

Altered Realities

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Logline: When a man in his mid-20s gets hired for a popular tech company in the heart of NYC, he discovers that it's run by women. Since he has never been introduced to a woman-run business, he must learn to adapt to survive and confront the harsh realities of a workplace where the tables have turned.-

Key Characters:

Alexander Mueller, a man in his late 20s, aspires to become a millionaire through marketing and technology. His first dreams of getting rich trace back to childhood when his mother fell sick and his father was imprisoned for tax evasion, leaving the family fortune down the drain. This is what later fueled his resentment towards his father, believing he wasn't "man enough" or capable of providing for them. He fantasizes about a life where he could've raised enough money to afford healthcare for his mother and save her life in a "clean way," unlike his father ever did. At the present time, Alexander has slowly but surely been climbing the corporate ladder and has gotten hooked on the idea of power and leadership. Outside work, he surrounds himself with male friends, frequenting bars and fancy restaurants to project an image of wealth and power. Despite appearing confident, he holds deep insecurities about not achieving anything substantial, similar to his father. His chin is held high while he walks with loud echoing stomps. He strategically uses his charm to make women blush, employing techniques like condescension and patronizing language to appear more impressive. Deep down, he loves to impress others, but he can't help but compare himself to every man around him, which comes across as cold and insecure.

Mia Mueller is Alexander's wife. In modern times, she would be considered a Trad wife to Alexander since she complies with whatever he wants. She went to college with him and married right after they graduated. Since then, she's been able to keep a positive attitude around him in fear of becoming a burden or luggage for him. Although she goes along with his ambitions and lifestyle, she is urged to run off and do her own independent thing. She likes to paint and one day wishes she could own her studio for artwork, but Alexander treats it as a silly little hobby of hers. He jokes, "There is no income in that field, sweetheart." She gets quiet and sad with little comments like this but refuses to speak up for herself since that's never been her.

Chad Thompson, a charismatic and outgoing individual, known for his easygoing nature and quick wit. He has been Alexander's best friend since childhood, and they share a deep bond built on trust and mutual respect. As Alexander's freshman-year college roommate, Chad is privy to many of Alexander's inner

thoughts and struggles. He serves as Alexander's confidant and sounding board, offering emotional support and practical advice. Despite initially being skeptical, Chad reluctantly believes Alexander when he confides in him about the unusual situation he wakes up in. Chad's belief in Alexander stems from their long-standing friendship and his trust in Alexander's character. Chad is fiercely loyal to Alexander and will go to great lengths to support and protect him. He is willing to stand by Alexander's side, even in the face of disbelief or skepticism from others.

Lucy Ngyuen is a cunning and ambitious woman working in the business office. She is known for her manipulative nature and willingness to use her power and influence to get ahead. Lucy often belittles her coworker, Mueller, to assert her dominance and establish herself as superior. She takes pleasure in undermining others and ensuring that she remains in a position of authority. In the world, before the parallel struck, Alexander had treated Lucy as less than him, perhaps due to her lower position in the office hierarchy. As a result, Lucy now harbors resentment towards Alexander and mistreats him. Lucy uses her knowledge of office politics and cunning tactics to navigate the parallel world, often leveraging her power to manipulate situations to her advantage. She sees Alexander as an easy target for her manipulation and takes pleasure in asserting her dominance over him whenever possible. Despite her ruthless demeanor, Lucy is also intelligent and resourceful, using her cunning to navigate the challenges of the parallel world and ensure her survival.

Overview:

Setting: The year is 2040 in New York City. Industries are booming, and the population has expanded to an estimated 12 million people. New York City is filled with skyscrapers over 6,000 feet high, and highways stretch across the sky to provide enough space for citizens to walk.

Act 1: Alexander Mueller gets hired at a new tech company

Act 2: Alexander discovers that there is something wrong with his world, gender roles reversed.

Act 3: Alex's personality starts to develop as he sees the other side of women.

Detailed description-

Act 1:

Alex Muller starts every day the same. He wakes up with black coffee and no sugar; he likes to stay consistently fit and awaits his picture-perfect wife, Mia, to cook him his eggs. "No egg yolks this time, Mia, for the love of god." She smiles a honey-like smile and whispers, "Okay, sweetie." He scarfed

down his eggs and rushed out the door. He makes a point to call his mom every day; ever since his dad left, his mom has fallen into a deep depression and never leaves her house. She slowly loses her memory with age, and he is forced to visit her each weekend to ensure she stays alive. He loves his mom, but she is weak, no better than his dad. His dad was imprisoned for evading taxes and insider trading. He remembers the day the cops came and took his dad away forever. He resented his dad; he hated him. He made it a point to become rich, the "clean" way, to prove to himself he would never grow up to be a man like his father. Every day, he passes the same old lady; she always reminds him of his mom; her face is covered in wrinkles and dark spots, she's old and skinny, her hair is ratted, and she asks for money every day outside the subway station, and every day he walks right past her. Today was no different. However, she looked almost happy, almost like she knew something he didn't. He gets off the subway station and heads to work. His work was located in a tall glass building in the busiest district of New York; he always felt important walking in; he owned the place. He walks into this building, forgetting his ID as usual, as if it even mattered because everyone knew who he was. He enters the elevator and pushes the button for the 16th floor. He sees the tall portraits that decorate the wall of his father, his father, and his father's father. He was determined to be the next oil-painted portrait. His only real competition was Lucy Nyguen; he wasn't worried too much about it, though; there's no way a woman would inherit this company. Whenever she made a suggestion, he made a condescending comment or exhaled a chuckle, so she knew her place.

Today was a significant meeting with "Shelfs and Stocks," he needed this account; this would prove to his father that he could inherit the company and do a damn good job. He enters the conference room filled with mostly women; he never understood his father's choice of hiring more women than men; maybe it was legal. He usually asks Sandra Billers, his work equal who sits to the right of him, to get his coffee "because she just makes it the best." Today, however, before he even sat down, she ordered him to make the coffee as if it were the norm. Other women started chiming in and asking for their coffees as well. Perplexed, he felt a dense pressure upon him to deliver their requests. Who the hell did these women think they were? He felt abused. He missed the big meeting, got another disappointed call from his father, and drove home. At a stoplight, he sees this 70-year-old woman who motions for him to lower the window; he finds her making a crude motion with her mouth and laughing before speeding away. He was appalled that someone could blatantly disrespect him like that. First, the coffee, now this, he came home defeated and discouraged. "Mia, where's dinner?" Mia laughs before mocking his tone, pouring herself a cold glass of whiskey and going to bed.

Act 2:

Alex Mueller woke up the following day next to his wife. He noticed she hadn't gotten up yet, which was odd. Ignoring it, he made breakfast, something he hadn't done in years. The alarm went off in the bedroom, and he heard the shower running. Mia came out dressed for work, surprising Alex. "Why are you staring? This is what I wear every day," she said, grabbing his breakfast. "Hey, that was for me," Alex protested. "Wait... you're going to work?" Mia didn't seem to understand his confusion and left for the office. Alex, puzzled, went outside and found his neighbor Chad tending to the roses in the garden. He asked Chad if his wife had put him up to something, but Chad just expressed his love for his wife. Alex stared at him, confused, while Chad joked that Alex was out of it from drinking too much the night before. As Alex thought about it more, he realized something was seriously wrong: his wife didn't work, his breakfast wasn't ready, and what the hell was going on? He walked into the subway station, but the old lady wasn't there; he couldn't shake off the feeling of disorientation. In the subway, his usual seat was taken; in fact, every single seat was taken by a single woman, some even with their legs spread. He submissively just stood holding the bar before being shoved as the door opened and people left to reach their stop. He got to his work. "Sir, stop right there, where's your badge." He stopped in his tracks; he had never needed a badge before. He frantically searched in his pockets and found nothing. Lucy Nyguen saw him in the lobby and told the security guard to let him in. "Gotta remember that badge, sweetheart," she said, giving him a slap on the bum. She pushed the 16th-floor button, and the elevator doors opened to a completely renovated room. Where did the portraits of the generations of his family go? They were replaced with... women.

No one reacted any differently; they all acted like this was normal. Could no one see this? And why was everyone treating him like an object? He spent the day at work being ignored, laughed at, and even objectified before taking the subway again to his house. Shoved, ignored, and started at. He headed inside. He checked his phone for any messages or notifications that could provide some clarity, but no one had said anything. Feeling more unsettled, Alex confronted Mia when she returned from work. As he waited anxiously like a dog waiting for its owner to return, he paced around the house, replaying the morning's events. When Mia finally arrived home, Alex wasted no time interrogating her about the strange occurrences of the day. "What's going on, Mia? Why are you dressed for work? Why aren't you? Something has changed, and I want to know what, dammit." he asked, slamming his hand on the table, but this time Mia didn't flinch; she smiled. Alex felt his power slowly fading away.

Act 3:

After going to sleep upset at his wife, Alex wakes up the following day and complains that there is no food or ingredients to make himself breakfast. Emerging from the bedroom, Mia greets him with a yawn and a stretch, slipping him a \$100 bill. "Why don't you go out and get some ingredients for dinner tonight, sweetheart?" she suggests before retreating to the bathroom and locking the door behind her. Alex looks appalled by this comment and responds, "What?? No, I can't. I have so many more important things to do today, and I can't miss the meeting with Lucy today; I'll lose the company." Mia comes out of the bathroom in a pantsuit and pats him on the shoulders. "You're so cute when stressed; maybe shopping will take this off your mind." She walks out the door and speeds off. Feeling hunger and unfamiliar independence, Alex calls in sick for work, only to overhear snide comments from his coworkers in the background. "Didn't get enough beauty sleep, I guess..."

A group of people is laughing in the back, making him feel like a fool over the phone. He hangs up and goes out to get groceries. When he arrives at the grocery store, he sees Chad walking through the aisles and shopping. He runs up to him and slaps him on the shoulder. "Hey, what's up, Chad! How are you, man?" Chad smiles at him awkwardly and looks around the store anxiously. "Hey Alex, I'm good! How's your morning been?" He shakes his head dramatically. "Rough, man. Mia has been acting so weird lately!!" Chad looks around again and whispers close to Alex, "Don't have to be so loud; those ladies over there think we are causing a scene." Alex looks around and suddenly becomes insecure and awkward. "Oh, right Sorry... Well, I'll see you around, I guess. He continues shopping and gets some random vegetables and ingredients he's never seen before. Later, in his house, he starts to read online cooking books and figures out how to make different meals from what he's bought. Alex experiments with other recipes, gaining confidence and discovering a newfound passion for cooking. As he sits alone, savoring his creation, an idea strikes him. Quickly packaging some leftovers, he rushes to the train station, where he finds the elderly lady he had previously ignored.