

RISING

Written by

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SCENE 1 INT. KITCHEN - DAY

ALEA, 17, extroverted, outgoing, loud, baker

EMORY, 17, Alea's best friend, shy, kind, journalist, goody-two-shoes

CHASE, 18, Alea's birkenstock wearing, floppy haired, indie-boy boyfriend. Pretentious; the "nice-guy."

Alea gets ready for her date in the kitchen of Emory's house.

ALEA

Does this look okay?

EMORY

(pre-occupied)

Mhm.

ALEA

I hope I don't make him wait.
Especially if these taste like
crap. Do you want to try one?

EMORY

(holds out her hand)

Mhm.

Alea puts a cupake in Emory's hand. She does not acknowledge the dessert and continues to write in her notebook.

ALEA

Hand me the chocolate chips?

EMORY

(does nothing)

Mhm.

ALEA

Emory?

EMORY

Uhuh.

ALEA

Emory?

EMORY

Oh yeah, sorry.

Emory picks up the chocolate chips and stares at them.

EMORY (CONT'D)
Remember when we almost burnt down
your house trying to make that
chocolate chip cake?

Emory hands Alea the chocolate.

ALEA
Haha, yeah that was a mess. We
should try again.

EMORY
Ugh, I wish but I can't. I'm too
busy.

ALEA
(sing-songy)
Too busy for me?

They both laugh. Alea turns to Emory.

ALEA (CONT'D)
So, what have you been writing?

EMORY
Just brainstorming for next month's
issue.

ALEA
What happened to that article about
the guy with like, three
allegations?

EMORY
(sigh)
They rejected it.

ALEA
What? Why?

EMORY
It's not school appropriate.

ALEA
(mockingly)
"It's not school appropriate." Put
it out anyway!

EMORY
I don't want to get in trouble.

ALEA
(half-jokingly)
Ugh, pushover.

EMORY
 Hey! Don't you have better things
 to do than bully me?

ALEA
 (gestures to cupcakes)
 Yeah, speaking of which, what do
 you think?

Emory looks at the cupcakes.

EMORY
 (sarcastically)
 My grandma can do better than that.
 And she's dead.

ALEA
 Ha-ha very funny.

Emory looks out the window while Alea gets her stuff
 together. Emory sees Chase pulling up. Chase picks flowers
 from Emory's garden.

EMORY
 (shouting)
 Alea, Chase is here.

EMORY (CONT'D)
 (under her breath)
 That bitch.

SCENE 2 EXT. PORCH - EVENING

Chase hands Alea the flowers and greets her.

ALEA
 Aww, thank you! This is for you.

She hands him a cupcake.

CHASE
 Oh sorry, I'm on a no sugar diet.
 It's better for my skin.

ALEA
 (awkwardly)
 Oh, no problem.

CHASE
 You ready?

ALEA
 Yeah.

EMORY

(whispers)
Don't worry, I'll eat them all.

ALEA

(sing-songy voice)
Bye Emory.

SCENE 3 INT. CAR - NIGHT

Chase pulls up to a viewpoint and turns to Alea. Chase reaches into his pocket and pulls out a jewelry box.

CHASE

This is for you.

ALEA

Aww, you're too good for me.

Chase puts the necklace on Alea's neck.

ALEA (CONT'D)

It's beautiful.

Alea leans over to kiss Chase's cheek. He turns his head to her at the last second and their lips touch. Once she pulls away, she is shocked. Chase leans over for more. As things progress, Alea becomes more stiff. Chase puts his hand on her thigh.

ALEA (CONT'D)

Sorry, not right now.

CHASE

Is something wrong?

ALEA

(timidly)
I'm just not feeling it.

CHASE

Is it me?

ALEA

No, not at all.

CHASE

Just tell me what's going on.

ALEA

There's nothing going on. I just-

CHASE
You just what?

ALEA
I'm not in the mood?

Chase leans back into his seat, sighs, and shakes his head.

CHASE
(sad)
Do you not love me anymore?

ALEA
Of course I love you.

CHASE
Then why are you doing this to me?

Alea does not know what to say.

CHASE (CONT'D)
If you didn't want to spend time
with me, you should've said so.

ALEA
No, I do.

CHASE
(touches her face)
Then show me.

Chase begins making physical contact again. Alea looks around the car.

CHASE (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

ALEA
(nods quietly)
I'm fine.

Chase continues.

FADE TO BLACK.

SCENE 4 INT. HOUSE - MORNING AFTER

The alarm goes off. Alea stops it. She looks at herself in the mirror and feels repulsed. She calls Emory to cancel their plans.

ALEA
 (on the phone)
 Sorry, I can't go out today.

EMORY
 That's new.

Alea looks at the necklace.

FLASHBACK:
 CHASE'S CAR,
 NECKLACE, HANDS

Alea gets nauseous and tosses the necklace on the ground.

EMORY (CONT'D)
 ...hello?

ALEA
 I have to do homework.

EMORY
 I thought you hated doing your
 homework.

ALEA
 Yeah but I'm just really busy.

EMORY
 Are you ok-

Alea hangs up the phone, cutting Emory off. Emory is worried and confused. She goes to Alea's house and knocks on the door. There is no answer so she lets herself in.

Walking into Alea's room, she sees that Alea is just in bed. She stays near the door.

EMORY (CONT'D)
 I brought you some soup.

ALEA
 Why are you here?

EMORY
 I just wanted to check up on you.

Silence.

EMORY (CONT'D)
 What's wrong?

ALEA
 Um, I don't know. Nothing I guess.

EMORY
Are you okay?

ALEA
I'm fine.

EMORY
Are you sure?

Alea doesn't reply.

Emory walks toward Alea. She accidentally **steps** on the **necklace** on the ground and picks it up. Alea snatches the **necklace** and puts it back in the **jewelry box**. Emory sees the box is from Chase.

EMORY (CONT'D)
What happened yesterday?

Emory puts her hand on Alea's shoulder. Alea stands up quickly and walks away.

ALEA
It's nothing.

EMORY
Did Chase do something?

ALEA
He's not like that.

EMORY
What do you mean?

ALEA
You know...

EMORY
What?

Alea begins to cry slow tears. Emory becomes serious and worried.

EMORY (CONT'D)
(sternly)
Alea, did he do something?

ALEA
(hesitant)
Not really... I said I was okay with it.

EMORY
It doesn't seem like that.

ALEA

You don't know how I'm feeling.
Besides, it doesn't matter now.

EMORY

Yeah it does, did he guilt you into
doing something?

ALEA

I don't know. I just felt bad.

EMORY

That sounds manipulative.

ALEA

But he's a good boyfriend.

EMORY

Are you listening to yourself?
You're not being logical.

ALEA

He didn't do anything wrong. I said
yes.

EMORY

(sternly)

Coercion isn't consent. You have to
tell someone.

ALEA

As if that would do anything.

EMORY

What are you so afraid of?

ALEA

Wouldn't you know? You're too
scared to stand up for yourself.

Emory begins to cry and leaves. Alea tries to stand up to
apologize.

ALEA (CONT'D)

Wait, I'm sor-

It's too late. Emory has already left. Alea walks to her desk
to sit down and bursts into tears.

SCENE 5 INT. EMORY'S ROOM - DAY

Emory gets home and at first is upset. She looks at her writing materials and gets to work.

SCENE 6 INT. ALEA'S ROOM - DAY

Alea sulks because she feels guilty for what she's said to Emory. She begins baking a cake to present to Emory as an apology. Baking montage.

SCENE 7 EXT. EMORY'S FRONT DOOR

Alea knocks on the door with a plate in her hands. Emory opens the door. Written on the cake: "sorry :/". Emory accepts the apology and they hug.

SCENE 8 EXT. VIEWPOINT - EVENING

A car pulls up to the parking lot. It's golden hour. They get out of the car with the cake.

Alea takes out Chase's necklace from her pocket and stares at it.

ALEA

I thought he was a good guy.

Emory turns to look at Alea while she's speaking.

ALEA (CONT'D)

I should've known better.

EMORY

No. You didn't do anything wrong.

ALEA

Then why do I feel so guilty?

EMORY

Because men aren't held accountable for their actions.

Silence.

EMORY (CONT'D)

I think I know what I'm going to write about.

ALEA

What?

EMORY

It's not very "school appropriate"
but hopefully it'll get some people
expelled.

Alea smiles bitterly with tears in her eyes.

ALEA

(whispers)

Thank you.

She looks up at Emory. Emory smiles. Alea sheds a tear and looks down at the necklace. She chucks the necklace off of the cliff. She leans her head on Emory's shoulder. They stare out at the view. Emory gives a piece of cake to Alea and herself with a wine glass.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END