

U-HAUL

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CHARACTERS

Alice: 25 years old, from Chicago and an artist.

Beatrice 27 years old, from Oregon and works at a small law firm. She is Alice's Ex.

DIALOGISTICS

Whenever you see // that indicates overlap.

Ellipses... are characters trying to find the right words

SETTING

Inside of an apartment in Chicago. The scene takes place in the living room, the interior is filled with cardboard boxes stacked up. A couch, a vase and a TV stand are the only objects that have not been touched.

ACT 1, SCENE 1

ALICE is holding a sliver mirror against the wall as BEATRICE enters the living room. It is clear that ALICE does not know how to hang a mirror from the way she is staring at the mirror, baffled that it is still hanging.

BEATRICE

What is this?

ALICE

A mirror?!

BEATRICE

Yes, Alice. I'm aware that it's a mirror.

ALICE

(Witty)

Then why d'ya ask what it is?

BEATRICE

Why are you hanging up the mirror? We're here to pack up, not move back in.

ALICE

Well I don't want to take the mirror, so I thought maybe we could leave it as a gift to the lucky couple who moves in.

BEATRICE

You're kinda slowing down the packing up process, if you're unpacking. What time is it?

ALICE

Um. (Looks at phone) It's almost midnight.

BEATRICE

You know the realtor is coming at 8AM. We've been here all day; I feel like we *should* be done now.

ALICE

It's not like I haven't been packing up Bea, it's hard y'know, not as simple as putting things in boxes. It will be packed up before tomorrow, don't worry. A mirror isn't going to change that.

BEATRICE

We were supposed to be packed up two weeks ago. I just want/ this place to be sold.

ALICE

/to be done with me.

BEATRICE

That's not...I've let you stay here so you could figure out other living arrangements.

ALICE

I know, I just...

(looks around the room)
So... the Vase and the TV stand. Is that all you want to take?

BEATRICE

Everything else is yours.

ALICE

Not really, we bought most of this together.

BEATRICE

You can keep everything if you want Al, I know how expensive it is trying to live on your own, especially renting in the West side and paying your way through Art school.

ALICE

(Unconvincing)

Thank you. I'm doing okay. You don't need to worry about my finances. I have it figured out.
(beat)

BEATRICE

So how is school, d'ya have any exhibition dates yet? I'd definitely come if... well actually that would be weird. Sorry.

ALICE

No, you don't need to be sorry. I actually dropped out.

BEATRICE

Al, why would you drop out?

ALICE

I couldn't do it anymore. I spent hours just staring at the canvas hoping something would appear, but it never did.

BEATRICE

I thought our break-up could've helped you to create a masterpiece.

ALICE

A masterpiece?

BEATRICE

No. I meant, I just thought. (*Struggling to find the right words*) Remember, one day you came home from art history lecture so excited because the professor had really "spoken to you."

ALICE

Oh right, the whole "art shouldn't portray, but evoke."

BEATRICE

Yeah. That's it.

ALICE

I'm pretty sure I was just over complicating it. We tend to over complicate things.

(beat)

BEATRICE

I can't believe you dropped out.

ALICE

I guess I was chasing a dream that was doing more damage than good.

BEATRICE

Your career didn't end our relationship, you know that. Don't give up now.

ALICE

I didn't fully give up. I recently started a job as a curator. I'm not creating the pieces anymore, but I needed more financial stability. So that's what I've done.

BEATRICE

(BEATRICE notices a box labelled 'Al's artwork'. She pulls out a canvas painting and stares for a little while)

Hey Al.

ALICE

(Turns around)

Yeah?

(Notices the painting)

Oh god! Not taking those.

BEATRICE

I think we should hang it up.

ALICE

We're not hanging that up!

BEATRICE

Oh, why not?

ALICE

We want the people to move in. Besides we're supposed to be "packing up," you said it yourself, can't have anything to delay the process further.

BEATRICE

But it was your first art piece to be in an exhibition. If you're not going to take it someone should get to admire your talent.

ALICE

Well do you/ maybe...

BEATRICE

(Cuts ALICE off)

/Look it's still there.

(BEATRICE holds the painting out and points to a discernible smudge)

ALICE

(Laughing)

Oh God. I'm certain Pebbles was out to ruin every piece of art I tried to create.

BEATRICE

(Giggles)

He definitely was your cat.

ALICE

(Reminiscing)

Remember trying to put him in the bath after he knocked over the easel. Oh, he hated us that night. I think there was more paint on him, than on the canvas.

BEATRICE

He was sliding all over the tub.

ALICE

(Laughing)

Holding him down...and his big brown eyes, “please no more soap mom.” He must have thought we were terrible parents.

BEATRICE

I think I still have a scar from that night.

(Looks at arm)

Look! Pebbles will forever be a part of me.

(ALICE reaches out and runs her hand across the scar on BEATRICE’S arm. There is a moment of silence. Time seems to go on forever.)

ALICE

Um. I’m sorry...I don’t know why Pebbles was so against you.

BEATRICE

He definitely was your cat.

(BEATRICE looks around the room and exhales a small laugh)

So, I rescued a cat last week. I wanted some company and dare I say, I missed Pebbles.

ALICE

Did I turn you into a cat person?

BEATRICE

I think you did. His name is Patrick. He’s the cutest little thing.

ALICE

Aw Patrick, just like your dad? How is he?

BEATRICE

He’s...

ALICE

You should tell him I’ve finally started watching Game of Thrones.

BEATRICE

Well that would be hard...

ALICE

It’s so hard *not* to binge watch. He’s totally right, what they did to Ned- that was crazy.

BEATRICE

Alice my dad died. He had a heart attack two months ago.

ALICE

Wait, what? That’s not...Bea. Why didn’t you tell me?

BEATRICE

I wasn't sure you'd care.

ALICE

You weren't sure I'd care? Your dad is, was, my favorite person. I would have been there for you, I didn't want you to be alone.

BEATRICE

It would have been complicated Al. I wasn't alone.

ALICE

I can't believe you didn't tell me.

BEATRICE

It wasn't about you. I'm sorry I didn't tell you, but you weren't really on the top of my list.

ALICE

What happened to us?

BEATRICE

What? We've been through this already.

ALICE

No, we've been through what made it easier to handle. But what I can't understand is why you didn't tell me about your dad. I didn't think we ended on those terms.

BEATRICE

I don't think we should get into this now Al.

ALICE

If not now, when?

BEATRICE

Alright. You were never around. You'd be in the studio all day. Then you'd come home all frustrated and you'd take it out on me.

ALICE

Working 60 hours in the firm didn't exactly make spending time with you easy either.

BEATRICE

I was tryna make partner. Someone had to bring the money in.

ALICE

That's not fair. Being an Artist is hard. The commission from one piece could have supported us.

BEATRICE

You weren't making any commission. Nothing was sold.

ALICE

You just needed to give it time.

BEATRICE

I tried Al. But I didn't have that time. I wanted to settle down, having a family is/important to me.

ALICE

/within your 5-year plan. But I could have been ready, I just needed to finish school and get a stable job.

BEATRICE

I knew that's not what you wanted. I'm proud of you for chasing a dream that's hard and unstable. But I needed stability.

ALICE

I needed stability too. Your stability. I didn't realize the pressure Bea. I really thought we were amazing together.

BEATRICE

At times. But none of us could give up on the things we both wanted. I think we just wanted it to work out.

(Things get too real. ALICE clears her throat and changes the topic)

ALICE

So... the realtor is coming at 8AM. Will you be around?

BEATRICE

Ah no, I'm meeting Amy's parents for breakfast, but I can come after.

ALICE

Amy? That a close family friend?

BEATRICE

("Oh shit")

No, Amy is...she's someone I met at work...we're...

ALICE

Friends? Work wives? Gal pals?

(BEATRICE doesn't say anything. ALICE finally realizes)

Oh.

BEATRICE

This isn't how I wanted/ to tell you

ALICE

/Wow. Didn't even give it three months Bea.

BEATRICE

It's not like I was looking for it.

ALICE

And you're already meeting the parents?

BEATRICE

She's not a rebound.

ALICE

No, of course not. Nobody was thinking that. Well I'm sure you and...

BEATRICE

Amy. Her name is Amy.

ALICE

You've got to be kidding me with the name!

BEATRICE

Nope, I'm sure her name is Amy

ALICE

You replaced me with a girl called Amy.

BEATRICE

YES. *Amy*. Is that a difficult name for you?

ALICE

Well, you could have gone with someone whose name doesn't begin with 'A'.

BEATRICE

You can't be serious right now?

ALICE

I'm just saying, it can't be a happy accident.

BEATRICE

It really isn't like that.

ALICE

It never is like that, is it. Should I bring Cabernet or Merlot?

BEATRICE

Cabernet?

ALICE

To your housewarming party...

BEATRICE

We aren't moving in together.

ALICE
(Ignoring)

You're such a U-Haul lesbian, do you know that. You've already got the cat, when are you moving in with her?

BEATRICE

I'm not a U-Haul lesbian. Jesus Al. You can't be serious. I'm meeting her parents for the first time, not getting married. Amy doesn't want to rush into anything.

ALICE

Oh, how nice of Amy. She seems very considerate.

(Points to the box of artwork)

Can you just throw those away? I'm done packing up.

BEATRICE

No. I can't throw them away.

ALICE

Why? You're good at throwing things away.

BEATRICE

Don't you dare make this about us.

ALICE

How can it not be? Not telling me your dad died. I deserved to know to.

BEATRICE

You aren't entitled to anything; we aren't together Alice.

ALICE

You seem to skip past the fact that I needed time to heal. I at least wanted to keep something between us, but you're making that very hard.

BEATRICE

This isn't healthy. I don't know if we can stay friends. I think it's time you move on Alice.

ALICE

You always bail when things get too much. You're a coward.

BEATRICE

I don't have to deal with this. I'm going. Finish packing up and get out. I'll stop by tomorrow after breakfast.

ALICE

Coward.

BEATRICE

Don't bother reaching out to me.

(BEATRICE storms out of the apartment and slams the door shut.)

ALICE

FINE! Enjoy the fucking cinnamon roll.

(ALICE crumples to the ground)

Black Out

