, you could act like an adult. We could have an "ADULT" conversation.... A-D-U-L-T! YOU DON'T TAKE US...ME SERIOUSLY! You don't take anything serious. One day you are going to wake up Alex and realize it's time to move beyond adolescence!

ALEX

Why do you insist on calling me a child! (Kristina looks at him with if the shoe fits look) You didn't come right out and say it but...What do think I'm stupid? (She looks at him the same way) Don't answer that! God knows if

you do answer, you will be opening your mouth and inserting your foot as usual. Look Kris if cracking the joke was wrong or adolescent as you say, then I'm sorry, I made a mistake.

KRISTINA

That's another one of your problems Alex. You never think!!! You just do! If it's wrong then you think by saying I'm sorry, or by admitting you made a mistake it will make everything all right. Well, it's going to take a hell of a lot more than that! I can't go on like this! It's taking too much out of me. Every time we take two steps forward something comes along and causes us to take a giant leap backwards. (She grabs her purse and jacket and storms toward the door)

ALEX (watching her at first and then trailing after her) KRISTINA!!!

KRISTINA (in the doorway, not yelling but speaking authoritatively)
Think about it Alex! When it's not joke to you anymore or when you think it might be serious enough to warrant an adult discussion then call me

ALEX (pleading)

KRISTINA! KRISTINA!

(Very serious and stern...Alex grabs her by the arms turning her around to face him)

How this for an adult discussion. I can't take it anymore either. If I'm not adult enough for you then maybe that's it! Maybe we should walk away. There is only so much one can take. The bitchiness, the whining! I think your judgment is clouded when it comes to love! Do you know what love is? I don't think you do! These petty confrontations and I do mean petty, are ridiculous and they are happening more frequently! What do you say to that Kris? Did that sound childish? Is this it? We are about to cross a fine line here. Don't rush right out and say something. Think about it for a second! Take into consideration the consequences of this situation. The consequence of you actions! There is a lot at stake here...

KRISTINA (her anger has now turned to tears. Although she heard everything Alex just said she focuses in on what she considers insults)
BITCHINESS! WHINING! PETTY! RIDICULOUS! AND YOU!!!

(sternly and confrontational) YOU WANT ME TO THINK ABOUT IT FOR A SECOND! CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES! AS USUAL YOU ARE SO OUT OF LINE! Once again you have to react by verbally attacking me. It's obvious YOU didn't think before speaking! To answer your question, I don't think it deserves an answer at this moment! I think you should think about it! Think about what YOU just said. Then maybe WE WILL TALK ABOUT THIS!

(Kristina then turns around and marches out the door)

(Alex stands there staring at the door after a 5 beat pause. He straightens up a little, gets himself a drink. He walks around the apartment stopping every once in a while to think, shaking his head. He finally sits on the couch or chair picks up a picture of Kristina and the music starts. The lights fade to a spotlight)

4. "*Kristina*"

Kristina,
You make me happy when I'm feeling sad
Kristina,
You make me angry when you're being so very bad
You make me feel so bold
On dark nights when it's cold
You make me feel so much out of place
When I turn to you and see your face
Looking the other way...

Without a word to say
Kristina can't you see
I need you everyday
Here with me

Kristina,
Why do you do the things you do

Kristina,
I'm hopelessly in love with you
So please forget about the good-byes
And dry the tears from your eyes

Just give me one more chance
To find our lost romance
Kristina,
Please give me a chance to show
And to let you know
Kristina,
I'll never let you go

Kristina,
You are like no one I've ever known before
Kristina,
You are the only one I truly adore
How much more do I have to say?
To make you feel the same way
Every word I swear is true
I'm crazy about me and you
Kristina it takes two
Please believe in me, because I believe in you
Kristina...
Forever be my lady and I will always love you...

(Alex stands; he puts the picture down and stares at the door. He walks over to the phone and dials)

ALEX (Calm and rational)
I was hoping you would pick up... (He waits a few moments) This is my way of saying I apologize.

(Alex places the phone next to the stereo speakers and hits play. The song *I thought that forever* starts. A light on Kristina comes up as she is listening to the message in her apartment. The song and the lights fade to blackout slowly when the chorus starts. The song continues through scene change.)

5.) *I thought that forever*

As your friend I should be...
Happy for you...

Honestly...
I don't really know, If I can.

There is only so many times
One can mend a broken heart...
There is only so many times
One can say I understand

Out of sight... Out of mind...
Is one of the hardest things
To try and do...
Believing space and time
Is all that is needed
Now I know some how... some way...
I will find the strength make it through...

When you said,
"I will take you to heaven"
I realized with you...
I was already there
I know my life
Is so much better with you
Than without you
Letting you go...
Just doesn't seem fair

I thought that forever...
Would be our forever,
A perfect future is you with me
I know I will never...
Find the magic that we share together
In a perfect world
This is how it would be...
Heart to heart...With you... Eternally

I thought that forever...
Would be our forever...
A perfect future is you with me
I know I will never...
Find the magic that we share together

In a perfect world
This is how it would be...
Heart to heart...With you... eternally

As your friend I should be...
Happy for you...
Honestly...
I don't really know, If I can.

There is only so many times
One can mend a broken heart...
There is only so many times
One can say I understand

BLACKOUT

SCENE 6

(Spotlight on Alex enters s.l. in front of the curtain or in blackout he is casually dressed. He is pacing and left and right)

ALEX

I bet some of you are wondering if that was the end for Kristina and me. Not that time. It wasn't long afterwards, maybe two or three months. I can't even recall what most of our arguments were all about. All I know is the arguments increased in frequency and became more brutal. The thing I remember most about the two years with Kristina is that we argued and made up a lot. Like I said most of the time the arguments were over petty little things. The making up was...INTENSE. I made some major mistakes and bad errors in judgment when it came to Kristina. Most of the mistakes I made came from my mouth. We both said some of the most hurtful and ugly things to one another and every time did it was to hurt her or strike back at each other. To this day I am still disgusted at myself for that. My parents raised me better than that. They always told me that two wrongs never make a right. Respect for others and respect for yourself. You know what, they were right. Using language like that was dumb and extremely ignorant. I used that language to be hurtful and to cause pain. Verbal abuse of this nature is as bad as physical abuse. I learned a valuable lesson. A lesson I carry this with me to this day so I will never repeat it. (5 beat pause)

You know breaking up is never easy. No one wants to feel pain or for that matter cause pain. In a perfect world there would be no pain. Especially when it comes to love... For a time I started to question whether or not it was worth the risk of pain to fall in love. As a matter a fact I think, I subconsciously turned off the love switch in my head. Looking back now, I probably let several opportunities to fall in love, slip away. I was content with being a friend to everyone. I guess Ben was on to something all those years ago. If you are "just friends" with a person of the opposite sex, there is no pressure, no expectations to live up to. Everything is easier. When you are friends with someone you are there for them, to lend a hand or a shoulder to cry on. Someone you trust. In most cases your friends are the one's you have a lot in common with or share the same interests with. It's the birds of a feather scenario. Sex and romance don't seem to be that important.

Trouble starts when one or the other starts having stronger feelings. You start to think, if we get along this good as friends and are so much alike...Why not see if there is something more? Trouble might be the wrong word here. Complication is probably a better word. There were several occasions when I was tempted to make things a little more "complicated" and take the first step from friendship towards romance. The main reason I didn't go all the way was because I valued the friendship. I didn't want to lose a good friend if things went wrong.

My main problem with this is that it lasted for about five years. I did

this over and over again. I told myself, who needs the headache of having a "girlfriend." I went out socially with my friends, male or female it didn't matter. I was happy! At least that is what I told myself. The worse part of it all is that I actually started to believe it. I didn't give myself the opportunity to succeed or fail at love. I accepted the fact that, were I was at this moment was better than taking a chance and getting burned again. I didn't want to hear the word no or some other form of rejection either. Why complicate matters. There's a form of that word again, complications...Here's an example that will make it easier to understand.

Samantha is one of my closest and dearest friends. There was a time I thought we could be so much more. Several times I tried to get a read on her, to see if she possibly felt the same way. A casual hint here, a casual hint there... It was tough! I just never went quite far enough. Sam has everything one looks for in a woman. Looks, intelligence, personality etc...we connected on more than just physical attraction. To fall in love with her or someone like her would be so easy.

Sam and I spent a lot of time together. On any given evening we would go to dinner, sometimes a club. Our favorite thing to do was "staying in" and watching a movie or television. We would split time at who's place the "staying in" would take place. The evenings would also be spent in conversation about the days event. Eerily similar to that of a couple. This was a subject that was virtually unspoken between us. I had been contemplating asking Samantha if we should move their relationship towards romance. I was sure Sam was giving off subtle and not so subtle hints she was thinking the same way. I got to the point when I decided to make my move.

(The curtain opens and Alex walks into the scene. Sam's living room. Alex and Samantha are sitting on a couch slightly S.R. watching a movie and snacking. The TV is d.s./s.l. there is a chair s.l the rest of the stage can be filled w/ end tables or coffee tables etc....anything to make it look like a young woman's (mid 20's) apartment. Sam is also dressed casually)

ALEX (out of nowhere)
You know, Sam, it truly is amazing!

(Alex peeks over and notices no reaction from Sam. She cont. watching the TV. and snacking. Alex notices this and repeats the same thing again even

louder to get her attention)

ALEX (Louder, making sure she hears what he is saying)
YOU KNOW SAM IT TRULY IS AMAZING!

SAMANTHA (startled, turns and looks at Alex slightly annoyed and agitated) What? I'm trying to watch a movie here! What is so amazing that can't wait! Why are you yelling?

ALEX

I'm sorry if it sounded like yelling. I just wanted your attention. I just wanted you to listen to me. Anyway, what I think is pretty amazing, is something I have been thinking about for a long time. (Alex stops and starts looking at the TV.)

SAMANTHA (More attentive and wanting to hear more)
Well...are you going to tell me, what is so amazing or do I have to guess?

ALEX

Of course I'm going to tell you. .
(Composing himself and sitting up) Sam, look you are one of the best friends I have ever had...(He pauses, starts to speak and stops as if he went blank)We are so good! Sam have you ever thought, about the two of us... Do you think there could be something more? (Pauses) Hold on a second... I really have to think this through.

SAMANTHA (she moves closer to him touches his hand and is caught up in the moment) Alex, you know you can say or tell me anything.

ALEX

Look...I need to start over. Let me start by asking you a question...Have you ever had friend of the opposite sex that is as close as we are? There is no sex or romance, interfering in the relationship? SHIT! That didn't come out the way I wanted it too!

SAMANTHA (comforting and sincere)

No, no, no Alex that's all right I understand. I think I know what you are trying to say. Believe me. What I think, you are talking about crosses my mind frequently.

ALEX (more relaxed and excited because he thinks she is feeling the same way he is) REALLY!!! I... Really! That makes this so much easier. (Now he is really relaxed)I can't believe you feel the same way. You should have told me.

SAMANTHA

Well, you know, I just assumed how we felt about our friendship was understood. We give and take. We listen to each other. We comfort each other...We enjoy each others...

ALEX (cutting her off, completing her sentence, excited)

We enjoy each others company! Exactly! And of course...How could it possibly get any better than this...?

SAMANTHA

Right! I mean we are as close as ...as close as (thinking for a moment) A brother and a sister.

(As she is saying this, she is pointing at the two of them and nodding her head in agreement. Alex's head goes from nodding in agreement to shaking his head no in disagreement. His expression goes from excitement of possibly becoming more than just a friend to confusion. Astonishment! He doesn't let it out though,)

SAMANTHA

I'm just glad that we don't have to complicate matters or put pressure on our friendship by one or both of us wanting to get involved romantically. I guess we are an exception to the rule that, men and women can be the best of friends without sex or something getting in the way. Don't you think? I'm so lucky to have a friend like you. You're the best! (She leans over and gives him a peck on the cheek she stands up)

ALEX (shocked, confused. He realizes they were separate pages)

You are the best too.

SAMANTHA (crossing S.R. towards the kitchen)

I'm going to make some popcorn. Do you want anything?

ALEX (blank stare at the TV. obviously still in disbelief)

No, I'm fine

(As Sam enters the kitchen Alex turns and stares at the kitchen door then looks back still dazed and confused. Alex gets up and moves around the room staying busy. Every now and then he looks at the door to the kitchen. He sits back down grabs a note pad from the end table and starts writing lyrics. He is singing the lyrics *More Than Just a Friend* as he continues to write. Every now and then he looks at the door to the kitchen)

6. *More Than Just a Friend*

How do you kiss your dreams hello?
How do you make them all come true?
To find someone, who sets your world on fire
Is so very hard to do

Sometimes it's easier
Not to give in to temptation
And to be there, as a friend
But if you lock those feelings up inside
It's you, who could wind up alone in the end

I want to be more...than just a friend
I want to be...Your lover too
I want to be more...than just a friend
I want you... to feel it too
I have hopes and I have dreams
Of how I know love should be
And in my dreams, I see you
Always here with me

What I am feeling now, is so much more
Than any thing I've ever felt before
It's driving me crazy...It's playing on my mind...

What we have now
Is precious to me
We are as close
As any two friends can be
And I have to know if you are the love

I was meant to find

I want to be more... than just a friend
I want to be...your lover too...
I want to be more...than just a friend
I want you...to feel it too
I have hopes and I have dreams
Of how I know love should be
And in my dreams, I see you
Always here with me

(solo)

Because...
What we have now
Is precious to me
We are as close
As any two friends can be...
And I have hopes and I have dreams
Of how I know love should be
And in my dreams, I see you
Always here with me

I want to be more than just a friend
I want to be your lover too
I want to be more than just a friend
I want you to feel it too
I have hopes and I have dreams
Of how I know love should be
And in my dreams I see you
Always here with me

(As the song ends Sam enters from the kitchen. Alex returns to the chair and to the same dazed and confused look he had before she left the room)

SAMANTHA (carrying the popcorn)
Were you talking to somebody?

ALEX (sitting back down as if nothing had changed since she went into the kitchen) No, Why?

SAMANTHA

I thought I heard you talking to someone in here.

ALEX (still in a state of disbelief, occasionally he shakes his head) It was just the TV.

SAMANTHA

By the way something else crossed my mind while I was in the kitchen.
(She takes a drink points to the TV and laughs and doesn't continue)

ALEX (Looking at her... role reversal)
So, I suppose I have to read your mind?

SAMANTHA

I'm sorry that was just so funny... Anyway I was thinking that it really to bad that you're my "brother" because you're exactly what I am looking for in a man. Oh well life goes on... (She smiles and winks at Alex and starts to watch TV again)

(Alex slowly turns and looks at her with a stunned expression. He shakes his head in amazement as the lights fade)

BLACKOUT

SCENE 7

(Alex enters s.l. He is casually dressed as if he was going out with friends. He crosses in front of the closed curtains crossing to c.s. Spotlight)

ALEX

The situation of going from friends to lovers is even more complicated and confusing today. One of the main reasons is that more and more people acknowledging their best friend as the person they are in love with. The person they want to spend the rest of their life with. So most of us set out to find that best friend and lover. In my case, when looking for this combination, some say I set my standards to high. I disagree, if I find someone to spend the rest of my life with. I want it to be... Special! Unconditional! Magical! There is nothing wrong with wanting the best. In the end if you get what you worked and looked so hard for, the rewards are that much better

After some of the ups and downs I experienced in my quest for everlasting love, and adding to the fact that I eventually abstained from looking for love for such a long time. I began to wonder if I would ever really fall in love. I began to question if how I went about looking for love was totally wrong. I took a close look some of my best friends and family. Most of them have found that special someone in their lives. They have found someone to love them as much as they are in love. I know this sound's a little to sweet or the word "wuss" comes to mind again to some of you, but, I know I am not alone when it comes to this. We all... Everyone... We usually... (Pointing at the men) Guys that is, don't like to verbalize this kind of stuff. It's tough to come right out and say these things when... when... (Thinking) You got a reputation to protect.

Any way I have come to the conclusion that there are two destinations possible for me when it comes to love. The first is that falling in love is my destiny and it will eventually happen. (Sarcastic) You know there is something to be said for nice guys finishing last. The second scenario is... I am destined to be an eternal bachelor. (Alex pauses for a few seconds for the reaction) Here comes the "wuss" in me again, but honestly I am an eternal optimist and hopeless romantic... I BELIEVE IN THE FIRST SCENARIO AND I LONG FOR IT TO COME TRUE!

You can see where this is headed can't you? Heartache and Heartbreak! Oh, it's true! It's true! After Sam, I had several more of what I call "semi-romantic relationships." Some of the things I mentioned before were there. Mutual interests... Having fun... Laughing... etc... Something was always missing. There just wasn't enough in these relationships to take them to the next level to... Everlasting love. Once again out of every one of them I gained a new friend... Par for the course so to speak. I was fine with this, I think. It's just that it began playing on my mind. Am I destined to be an eternal bachelor? Am I destined to be everyone's friend? If you believe

what my sister says, then that statement is true. She always tells me that I am one of those people who, **has** to have everyone like me. Now that's not a bad thing. It makes me a good person. A nice guy... and we all know that "nice guys.(Completing the phrase optional) They finish last.

So here I am back at square one. (Alex pauses for a few moments as if he is deep in thought) Asking the same old question and looking for answers about love and romance. If the one we fall in love with is suppose to be our best friend.(At wits end) Where do I go from here? After giving careful consideration to this problem...Over analyzing the situation, some might say. I decided to take the following road to find happiness and love. I decided to change my approach... To wear my heart on my sleeve and go for it! (puts his hand over his mouth...sarcasm) Note to self...Remind me to thank Zach the next time I see him. I decided that if I met someone... That I thought I could have a future with...Then I wouldn't wait. I would let my feelings be known right away. I wasn't really comfortable doing this, but I needed to do this. Maybe...Just maybe...It might actually work. One thing it did do is open up a whole new set of problems. Part of the reason is that my next relationship was extremely intense.

Everything about Kelly was incredible. She was beautiful, talented, sexy, fun! From the moment she entered my life, I knew that given the right opportunity, it would be special. Kelly was aspiring singer. She was a feature vocalist with one of the top local bands. Having music in common was how we instantly clicked. Our personalities were similar too we loved to laugh and have fun all the time. We became friends fast and romantic feelings followed. The feelings we had for each other were strong...real! Kelly ignited feeling and emotions in me, which I never knew existed. It was a lot like how I felt about Kristina only not abusive. It was very different and strange in a way. She captured my heart quickly and I wanted her to know it! However, I didn't want to push too hard and end up pushing her away. So once again I was headed towards becoming a close friend. I knew I had to break this continuous cycle. With Kelly I didn't want to be left with...What might have been! What could have been! What should have been! This incredible young lady blew my mind. I thought about her all the time. I wanted the chance to be with her and love her forever. (Lights fade as Alex x's to next scene)

(Lights up...It's late at night Alex and Kelly are embracing each other as they walk towards their cars in a parking lot)

ALEX

You know it could always be like this... (They embrace tighter)

KELLY (soft, sort of trembling)
I Know.

ALEX (He is lifting her head gently by her chin...smiling at her, softly kissing her on the lips, she smiles back) Hold it right there! (Staring at her in awe)

KELLY
What? (Blushing) What is it?

ALEX (still staring for a moment... smiles again)
Now that's perfection! (Kelly looks down then back up at Alex still blushing and smiling) Kelly! MY GOD! Please, don't ever stop doing that!

KELLY
Doing what?

ALEX
Smiling (Leaning in he kisses her again) Your smile is like the smile of a child. It embraces everything that is good in this world. Not only does it look great. (Shaking his head in awe) When you smile...I don't know...It gives me strength. When you smile, I never want to take my eyes off of you.

KELLY (Looking at Alex in a sort of embarrassed, she gives him a love tap on the chest) Stop it! (They embrace again)

ALEX (face to face holding both hands in front)
Ah Kel, can't you see it? Don't you feel it? This is the way it could always be.... I can see it...we are so good... (Kelly presses her finger to his lips to stop Alex)

KELLY (putting her head on his chest)
Alex it's not that simple. Don't get me wrong this is good! Really good!

ALEX
Then why not make it happen?

KELLY (pulling him closer, putting her head on his chest)
I just can't right now...

ALEX (they are still hugging tightly)

Look Kelly, as a friend I want what is best for you. As someone who is more than just a friend, I'm not going to turn off how I feel about you...You have captured a piece of, if not all, of this thing right here. (He holds her hand to his heart)

KELLY (looking up at him)

You are so good to me. You are so good for me. I know you are right. It's just that I can't just walk away from something that has been a large part of my life. I want to be fair to everyone, fair to me, fair to Tim, and fair to you.

ALEX (they stop hugging and stand face to face holding both hands)

If you want to be fair to everyone then start right here. (Gesturing to Kelly) Be fair to Kelly! Put Kelly first. I really think you need to find Kelly. Do what is best for Kelly! Never settle for routine. Reach for the very best. If you can dream the dream, then you can make that dream come true by believing, believing in yourself. I'll say it again, It all starts here and here. Trust inside there. (Points to her heart)

KELLY (turns away...then turns back)

Oh Alex, I know what you are saying is true. I just want to do what's right. Do it the right way. Find the best possible solution so no one gets hurt. I really don't want to hurt anybody. Believe it or not he's not a bad guy...Oh Alex I don't want to do wrong by you. Who knows under different circumstances we could be

ALEX (stopping her)

Could be! Should be! Might be! Don't you want to know IF... (Frustrated somewhat, but still in the moment) I'm not saying I have all the answers, what I do know is that when we are together you're happy...You make me happy. Don't you want to give yourself the opportunity to be happy?

KELLY (confused, honest)

It's not that easy. Tim and I have had some good times, some real good times. (Pausing) All of those good times now, seem so far away... Like a lifetime ago. He's changed! I've changed! I think I still love him.

ALEX (still holding her hands tightly in front)

That is exactly what I am talking about “I think I still love him!” YOU REALLY NEED TO BE FAIR TO YOURSELF! I’m not saying that you were never in love with him or for that matter that you still love him in some way. It seems to me that you are not in love with him anymore. Being with him has become a safety net...Routine.

KELLY (sincere)

Alex the last thing I want to do wrong by you. You are so good in every way. Everyone loves you! You are smart, funny, handsome, charming...If there was ever a perfect man for me to love...you would be that man.

ALEX (puzzled by the perfect man comment but not letting on)

All right whatever you want. (They kiss again) Look Kelly what I see, I like a lot. What I know makes me want to know more. You are what I have been looking for. You really have captured a piece of my heart and I don’t give a piece of my heart to just anyone. I really just want you to realize that there is an opportunity here for something magical

KELLY

I do Alex...

(Let it be me...During the song Alex and Kelly continue to embrace and hold each other)

7. Let it be me

A thousand times a day
Maybe more
Thoughts of you
Keep going through my mind

And it always makes me smile
When I think what we could be
And I know that one day...I will call you mine.
I am asking you
For the chance to love you
To show you what love is meant to be
And I know...
After all the pain love has caused you

Trust in love again will not be easy

I know in my heart
I can make you happy
And I know what I will give to you
You already give to me
Body and soul, love everlasting...
So when you are ready to love again
Open your heart and let me in
I will be there until the very end
So when you are ready, let it be me...

I may not have all the answers
And I will make mistakes along the way
There is one thing
You can be sure of
The way I feel
Will never go away

I know in my heart
I can make you happy
And I know what I will give to you
You already give to me
Body and soul, love everlasting...
So when you are ready to love again
Open your heart and let me in
I will be there until the very end
So when you are ready....
Let it be me...

(Solo)

I know in my heart
I can make you happy
And I know what I will give to you
You already give to me
Body and soul, love everlasting...

So when you are ready to love again
Open your heart and let me in
I will be there until the very end
So when you are ready...
Let it be me...

(As the song ends they kiss)

BLACKOUT

SCENE 8

(Alex re. sr. in front of curtains or blackout Pacing left and right as he speaks)

ALEX

With Kelly, I ended up exactly where I didn't want to be. Being left with, what could of, should of, and what might have been? (Pauses, thinking for a moment) What I wouldn't give to have capitalized on this particular missed opportunity. Capitalizing on missed opportunities is one of the reasons why most of us are happy or sad. I let Kelly get away...I should have pushed the issue of us becoming (Alex brings his hands together. Starts gesturing) A couple...We...Us! I really thought that Kelly was the "one." (Gestures) I wanted her to be the "one." (Pause, asks himself)

Why do I keep making these mistakes...Once again I missed out on several opportunities to search for love...to find true love...falling in love. Don't get me wrong, I went out with several women during the time I waited for her...(thinking and answering realizing this is exactly what he had done) and that's exactly what I did...I waited for her. Dating those women was just a front. I knew if Kelly walked away or got out of the situation she was in. I had to be there. I wanted to be there. I kept holding on to... 'IF EVER THERE WAS A PERFECT MAN FOR ME TO LOVE, YOU WOULD BE THAT MAN!' I really didn't realize the ramifications this statement would have. I was caught up in the moment...It was a tender moment...a special moment...Magical! (He realizes he is over analyzing the situation) I think you get the picture. No matter what did or didn't happen between us, I kept going back to that...STATEMENT!

Was I being a fool? Did she mean it? WHAT EXACTLY DID SHE MEAN? As a friend, would she really play with my head like that? Being a pretty good judge of people and getting to know Kelly pretty well...I'm almost 100% sure she was being sincere. She knew how I felt. I told her several times that she captured a piece of my heart forever. I needed answers. I didn't want to confront Kelly and push her away. I tried distancing myself. I tried to keep her out of sight and out of mind...This just in ...It didn't work. I knew this was a situation that I would be uncomfortable discussing with Zach, Davey and Ben. The "love/dovey" romance stuff is something all guys feel. However unless it's absolutely necessary, it's just not openly talked about. I needed perspective of someone who would be candidly open with me. Someone who would tell me what I needed to hear. Not what I wanted to hear. I knew Samantha was the right one to turn too.

BLACKOUT

SCENE 8B

(Lights up and curtain opens. Alex got in touch with Alex and set up a time and place to have a much needed heart to heart talk. Both had the next morning off from work. They decided to catch up over a cup of coffee at Alex's place. Sam arrived casually dressed in jeans and an old button down dress shirt. Alex, as usual when at home is in a pair of shorts and a tee shirt. Sam is sitting on the couch with a mug of coffee in her hand...Alex is standing near a chair s.r. a mug of coffee in his hand)

ALEX (getting right to the point)

What's wrong with me Sam? I have really fallen hard this time. Honestly, I don't really know what it is about Kelly. She does things to me that I have only read about or seen in movies. I don't think I have ever felt this intense about somebody for a long time...maybe ever!

SAMANTHA (professional like in her response)

Look, first and foremost there is nothing wrong with you. It happens to everyone. From what I've come to understand about this "relationship" is that there is a lot of...How can I put this delicately, "baggage", which you are going to have to sort through. YOU are going to have to be objective... (Collecting her thoughts) First of all, she has been in a serious, intimate relationship for more than five years. The question of you being the rebound instantly comes to my mind. You really have to be careful...

ALEX (cutting her off)

I know! I know! Well sweetheart you're not the first one to tell me about the "baggage." I really don't call it that myself. As for being the, "rebound," come on you know me pretty well. I have thought about that a lot. None of it really matters to me. I've accepted the fact that I am setting myself up for heartache and heartbreak.

SAMANTHA (confused why she is there)

I don't know what you want from me then! If you have set yourself up for heartache and heartbreak, you have pretty much made up your mind. I don't think there is anything I can say that will make a difference. My work is done here. (she grabs her purse which is next to her and begins to stand up

ALEX (reaches out to her touches her hand and motions to her to sit down)
Wait...Please...Look its not that easy. You are probably right about what you just said. I guess I'm looking for approval... assurance...or something. Someone asked me if I'm in love with Kelly...I told them that without a doubt I could love her. The funny thing is... I knew it in my head all along that I have fallen in love with her.

SAMANTHA (Kind of stunned)
REALLY! WOW! OK, that changes things. (Thinking) You never really said that to me about her before...I am just starting to really understand... YOU ARE REALLY IN DEEP! (Thinking again, she starts stumbling through what she is trying to say) You know Alex when something like this happens to someone...What I am trying to say is that falling hard for someone...I knew there was something going on with you...You are not the Alex I know. Putting all the pieces together, I figured there had to be a woman involved. I didn't want to pry or over step the boundaries. I had a sense you were trying to work through it yourself. Now that you need me I will do what I can... (She grabs his hand)You knew that though. (She smiles at Alex)

ALEX (nodding and shaking his head with confidence)
YOU'RE THE GOODS DOLL!

SAMANTHA
OK! Let me start by saying that I like Kelly. She's really pretty...funny...It's easy to see why you feel the way you do about her.

ALEX (stopping her for a moment)
There's one more thing I want to tell you...Kelly and I became good friends first. (Samantha shakes her head) As you know this is par for the course for me when it comes to women. It was very similar on some levels to the kind of relationship we have. We told each other the most intimate of things. I told her things I haven't told friend I have had for 15years. There was an instant chemistry from the moment we met. I swear I wasn't looking for romance...Things changed after that night. That night we just held one
ALEX (cont.)
another and said some truly amazing things to one another. I told you about that...Remember?

SAMANTHA (consoling him)

Actually I do remember...I was so happy for you. ... (Recomposes to be objective) Then a few weeks later when you filled me in on the details...I started to worry about you. I prayed that the situation with Kelly would work out for you. I knew the odds were against that happening. Apparently the odds were right...Alex, outside of that night, has Kelly said “things” like that to you again?

ALEX

Not really, however, from that moment I made it a conscious effort to show and tell her how I feel...DAILY! She never said no or never. Maybe I was, as some say, blinded by how I felt...I swear Sam I questioned whether or not I was playing the fool. I asked several people who know both of us pretty well and had seen us out together. The consensus was that this was the feelings were not one-sided. If they were then, Kelly should be in Hollywood! Sam I’m a good judge of character. As a close friend...As something more than just a close friend...Friends don’t do that to friends... At least that is how I was raised. (Confused, exhausted and frustrated) Sam how would you...what does it mean when someone says to you...”If there was ever a perfect man for me to love, you would be that man!” (Shaking his head)

SAMANTHA (shocked and angered)

WHAT YOU NEVER TOLD ME ABOUT THAT! DID SHE REALLY SAY THAT TO YOU? (She again regains her composure and objectivity) Alex, I’ve never said anything like that without meaning it in some way. So, I am going to assume there is some validity behind that statement (she thinks for a few moments) Alex, let me say again that, I like Kelly...I’m going to try to put myself in her “shoes.” The day you and Kelly entered and changed each other’s lives, she was in a situation. A situation which had become normal for her...Routine! Subconsciously I think she was looking for something fresh, new and exciting. I don’t think she was actually looking for another man. Then it happened...She started a new job and met a kind, friendly, attractive stranger. (She puts her finger to her nose and points at Alex) She was instantly intrigued and attracted to him. The chemistry between them was instant and cosmic. What happened next wasn’t all that surprising for Samantha (cont.)

Alex...you became extremely close, dear friends. The amazing part was how fast it happened. Almost immediately you started what “best friends” (gestures) doing everything together...Getting together for coffee...talking about anything and everything on the phone...shopping, etc... As time went

by you pretty much were spending more time with each other than with any one else. The “best friend” encounters started happening more and more frequently. The big change was how they went from being encounters to looking like dates. The coffee, the phone calls and shopping turned into dinner, movies and dancing. The thing that kept them from being dates is that they were done with groups of people. They were just spending “ordinary nights out with friends.” (She makes a quote gesture with her hands) As the group nights were happening with more frequency, you and Kelly were spending more and more time alone. Everyone else would go home early and the two of you would be the last to leave. Then “the night” (gestures) happened...it was pretty much the same scenario as the other nights. Laughing, joking and having a good time and once again Alex and Kelly were the last to go home. You started by holding hands and small talk. As the conversation intensified you both started to caress and hug one another. The breathing got heavier...you started holding each other tighter. Then it happened...your lips met...the world seemed no bigger than the space the two of you occupied. It was magical...How am I doing?

ALEX (nodding his head, stunned)

You are amazing! Wow! (He motions for her to continue)

SAMANTHA (without missing a beat)

So now you are saying things to each other that fit this moment perfectly. It's during this time the “perfect man” phrase is said. It doesn't have any effect right away because it fits in with what else is being said. Then something else happens which did not surprise me because I know you. You do what any “perfect gentleman” would do. You back away before the next level is reached. You seat her in her car...giving her one last kiss good night. You follow her home to make sure she gets there safely. As you are pulling away from her you start to realize what this night means. Then your expression changes...You become angered because you realize that no matter how much sincerity of this night holds Kelly will still be waking up with someone else. It's at that moment you decide that no matter what consequence it brings...you are going to follow through and tell Kelly this is what it could, should and will be. If she just gives you the chance to love her.

Now you have done that and again like a gentleman you take a step back giving her space and time to figure it all out. That is what has lead you to this moment right here. Asking a close confidant and friend for advice

ALEX (still amazed and practically speechless)
OH MY! I knew...I knew you would help me find the answer...

SAMANTHA (putting her finger to Alex's mouth quitting him)
I'm not quite through yet...so the next time you see her you lay all out on the line for her. You even wrote a song or two for her. She doesn't say no or turn away. She says the "perfect man" thing again. She also adds that if things were different. She asks for time. So once again, being the "perfect gentleman" you are, you back off. You let her find her way. To a fault you become what you are to every one. The perfect friend! (Sam pauses looking for a response from Alex) All of this happened six or seven months ago. (Alex nods his head) So were does this situation stand now? In the same place where it all started!

ALEX (nodding his head)
You are right Sam! 100%...absolutely, positively right! OK Doc, what do you prescribe?

SAMANTHA (coy smile, then confident)
One final time. Lay it all on the line to her...then go with whatever the answer is. Make a go of it, if she is willing, or...A complete 100% break from her if she says or something like..."if this were another time or place." It will hurt too much to remain as friends...Hurt now and really hurt in the long term. Especially for someone like you... (Alex gives her... What do you mean look?) You know...everyone has to be your friend. Seriously can a relationship as intense and romantically deep as this really end up in friendship? FAT CHANCE! Too much healing and mending of heart, mind and soul has to happen.

ALEX
I knew you were going to say something like that. I also know you're probably right. So I am going to, as you say, "lay it on the line to Kelly... What the hell was that last part...Am I really one of those people who has to have everyone like me. My sister says the exact same thing. I guess if being like that is a fault...It's not a bad fault to have! Thanks Sam!
ALEX (kisses Sam's forehead)
You really are the best! I'm going to do it!

SAMANTHA (stands collects her things)

Now my work truly is done here GOOD LUCK! (pats his hand. Kisses him on the cheek...and leaves)...**BLACKOUT**

SCENE 9

(As the lights come up the scene is set sr. to look like Kelly's living room with a lamp, matching couch and a chair with two end tables. Kelly is sitting

in the chair reading. After a few moments there is a light knock on the door...Kelly gets up to answer the door sr. When the door opens... Alex standing there)

ALEX (a little nervous and awkward)

I took a chance hoping you would be here...Alone ... (before she can say a word he presses his fingers to her lips) don't say anything just yet. I want you to listen...There is something I want to say...need to say...Ok? (Kelly nods her head)

(The lights fade to a spot on the two of them...The music for *I will always care*...starts)

8. *I will always care*...

I'm sorry if I made you feel so uneasy
I'm sorry if I made you feel out of place
But what can I do
I can't stop feeling for you
And it's getting harder
When we come face to face...

What I see in you
When you look at me
Is faith, hope, love and desire
What I feel from you
When we are together
Sets my soul on fire

So why am I left always searching for answers
Why did I, get caught up in this game
I guess I am the one setting myself up for this heartbreak I
guess I am the only one to blame

I could tell you
I will wait forever
Honestly, that just wouldn't be fair
I've told you time after time

You have captured a piece of my heart
And forever...I will always care

A prince on a white horse
A knight in shining armor
What ever you need
That is what I will be
I will take you over the rainbow
As you wished upon a shooting star
Paradise is having you here with me

So why am I left always searching for answers
Why did I, get caught up in this game
I guess I am the one setting myself up for this heartbreak
I guess I am the only one to blame

I could tell you
I will wait forever
Honestly, that just wouldn't be fair
I've told you time after time
You have captured a piece of my heart
And forever...I will always care

(Solo)

So why am I left always searching for answers
Why did I get caught up in this game
I guess I am the one
Setting myself up for this heartbreak
I guess I am the only one to blame

I could tell you
I will wait forever
Honestly, that just wouldn't be fair
I've told you time after time
You have captured a piece of my heart
And I will always care

If you ever need me
I will be there...

(When the song ends Alex grabs her hands... He looks at her... Slowly lets

her hands go... Slowly walks away. Kelly reaches for him and then stops she slowly closes the door... The lights fade)

BLACKOUT

END OF ACT I

ACT II

SCENE 1

(The scene is the same as the opening wedding scene. The priest is c.s.

The Alex and Brooke (bride and groom) are facing each other in front of the priest. Three ushers and brides maids on each side dressed in tuxedos and bridesmaids dresses.)

PRIEST

Alex and Brooke, life is given to each of us as individuals, and yet we must learn to live together. Love is given to us by our family and friends...We learn to love by being loved. Learning to love and living together is one of life's greatest challenges and is the shared goal of married life. But a husband and wife should not confuse love of worldly measures for even if worldly success is found only love will maintain a marriage. Mankind did not create love...love is created by God. The measure of true love is a love both freely given and freely accepted, just as God's love of us is unconditional and free....

(The Priest continues as Alex's voice over starts...The lights fade to a spotlight. The curtain closes... Projection screens appear sl. and sr. During this scene pictures of Zach, Ben, Davey, Brooke, Stephanie, Kristina and Tracy appear on the screens. The pictures range from high school days to the present. The pictures cont. to change throughout the monologue and the song)

ALEX (enters c.s.)

Everything Father just said is true. You know you can't talk about something as powerful as love without talking about the love of family and friends. I'll start with these great people. The people I am able to call friends in my lifetime.

A FRIEND! What a great word! A special word used to describe special people. I have been fortunate in my life to be blessed with and to have truly great friends. As a child I learned to make friends very quickly. I was an "Army Brat" and we moved every two and a half years. So I learned to make friends and to adapt well to all kinds of people. Which is why the several different groups of friends I have, reflect my various interests in life. Sports, theater, professional interests, they add so much to who and what I am and to what I will become. From each and every friend I have ever had, I have learned from, and I have taken a part of them with me. My closest and
ALEX (cont.)

dearest friends, I consider family. I know they will always be there for me and I will be there for them. One thing I am very proud of is when a different set of my friends meet or interacts with another set of friends. They

get along very well. There are several reasons why this happens. One is that they are all great people. Another reason is because of one of the things they find most in common with each other is me. I guess that's one of the best compliments any one can ask for. You know the Lord above must really like me. He has blessed my life with someone to love, a loving family and all the beautiful people over the years who I can honestly call my friends...This is my way of saying thank you and God bless every one of them. (The music for *A Friend like You* starts.

9.) A Friend like You

Once in our lives we find someone
Who makes the world better in every way
Someone who is always there to listen
Someone who always knows just what to say

And when I think of someone I can count on
Your name always seems comes to mind
If I had the chance to live my life over again
I would ask the lord to have you back in mine

When I need a shoulder to lean on
You're always there to lend a hand
Keeping me from making the same mistakes over again
You always understand

With a wink of an eye
Or a simple smile
I draw strength from you...
And every time I look towards heaven
I thank God for a friend like you

A friend like you
Makes life worth living
A friend like you
Gives me the will to carry on
Sometimes it's hard to find the right words to say
So I just would like to say thank you, with this song

(solo)

When I need a shoulder to lean on

You're always there with helping hand
Keeping me from making the same mistakes over again..
You always understand

With the wink of an eye
Or a simple smile
I draw strength from you
And every time I look to heaven
I thank God for a friend like you

A friend like you
Makes life worth living
A friend like you gives me the will to carry on
Some times it's hard to find the right words to say
So I would just like to say thank you, with this song

(As the song ends the lights come half up on the wedding seen behind Alex.
A spotlight continues to follow Alex as he x's u.s. to Brooke)

ALEX

As I stand here with Brooke, vowing to love, honor, cherish and keep her.
The words I am hearing, learning and believing about love are so very true.
I use to take love for granted. Well maybe I didn't take it for granted, but I
never gave love serious thought. Love, in my life, was just always there.
Now here I am in front of all the people that mean the most to me in my life!
I am completely blown away about how I feel and by the words I am
hearing! Especially by the phrase, "We learn to love by being loved."
WOW! AMAZING! It's so very true. We are all conditioned to love by the
one's who love us the most, our parents. As father said, "they give their love
to us freely and unconditionally." There is no greater love in this world
than that of a parent loving a child.

(Pictures of Alex's parents appear on the screens as the monologue
continues. The pictures will change periodically)

I was truly blessed. My parents...Well, let me put it this way.
Everything! Everything I am, I owe to them. What you see standing her
before you is, the best of everything about both of them, individually, rolled
ALEX (cont.)

into one. If I can be just half person they turned out to be, then... (Coy,
proud, smile) I win. Everything else in my life will fall right into place.
Don't get me wrong they were not perfect. They had their faults, however,

their good points out weighed their bad points a million to one. My mother and father did everything they could to help my family succeed in life! EVERYTHING! Mom and dad truly were soul mates. They had so much in common. They were also two distinctly different people. Most of the life's lessons I learned from them, I want to pass them on to my children. Treat others the way you want to be treated. Have respect for others and they will have respect for you. If you believe in love and believe in yourself, you will find it easier to love and believe in others. Trust and believe in the Lord. These are only a few, but I think you get the picture of how special my parents were.

You know it's funny when one sees a newborn baby for the first time and the first thing you hear is, oh she has her mother's eyes or he has his father's chin. Well what did you expect! (Sarcasm) The baby is carrying their genes...I didn't realize how much I was like my parents. Not just some of the physical characteristics but everything else as well. Strength! Honor! Commitment! Loving! Caring! Kindness! The list is endless.

I'll start with my dad. My father wasn't a large man, but he was strong. Mentally, physically, emotionally, you name it. He served in the United States Army for over 30 years. He saw combat in the occupation of Europe after WW II, Korea and Viet Nam. He traveled the world protecting and serving the U.S.A. Following his retirement from the Army he served his country for an additional 15 plus years as a civilian employee at a United States Army Depot. That's **45** years of service to his country. His track record is full of certifications and rewards for excellence. He raised a family with five children and they traveled the world with him...Once again the word excellence comes to mind. He did all of this and more and Yet, he was deaf, hearing impaired to be politically correct. Talk about a commitment to excellence. He had the intestinal fortitude to over come any obstacle. He turned obstacles into victories. The man was amazing. I always tell people if my dad could accomplish all the things he did, with all the obstacles he had to over come...Then, there is nothing I couldn't do. He was without a doubt...AN AMAZING MAN AMONG MEN!!!

The one constant through all of my father's successes was my mother. My mother, it might be a cliché, but if you look up the word's mom or mother, the definitions would describe my mother perfectly. When I think about her now, I think her total beauty. I think of her faith in God. Her love of people and how, they loved her right back. Old and young people alike... Everyone she came in contact with or got to know...people saw how special she was and loved her dearly. She was one of those people who could restore anyone's faith in the human race. She gave everything she had and asked for

nothing in return. She was the rock, not only to her husband and five children, but also, for all of her family and friends throughout her life.

As I said before my mother and father were soul mates. Every characteristic that stood out in one, the other had as well. Now that they have passed away the hardest thing for me to deal with is the physicality of death. Not being able to actually tell them I love you, or to be actually able to touch, feel, hear and see them physically, is hard to deal with. Because of my faith, which I inherited from them, I know they are in a better place. Although I can't talk to, see or touch them. I know they are here with me forever.

In the Disney movie *Hercules* the character Zeus states, "Heroes are not measured by the size of their strength, but by the strength of their hearts." It really doesn't get any better than that. My parents truly were...

EVERYDAY HEROES ALL COULD LOOK UP To!

(Looking towards heaven blows a kiss to the sky. Slow fade to black)

BLACKOUT

SCENE 3

(The scene is set to look like Alex's bedroom today. It is late at night. As the lights come up low, Alex is sitting Indian style on his bed looking at

photographs. Several photo albums are lying next to him. As he looks closer at several of the photos, voiceovers are heard)

CHILD’S VOICE (ALEX)

Mommy... Who is your worst kid? Who is your best kid?
(Alex smiles gently shaking his head)

MOTHER’S VOICE

You know I love all of my children the same. (again Alex smiles gently shaking his head)

CHILD’S VOICE (ALEX)

Mommy when I grow up... Will you marry me?

MOTHER’S VOICE

Alex, who is mommy’s handsome little man? (Kissing sound)
Oh... I just want to hold you, squeeze you and love you, love you, love you!

FATHER’S VOICE

Catch the ball out here son...then tuck it in. (Alex acts as if he was catching a football)
Roll your top wrist... Drive through the ball... (Alex pretends to swing a baseball bat)

PA ANNOUNCER

HOMERUN! Alex Hunter! (crowd cheer)

FATHER’S VOICE

That’s it Alex! (more to himself)**That’s my boy! That’s my boy!** (loud and proud) Not bad...Not to bad at all...(more to himself again)

CHILD’S VOICE (ALEX) (praying)

“I pray the lord my soul to take.” God bless, mommy, daddy, my brothers and of course my sister. And Lord, help me be the best boy that I can possibly be, because it makes mom and dad very happy. I like it when mommy and daddy are happy. It makes me happy. Amen!

MOTHER’S VOICE

Believe in him (points to heaven) and trust what’s in your heart. You know right from wrong. Your father and I believe in you...Believe in yourself... Follow your instincts...

FATHER'S VOICE

We are so proud of you son

(As Alex cont. to look at the pictures he comes across an envelope with his mother's handwriting on it as he opens and begins to read it the lights comes up on Alex's mother sitting in a living room chair SL. She is writing the letter Alex is reading.)

ALEX (out loud)

September 20, 19...15 years ago! She wrote this, more than 10 years before she died.

(Lights come up on Alex's mother sitting writing the letter. He starts to read the letter)

MOTHER (Voiceover)

To all 5 of my beautiful children...Today I am sitting here another year older, and with God's help a little wiser, thinking about the triumphs and set backs we as a family have had over the last 26 plus years. As each day passes I speculate what will become of each of you. You'll probably not read this until after I'm gone. My reason for writing this is...I want you all to get along. As in all families we have our share of fights and arguments. With love, patience and understanding we make it through them all. When the day comes and I am looking down and watching over you I want this more than anything to continue. Oh now, I know it seems like I am rambling on... When I'm gone things will never be the same. Please make every effort known to man to always love one another. Help one another if ever you can. Forget about what this did or didn't do. (voice over stops)

ALEX'S MOTHER

I LOVE EACH ONE OF YOU THE SAME! I WANT YOU TO DO THE SAME! I ONLY WANT MOTHER WHAT IS BEST FOR ALL OF YOU! YOU ARE A FAMILY. Try to start now...for me...I want you to know how proud your father and I are of each one of you. We don't understand sometimes when you do some of the things you do. Those are the moments we attribute to age and inexperience, you live and you learn. From what your father and I can see...All of you are responsible, loving and caring adults. I know you all will continue to be that way. So listen to a few more things your mother has to say...I'll start with you Will...You are the oldest...

(The lights on Alex come up brighter as he continues to read on as his mother leaves a personal individual message to each child. He wipes the tears away and coyly cracks a smile every now and then. His mother continues as she gets to Alex. The lights lower on Alex and the spot remains on his mother)

ALEX'S MOTHER

Now for my baby...My sweet Alex, you have given me very little mouth or problems until recently. This is because you are now a young man and not a child anymore. Sometimes it's hard for me to remember that. I want you to be the handsome one, because sweetie you are. When I tell you about the length of your hair or your clothes it is for that very reason. First impressions mean so much in this world. You will really begin to understand this when you are a father someday. I know you will go to school and become an outstanding citizen. Study hard... Study something which accents everything that is good in you, something which benefits mankind. I know you will always worry and care about your twin sister and vice versa. You are the youngest...I see you as always keeping the family together. Holidays! Birthdays! Etc...

And now my children listen. If/when I leave you remember this letter. It contains the things I have always said to all of you. I want you all have a GOOD HAPPY LIFE! Respect one another...Love one another and get along. Remember your father and I and all of the good things...the good times...the happy times. If I go before your father be patient with him. His bark has always been worse than his bite. Take care of him the way I would have...I know I didn't have to say that. You all have big hearts and so much love to give. I have always told you...Believe in God... Follow your heart... Trust your instincts...I LOVE ALL FIVE OF YOU SO VERY MUCH! BE WITH GOD ALWAYS ... YOUR MOTHER! (as she stops the spotlight fades)

(Alex wipes the tears away, gently refolds the letter, kisses it and puts it back in the envelope. Then he just sits motionless for a few moments. Then he starts to think out loud...)

ALEX (still trying to hold back the tears)

I miss them so much...I really do...I still need them so much. I know they are gone now, but I still find myself looking for answers and guidance from them. What would they do in a particular situation? What would they say? I

just don't know what do. (Shaking his head) Right now is one of those times and I can't find...I don't know the answer.

(Alex sits looking toward the ceiling (heaven) still shaking his head...After a few moments he hears his mother's voice from off stage. It's very soft at first and it increases in volume until Alex's parents appear on stage. Dream sequence using dry ice/lighting for dream effect)

MOTHER AND FATHER (Entering sr. with Alex's father...They appear angelic) Believe in him...Trust your instincts...follow your heart. (Faintly)

(Alex is startled a bit. He starts looking around the room towards the door and window)

MOTHER AND FATHER

Believe in him...Trust your instincts... Follow your heart. (Louder)
Put your fate in the hands of the Lord...

(Alex stands opens the door and looks out. When he closes the door and turns around his parents are there)

MOTHER AND FATHER (calmly as they appear to him)
Believe in him... Trust your instincts... Follow your heart...

ALEX (calm nervousness)
MOM! DAD! How did you? What are you..?

MOTHER
Alex you need us... so we are here...

ALEX (confused)This is crazy...this is a dream...

FATHER
Son a dream can be anything you want it to be. If you want dreams to come true...Do whatever it takes to make it happen. We have always told you...

ALL
BELIEVE! TRUST! FOLLOW!

ALEX (still a little unsure)

I know and I do...I swear I do. Look this isn't a life or death decision I need help with. It's a culmination of things that have happened and continue to happen. It's about life and love...falling in love etc.

MOTHER

Alex, it's about happiness...Your happiness...That is what your father and I really want for you. We want you to be happy.

ALEX (reaching out to touch his mother's hands)

The thing that would make me the happiest is to have you here. (He realizes that he can't touch them and turns away) What am I doing wrong? Am I setting standards too high? I want what you have. Unconditional...Total devotion... True and everlasting love

MOTHER (consoling)

Sweetie it's out there. Don't sell love short. Love is the most beautiful thing in the world.

ALEX

Yeah, when you have the type of love the two of you share. One can't help but believe that.

FATHER (kindly interrupting and calming Alex)

Look son, we could stand here and tell you love is cosmic, magical and electrifying. (Fondly looking at his wife) For your mother and me... It's true. However love is not easy. Whatever you do, don't settle. It's definitely worth the wait. (He hugs his wife) Don't be afraid to work hard to have to achieve it. In the end you will reap the benefits.

ALEX

What if I already let the "ONE" get away? I'm so stupid! You guys adored her. Everyone thought we were the perfect couple. Now all I have of Brooke is...What might have been?

MOTHER

Is it really too late Alex? Is she married?

ALEX

I'm not sure...

MOTHER

Then you have to find out!

FATHER

Moments you let slip away are gone forever... Create a new moment...
(The smoke starts to thicken as the lights start to fade on Alex's parents)

MOTHER AND FATHER (fading out)

Believe... Trust... Follow...

FATHER

MAKE IT HAPPEN, SON!

ALEX (Slightly panicked because he realizes they are leaving)

WAIT! (A five beat pause as he sort of reaches for them) Mom...Dad there is so much more I have to say and to talk to you about. Please don't leave me again... (He realizes it was time for them to go) You know I didn't say this quite enough as I was growing up. You are the best...Thank you...You know everything I am, I owe to you! **I LOVE YOU!**

(Alex's parents give him a gentle approving smile and to him "**WE LOVE YOU TOO.**" The music for *Everything I am* begins.

ALEX (lights fade to spot on Alex)

I just want to say...(starts to sing)

10. *Everything I Am. (I Owe to You)*

Heaven sent angels are what you are
In my time of need
You are always there
You showed me how to love
You taught me to believe in my dreams
You made me believe in the power of prayer
Everything I am
I owe to you
With you to watch over me
There is nothing I can't do

Your strength to move mountains
Comes from your faith in the Lord above
Every life you have ever touched
You touched with kindness and love

When the lord created angels
He must have had you in mind
With a smile you lift my spirits
You are truly one of a kind

Your eyes light the way
When I am lost or lonely
You are always there to guide me through the pain
You are my one and only

Everything I am
I owe to you
With you to watch over me
There is nothing I can't do
Your strength to move mountains
Comes from your faith in the Lord above
Every life you have ever touched
You touched with kindness and love

When God created angels
He must have had you in mind
With a smile you lift my spirits
You are one of a kind

And your eyes always light the way
When I am lost or lonely
You are always there to guide me through pain
You are my one and only

Everything I am
I owe to you
With you to watch over me
There is nothing I can't do
Your strength to move mountains
Comes from your faith in the Lord above

Every life you ever touched
You touched with love

Heaven sent angels are what you are
In my time of need
You are always there
You showed me how to love
You taught me how to believe in my dreams
You made me believe in the power of prayer

(The lights fade as the song ends)

BLACKOUT

SCENE 3

(Alex enters s.l in front of the curtain. He is casually dressed, There is a moment of silence before he speaks. He looks as if he is deep in thought)

ALEX

I don't want to leave out any of the important people in my life. So with that being said I have to mention how truly extraordinary, amazing...Great people my sister and three brothers are. As the baby in the family, each one individually has influenced the type of person that I am today. As a family we love each other unconditionally as well. We carry the traits which our parents passed on to us graciously. Like most families there have been times of disagreements and stressful situations but through thick and then we are always there for one another. Equal parts of giving and taking... Equal parts of taking and giving... This is probably something that goes unsaid for the most part but I honestly love all you....

There are four other real important people in Alex's life. They have a lot to do with the man he has turned out to be. So with that being said I have to mention how truly extraordinary, amazing...great people his sister and three brothers are. As the baby in the family, each one individually has influenced the type of person that he is today. As a family they really do love each other unconditionally as well. They carry the traits which their parents passed on to them graciously. Like most families there have been times of disagreements and stressful situations but, through thick and then they are always there for one another. Equal parts of giving and taking... Equal parts of taking and giving... This is probably something that goes unsaid for the most part but, they all love each other.

My brothers were three, four and a half and six years older than he was and they treated him like the baby brother. Looking back now Joseph, Mitchell and Anthony were the best big brothers a young kid could ask for. I wanted to do everything they did. As youngsters we were all into sports, so it was natural for to gravitate towards sports. On every Army base we lived athletics were at a premium. Not only football, baseball, and basketball but, other sports like martial arts and boxing were available too. It was a time before video games, computers and cell phones. Cable television was in its infancy. There was a lot of time to devote to sports and the my brothers and I took full advantage. Although there were other activities to occupy time like Boys Scouts, hunting and fishing, the team sports were at the top of the list.

My sister, Allison was six minutes older than me was and we were born on New Year's Eve on a United States Army Base in Germany. My running joke with her is that those six minutes were the only six minutes of peace I ever had.

She was the only girl with four brothers which made her tough but, she was all girl too. She participated in sports a little but spent her time with friends playing Barbie's, dress up, Girl Scouts. At home she added tomboy activities too. How could she not with four brothers one of them her twin. As twins we were really close especially the first twelve years of their life. They were in same class in elementary school and at times the Barbie Dolls, Justice League and G.I. Joe action figures had date nights.

I was close with all his siblings, moving every two and a half years helped with that. My oldest brother Anthony was what most older brothers are second father figures. Someone to lean on in hard times, someone to give discipline when needed. He was six years older and me and I looked up to him. In times of need, he never said no.

Mitchell was somewhat of an enigma especially as he got older. Although we all went through same things as children and teens, he seemed to want to escape and make it on his own. I guess that's not really a bad thing just sometimes I wonder why he is the only one like that. Although he is still somewhat close he has put up some walls and distance between the rest of us. Still he is a self-made man and that is something to respect

My brother Joseph and I were really close. He was the youngest before me and my sister came into this world and there was a natural bond between us before I was born. Mom always told the story how when she was pregnant with us the three year old Joseph would do this:

The lights come up/curtain opens Alex's mother is sitting in a living room chair slightly s.r. of c.s with a lamp, and side table towards c.s. Three year old Joseph is climbing up on his mom's lap.)

ALEX'S MOM (helping joseph up with her on the chair)
How is my little man?

JOSEPH (yawning)
I'm tired mommy!(puts his head on her belly) Mommy is there really two babies in there

ALEX'S MOM (giving him a hug)
There sure is... There was a time a few years ago you were in there.
JOSEPH (snuggling)
Really (tired and sleepy) and now there are two babies in there.

ALEX'S MOM

There are two...A baby girl and a baby boy.

JOSEPH (yawns again)

Is that this many (he holds up two fingers, his mom smiles shakes her head yes) Mommy when the babies get here is it ok if the girl baby is for you and the boy baby is for me.

ALEX'S MOM (smiling, she gives Joseph a big hug)

That would be...fine Joseph. How about we take care of both of them. (Joseph snuggles a little more and falls asleep) I love you little man. (kisses him on the forehead and lights go out)

(Lights come up on Alex as he gets c.s. still casually dressed)

ALEX

Our lives were just like that. Joseph and I were together from the day I was born through adulthood. We lived in their parent's home as roommates. Best friends...Brothers...We were always there for one another through the good times and the hard times. The good times outweighed the bad a thousand to one. It really is as Joseph said all those years ago, 'he got the baby boy to take care of' and that never changed.

(Alex looks down and pauses for a moment...Clears his throat with a light cough...He recomposes himself and gets back to business)

I was just thinking about a few things I said earlier. I don't think I gave a full explanation about my "hiatus" from dating or the conclusion of my relationship with Kelly.

I'll start with the "hiatus." The bottom line is...I didn't provide myself the opportunity to fall in love. The hiatus at the time was needed.... I didn't think it would last for five years. The downside to this hiatus is that it left lingering doubts in my head and it created a lack of self-confidence. When these two forces mesh together and continue for such a substantial amount of time...I honestly believed that only an act of God would turn things around...well maybe not an act of God, but something pretty close. I thought about this long and hard. When it comes to love just about everyone falls into one of two categories. Birds of a feather... and... Opposites attract...Here is my take on these scenarios. I feel that those who believe that "birds of a feather flock together" believe that they like the comfort zone of familiarity. There is a certain calmness that comes with it. I

guess to them it's nice to know what to expect from one moment to the next. It keeps things simple... sedate...humdrum. (he takes a 5 sec. pause to let it sink in and goes on)

Those who find, "opposites attract" very appealing, like the challenge of something new...Taking a chance...The attraction of anything different than the norm provides intrigue and creates interest. (Alex realizes he might be rambling on and decides to get to the point.) You are probably thinking... "What is this guy talking about?" OK, to wrap this up I think a little of the "birds of a feather" scenario has to be involved for "opposites attract" to work and vice versa. An initial attraction had to be there, familiarity if you will. For "opposites attract" to really work, there has to be a deep desire to know what the other persons likes and dislikes are. You have to have the desire to get to know and like these things or try to like these things. You have to make them part of what you like and dislike. Both of these scenarios allow people to grow together. They give them the willingness to keep growing together. The right mix of each strengthens the best relationships and they weed out the ones that don't work. I know it sounds confusing. Let's take a moment to think about it and let it sink in... (3 to 5 second pause)

As for Kelly...You know I fell hard for this beautiful young woman. There was a combination of things about her. Like the the way I felt when we were together. How we had instant chemistry from the start. I could go on, but, one thing I do want to say is that she touched my life in a positive way. She proved that I could find love again. Looking back I think the fact that she needed someone...Someone like me...I really don't want this to sound egotistical...She needed a positive person to make her feel wanted again. Someone to build back up her self-esteem...A nice guy, a prince on a white horse, a knight in shining armor...and that is exactly what I tried to be for her. I guess I was "blinded." to the problems she had. I was so hell bent to take her away from it all. I use to tell friends, that I accepted the fact that I was probably going to end up with a broken heart and all the baggage she had in her life didn't matter because I could make it better...I guess there was just too much to fix. I started to see less and less of Kelly. At first I held on to thinking I would still be the one to take her troubles away. Then reality set in. The next time I saw Kelly she was with child and still with Tim. I told her to call me if she ever needed anything. She never called. Every now and then I think of what would of, could of and should of, what might have been.(Once again everything is silent for about 5-7seconds. Then Alex cont...) As you can probably tell I have had a lot of time, maybe to much time to think about this *Crazy Little Thing Called Love*. Now I know some

of you are thinking and saying to yourselves. “This guy needs to get a life. He’s ____ (almost dropping the F bomb, Alex clears his throat) messed up.” Well to tell you the truth one day I woke up and I realized this too. From that moment on, I decided once again to rekindle my quest to find everlasting love.

Starting over and trying to find everlasting love is not easy. Just look at my track record, Brooke, Kristina, Samantha, Kelly, Stephanie...I must be crazy to put myself through something like this again. It is difficult to step back up to the plate. The self-doubt and lack of confidence really makes it seem like you are a teenager again. (Alex begins to pace and shaking his head)

Let me refresh your memory...What if the answer is no? **Oh my God here we go again!** I think rejection at this point could be devastating. Why would she be interested in me? (I told you so gesture) **Self-Doubt!** (Thinking out loud to himself) Didn’t someone once say, “Accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative.”... (Alex cont. to pace and think out loud) I think the hardest part is actually asking someone out on a date...**Lack of Self confidence!** Even when I am actively dating, self-confidence doesn’t come easy to me. I mean I can talk to a woman for hours. I can see that she is interested in me etc. When it comes right down to it I really have trouble saying...Would you like to go out to dinner sometime? A movie? You know confidence is a funny thing. The lack of it when it comes to romance and relationships can leave situations and desires unfulfilled. Over confidence on the other hand isn’t the answer either. Over confidence tends to lead to ignorance, arrogance and under estimating. You have to find that fine line in the middle and make it work for you.

I knew the people who could help me the most in this situation were the people I have known my whole life, Zach, Ben and Davey. You know we bust balls and everything but I wouldn’t trade them for anything. When we have to we get serious. We are always there for each other. I need to qualify something here too. I have female friends as close as these guys are to me, but as you know; sometimes it is easier to talk to someone of the same sex about certain things. I think it is because we know at one time or another they have been in a similar situation. The hardest parts are knowing the right words to say and how to bring up the subject up to the guys. Finding the right place and time was actually very hard as well. Although Zach, Ben and Davey were adults, it meant that when discussing this topic one had to expect some locker room banter and sophomoric hijinks and jokes. The twice a month card game we have been having for years seemed like the perfect opportunity.

Zach and I were the single guys of the group and usually hosted the games. On this night it was Zach's turn to host. The card games were a chance for us to be boys again. Throw back a few beers and gorge on the best bar food (wings, pizza, chips) available etc... The night was going pretty well. I was up over a hundred dollars and in good spirits. The right moment was now.

(Zach's place was smaller than Alex's but, it was adequate for a single guy who mostly just slept there. The essentials are there, stylish matching chair and sofa, a TV, a card table with 4 chairs was his kitchen table. Zach, Ben, Davey and Alex are sitting around drinking, smoking and playing cards.)

ALEX (Laying his cards on the table and reaching for the pot of money)
Read them and weep boys. FOUR BEAUTIFUL LADIES!!!
(Alex picks up each queen and kisses it)

DAVEY (Taking a drag from his cigar)
Well that's the first set of female lips you have touched in ... Forever sounds right...(Ben and Zach laugh)And too quote Mr. Tom Petty...*Even the losers get lucky sometimes...*

ZACK (laughing as he takes a drink)
Yeah, what is it they say, "The sun does shine on the horse's ass every now and then."

BEN (collects cards, shuffles them. Nods his head and going along with the others) Well, Well, Well, Lady Luck is with you Alex...when you are playing games, that is. Too bad your love life SUCKS! Wait a minute did I say SUCKS! I mean REALLY SUCKS! Alex, when was the last time you actually had a date...(he looks at Zach and Davey for approval. They both smile and nod their heads) And to think you have been busting my nuts all these years. Let me see it has to be at least 2 maybe 3 years since I've seen you alone, or for that matter heard you were alone with a woman...ANYWHERE! At any time!

ALEX (Annoyed and aggravated he flips them the middle finger)
It hasn't been that long...

DAVEY

Your mother doesn't count!
(Ben and Davey laugh out loud. Zach again AQnods his head and smiles)

ALEX (Striking back)
DOES YOURS?

ZACH (striking a pose)
WHOA! WAIT A MINUTE! TIME-OUT! Are you serious, what you are telling me is that Alex here... (Gestures) Mr. Sensitivity! The perfect gentleman! The one women refer to as Mr. Nice guy. Isn't getting any? Hasn't had in any in how long? Are you kidding me! (starts laughing)

ALEX (AGGRAVATED)
WE ARE NOT HAVING THIS CONVERSATION!

DAVEY
Oh ...but we are...

ZACH
Alex... Alex... Alex... Is there something you want tell us? (Hand gestures calling him gay)

ALEX (Angered, disappointed)
That's it! That's just perfect! I have nothing to say on this matter. You know I was actually considering... When the time was right... For once I thought I could talk to all of you seriously about something! What's the use...This isn't the time or the place for this. This conversation is over! Who needs another drink? (Alex gets up and exits)

BEN (taken back)
Wow I think we really hit a nerve. He is more than just pissed! He's hurt? Depressed maybe?

ZACH (Looking at Ben like he's nuts)
NO! We just shook him up a little bit. It's his turn...A half an hour from now we will be all over you. (BEN shrugs in the, I guess your right sort of way)
DAVEY (concerned)
Do you really think so Zach? I don't know...Seriously think about it? Alex hasn't been the same since the "Kristina War." And if you add to, "the situation with Kelly" would be the best way to put it. (Hand gestures

“quotes” around Kristina and Kelly) Those situations changed him. My God it has been like forever since Kristina and Kelly was something that happened that probably shouldn’t have happened. He’s changed, something’s not right. They really took a lot out of him. Emotionally! Physically... You name it.

BEN

Your right Davey, he rarely talks about falling in love or finding that special someone anymore. He was never shy talking about that. If I didn’t know any better I’d saying he is streamlining towards becoming a recluse...a loner.

ZACH (Trying to take control of the situation)

I think we (pointing at Ben and Davey) are reading a little too much into this situation. A recluse! A loner! He goes out for Christ’s sake! He cruises the clubs with me. I’ve seen him talking to women when we’re out!

BEN (showing confidence and clarity he rarely shows)

Ok we’ll give you that...”He cruises the clubs” with you and for that matter he may even talk to women. Now think really hard for a second Zach. When was the last time you saw him leave with one of those women? When was the last time he went out alone with a woman? When was the last time he seriously talked about another woman?

ZACH (cutting Ben off...still making light of the situation at first)

Well he doesn’t exactly kiss and tell like the man here. (He points to himself and poses. He then starts to realize that this really could be a major problem for his friend and sits back down and gets more serious) Really guys I don’t know. I honestly feel however that if something like this is really bothering him he would tell us. (He looks at the other two for agreement)

DAVEY

Who is he going to say something too? To me...To Ben....Well, let’s put it this way I am married for 10 years now and Ben has been married for close to 3. Outside of these card games and an occasional lunch or coffee we don’t get to have a serious conversation with Alex all that much. Most of the times we spend out with him are social occasions with other people around.

DAVEY (gestures to what they are doing and continues)

Times like these really are not the right time or place for intimate conversations. (Ben nods his head in agreement) As for you Zach, you are a great friend and I know you would do anything for any of us. (Holds hands

out for Zach to stay calm) Zach I want you to listen first and don't take this the wrong way. You...You're Zach! You are a player and you have always been a player. You know how to play the game and you are one of the best. You have always been a stud and probably always will be a stud. For the life of me I can't remember carrying on a serious conversation with you about relationships. For my money it's not the sort of thing you are good at. Am I making sense? (Zach nods I guess so) Any way there is something about this part of his life that is bothering him. I can sense it. All the sensitive and gentleman BS aside... Alex is hurting!"

BEN

Davey is right! There is something going on...I can't quite place it and it is not exactly black in white. The changes in Alex to me anyway have been subtle. Let me put it this way...He's not Alex. Am I making sense? Zach, haven't you noticed anything different about Alex?

ZACH (still not totally convinced what the other two are saying)

Like what? Believe me I understand what you are trying to say...The reality of this situation boys is that for obvious reasons (he holds up his bare left ring finger) I spend more time with him these days and I don't see a change in Alex. Alex is...Alex. He's just in a slump.

DAVEY (affirming)

I'm telling you it is more than just a slump!

(Ben Pats Davey on the shoulder points at Zach and nods his head in agreement. Alex re-enters with drinks for everyone and sits down)

ALEX (more relaxed and smiling)

Who's dealing? What's the game?

(The others look at each other for a moment...Ben finally speaks up)

BEN (concerned and comforting)

Alex... Seriously now, how are you doing?

ALEX (Blind to what's going on and counting his chips)

Fine! Now what's the game?

DAVEY (Turns to Alex the same as Ben)

You know Alex I realize we all bust balls the majority of the time...If there was something wrong or something you wanted to talk about you would tell us? ...Right?

ALEX (Evasive and defensive)

What? When did our lives become a soap opera or B.S. for daytime talk shows? Ophra? Dr. Phil? Someone deal the DAMN CARDS!

BEN

Alex, we've been friends for over 25 years! You can talk to us!

(Alex looks at Ben and Davey in shock, and then he turns and looks at Zach)

ZACH (Staying in his cool smooth style)

Look Alex, I tried...I swear! The dynamic duo here believes something is bothering you, or for that matter there is something wrong with you.

Personally I give you the benefit of doubt and I don't see it. They think you're hurting or have changed. I say it's a slump? A bump in the road...

(Zach, Ben and Davey look at Alex)

ALEX (He is silent for a few moments as he looks at all three)

Well...I was looking for a way to talk about this... (Looking at Zach) The reality is that they... (Pointing to Ben and Davey)...They are actually right! Kind of...Sort of...

ZACH (shocked and confused)

What! NO WAY! YOU ARE SO FULL OF SHIT! At least you haven't lost your sense of humor. (He looks at Alex and realizes he is serious) Get the... I...I can't believe it! Really?

ALEX (cutting Zach off)

Relax, it's not life threatening or anything like that. It's just something I thought I had to get through on my own. It's been weighing on my mind for a real long time. Years in fact! Maybe five, I've lost count. It really didn't bother me at first, but over the last year or so...Seriously I think I am going out of my mind.... This feels so much better. So what do you guys think?

(Zach, Davey and Ben just since in silence looking at each other and Alex. Finally Ben speaks up)

BEN (cautiously phonetically)

About what exactly...

ALEX (starts chuckling to himself realizing he didn't tell them anything)
See what I mean...I have some serious issues... Insanity has settled in (hand gestures...changes the subject) Now on to the subject at hand...All right
Here we go, (starts to deal the cards) now boys, how much more money are you ready to donate to the Alex Hunter foundation.

DAVEY (serious looking Alex straight in the eyes)
Joke if you want to buddy...You can't fool us. We are here to help you and want to help you if we can!

ZACH

I'm starting to realize that there is something seriously wrong here. You know there is a problem in our universe when I start to sound like and think like Ben...Alex my man if you've got a problem that...Look, if it's not drugs, alcohol or life threatening illness what could possibly be driving you over the edge

ALEX

Look it really isn't that serious, but then again it might be...I don't know...It must be obvious that something going on with me just isn't right I probably should have talked about this sooner. My God who would have thought that Zach would turn into Frasier Crane? Is it really that obvious?

ZACH - BEN- DAVEY
YES!

ALEX (Rambling)

Look guys you know most of my story. Mr. Sensitivity, the gentleman, everybody is my friend, EVERYBODY, including former lovers. Except of course Kr... (the others stop him before he says Kristina) well after the thing with K (the others look at him) and falling into the cycle of making friends to fast and not wanting to ruin a good thing. I pretty much decided to go it alone for alone. Relationships, love and the whole nine yards, I put on the back burner. I didn't expect it to last as long as it did. Of course that lasted

ALEX (cont.)

until, Kelly. You know I'm still in love with her.

ZACH (back to being Zach stretches shaking his hand)

I can tell this is one of that frame to frame, moment to moment, entertainment less, (Yawns) Alex Hunter epics. (Levity) What horrible sin did I commit in this life or a past life to be punished like this?

(Ben and Davey look at him with the shut up look)

ALEX (paying no attn. to Zach)

Anyway this self imposed exile, which was only to last a few months wound up lasting a hell of a lot longer. Next month, not counting Kelly, makes it six years... (The others sit in amazement staring at Alex) Look guys the bottom line is that I don't know how to do it anymore!

ZACH (breaking the silence jokingly)

When you say "do it," do you mean? (Hand gestures)

ALEX (throw a poker chip at him)

NO ASSHOLE!

DAVEY

I think he means he doesn't know how to date anymore, understand women, fall in love, etc. Am I right? (Looks at Alex and he nods) He's lost all perspective and confidence.

ALEX (he puts his finger to his nose at points at Davey)

Exactly!

BEN (shaking his head)

I don't understand. How can you lose confidence? You always did fine when it came to women. Man, Kelly and Kris... (The others cut him off) they really knocked you out... Just think about how you use to do it. It's like that saying...Once you learn to ride a bike...I mean you know when we were teenagers I had no confidence. It took me awhile to catch up. Is that what it's like...is it like being a teenager...Being re-virginized?

ALEX

That's exactly how it is. Look it's not a life or death situation.

ZACH

It would be for me!

(They all laugh)

ALEX

It's just an obstacle I have to overcome...I will. I was going to bounce this problem off you guys, I swear. I was just waiting for the right time and place. I guess this was it. I want to say thanks for being there...always being there...

ZACH (still shaking his head)

Are you shittin' me...This is like a Lifetime television movie.

DAVEY (Ignoring Zach)

Alex I don't know how much help we have been or can be. The only thing we can really do is listen and offer advice. Like most things in life we have to battle and overcome. Drinking, smoking, losing weight, and even regaining self-confidence and self esteem. You are the only one that can do it. In your own time and way...I know you will.

ZACH (Showing his serious side again)

You know Hunter I always look for the laugh or the joke in everything... That's just me being... me... It's who I am... It's my way of dealing... caring... (Pointing) The three of you know I've got your backs! There for you bro's! Always! Forever! (Zach does fist pump with all 3)

DAVEY (a little shocked)

WOW! That was really awesome it's been a long time since I...We have seen this side of you. Great to know...Hey I was one of the lucky ones. I found my soul mate early on... Anyway I think I know something... someone... a possible solution. I know that Zach and Ben will agree with me. (Zach and Ben Nod in agreement) The solution is 6 simple letters my friend.... **B-R-O-O-K-E!**

ALEX (stunned and silent for a moment)

BROOKE! Come on...What! Seriously? (Alex shakes his head) I don't know. It's been a real long time. I really thought last time was...THE LAST TIME! Although I admit I have been thinking about her a lot lately... (To himself but out loud) WOW! Do you really think...I don't know...

ALEX(shrugs putting on brave face and hinting that he is ok with the way things are now) She has her own life now.

DAVEY (Waving his finger at Zach)

Don't tap out on this just yet big guy. Tracy tells me she asks how you are doing all the time. Get this there is no significant other in her life right now. With that being said...You've got nothing to lose.

ZACH

Dude, you know my motto....

**ALL
GO FOR IT!**

BEN (again there is a few moments of silence)

We all know she's the one for you. We have always known it... I think deep down you have always known it. In there especially... (He points at Alex's heart)

ALEX (more confident)

Brooke...Do you really think so... (To himself out loud) Brooke....

(After a few moments Alex looks at the other 3 and gives them an appreciative smile)I'm stunned! I am completely blown away by all three of you. First let me say that you are 100% correct. Brooke has always been the one. My heart knew it all along and now my brain knows it too. I have to say something to all of you right now that is out of the norm for guys to say to one another. It probably goes unsaid because as men there are subject matters that are just understood and unspoken. (stops speaking and talking to himself)

DAVEY BEN ALEX (shouting)

ALEX!!!

ZACH (sternly)

Say what you have to say...

ALEX (startled)

I am in the company of greatness! Davey... Ben... Zach...You mean the world to me. I am so honored to have you in my life. I am blessed to call you friends... Best friends....I thank you with every fiber of my being! You truly are the best friends any one at any time could have. (There is a silence as they look at each other and nod. Lightening the mood) Now, before this gets any gayer... I'm going on a beer run. I'll be back in ten. (He heads for the door to leave)

DAVEY (As Alex reaches the door)

Hey Alex... DIDD0!

(He pats his fist to his chest and points at Alex. Ben and Zach do the same.
Alex does it back, smiles and leaves)

(The lights fade to a spot on Alex. It is made to look like he is outside. A
light effect to show stars)

ALEX (Looking at the stars in the sky)

Well I guess wishing upon a star wouldn't hurt... This one for you Brooke...
For us...

(He pauses for a few seconds... Bless himself and blows a kiss to the stars...
The music for *We are one*... starts)

11. *We are one*...

I know I'm ready to fall in love
But honestly, I really don't know how
You see I've been down this road
A time or two before....
But something about this
Makes it different now

There's no doubt about it
This is something special
It's magical... chemistry...
It's 20/20... picture perfect
I feel like shouting to the world
When you are here with me....

We are one
We are two
Destiny is me and you

This feels so good
This feels so real
There is only one way to describe how I really feel
I'm in love

I know we said we would take our time
Sometimes that is easier said than done
A moment doesn't go by without you on my mind
Leaving little doubt that you are the one

And I want to laugh when I hear you laughing
My world comes alive with just a look from you
There is no better feeling than having you always beside me
From what I've always known, that's what love is suppose to do

We are one
We are two
Destiny is me and you
This feels so good,
It aa so real
There is only one way to describe how I really feel
I'm in love

(Solo)

There is no doubt about it
This is something special
It's magical... It's Chemistry

Its 20/20...Picture perfect
I feel like shouting to the world
When you are here with me

We are one
We are two
Destiny is you and I
This feels so good,
It feels so real
There is only one way to describe how I really feel
I'm in love

(As the song ends Alex taps his heart... looks to the stars... winks and exits
through the audience)

BLACKOUT

SCENE 4

(Alex Re s.l. in front of the closed curtain and X's to c.s. He dressed business casual)

ALEX

That's not exactly how I thought it would work out, but it worked out ok. I took what Davey, Ben and Zach said about Brooke, to heart. I started thinking about Brooke all the time. Even though I have dated her and have known her forever. I still was caught up in that lack of confidence thing I was going through...It was that, and I was also adding something new to the equation. I wanted to be fair to Brooke and to myself. I took it upon myself to find out exactly what she had gone on in her life since the last time we were together. I mean it's not that I didn't trust what everyone was saying and trying to do. It's just that...I came to realize that Brooke is who I always loved. It's extremely humbling to know that this is undeniably true.

Anyway as I started to find out for myself what Brooke was and is going through it became apparent that rushing in wouldn't be the best thing to do right now. Brooke went through one of those relationships that was reminiscent of my relationship with Kelly. Brooke's began shortly after our last rendezvous ended. It lasted until about two months ago. That was over five years! Obviously she had to have been in love at one time. What went wrong? Would jumping right in to another relationship be smart? It got me thinking about if and when Brooke and I got back together would it be a rebound scenario. Would that be fair to the both of us? The best thing would be to take it one step at a time. If falling in love again was to happen then so be it...I also knew that I couldn't let someone I could love unconditionally slip away once again

I waited about a week after the card game. Each day that went by my confidence grew. I kept tabs on Brooke through Davey and Tracey. Finally I asked Brooke to get together for a Sunday brunch to catch up on things. She accepted without hesitation. What I didn't know is Brooke has come to the same conclusion and has come to the realization that I am the one she let get away and that I am "THE ONE" for her as well.

(Alex enters the scene. Brooke is already seated at a table in an intimate outdoor café as the lights come up they are in conversation)

BROOKE (dressed for a casual lunch date)

Alex I know we decided that this was going to be two friends getting to

BROOKE (cont.)

know one another again, but you and I both know it is way beyond that. I look at you and I know...I see how you look at me...and...I know...

ALEX (reaching out taking her hand. relaxing her)

Well you know as well as anyone that I wear my heart out on my sleeve... And when it comes to you my eyes and my heart don't lie. So much has happened since we've been apart. All I know is that since the moment I decided to get back in touch with you...It's been like, turning back the clock... I think subconsciously I have always known its been you. I think you have always known it too. If we didn't why would we be here?

(Alex and Brooke know each other so well that the unspoken words are just as important as the spoken words. Their body language how they look at each other)

BROOKE (doing her best not rushing into things)

I guess you are right...in a way. Do you think we are being fair to each other? I really want to be sure. Not on purpose but each time we parted we hurt each other... How many chances do we get?

ALEX (laying it out there)

If I knew the answer to that...That's not what I really want to say. All I know is that after doing some serious soul searching and looking at how my life is with you and without you. I have to say that us... together...to me, makes the most sense.

BROOKE (staying strong)

Alex if it was only that simple. I recently ended something I thought was so real and unconditional. I can't...I won't...I have to be 100% sure. I will tell you honestly that a part of me still loves him.

ALEX (Devil's advocate)

OK! I can understand that. It's not like I haven't been there myself. Now you said, "I think part of me still loves him. Loving someone and being in love with someone are two entirely different things. REAL LOVE! TRUE LOVE! IS 100%! UNCONDITIONAL! EVERLASTING! FOREVER!

BROOKE (honestly)

You are right! I know you are right! It's just that when you are with someone over five years and then it ends...I just want to be sure. One can't just turn emotions on and off.

ALEX (consoling and understanding)

I...I'm...Brooke by saying what you just said...I have said those exact words myself. I've been there. I've given my heart, mind, body, and soul completely to someone...To something I thought was going to last forever. I ended up completely shattered! I know I'm not ready to just give it to just anyone again...Brooke you're not just anyone.

BROOKE (Tears starting)

You're not just anyone either! Alex I'm afraid sometimes I won't be able to trust again...I won't be able to love again! I need someone to complete me. I need someone to be... the left hand to my right hand...I can see you as that, but what if your not?

ALEX (passionately, wipes away her tears)

THE ANSWER IS RIGHT HERE! THE ANSWER IS ME! I know it i... Brooke, look at me. (He gestures for her to look at his eyes) Can't see how I feel about you? The way I look at you... Don't know how I feel by the things I say to you? Brooke honestly, I swear... These eyes (pointing) don't lie...Every word is from my heart! I've grown so much and I care so much.... I've always loved you... I AM IN LOVE WITH YOU!

BROOKE (cutting Alex off... emotional)

ALEX!!!

ALEX (pressing his finger to her lips gently interrupting Brooke)

Look I made the mistake of letting you get away more than once. I don't plan on letting that happen again... Especially, without laying it all on the line... (The music for *I want you...I need you...* starts).

12. I want you...I need you...I love you....

When you need someone to hold you
I will always be right here
When you need someone to listen
I will always lend an ear
I will always make you smile
And I will take away all your fears
I will love you unconditionally...
And see that you cry only happy tears...

Every moment we share together
Will be better than the one before
I vow to always treasure you forever
Leaving you to want for nothing more
I will set you on a pedestal so high
And give only unto you...
On everything I am or that I will ever be
I swear these words to you....

I want you...I need you... I love you...
I won't let this chance for love, walk away
I want you...I need you...I love you....
I'll do everything I have to do, to make you stay
I want you...I need you...I love you...
Follow your heart and it will show you the way
I want you...I need you... I love you...
Just believe in me
And everything will be Ok...

Everything I am saying is coming from the heart
Everything you see before you is real and crystal clear
There will never come a day
When I won't feel this way
So when you are ready.... I will be right here....
(solo)

Every moment we share together
Will be better than the one before
I vow to always treasure you forever
Leaving you to want for nothing more
I will set you on a pedestal so high
And give only unto you...
On everything I am or that I will ever be
I swear these words to you....

I want you...I need you...I love you...
I won't let this chance for love walk away
I want you...I need you.... I love you...
I'll do everything I have to do to make you stay

I want you...I need you... I love you
Follow your heart and it will show you the way
I want you...I need you...I love you
Just believe in me
And everything will be ok

When you need someone to hold you
I will always be right here
When you need someone to listen
I will always lend an ear
I will always make you smile
And I will take away all your fears
I will love you unconditionally
And see that you cry only happy tears

(The song cont. through the end of the scene)

ALEX (from the heart)

This is our moment pretty lady... The right time... The right place... I AM
ASKING YOU TO BELIEVE IN ME! TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS!
FOLLOW YOUR HEART!

BROOKE (emotionally)

I DO! I DO! I DO! I know that we are here, right now, for a reason. Let's
just take it, one moment... one day at a time. I don't think there is any doubt
that we love each other. (Alex stops her in mid sentence with a kiss)

SCENE 5

(Alex enters S.R. casually dressed at home look. The curtains are closed behind him)

ALEX (pacing and thinking for a few moments)

...I can't recall if I read it or heard it somewhere, but the phrase, "everyone has three great loves in their lives," keeps ringing in my head. It's nice to think that this can happen. I guess I am one of the people for which this statement is true.

Let's begin... Obviously one is Brooke, a second would be Kelly and the third would be, believe it or not ...Kristin. Although it was not the healthiest of relationship...Let's just say you don't ask someone to be your wife without loving them.

Now that we've gotten that out of the way and that you know me somewhat, what I am about to say probably makes sense. Falling in love is not an exact science. Falling in love is not the same for everyone. Some like to take it slow and let the love they feel, endure. Some believe in love at first sight! I don't really know where I stand. I have traveled quite a few different roads I thought would lead to love. Finally the long and winding road that led me to Brooke was the right one.

I have found my real and everlasting love. The funny thing is it has been right in front of me most of my life. The real and everlasting love of my life is Brooke. She always has and she always will be. I think I always knew that too. Even during the times we were apart. I would always think about her from time to time. Another phrase comes to mind "Absence makes the heart grow stronger." You know it is more than just coincidence that we always found our way back to each other. We go back a long way. I've known Brooke since we were children. Some would say forever. Long before Kelly...Long before Kristina. Brooke, undoubtedly, was and is my true love. When one looks at everything that has happened to us over the last 20 years... I can honestly say that, I have loved or been in love with Brooke, as long as I have known her. It just took time to admit it to myself. Heart! Mind! Body! And Soul! I guess that makes me normal. (EMPHATICALLY) I HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE THEE TIMES IN MY LIFE! I was in love with Kristina! I fell in love with Kelly. Why neither one worked out to be everlasting love...There are several reasons. One, circumstances stood in the way... Two, they just weren't meant to be MY everlasting love! Three, neither one was Brooke...THE MOST IMPORTANT REASON (emphatically)... (5 beat pause)

ALEX (cont.)

Obviously falling in love with Brooke hasn't been as easy as, A-B-C... By hook or by crook though, it works. The bond we share strengthens and gets tighter all of the time. Unlike Kristina, the confrontations we have never turn

physically, emotionally or verbally abusive. We say what is needed to be said and then eventually work it out. Sometimes that means having to spend time apart, personal time if you will. Some of those times are longer than others...Just look at the history between us. Spending time apart is not a bad thing. We all need space from time to time to sort things out. This time that's what it was personal space.

So let's get caught up on recent events... Brooke and I have held nothing back this time. As you know we talked about, (emphatically) *wanting to do it right this time*. Taking (hand gesture) "*baby steps.*" ... "*One day at a time... *Etc...Etc... Etc...*" That is what we honestly intended to do. This course of action however, lasted about two weeks. I couldn't help it. Everything I said to her that night was from the heart. "***I want you... I need you... I love you...***" Nothing was going to change that. It wasn't one sided either. Brooke was falling in love all over again just as fast as I was. She was using words like us and we. This went on for about eight months. We were together 24\7. At least it seemed that way. All of this togetherness started to take its toll. Don't get me wrong the love was still unconditional. To much of a good thing I guess. Then all of a sudden... Little things about each other were really starting to annoy us. Pretty soon all of the petty nuances started to add up.

About a year and a half ago, we reached the final crossroads in our romantic relationship. The previous times we reached a point similar to this, we walked away. Lucky for us we found our space and eventually found our way back. This time was different. We both knew there was much more at stake. How many times can you walk away and find your way back? Brooke and I both began to question if what we have was really meant to be. Was it worth the pain? The heart wrenching pain of separating was going to much to come back from this time. Small arguments and confrontations intensified and eventually snowballed into a full blown, major confrontations. At the end of this confrontation we decided that, this was just might be the last straw! We both needed to cool down. Let calmer heads prevail and decide if we should go on, or call it quits for good.

After about a week we were still on a cool down period. We hadn't seen each other but, we did talk to one another on the phone. Brooke talked me into trying a couple's exercise she saw on a daytime talk show. They were both making a list of what they like and don't like about one another and give it to one another. It was something she thought would be interesting to try. I was ok with it and agreed to give it 100%.

(The curtain opens behind Alex crosses s.r. S.R. is set to look like Alex's

living room with a chair and an end table. S.L. Is set to look like Brooke's living room. She is seated in the chair s.l. in blackout. The lights come up s.l. on Brooke in the chair. She has a note pad and pen in her hands)

BROOKE (Writing as she is speaking)

Alex's best qualities... (she puts an x through what she just wrote and is shaking her head) THE **THINGS**, I LIKE MOST ABOUT ALEX!!! NO! NO! NO! That's all wrong! (scribbles through it and starts with her original title speaks as she is writing) ALEX'S BEST QUALITIES! He's smart! He's kind! He's funny! He really knows how to make me smile. He comforts me and picks me up whenever I am down in the dumps. He is always there for me. Oh yeah, he's really cute and handsome. I like the way he looks at me. I can see how much he loves me in his eyes. He's extremely talented....

(Brooke looks up tapping her pen to her chin deep in thought as the lights fade. Lights up on Alex he is sitting in a chair in his living room Alex, who agreed to do this with Brooke decides to tape record his feelings before writing them down. He is holding a hand held cassette recorder)

ALEX (talking into the recorder)

Why Brooke is special to me...Let's start with the obvious She is ...SEXY! One word, WOW! Her eyes! Her legs! Her...(Hand gesture indicating her cheeks) Her... (Hand gesture indicating her chest and of an hour glass figure) OH MY! There is so much more. Intelligence! Sense of humor! Gentleness! Kindness! I've got another word describe her...INCREDIBLE!

(The lights fade on Alex and come up on Brooke. She is standing with the pad and pen)

BROOKE

The things that really aggravate me...Piss me off about Alex! (Again she crosses off what she just wrote) I've got a better title for this category...THINGS THAT MAKES ALEX AN ASSHOLE! Sometimes... Arrogance know and then! At times an Egomaniac! Thinking he is always right. A know it all! He's an adolescent! A child! He doesn't take life seriously! He needs to grow up! Oh wait I kind of already said that

BROOKE (cont.)

Like several hundred times. It's true though and it is definitely... NUMBER ONE...on this list... He needs to focus on tasks more and not go through life by the seat of his pants.

(The lights fade on Brooke as she sits back down. The lights come up on Alex on the edge of his chair. He is rubbing his face and his hands together)

ALEX

Brooke, Brooke, Brooke... Why Brooke drives me crazy? ...Why Brooke is such a pain in the ass! Wait, I've got a better way of putting this... The things that make Brooke a BITCH! A real BITCH! Well I'm off to a good start with her being a pain in the ass and a real bitch...sometimes. Let's see there's... (thinking) She's too serious about everything and needs to lighten up. She is demanding... I want it done now not ten minutes from now attitude. Princess! She thinks everybody is going to treat her like her daddy does. She is always bringing up the past. This really pisses me off. Just let the past stay in the past. Sometimes she tends to talk down to me. It's like calling me stupid without actually saying the word.

(As Alex stands up the lights fade on him and come up on Brooke. She is sitting relaxed now with a coy smile on her face she is looking at the lists she just made.)

BROOKE

It's funny you know, I' am looking at this list and it makes me laugh. Especially the ASSHOLE part... It's true these traits are beyond irritating but when I think about it... They are all a part of Alex's charm. The good along with bad make him who he is and that's why I love him and that is why I am in love with him....And (looking at and talking to his picture) and If I was with you here tonight Alex, I would tell you...ALEX YOU ARE MY ONE TRUE LOVE!!! MY NOW AND FOREVER IS WITH YOU!!!

(Brooke stands up and the lights fade on her and come up on Alex. Alex is leaning back in his chair with his hands behind his head looking upwards)

ALEX

You can't live with them and you can't live without them. So true! So true! So true! I know I can't live without Brooke in my life! Everything that is right about her, outweighs what might be wrong with her, millions to one. It's all a part of what attracts me to her. Brooke, if I was with you tonight I would say this loud and clear for you to hear...

BROOKE! I LOVE YOU! WITH YOU NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE!!!

(The music for *With you* starts. The lights fade in and out on who ever sings the verse, then full when both are singing)

13. *With you...* (Duet)

(Alex)

When I think about the word “forever”

I think about you and me

(Brooke)

When I think about the word “together”

With you is where I want to be

(Together)

And when I think about the day

We come to say... the words “I do”...

I think of how special you are to me...

And every word I’m about to say to you...Is true...

(Together)

With you...I take the time to feel

With you...I take the time to breathe

With you...I take the time to smile

With you...I take the time to dream

(Alex)

The more life changes...

The more life stays the same...

As we search for love and happiness

In life’s never ending game

(Brooke)

We have the best of both worlds

A little take and a little give...

From our hearts... and from our souls

Together we have the best of times in this life we live...

(Together)

With you...I take the time to share

With you...I take the time to hold out my hand

With you...I take the time to care

With you...I take the time to understand
(solo)

(Together)
With you...I take the time to feel
With you...I take the time to breathe
With you...I take the time to smile
With you...I take the time to dream

(Alex)
When I think about the word “forever”
I think about you and me

(Brooke)
When I think about the word “together”
With you is where I want to be

(Together)
And when I think about the day...
We come to say the words “I do”
I think of how special you are to me...
And every word I am about to say to you...Is true

With you...I like to take the time to say...I love you
With you...I like to take the time to say...I love you

(The lights fade as the song fades)

BLACKOUT

SCENE 6

(Alex is dressed in a sweatshirt and gym shorts. He is standing in front of the curtain as the light comes up. He seems a little more relaxed.)

ALEX

This is me...This is who I am... The hopeless romantic, eternally wearing my heart on my sleeve.... I give all of me...100% and more, and by now you all know why...SURVEY SAYS!!!...ALEX IS A TRUE BELIEVER IN TRUE, UNCONDITIOAL, AND EVERLASTING LOVE!!! The other “F” bomb if you will. F-O-R-E-V- E-R!!! **TOGETHER FOREVER!**
(Sarcastically) I just thought I would get that off my chest one more time... Just in case anyone forgot.

Well I am 90% sure that the time has come at last to make me and Brooke... Officially Brooke and me... I know you're thinking that after everything we have learned about this gentleman here before you... Shouldn't he be 100% sure? That's exactly the point I am trying to make. It's what I call my 10% dilemma. After years of contemplating what, could of, should of and would have been with Brooke... I now have it. I have it all. No regrets... No looking back. So the question is...Why can't I commit 100% to making all my dreams come true? Maybe I'm being too hard on myself. Maybe I'm looking for problems were there aren't any. I guess I want perfection. This amazing thing that Brooke and I share of course isn't perfect...But it's damn close.

So I started thinking... Who would understand this situation? Who would give me the perspective I need to bring me to 100%? I didn't need any sarcasm or ball busting. Samantha would be a good choice but, I needed a male point of view this time. I needed sincerity and honesty from someone like me. If I needed a kick in the pants he would do just that. The answer was quite simple and so on. The answer is Davey. I mentioned before we are the most alike of all my friends. He knows when to be there for me without any questions. In my circle of best friends the others are close but, Davey is the definition of what a best friend is. He's the one I can have those “CHICK FLICK” conversations with, knowing full well we will never mention it to anyone else. Everyone always said how much alike we are. They are right!

Davey and I still play flag football on occasion. This was one of those occasions. We arrived early as usual. As we are getting older, we needed the extra time to stretch out. Through the stretching and loosening nothing is said between us. As we started to play catch that changed.

(Alex enters the scene and starts to throw a football and have a conversation with Davey.)

ALEX (making conversation)

So buddy... Is it still there?

DAVEY (Confused)

Is what still there?

ALEX (Emphasizing)

IT!!! Is the "IT" factor still there for you and Tracey?

DAVEY (confidently)

If by "IT" you mean...LOVE and everything associated with... LOVE...

The answer is yes.

ALEX

Really!

DAVEY

ABSOLUTELY!

ALEX

I envy you... You've got what I have searched for....

DAVEY (Cutting him off)

Why? You have the "IT" factor with Brooke don't you?

ALEX

I think so

DAVEY

Since when is it "I think so?" It's crystal clear...I know you. She does for you what Tracey Does for me.

ALEX

...And what exactly is that?

DAVEY (Catches the ball and walks toward Alex)

Are you serious? (Points at him with the ball)

ALEX (Takes the ball as they cont. to walk

Yeah! Totally serious!

DAVEY (taken back)

I never envisioned us having this conversation... OK here we go...I hope you're ready for a study in Cliché's 101.

ALEX

Well if it's anything like Zach's "Chick 101" speech we can stop now.

DAVEY

You know me better than that... I only used the phrase Cliché's 101 because I think about what I have with Tracey and what we have together whenever I hear one of those cliché's. (He sits down grabs a bottle of water throws one to Alex and motions him to sit as well)

ALEX (coy smile)

I can understand that. (sits)

DAVEY

For starters, she completes me. I know that sounds corny, but, she does. She's never condescending. She never enforces her will ... She simply suggests alternate solutions. (Smiling) She's usually right! She respects my space and property and unless you give her reason not to. When she believes in someone or something, she will be there completely. Heart! Mind! Body! Soul! She's caring, loving, smart, funny, strong... She's as beautiful now, inside and out, as she was the day we met. Tracey makes me all these things too. She brings out the best in me. She is everything to me

ALEX (in awe and a little stunned)

Do you or did you ever tell her this?

DAVEY (beaming)

I said most of this in our wedding vows and I make a point to tell her in some way every day. She usually rolls her eyes at me and blush's. So do you want me to go on?

ALEX

I'm sure you could... No you can stop there. WOW!

(Neither one says anything for about 10 seconds... Alex just shakes his head

in thought)

DAVEY

SO!!! (He holds out his hands wanting Alex to cont.)

ALEX

So what?

DAVEY

Brooke does this for you...RIGHT?

ALEX (Not committing all the way with his answer)

She does... It just not the same for us as it is for you.

DAVEY (Exasperated)

WHAT!!! (Composes himself) What does that mean?

ALEX

You and Tracey embody everything anyone could possibly want in an everlasting relationship. Brooke and I... Just look at the track record. We do... We don't... We do... We don't... We do... That in its self would give any rational persons reservations.

DAVEY

Alex, Tracey and I are not perfect. We work at it every day. Give and take... Listening... Compromise... It's all in the name of love my friend.

ALEX (Nodding his head)

You're right! Absolutely 100% right! You know I meant to bring this up earlier. It kind of goes along with what we've been talking about... Which is why I started this conversation. I've really been thinking a lot about this lately. I knew you were the one to talk to about this and from what we already talked about...

DAVEY (Waving him on)

THE POINT!!!

ALEX (Speaking real fast running it all together)

The point is I was 90% sure I wanted to pop **THE QUESTION** to Brooke and I just needed to be convinced of the other ten percent or so and you've

almost have done that so now I think it's more like 95% so I think we are on the right track. I mean I ask myself all the pertinent questions that need to be asked when considering such a monumental event in one's life or in two individual's lives for that matter... Any way the answer is always Brooke! (there is an uncomfortable silence) So what do you think?

DAVEY (Rubbing his hands over his face)

What do I think? Good question! What do I think? Well my friend I am going to make you realize that the missing 5% is already there.

(ALEX starts to say something and Davey shushes him)

DAVEY

No... No... No... When I want you or need you to respond it will only require a word answer. (He points at Alex)

ALEX (Slowly responds)

O.....K.....

DAVEY

Who do you love? (Points to Alex to respond)

ALEX (Did I get it right response)

Brooke?

DAVEY

What do you love about Brooke?

ALEX (quickly answers smiling)

Everything... Her walk... Her talk...

DAVEY (Stopping him)

One word answers... Remember... Let us continue... Two questions for the price of one... Where does this love come from? How deep is this love?

ALEX (Keeping to the rules)

Here (Pointing to his heart) and... Deep!

DAVEY (point blank)

This question requires more than a one word response so I'll cut you some slack. No rambling on though... When did you realize you were in love with Brooke?

ALEX (with conviction)

I've always loved her. We've been friends forever. She embodies the words to every love song I hear and every love song I write. I realized...I finally admitted to myself I was in love with her when she was last thing on my mind when I fall asleep... She's always there in my dreams... She is the first thing on my mind when I start my day.

DAVEY (Sarcastically)

That answer right there Mr. Hunter is Hallmark material. I may need a moment. (He clears his throat and resumes the questioning) Why do you love Brooke?

ALEX

Well I'm going to answer that referring to the eloquent comments you made about Tracey earlier. She completes me! She is my... MYEVERYTHING! (Pause) Oh yeah and dido to everything else you said too.

DAVEY (stands, stretches)

This one should be real easy because the response is one of you favorite words. How do you love Brooke?

ALEX (Smiling, he emphasizes each syllable)

UNCONDITIONALLY! (They both stand and he pats Davey on the back)

DAVEY (Wiping his hands)

There you have it. So, are we at 100%?

ALEX (appreciative)

100%! My friend what would I do without you? YOU DA' MAN!!!

DAVEY

Well I gotta run... I can't keep the love of my life waiting.

ALEX

I hear that. (They give each other fist pump shake. Davey turns to leave s.l.)

DAVEY

Do you need a lift?

ALEX (sits back down)

No... There is something I have to take care of.

(Davey exits s.l.... Alex takes out his cell phone and makes a call)

ALEX (talking on the phone)

Hey Sam I need a little favor... You know that request show you guys do every night...

(Alex's conversation fades as the lights do)

BLACKOUT

SCENE 6A

(Lights up on Brooke's Apartment... The phone is ringing... 4 rings)

BROOKE'S VOICE MAIL

Hey!!! It's Brooke I'm sorry I missed your call... Please leave a message so I can call you back... (BEEP)

ALEX'S VOICE

Hey Doll...It's Alex I need you to listen to and record Sam's show tonight at 9:30. It's really important. I'll see you later...luv ya, bye.

BLACKOUT

SCENE 6B

(The lights come up as Brooke enters her apartment. She lays her coat and purse on the chair walks by her phone and presses play on her answering

machine. As Alex's message comes up she looks at the clock next to the phone.)

ALEX'S VOICE

Hey Doll...It's Alex I need you to listen to and record Sam's show tonight at 9:30. It's really important. I'll see you later...luv ya, bye.

BROOKE (curious, excited and talking to herself)

9:15! Just enough time to make it to the station!

(Brooke grabs her things and goes back out the door)

BLACKOUT

SCENE 6C

(voice over is in blackout)

VOICE OVER (SAM'S VOICE)

It's 9:28 on a chilly night in the great northeast... You're on *Lighting up the Night with Sam*... Right now we've got something really special for you. Something that is going to make you want to snuggle up and hold your special someone a little tighter. This is a live in studio request and performance going out to Brooke...

(A spot comes up on Alex sitting at an electric Piano. The music for *When it comes to love*... begins...)

14. *When it comes to love*...

WHEN IT COMES TO LOVE
AND QUESTIONS OF THE HEART
FOR ME, THE ANSWER IS ALWAYS THE SAME

WHETHER IT'S,
WHO? WHAT? WHERE? WHEN? WHY? OR HOW?
I'M ALWAYS CALLING...
CALLING OUT YOUR NAME

THIS IS SO MUCH MORE THAN INFATUATION
MORE INTENSE THAN A SCHOOL BOY FANTASY
STRONGER THAN ANY PUPPY LOVE
PIECE BY PIECE YOU'VE CAPTURED EVERY PART OF ME

MY HEART! MY MIND! MY BODY! MY SOUL!
IS CAUGHT UP IN EVERYTHING YOU SAY AND DO
MY DAYS! MY NIGHTS! MY FUTURE MY WORLD!
IS ALL ABOUT LOVING YOU

SO JUST SAY THE WORD AND THERE WILL BE
NO MORE CHANCES MISSED...
THE DREAMS OF HAPPILY EVER AFTER
WILL NEVER FADE AWAY...
KNOWING THERE IS A YOU AND ME
I KNOW MY LIFETIME OF SMILES ARE HERE TO STAY
EVERYTHING THAT IS RIGHT ABOUT LOVE SONGS
FOR ME IS SO VERY TRUE
IN EVERY WORD AND IN EVERY NOTE
IS EVERYTHING THAT IS RIGHT ABOUT YOU

THE POWER OF A LOVE SONG
HAS THE STRENGTH TO TAKE THE PAIN AWAY
IT'S ALWAYS THERE WITH THE ANSWER
WHEN YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT WORDS TO SAY

YOU ARE TRULY MORE THAN THREE TIMES A LADY
BABE, YOU SHOW ME THE WAY, TO THE BEST OF TIMES
WITH OPEN ARMS, FAITHFULLY
I WILL BE RIGHT HERE WAITING FOR A GIRL LIKE YOU
YOU'RE ALL I NEED, MY FOREVER...MY LOVE OF A LIFE TIME

(Brooke, rushes into the station and stops dead in her track and stares at Alex
sing his dedication song)

YOU ARE TRULY MORE THAN THREE TIMES A LADY
BABE, YOU SHOW ME THE WAY, TO THE BEST OF TIMES
WITH OPEN ARMS, FAITHFULLY
I WILL BE RIGHT HERE WAITING FOR A GIRL LIKE YOU
I CAN'T STOP LOVING YOU,
MY FOREVER LOVE OF A LIFE TIME

THANK YOU FOR LOVING ME...
I WILL ALWAYS BE THERE FOR YOU...
MY FOREVER... MY EVERLASTING LOVE...
MY LOVE OF A LIFETIME...

(As the song ends neither one says a word they look at each other a few
moments. Alex gets up from the piano as she runs into the studio and jumps
into his arms and kiss.)

ALEX (sincere and looking into her eyes)
I think it's time doll! We made it through so much and we are still standing.
We owe to one another to make a commitment...I think it's time we wake
up together and go to bed together. Share our life together. I think we should
give living together a try.

BROOKE (excited)
I think you are right. Where we are headed seems to be destiny. Also living
together lets us do it right and hold true to what we said we would do. Take

it one step at a time. SO MY ANSWER IS YES! YES! YES!”

(Brooke responds in total agreement. She leans in and kisses him again.)

BLACKOUT

SCENE 7

(As the lights come up Alex enters s.l. In front of the curtain. He is dressed in a baseball jersey and jeans, ready to go to a baseball game. He seems a

little flushed and nervous.)

ALEX

Threw you a curve there didn't I. Everything pointed to a marriage proposal. However, if you were paying attention we promised one another they would take it one step at a time. Living together first would allow us to know that this was everything we both wanted. Working toward being together forever. The reward for our patience and understanding is exactly what happened. The magic between us kept growing. There were very few down moments or confrontations. After all these years it was all just coming together. Fifteen months went by since we decided to live together. It was only a matter of time now before I would finally ask Brooke to be my wife.

When the time came to propose, I didn't know if I should make it simple or do it up big. Either way I wanted it to be something unique. Asking someone to be your wife is one of the biggest moments in your life. The birth of your child or children and the day you actually get married are the only two I can think of as possibly bigger moments. Being a pure romantic at heart, I chose to do it up big and truly unique.

Over the years I have been fortunate to combine two of the biggest passions in his life, singing and baseball. Several times a year I get the opportunity to sing the *Star Spangled Banner* for the local Triple A professional baseball team. I called my contact with the club to set up the next time I would be performing. I also set up that something special and unique for that particular evening as well.

(As the curtain opens Alex steps into the scene crossing to Brooke s.l. The scene is set to look like a baseball stadium. She is dressed in similar fashion as Alex, a baseball jersey and jeans. For the first time Brooke is accompanying Alex as he makes his way on to field to sing the anthem. Alex is unusually anxious and edgy.)

BROOKE (Calming Alex by taking his hand)

Alex I don't know what's wrong with you! What are you so nervous about? It's not like you've never done this before. You sing in front of people all the time!

ALEX (Squeezing her hand... he's a little uptight)

I know! I know! This is just different. You'll understand when I'm done.

BROOKE (Pulling her hand away rubbing the pain out)

This is exciting! How come you never asked me to join you on the field when you've sang the anthem before. What a rush! (Alex is caught up in the moment and doesn't hear her) ALEX! What's wrong? Am I making you nervous? If I am, I will go back to my seat!

ALEX (grabbing her hand again firmly)
NO! NO! Don't go anywhere I need you here...with me... and (stuttering)
and...Hold on to my hand really tight OK! PLEASE!

BROOKE (holding his hand looking worried and confused)
OK! OK! I'm not going anywhere. Whatever you need, I'll be right here

(She pulls there hands to her heart. Alex gives her a warm; everything's going to be all right smile)

P.A. ANNOUNCER
Ladies and Gentlemen hear to sing our National Anthem Mr. Alex Hunter.

(Alex and Brooke hand in hand cross to c.s. in front of the microphone. Brooke seems puzzled by the fact that Alex didn't let go of her hand and now she is getting nervous. She's not use to being in front of all these people. Alex clearing his throat, he is obviously nervous. He looks at Brooke, who is dazed and confused at this point. He flashes a huge smiles and motions with his free hand and the music of *In the Eyes of the Beholder* starts...Brooke realizing it's not the national anthem looks at Alex confused)

15. In the Eyes of the Beholder

Wake me if I'm dreaming
Please pinch me
And let me know this is real
If this is what its like to be in love
Then I like how it makes me feel...
And the time I spend with you
Keeps getting better all the time
It's magical in every way
And something special about you
Keeps me coming back for more
So believe me when I say...

If beauty is in the eyes of the beholder
Then there is a little of you
In everything beautiful I see
You have awakened the passion
I had locked away
You bring out the very best in me
I always thought happiness was for the lovers
For the dreamers and the chosen few
So now I guess, I am one of the lucky one's
To find someone as beautiful as you

(As Alex is singing Brooke starts to realize what is about to happen, at first she just stands there and stares at Alex in amazement. After a few moments tears start to fall and she starts squeezing Alex's hand. She also presses it to her heart and gently kisses his hand a few times.)

The warmth of your touch
The softness of your kiss
I can't imagine...
My life any better than this...
This is absolute perfection...
I swear it's true...
You make every moment of everyday complete
As I find myself thinking about you...

And the time I spend with you
Keeps getting better all the time
It's magical in every way...
And something special about you
Keeps me coming back for more
So believe me when I say...

If beauty is in the eyes of the beholder
Then there is a little of you
In everything beautiful I see
You have awakened the passion
I thought I had locked away
You bring out the very best in me
I always thought happiness was for the lovers
For the dreamers and the chosen few

So now I guess I am one of the lucky one's
To find someone like you

(solo)

And the time I spend with you
Keeps getting better all the time
It's magical in every way...
And something special about you
Keeps me coming back for more
So believe me when I say...

If beauty is in the eyes of the beholder
Then there is a little of you
In everything beautiful I see
You have awakened the passion
I thought I had locked away
You bring out the very best in me
I always thought happiness was for the lovers
For the dreamers and the chosen few
So now I guess I am one of the lucky one's
To find someone like you...(Alex talks over the instrumental ending of the song)

ALEX (proposing)

You are everything to me. My friend! My lover! My inspiration! You are the laughter in my smile. You are the answer to all of my prayers and dreams. You are an extraordinary woman and God must think that I deserve you because, here you are. I never want to take a single moment with you for granted...Especially this moment...the moment I pledge all of my love for you. I never met a woman with such faith. You heal my soul. You make me see what is possible. You give me life. Now as I stand here looking at you. Your face! Your spirit! I am filled with such awe and humility that I have been given such a gift. Brooke...I LOVE YOU! WILL YOU MARRY ME!
(Alex slides the ring on Brooke's trembling finger. They embrace! Kiss!)

BROOKE (overcome with emotion)

YES! YES! YES! YES! YES! (After each yes she kisses Alex. During the last kiss the curtain closes)

BLACKOUT

SCENE 8

(The lights come up and the curtains open. Once again it is the wedding scene. The priest is c.s. facing the audience. The bride and Groom and the

six attendants are facing the audience. Alex is standing c.s. in his tux)

ALEX

Well it's the home stretch of my journey of finding paradise. My quest to find and conquer unconditional, true and everlasting love. All of these memories proves Brooke is my destiny. Now it's time for our vows and of course the I do's.

(Alex takes his place in the wedding and the priest continues with the wedding)

PRIEST

Today truly is a glorious day the Lord hath made - as today both of you are blessed with God's greatest of all gifts - the gift of abiding love and devotion between a man and a woman. All present here today... and those here in heart... wish both of you all the joy, happiness and success and the world has to offer.

As you travel through life together, I caution you to remember that the true measure of success, the true avenue to joy and peace, is to be found within the love you hold in your hearts I would ask that you hold the key to your heart very tightly. Within the Bible, nothing is of more importance than love. We are told the crystalline and beautiful truth: "God is Love". We are assured that, "Love Conquers all". It is love, which brings you here **today, the union of two hearts and two spirits. As your lives continue to** interweave as one pattern, as one pattern, remember that it was love that brought you here today, it is love that will make this a glorious union, and it is love which will cause this union to endure

Alex and Brooke would you please face each other and join hands... Alex and Brooke have prepared their own vows, which they will present to each other now. (The priest motions for them to start their vows Alex goes first as the music for She's my lady...)

16. She's My Lady (Alex's vows)

She's my lady...

I surrender my heart

To the girl of my dreams
Watching the way she moves
I know what it means...
To love her
To hold her tight
Keeping her safe from any harm
Making everything all right
She's my lady...

I surrender my heart
To my everything
She's always there in my time of need
It's so easy to see
I will love her... Eternally!
With a true love that will never die
It's love unconditionally...She's my lady...

She's my lady
The only one for me
She is always there with an answer
She is always there with a smile
It's easy to see
I will love her
Until death do us part
Now and forever
She will always be in my heart
She's my lady

I surrender my heart
To the love of my life
She's beautiful in every way
She's my wife... Forever
Everything about her is special to me
To love, honor, cherish and keep her
Comes so easily
She's my lady

She's my lady
The only one for me
She is always there with an answer

She is always there with a smile
It's easy to see
I will love her
Until death do us part
Now and forever
She will always be in my heart
She's my lady

I surrender my heart
To the girl of my dreams
Watching the way she moves
I now know what love means...

(When Alex finishes Brooke and Alex stare at each other and smile...after a brief pause *Everything About You* (Brooke's vows) begins)

17. *Everything About you* (Brooke's vows)

We have spent so much time together
Now it's time I've told you how I really feel
And as time goes by
I'm beginning to understand
This time...Love is real

Don't be afraid, if you feel it too
Because when two hearts collide
Dreams come true
I love the way I feel
Every time I see your face
And I feel strength and security locked in your embrace

I love you
I love everything about you
Your walk ... Your talk...
Your smile... Your eyes...

I love you
My every waking moment I think about you
You make time stand still when we are together
Together, forever... You and I...

No one has ever made me feel
The way I feel with you
You are my best friend, you are my destiny
You are a part of me and I am part of you

(solo)

I love you
I love everything about you
Your walk... Your talk...
Your smile... Your eyes...
I love you
My every waking moment I think about you
You make time stand still when we are together
Together, forever... You and I

I love you
I love everything about you
Your walk... Your talk...
Your smile... Your eyes...

I love you
My every waking moment I think about you
You make time stand still when we are together
Together forever... You and I...

You make time stand still when we are together
Together forever... You and I

(As the song ends and Alex and Brooke return to their positions,
The best man presents the rings)

PRIEST

Wedding rings are an outward and visible sign of an inward spiritual grace,
signifying to all the uniting of this man and this woman. Alex...repeat after
me...I, Alexander Richard, take thee Brooke Lynne, to be my wedded wife...

to have and to hold from this day forward, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, for better and for worse. I promise to love and to cherish you forever more until death do us part. With this ring, I thee wed. With my body, I thee worship. With all my worldly goods, I thee endow.

ALEX

I, Alexander Richard, take thee Brooke Lynne, to be my wedded wife... to have and to hold from this day foreword, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, for better and for worse. I promise to love and to cherish you forever more until death do us part. With this ring, I thee wed. With my body, I thee worship. With all my worldly goods, I thee endow.

(Alex places the ring on Brooke's finger)

PRIEST

Brooke, please repeat after me...I, Brooke Lynne take thee Alexander Richard to be my wedded husband...to have and to hold from this day foreword, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, for better and for worse. I promise to love and cherish you forever more until death do us part. With this ring, I thee wed. With my body, I thee worship. With all of my worldly possessions, I thee endow.

BROOKE

I, Brooke Lynne take thee Alexander Richard to be my wedded husband...to have and to hold from this day forward, in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, for better and for worse. I promise to love and cherish you forever more until death do us part. With this ring, I thee wed. With my body, I thee worship. With all of my worldly possessions, I thee endow.

(Brooke places the ring on Alex's finger)

PRIEST

In the name, of the Father... And of the Son... And of the Holy Spirit...
AMEN...

Dear heavenly father, our hearts are filled with great happiness on

Alex and Brooke's wedding day, as they come before You pledging their hearts and lives to one another. Grant that they may be ever true and loving, living together in such a way as to never bring shame or heartbreak into their marriage. Temper their hearts with kindness and understanding, rid them of all pretense of jealousy. Help them to remember to be each other's sweetheart, helpmate, friend and guide, so that together they may meet the cares and problems of life more bravely. With the passage of time, may the home they are creating today, truly be a place of love and harmony, where your spirit is ever present.

Bless this union we pray, and walk beside Alex and Brooke throughout all their lives together. We ask these things in Jesus name,

ALL - AMEN!

PRIEST

Alex and Brooke in so much as the two of you have agreed to live together in Matrimony, have promised your love for each other by these vows, the giving of these rings and the joining of your hands, I now declare you to be husband and wife.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. May the Lord lift up his countenance unto you, and give you peace. Congratulations, You may kiss your bride! I present to you Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Richard Hunter!

(The wedding party walks down c.s. Alex and Brooke remain c.s. The rest of the party separate and cross, S.L. (men) and S.R. (women). The priest crosses and ends up the farthest s.l)

ALEX

This is it! This is love! Look around, left, right, in front of you, behind you. The people in this room...the people in our lives and the people who have touched our lives, is love. The road of love is full of peaks and valleys. It's a road definitely worth traveling especially when the results and rewards culminate in special moments and celebrations like, weddings. Love is the celebration of life. Lennon and McCartney believed it, All You Need is Love. Elton John too, Can You Feel the Love Tonight. L-O-V-E... Feel it!

ALEX (cont.)

Need it! Give it! Want it! Share it! Live it! Do what ever it takes to find it and don't let it go!. IF YOU TRULY BELIEVE IIN LOVE...LOVE WILL CONQUER ALL ANS LOVE WILL ALWAYS WIN!

(The music for *Love Always Wins* begins....)

18. *Love Always Wins...*

I thought that the road of love
Was the way to paradise
It's a long hard road to get there
You have to be willing to pay the price

So now I'm calling out to heaven
Time after Time again
So if you feel it in your heart
And truly believe
Love will conquer all
And love always wins

Love always wins
There's no denying
Love always wins
Just believe...
And your dreams of love will come true
Love always wins
I swear, I'm not lying
Because in the game of love
To win...It takes two...

Sometimes love is costly
But you have to be willing to play the game
Take a chance when it comes to love
And be willing to share the blame
Give and take...Take and give
Laying your heart on the line
Making love your reason to live
Forever on me
Let love shine

Love always wins
There's no denying
Love always wins

Just believe...
And your dreams of love will come true
Love always wins
I swear, I'm not lying
Because in the game of love
To win... It takes two

(Repeats to fade... **BLACKOUT**)

THE END