

Life Is A Dream Within A Dream

By: Aslan Hollier

Time: Present

Cast: Alex

Mom

Dad- Not seen

Doctor

Elizabeth

The song Momma by The Papers is playing. Blue lighting up on Alex lying in bed with covers. The first few scenes Alex progresses in age, starting at around 3. It is raining outside, you can hear the rain and thunder maybe flashes but not lightning striking. Offstage you hear Mom and Dad fighting. The song fades.

Mom

Stop it! Leave me alone! You're fucking drunk!

Dad

(you hear him slap her and she falls) Shut the hell up! So what! I'm drunk! You want me to leave you alone? Fine, I'll be back later. Be prepared. *(kicks her)*

(door slams)

Alex

Momma!

Mom

(offstage) What honey? *(sniffles)*

Alex

Come here!

Mom

Why?

Alex

Please! I need you!

(Mom enters trying to consol herself)

Mom

What is it honey?

Alex
Are you ok? What happened?

Mom
Nothing, me and daddy got in a fight, that's all.

Alex
Did he hurt you?

Mom
A little. But mommy's ok.

Alex
I don't like you being hurt.

Mom
I know honey, but...

Alex
Make him leave.

Mom
What?

Alex
Make him leave

Mom
I can't.

Alex
Why?

Mom
I just can't, ok.

Alex
I will.

Mom
What?

Alex
I will.

(You hear the Dad enter. Alex runs offstage)

Mom
Alex!

Alex
Get out Daddy!

Dad
What?

Alex
I said get out! We don't want you! You hurt mommy and that's not nice! I don't love you anymore! Leave and don't come back!

Dad
(small voice) Alex, I...

Alex
Go!

Dad
Uh, ok. *(pause)* Bye, I...I love you.

(door shuts and Alex comes back on)

Alex
See, he's gone and he won't hurt you again.

(Mom smiles and runs to Alex and holds him and begins to cry)

I love you mommy.

Mom
I love you to sweetie.

Alex
Mommy?

Mom
Yes?

Alex
Can I have a snack and some water?

Mom
(laughs) Yes baby, of course you can.

(Lights out. Blue back up on Alex standing getting ready. Alex at age 6. Mom enters)

Alex
(smiles) Mommy! *(they hug)*

Mom
Hey baby. You ready?

Alex
Yep! I'm happy you're getting married.

Mom
Really? You like Jim?

Alex
Yeah, he's really nice to both of us. He likes to play with me.

Mom
Well, I'm glad you like him. That makes me feel better. Now let's hurry, we can't be late.

Alex
Ok.

(Lights down. Blue back up on Alex sitting in a chair. Alex age 8. Mom enters)

Mom
Hey, what are you doing up?

Alex
Waiting for you.

Mom
Why?

Alex
I can't go to sleep until you get home.

Mom
Awww honey.

Alex
Why do you go out all the time?

Mom

I'm working two jobs and trying to meet someone.

Alex

Why did Jim leave?

Mom

(sighs) Because I was scared. Scared he might turn out like your father.

Alex

But he wouldn't. He was good to us.

Mom

(begins to cry) I know...I just...*(sniffles)* I just got scared.

Alex

(holds her) It's ok, don't be scared.

Mom

I'm sorry I screwed up.

Alex

You didn't.

Mom

Yes I did. But we're ok. We're making it. It will work out. It's ok, it's ok, it's ok.

Alex

Yeah, it's ok.

(Lights down. Blue back up on Mom sitting and Alex enters. Alex age 10.)

Mom

Hey you have fun?

Alex

Yeah, me and pawpaw went fishing and had a lot of fun. I caught a bass and it was this big. *(shows with arms)* and it was 1.2 lbs. He showed me how to cut it and cook it. We just talked and acted goofy. I'm gonna go work outside with him tomorrow. I like camping with him.

Mom

If I didn't know better I'd say he was your dad to.

Alex
But he's my pawpaw.

Mom
I just wish your dad would do something like that. You need a good father figure, instead of being stuck with me all the time.

Alex
I like being with you. But I like pawpaw a lot.

Mom
What would you think if me and Richard got married?

Alex
I don't know. He makes me feel weird.

Mom
How?

Alex
I don't know. I just don't like him.

Mom
Well, He asked me and I said yes.

Alex
What?

Mom
I need someone to be happy. And I don't like leaving you with out a guy to look up to. So I said yes.

Alex
Aren't we happy without him? And I look up to pawpaw.

Mom
Yes, but it's not the same. I'm going to marry him. You'll learn to like him, I'm sure.

Alex
Then why ask me about it? You're just going to do it anyway.

Mom
You will like him.

Alex
What if you're wrong?

Mom
I won't be.

*(Lights down. Blue lights back up on mom sitting crying.
Alex comes in. Alex age 12.)*

Alex
Mom, me and pawpaw had the greatest time... Mom, are you ok?
What's wrong?

Mom
Richard is being such an asshole.

Alex
Isn't he always?

Mom
Yes

Alex
You married him to be happy and your not. How does that work?

Mom
He was ok for a while.

Alex
I never liked him. He's always yelling at me for no reason. He raised his hand to hit me once. I told you about that to, and you didn't do anything about it. Then other day he called me from my room to get the remote and cigarettes for him because he didn't want to get up and walk 10 ft.

Mom
He is just trying to get you out of your room. You're always locked in there.

Alex
Because I don't like being around him. I don't think that's why he wanted me to do that, he's just stupid and lazy. You should leave him.

Mom
I can't.

Alex
Why?

Mom
Because I'm going to have a baby.

Alex
What?

Mom
I'm having a baby.

Alex
I've always wanted a brother or sister. *(pause)* But not from him!

Mom
Too bad

Alex
I though you had surgery and couldn't have a baby?

Mom
I did. That's why I've been in so much pain, because somehow I got pregnant while my tubes were tied.

Alex
I don't know what to do.

(Lights down. Blue lights back up on Alex sitting alone. Alex age 14. He is playing a game, writing, watching TV, or something. We hear mom's voice offstage.)

Mom
Alex Thompson!

Alex
Uh oh. Middle name. That's bad. *(yells)* Yeah?

Mom
What the hell are you doing? I told you to clean the kitchen and take out the trash before I got home! What have you been doing all day? Where's your sister? Your supposed to be watching her!

Alex
Chill out! I fed her and put her to bed. She's sleeping. *(to self)* Not anymore probably. Good thing Richard isn't here anymore

or I'd be hearing it from both ends.

Mom

Don't tell me to chill! Go put your sister back to bed, she woke up! I have to take a shower! At least take the trash out before you go to bed! Shit!

(Door slams)

Alex

And it's safe. *(Stands and starts walking offstage)* Go figure she woke up. Who would've thought.

(Lights down. It is raining outside. Blue back up on Mom crying. Alex walks in. Alex age 14.)

Alex

Mom? What happened? What's wrong?

Mom

Remember last Christmas when Paw Paw told us he had cancer?

Alex

(shakes head) Oh, no.

Mom

He passed away today.

Alex

No. Please no.

Mom

I know how much he meant to you. He meant a lot to me to.

Alex

I can't believe this.

Mom

It's ok.

Alex

He was all I had!

Mom

Come here. *(goes to hug him)*

Alex

No. (*runs offstage "outside"*)

(*Lights out. Blue back up. Mom and Alex together. Alex age 16.*)

Mom

(*pause looking forward. Then turns to Alex*) We're moving.

Alex

What?

Mom

(*frustrated*) I can't stand being here anymore. It just racks my nerves. So I've decided to move in with Granny for a little while. You and your sister are going to stay with Aunt Tracey for a while, until I can find a better place for us.

Alex

What? Your moving 10 minutes away and we're moving right next door? She only has 1 small extra room. Why can't we find a place for all of us? Why do you have to put us off?

Mom

(*closes her eyes avoiding the questions*) Your sister will stay in Tracey's room and figure out places for important stuff. You'll have that room. All the stuff that won't fit will go into storage.

Alex

(*getting angry*) Are you serious?! I can't believe you're doing this.

Mom

You've seen me! I keep lashing out all the time! Do you like that?

Alex

No, but I've learned to deal.

Mom

I'm just going crazy. We have to separate. Your sister is way to much to handle right now while I'm going through all this bull shit with Richard. I feel like I'm taking it all out on you.

Alex

You are, but it's whatever. Don't just pawn us off on Aunt

Tracey.

Mom
She said she understands.

Alex
(very upset) I don't! You're just like everyone else. Things get bad and the only way to deal with it is to runaway, instead of working things out in a better way. You're always running! Deal with it! I am.

Mom
(slaps him) Don't talk to me like that!

Mom
It's for the best. Trust me.

Alex
Whatever. I won't have to live with you anymore.

Mom
Don't say that.

Alex
No, it's for the best.

(Alex walks off. Lights down. Blue back up on one side where Alex sits on the phone. On the other side Mom sits on the phone. Alex age 17.)

Mom
Hey baby.

Alex
Hey.

Mom
I got some good news.

Alex
What?

Mom
Me and Nanie found a place that we're gonna buy together and put it on some land to move to. There's a nice big room for you.

Alex
Sorry, but no.

Mom
What?

Alex
I'm not moving.

Mom
Why?

Alex
I've dealt this long without you. I have half a year left until I graduate, I'm not going to make more changes. I'm moving off to college soon anyway, so there's no point. I'm fine where I'm at. You should've got help a long time before.

Mom
Your sister's coming, why won't you?

Alex
She's six, she'd love to move back with you. I'm older and I've had enough of everything. I don't want to deal with it again.

Mom
But I've got help.

Alex
It's too late for me. I'm sorry. I love you, bye.

(He hangs up. She is distraught. Lights down. The song Blame it on the Tetons by Modest Mouse begins to play. White lights up on Alex lying in bed under covers. Wakes up sharply and is lost and confused and breathing heavily. Alex age 18.)

Alex
Fuck! Why do I have to have those all the time? This shit is driving me crazy. Somethings gotta change. I gotta call mom. See if she can help me sort this out. (pause) Tomorrow. Time to sleep and hope to dream of hot girls in bikinis playing with puppies in the rainforest.

(Lies down. Lights down. White lights up. It's raining outside. Alex is pacing on the phone. On the other side of the stage is his Mom sitting on the phone)

Alex

Sorry, I just needed to talk to you about this. I'm just constantly having those dreams, or flashbacks really. I don't know why though.

Mom

I'm sorry I put you through all that.

Alex

Oh well, it taught me enough. I guess I have more to learn from them. That's probably why they keep coming back. It wasn't really all your fault anyway. Other people put you in those situations.

Mom

Sorry I took it out on you though. I never meant for any of it to happen. I didn't want to make you feel bad. I've gotten better though, haven't I?

Alex

Yeah, a lot better. Thank goodness, otherwise Brittany would be in a world of trouble.

Mom

Yeah.

Alex

I'm just joking. But you are a lot better. I just... I always wanted you to be happy, and you never were.

Mom

I tried, I really did. It just... I lost control.

Alex

I didn't want to bring this up, but... but you're the only one who will listen to me. None of my friends will because they just want me to listen to their problems. I do and I help them, but they won't listen to me long enough to help me with mine. So they get help and I'm stuck alone to solve my own problems. Besides you're involved in my little problem, so I figured you might have some insight.

Mom

Well, it's good you're learning to solve your own problems early in life. Not many people are capable of doing that, even at my age. You should probably go see a counselor if you need help that bad.

Alex

Awww...But you know how I feel about that.

Mom

I know, you think their quacks. But they can help. It helped me, and you know I had problems.

Alex

Everyone is different though.

Mom

Just do it. You'll feel better. Trust me.

Alex

I don't know. If I try hard enough I could probably just help myself.

Mom

Why do you think your having these flashbacks?

Alex

I told you, I don't know. *(Walks somewhere as if looking at the rain to calm himself)*

Mom

See you don't even know where to start to even try to help yourself. Please, just go and see. They might even just give you an idea of what might be causing it and you can go from there to solve the problem yourself.

Alex

I'll think about it.

Mom

Ok, sleep on it. Tell me how it goes.

Alex

Ok. Well, I'll talk to you later mom. I gotta go. I just wanted to vent to someone. You know all the inside stuff and your always venting to me, so I figured it was only fair.

Mom

That's true. Ok baby. Sorry again, and hope someone helps.

Alex

Ok

Mom
Alright, I love you.

Alex
Love you to.

Mom
Ok, bye.

Alex
Bye *(Hangs up and sighs)* Good thing it's raining.

(They both sit in deep thought. Lights down. The song The World at Large by Modest Mouse begins to play. Red lights up on a psychiatrist or "counselor" sitting in a chair. They could be a man or a woman. They wear a white shirt with a maroon sweater vest, black bottoms and black shoes. They also wear glasses. They have a pen and a clipboard or notepad. Alex enters a little uneasy.)

Doctor
Good afternoon. How are you today?

Alex
I'm ok I guess. A little nervous.

Doctor
Why?

Alex
I don't really like the idea of going to a counselor.

Doctor
Why is that?

Alex
Honestly, I think yall are a bunch of quacks.

Doctor
Oh, well I get that a lot actually. Most people don't like going to counselors because they feel like they are crazy for going to see one. Some don't trust their judgment because they are not acquainted with them before hand. They don't know the story behind everything so they won't understand where the patient is coming from.

Alex

Yeah, actually.

Doctor

It's normal. Have a seat.

(Alex sits on a couch that would be typically found in that sort of office.)

Doctor

Of course that is the beauty in this line of work. We don't know where you are coming from, so it is up to you to tell the story and make us understand. We go completely based on what you say to us. So if something isn't right, then it's really your fault in the long run, whether you admit it or not. It's actually better to hear the side from someone who doesn't know you.

Alex

Yeah, I guess that could be true.

Doctor

Feel better now?

Alex

Yeah, I'm strangely comfortable for being here now. I see you do understand what I feel. I also don't like the idea of saying I went and saw a counselor to help me with my problems. Makes me feel like I'm incapable of taking care of my own problems on a big level. I'm not the type to be dependent.

Doctor

Well then, don't say it. You don't have to tell anyone. Believe it or not, many people see counselors for help. So what seems to be the problem?

Alex

I keep having these dreams. Well, they are more like flashbacks really. They are just about some of the problems I had with my mother. It's like some of the traumatic moments in my life before college in just a few minutes.

Doctor

What kind of problems?

Alex

My mom dealing with different guys in marriage. Her not being happy with anything. Me being responsible for a lot at a young age and my mother acting all crazy towards me. Like she blames me

for everything, or at least just takes everything out on me. Also, me not having a good father figure except for my paw paw, who died from cancer at a very crucial part of my life.

Doctor

What happened with your father.

Alex

My parents divorced when I was 3. I told him to leave because my mother wasn't happy. He was an abusive alcoholic husband. He never hit me, just her. I got fed up with it, so I told him to leave because she didn't have the courage to herself.

Doctor

You told your father to leave when you were 3?

Alex

Yeah.

Doctor

Interesting.

Alex

I went a year without seeing him because he was trying to get help and go to rehab. He didn't like that too much. That's probably another reason why I don't want to get help, because I'm hard headed like my father. Of course rehab and the fact that it didn't work. He is still an alcoholic. Not abusive anymore, but still a little angry and annoying. I grew up seeing him every other weekend, until I was about 18 then I decided I didn't want to see him even that often. I resent him a bit for what he did and never really changing.

Doctor

So you had complications with all males in your life. Especially ones who have been involved with your mother.

Alex

Yeah, I guess so.

Doctor

Do you know why your having these flashbacks?

Alex

No. That's what I was hoping to find out from this meeting. It has been happening a lot for a good while to. It really bothers me. I always loved going to sleep in the past. I loved to sleep

and dream. Dreams are amazing things. Now I'm scared to go to sleep because I don't want to go through this every night.

Doctor

What were your dreams like before?

Alex

Well, sometimes I would dream of past things that have happened to me, but I would go about them in different ways. More interesting ways that would make me happy and have fun. Not in this way.

Doctor

So you have past regrets?

Alex

Not really regrets. I try not to have any regrets. Just try to see how things would've turned out if certain things would've been done differently. I know that some of the things that I would've changed then, would effect things tremendously now. Most of the time the things now would change in ways I wouldn't want it to be. But it was fun to dream the different outcomes.

Doctor

Example?

Alex

Well for instance, in high school, I always wanted to hang out more with the popular kids. Go to parties, ask certain girls out and have fun like they did. So I would have dreams of doing such things and I would have a blast doing those things. If I had actually done all those things really, then I wouldn't be where I'm at now. I would've become just like them wouldn't have done as well in school, get stuck going to college in my hometown just to be with those friends and always live in the past. Or end up getting a girl pregnant at a young age and be stuck in my hometown raising a family at the age of 18 or so. Then for the most part be unhappy because I won't have the chance to get the career I've always dreamed of. So I just dream of going out with them and having a good time because no bad outcomes can come from that. Doing everything that I wanted, having a great time and not messing up my future.

Doctor

I see.

Alex

Then there were dreams of my future. I know where I want to be later in life, so I would dream of what my future can be like, if I get to where I want. Then my real life is just filling in the blanks to that point. Makes for a very interesting story and life. It's like watching a backwards movie. Like Memento or Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind. You see the outcome at the beginning and you wonder "How did it get to that point?" Then It goes back and shows you, and your left like "Oh, wow, ok that's interesting." Of course my dreams of the future are a bit exaggerated just to make it more interesting and fun.

Doctor

Huh, I see, very interesting.

Alex

Then of course there's the dreams that make you wake up just going "Huh? What the hell was that all about." They don't really mean anything. It's just a bunch of weird jumbles that don't belong together. Of course you could come to find out it does have some meaning, it's just in the form of some odd hard riddle or something. Like they say certain things will happen if you have dreams about your teeth falling out, falling, or naked dreams. You know stuff kind of like that. But mine are way weird. Like one time I remember dreaming about me driving a car with a Golden Retriever in the passenger seat. All of a sudden I turn sharply and park in a rocky driveway. I pull a bed pan out from under the dog and open the door and throw it out. I close the door and peel out in reverse. I start driving fast again and these people start jumping out in front of the car and hit it with cactus. Then the dog and the frame of the car disappear. So I'm getting hit by people with cactus while still driving fast. Then I pull into a driveway and go into a house and see people dancing in slow motion. I recognize a few of them but some I can't quite make out. All of them are dancing while holding either a lit match, candle or lighter. Then I either woke up or the dream changed. Now tell me what the hell that is supposed to mean. How weird is that? But it's a lot of fun to think about.

Doctor

Very odd.

Alex

Sorry I'm just jabbering. I'm strangely comfortable with talking to you. I love to talk when people let me.

Doctor

It's ok. I'm glad your comfortable. That's why I'm here. To

listen.

Alex

Now you know why I enjoyed sleeping and dreaming. So much fun. And this new thing is throwing me for a loop. It doesn't really fall into any of those categories. So why is this happening?

Doctor

What are some things you are dealing with in your life right now?

Alex

Just school, financials, and the usual problems with loneliness.

Doctor

Ah, loneliness. A problem that sends many to counseling.

Alex

Really?

Doctor

Of course. Now if you could dream of anything right now, what would it be about?

Alex

I don't know. That's the beauty about my dreams. You never know what it's going to be about or consist of. It's like another life.

Doctor

It seems to me that your dreams tend to help you deal with your problems. Now you have problems in life and you can't turn to your dreams to help you because your dreams have become a problem as well. Maybe they have something to do with each other. I think I have an idea of what your dream may consist of if you had one you wanted. Let's see if we can get you to relax and get a dream going to cancel out the flashbacks and get you to solve some of the problems your dealing with in your life right now.

Alex

Ok, if you think that would help. I would love to have a good dream.

Doctor

Ok, let's see. Lie back and close your eyes. Now, relax, I don't want you to think about anything. Concentrate on my voice and my words. Think about a dream that would make you happy. Think about

something that would help the loneliness that you have inside. What would get ride of that horrible feeling that you have. Something maybe your mother has taught you, something that would make her proud. Show her and yourself your not like any of the men involved in both your lives. Maybe something that could happen in your future. Future happiness. Now I'm going to count to three and going to relax more with each second. I want you to concentrate on your images in your dream in great detail and describe everything. Afterwards you will feel better about everything. Then you will be able to have all your dreams back and never worry about the flashbacks. One, your getting more relaxed. Drifting away into dreamland. Two, more and more relaxed. Your dream images are coming to focus. Three, completely relaxed, you are caught in your dream. What are you dreaming?

Alex

(takes a deep breath of relief and smiles) It's a beautiful day. The sky is blue and the sun is shining brightly and warm. I'm walking through the park *(pause)* I see her...

(The lights fade. Boss DJ by Sublime plays acoustically. Alex gets up and walks towards Elizabeth who is sitting on a park bench. The lights brighten as he gets closer. The lights should be a mixture of Red and Blue. Or at least two different colors just not too much white.)

Alex

(walking to her) Hey baby.

Elizabeth

(stands) Hey you. *(They kiss and embrace)* How are you today?

Alex

Wonderful! And you?

Elizabeth

Great, now that you're finally here. What took so long?

Alex

Just got a bit held back and quite a bit a ways walk ere.

Elizabeth

Ok. Well, you're here now.

Alex

Yep, so what's up?

(They sit)

Elizabeth

Nothing just enjoying the beautiful day. Thought the park would be nice.

Alex

Good choice. It is nice, very breezy, I like it.

Elizabeth

Yeah, me to. What are you up to?

Alex

Wasn't doing anything. Glad you called, thought you were busy. Now I'm enjoying the beautiful day with a beautiful person.

(smiles)

Elizabeth

Awww. *(They kiss and cuddle on the bench and sit in silence a bit)*

Alex

(After a few moments) I enjoy observing other people. Catch people at certain times in their life where they don't think about what's going on around them. Whose watching. Just look at them and wonder what kind of person they are. What their life is like.

Elizabeth

I always wonder boxers or briefs. Thong or no underwear.

(They laugh)

Alex

Well that's fun to. *(laugh)*

Elizabeth

But yeah, your way is interesting. I kind of like that to.

(Looks as if someone is walking in front of them just jogging with headphones) What do you think about him?

Alex

Hmmmm... A guy about himself, thinking he's got to get in shape to impress the ladies.

Elizabeth

Mmmmm... Well, it's working. *(laughs)* Briefs for sure. What about

her?

Alex

Oh... Having some problems and needs to talk. Walks to think, relax, relieve her mind from stress. Probably guy problems or family problems.

Elizabeth

Granny panties.

Alex

That wasn't on the list.

Elizabeth

It is now. *(looks)* And him?

Alex

Oh, now I don't think he's wearing any at all. Look away, it's bouncing. *(turns head)*

Elizabeth

(laughs, then pauses and thinks) Good guy. Just enjoys nature and being outside.

Alex

Nice

Elizabeth

(silence then looks at him) What about us?

Alex

What do you mean?

Elizabeth

If people were observing us, what would they think?

Alex

(looks at her and smiles) Happy, *(pause)* a great couple.

Elizabeth

(smiles) Yeah. *(kisses him and hug hard and groan with comfort and she sighs)* Yeah.

Alex

And I'm wearing boxer briefs.

Elizabeth

Oh nice. *(smiles at him)* I'm not wearing any.

Alex

Oh?! *(smiles back)*

(Lights down. Lights up on Elizabeth seated at a table with chairs on either side, she is on SL side. There are two roses in a clear vase in the middle and two candles on either side in front of them. There is romantic music playing softly. Alex enters with two plates)

Alex

Dinner is served madam. *(puts her plate down then his. Then strikes a match and lights her candle then his.)*

Elizabeth

This is beautiful. All of it.

Alex

Thank you.

Elizabeth

Thank you. What more could a girl ask for.

Alex

Oh! *(walks off and back with two champagne glasses and a bottle of champagne)* This maybe.

Elizabeth

I stand corrected. Nice.

(He pours hers then his and sets it down, goes to kiss her and then sits.)

Elizabeth

This looks wonderful.

Alex

You look wonderful.

Elizabeth

I'm so glad you can cook.

Alex

You're not off the hook if that's what you mean.

Elizabeth
I can't cook.

Alex
It's the thought. The fact that you can't would make it more meaningful.

Elizabeth
I don't know.

Alex
Oh, we'll cook together for a while until you learn, or just want to try yourself. It would be nice to cook together. It's fun and relaxing.

Elizabeth
Well, it's delicious!

Alex
Good, I'm glad.

(eat in silence for a moment)

Elizabeth
This is really nice. I've never had someone do all this for me.

Alex
Us. I did it for us.

Elizabeth
(smiles) Yeah.

Alex
In fact. *(raises glass and smiles)* A toast to us. *(clink glasses and drink)*

(The song "Love Song" comes on. Either by The Cure or 311.311 may work better because it's easier and nicer to dance to, but Cure could work.)

Alex
(looks at her) Would you care to dance?

Elizabeth
(smiles) I'd love to.

(They get up, he hold out his hand and she takes it. They begin to dance. Work in some dips, turns, holding closely. Maybe use the rose. They can sing a bit if possible or want to. Slowly kiss by the end of the song. Lights fade. The song Echo by Trapt begins to play. Lights up with Alex standing and Elizabeth walks in frustrated.)

Alex
Hey baby.

Elizabeth
Just leave me alone!

Alex
Whoa, what's wrong?

Elizabeth
Nothing!

Alex
Obviously. You aren't like this for nothing. Talk to me.

Elizabeth
Why? Why do we always have to talk? Why do you always have to try and make things better?

Alex
Because it's better.

Elizabeth
How?...Just leave me alone and let me figure this out!

Alex
Ok, if that's what you want.

Elizabeth
Stop giving me what I want!

Alex
What the hell are you talking about. What do you want from me?

Elizabeth
Nothing!

Alex
Talk to me.

Elizabeth
No!

Alex
Why the hell not? It's not going to make anything better if we don't communicate.

Elizabeth
You...

Alex
(interrupts) This isn't about me. Something else is bothering you. Now, chill the fuck out and talk to me and let me help you.

Elizabeth
I...just...Just leave me alone!

Alex
(in a stern but calm voice) Hey! *(Stares at her. She reverts then looks back and gives in)*

Elizabeth
(whimper) I'm sorry...I didn't mean to...I just...

Alex
Come here. *(holds arms out to give a hug. She comes over and they hug hard and hold each other for a while and she has a deep sigh.)* Now, what's wrong?

Elizabeth
Just had a rough day, and I'm starting my period, and you were just there. Sorry I lashed out. I didn't mean to.

Alex
It's ok. You got me going there for a moment.

Elizabeth
I'm sorry.

Alex
It's ok. What do you need?

Elizabeth
It's great now. I just need to calm down and relax.

Alex

Do you want a massage?

Elizabeth

(silence and pushes back a little and looks at him) You're too good to me.

Alex

Don't say that. That's always a bad sign.

Elizabeth

For what?

Alex

Girls have been known to say that and then end the relationship.

Elizabeth

No, it's not like that, it's a good thing. I'm just not used to it. All my other boyfriends wouldn't help at all, just make things worse. I just never thought about it.

Alex

Well, I'm not like other guys.

Elizabeth

Obviously, but you just do so much for me and I feel like I don't give enough back.

Alex

You're fine. You're the one who gave me a chance.

Elizabeth

What do I need to do to make you happy?

Alex

I am happy.

Elizabeth

Just tell me anyway.

Alex

Be with me, want me, have fun, be silly, dance. Let me make you happy and be there for me when I need you. You'll know when I do. Communicate with me, be faithful and honest. Trust me. Let me be free when I need it. Don't hold me down or back. Say "I got your back." *(laughs)* Most of all, what makes me most happy, is you just being with me. I've never had that before. You've already given me what I've always wanted. You.

Elizabeth

That's all? I feel like I do that.

Alex

Exactly, I'm very easy to please, believe it or not. It's not much to ask for I think. Even though it seemed like a lot to others.

Elizabeth

How did every girl let you get away?

Alex

Just wasn't right I guess.

Elizabeth

How did I get you?

Alex

Oh, just lucky I guess. *(smiles)*

Elizabeth

(smiles) I guess so.

Alex

I did to.

Elizabeth

Really?

Alex

Of course. *(Looks at her in silence and slowly says)* Now, brace yourself. *(pause)* I love you. I don't say that to anyone unless I mean it. That word is hard to throw around. It's thrown around sometimes because some people feel the need to hear it. But, I love you. Sorry if it's bad, but I do.

Elizabeth

(Silence and stares at him. Looks away then back) I love you to. I do love you to.

(Lights fade. The song Whose got the Hooch? Begins to play. Lights up on an empty stage. Elizabeth walks in and is surprised to see roses in a vase on the table with a note. She smiles and walks over and reads the note aloud)

Elizabeth

Don't bother counting, there is only eleven. You're in search of the twelfth. Follow the red rose pedals.

(Puts down the card. She starts counting the roses, but stops. Looks at the card and smiles. Walks to the bed and finds another note.)

Elizabeth

Oh, you thought you were going to get some. Not yet. Let's shower first.

(smiles and goes to the "shower" and yet another note)

Elizabeth

I know, disappointment. But it's so nice out. Stars and moon shining so brightly.

(Walks "outside" and sees a table with one candle lit and a rose lying on the table with a note attached. The song Something About Us by Daft Punk begins to play.)

Elizabeth

Here's the missing rose. The search is over. Now all you have to do is turn around.

(She smiles holding the rose and turns around. Alex is standing behind her smiling with his hands behind his back)

Elizabeth

(smiling and bashful smelling the rose) You're so cheesy.

Alex

It gets worse.

(He pulls out a small black box from behind his back and gets on one knee. She is in shock)

Alex

We've been together for a while and I've thought about it long and hard. I want you now and forever. Will you have me?

Elizabeth

(smiles and almost crying) Yes! Yes!

(She pulls him up and they kiss and hold each other)

Elizabeth
You're so cheesy.

Alex
I know. And you love it!

Elizabeth
Yes! I do! I do, I do, I do.

(Light flashes and thunder is heard. It begins to rain. On them.)

Elizabeth
(runs off for cover and screams a bit) Alex. Come get covered up.
It's raining.

Alex
(standing there looking up) No. I love the rain. I always have.
(looks at her) Come here. *(puts hand out)*

Elizabeth
It's raining.

Alex
It's water. Come share the moment with me.
(She looks around)
The rain won't hurt. Please.

(She runs out there and they hold each other.)
(Looking up) The rain was always my way to get away from all my problems. When the rain came I felt that it was showing exactly how I was feeling. It calmed and comforted me. This was the only way I didn't feel alone. *(Looks at her)* And I want to share this moment with you. It really makes it a lot better for me.

Elizabeth
Ok, whatever makes you happy.

(They kiss. Then hold each other)

Alex
I'm sooooo happy.

(Lights fade. Lights up on the girl pacing, twirling her ring around her finger looking anxious. Alex walks in and

she stops and stands there looking at him. He stares back in wonder. Neither one smiles until it is stated.)

Elizabeth
I'm pregnant.

Alex
You're what?

Elizabeth
(smiles) I'm pregnant!

Alex
(Smiling and runs to her and hold her, picks her up and spins her) You're what?!

Elizabeth
(laughing) I'm pregnant!

Alex
(puts her down) I just love hearing you say it!

Elizabeth
Really?

Alex
Yes!

Elizabeth
I'm pregnant, I'm pregnant, I'm pregnant!

Alex
You're pregnant!

Elizabeth
Yay!

Alex
I'm so happy!

Elizabeth
Me to!

(They look at each other and stare for a moment then kiss)

Elizabeth
You'll be such a great dad.

Alex
You'll be such a great mom.

Elizabeth
We'll be a great family.

Alex
Great family! What I've always wanted!

Elizabeth
Always dreamed of!

Alex
You, love, happiness, and a family!

Elizabeth
Yes!

Alex
Yes!

(Lights fade. It Can't Come Quickly Enough by Scissor Sisters begins to play. Lights fade up on the Doctor in the chair staring at Alex. Alex has his eyes closed smiling.)

Alex
Yes. Always wanted and dreamed of. You, love, happiness and a family. Yes. *(deep sigh)* Yes. *(opens eyes)* Doc? Doc?

Doctor
Well, that's very nice. I'm sure that is how a lot of people feel. That's what everyone wants.

Alex
Yeah, but how many have it? How many people get it? It didn't happen that way to my parents. I know many people whose life didn't turn out that way. My sisters didn't. Did yours?

Doctor
No. I guess not.

Alex
My parents probably weren't in love. Probably tried it out because my mom was pregnant with me. I didn't have a great family with a great father. My mother wasn't all that great, but everyone has their problems, and she took care of them. Thanks to

that, I turned out the way I did. *(pause)* Maybe that's why I've had these series of dreams or flashbacks, whatever. I'm achieving everything I've dreamed of for a while. I'm on the verge of starting a great career that I've always wanted and I'm getting better at it. I know this. In order to get there and continue that path I've needed to be alone. I'm tired of being alone, but it's for the better. These series of things has made me able to make sure that I stay on a good path in order to achieve this other dream that I have, that I want to reach. The dream to have a happy family that stays together. My mom was never happy with any man, and I tried to help, but it wasn't enough. In a way I resent my father for a lot. Of course it has caused me to see what needs to be achieved to give what I didn't get. Make my wife happy and my family happy. Show to everyone that great things come from bad things. Just need to know how to get through and learn. You can be who you want to be, do what you want to do. Nothing and no one can stand in your way, just learn from the things that do. You can get everything that you want, everything you dream of, as long as you want it bad enough and have patience and hard work. I'm grateful that my life is making sure I'm happy with my career before it lets me be happy with a family. I love to hate it though. I have the power to get exactly what I dreamed of, I just have to wait for it. The flashbacks are just reminding me it's ok to be alone and reminding what's important later in life. After establishing a good career.

Doctor

Well, seems as if I wasn't needed after all.

Alex

Not true. I wouldn't have been able to understand this without you. All I needed was a little time and a little push. I'm good at figuring things out on my own, just sometimes you need a little help. Some need more than others. Thanks a lot Doc. I got a good future dream out of it. I'll be just fine and back to normal. Well, my sort of normal anyway. *(Gets up and walks off)* Thanks again. It's been a dream come true. *(laughs)*

Doctor

Remember that happiness doesn't come from love. Love comes from the heart; happiness comes from the mind. All anyone really wants to be happy is to settle their mind, but love does help.

Alex

Thanks, I'll keep that in mind. *(Leaves)*

(Doctor smiles and begins writing. Lights down. The song Sidewalks by the Papers begins to play. White lights up on Alex in bed with the covers pulled off. Alex wakes up and stretches and sits up. It's raining outside. Alex smiles)

Alex

What a great dream. See I knew I could figure this whole problem out on my own. Didn't need to see anyone and talk to them about my problems. Just needed to sleep on it. *(Looks as if looking outside at the rain)* Too bad it's raining outside. Because I feel just fine today. Sunshine is what I need. Oh well, I'm sure it will happen in about ten minutes. East Texas weather for you. *(Throws arm up)* Seize the Day!!!

(Lights down. White lights up on Elizabeth standing in an empty space. Alex enters and walks by)

Alex

Hey.

Elizabeth

Hey you.

Alex

How are you?

Elizabeth

Good. And you?

Alex

Good, good. *(looks at her and smiles)* Could be better though.

Elizabeth

What are you smiling about?

Alex

(shakes his head smiling) Life. *(pause)* It's a beautiful day.

Elizabeth

Yeah it is. Surprising, it was just raining like ten minutes ago.

Alex

Yeah.

Elizabeth
East Texas weather for you huh?

Alex
(laughs) Yeah. So what are you waiting for?

Elizabeth
Got out of rehearsal about twenty minutes ago. Waiting on my boyfriend to come get me.

Alex
(puts head down and nods) Yeah.

(Looks up and smiles. The song Comfortably Numb by Scissor Sisters begins to play softly enough to be heard but still hear dialog and gets louder at the end and plays until the end of the song.)

Well, I gotta go, but good luck waiting, and have a wonderful day.

Elizabeth
Ok, you to.

Alex
Yeah. I don't mind waiting. *(begins to walk off then turns back around)* Are you happy?

Elizabeth
What?

Alex
Happy? Are you happy? With your boyfriend I mean?

Elizabeth
Ummmm...yeah. Yeah, I guess so. Why?

Alex
(Shakes head then smiles) Just making sure. Bye. *(Walks off and says to himself)* Shouldn't have to think about it.

Elizabeth
(Watches him walk off smiling) Bye. *(looks back forward and looks around)* Where is he? *(looks at watch)* I'm waiting!

(Lights fade except one spot on him in the DL corner, there is a dim light left on Elizabeth. Alex looks out into the audience)

Alex

I shouldn't have to learn to get over anything anymore. For some things, I should already be over them before they even happen. I know now, that true happiness lies in your own mind and heart. In my case, *(looks at Elizabeth)* it lies only in my mind. Can't always trust the heart.

(He walks off. Lights fade. The End. Fin. That's all folks. They lived happily ever after.)

Note: Songs are not required, just recommend because it adds more feel to the play. Not needed if too difficult for certain reasons. With the exception of the dinner scene, romantic music does need to play and I would love them to dance by any means.