

Termination Inc.

1X01 The End of Protocol

Written by

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TV Pilot Version

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TEASER:INT. IAN'S APARTMENT - DAY**BEDROOM**

Cluttered. PAM (18), in boy shorts and white tee, is spooned by IAN (19), shaggy & pajama'd like an underfed lumberjack.

Pam's eyes pop open. She focuses on a small duffel bag on the nightstand.

LIVING ROOM

Pam tip-toes around and tosses a TABLET, TAROT CARDS with THE TOWER (XVI) on top, and a prescription bottle into the bag with the already FOLDED CLOTHES.

KITCHEN

She adds two SNACK BARS and an ORANGE, then strokes her chin. Pam leaves open duffel bag on the counter, then walks back through **BEDROOM** where Ian stirs to get to the

BATHROOM

She snags her toothbrush and turns.

Ian, un-shaven, red-eyed, and imposing stands with his hands on either side of the door frame. Pam squeals.

IAN

Your spot was getting cold in bed.

PAM

I was just brushing my teeth.

PAM plops toothpaste onto her brush and turns on the water.

IAN

You don't have work for another three hours. Why up so early?

PAM

(brushing teeth)
I need to run a few errands.

IAN

Do you have time for one here?

Ian nods toward the bed. Pam spits.

CONTINUED:

PAM
I really have a lot to do.

Pam rinses out her mouth. Ian turns.

IAN
Let me pack you a quick lunch.

PAM
No! I mean. You don't have to. I
promised Laura we'd do lunch.

IAN
Then I'll make us morning tea.

BEDROOM

Pam sidles up to Ian as he heads toward the kitchen, turns him around and pecks his lips.

PAM
You didn't get enough sleep.

IAN
I did find out that I should hear
back from my agents today, though.

PAM
That's great news! How about I'll let
you cuddle me until you fall asleep.

Pam leads Ian back to bed. They lie down.

IAN
Let's get Chinese tonight.

PAM
I think I might have to pull a
double, so don't wait up for me.

Ian reaches around Pam. They spoon.

IAN
Then let's go to Little Korea this
weekend? What was that one spot?

PAM
I don't remember, but I actually have
to help my mom move this weekend.

IAN
Oh.

CONTINUED:

Ian's hands move lower under the covers. Pam cringes.

IAN (cont'd)
What's wrong with you?

Pam springs up from bed.

PAM
I don't wanna be late, Ian.

Pam gets dressed.

IAN
Okay. I'll let you know how it all goes later. Oh, and I might be able to get my firearm license back.

Pam stops dead in her tracks.

PAM
Really?

IAN
Yea, we can go to the range again. I still can't believe that jerk Evan even pissed me off and made me lose it in the first place.

PAM
(unsure)
Well, that's good.

Pam teases her hair in the mirror a bit for a bedhead look.

IAN
Yea, things'll be back to normal soon, babe. It's all on the upswing.

PAM
Mmmhmm.

IAN
Thank you for being here for me. I love you so much.

PAM
Mmmhmmmm. Me too.

Pam steps out to the

CONTINUED:

KITCHEN

She picks up the duffel bag, opens a cabinet and grabs crackers. Ian walks out.

IAN
Before you leave, tell me, Pam.

Pam places the duffel bag into the cabinet and closes it.

PAM
Anything.

IAN
You wouldn't lie to me, would you?

Pam walks to Ian, kisses his forehead, smiles, and walks to the front door.

PAM
I love you.

Ian smiles. Pam walks out of the door. She takes her cell phone from her pocket. She dials a number and heads toward the elevator. She steps in.

PAM (cont'd)
(into phone)
Hi, babe. He woke up before I could pack. This is going to be worse than I thought. He might get his firearm license back. I think we need an RTA.

The elevator door closes.

FADE TO:

OPENER:

ALEC (V.O.)
My name is Alec Daniels, and I'm a Romantic Transition Agent for TRM, Inc. In the age of immediacy, not even break-ups are face-to-face. When relationships need to end delicately, it's my job to help your ex-partners make the transition.

CONTINUED:

SECTION A

INT. TRM, INC. OFFICE - DAY

ALEC'S OFFICE

WILLIAM LOGUE (40s), stands looking down at a desk. A hand sifts through folders on a touch screen, projected desktop display. Trophies are the only physical items on the actual desk. Certificates hang on the otherwise bare walls.

Logue tosses a folder onto the desk.

LOGUE

There's a main case that we need you to take specifically today. A mental.

ALEC (O.S.)

Never a problem.

The hand continues to click on the display.

LOGUE

We need you to work on it specifically because the client requested the best we have.

ALEC (O.S.)

Flattering.

LOGUE

Even said there's a closing bonus if we expedited, so ASAP.

ALEC (O.S.)

I'm on it. Anything else, Captain?

LOGUE

There's no one else, Daniels.

He looks up, ALEC DANIELS (28), buzz-cut with the George Clooney kind of trustworthy eyes that don't reveal much.

ALEC

I knew it. I told you: I don't take partners. I don't train.

LOGUE

But you don't understand. She's slept with everyone else in training.

CONTINUED:

ALEC

Put her in Human Resourc--nevermind.
Bad idea. Just transfer her. We have
offices in 42 states.

Logue shoots Alec a look.

ALEC (cont'd)

Why does she have to go out in the
field anyway?

LOGUE

She wants it.

ALEC

Who cares? Oh. (beat.) You--

William places a WEDDING-BAN-DONNED HAND onto his forehead.

LOGUE

Do this. For me, Alec.

ALEC

You're doing this because you know I
can't quit right now.

LOGUE

I'm doing this because you're clean.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Along the Sidewalk, Alec wearing burgundy chinos and tie, a
gray dress shirt, and black vest walks next to

MIKA (23), dyed ginger and dressed in matching burgundy
skirt and scarf, a gray blouse, black cardigan and heels.

ALEC

We're going through two cases today.

MIKA

Isn't that like every day?

ALEC

Most days. So let's start with a
quickestie.

MIKA

You should watch your choice of
words. You've heard the rumors.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They ease through a scattered crowd of people as nearly all turn to catch a glimpse of where the two might be headed.

ALEC
Rumors are generally perversions of some truth, not vice versa.

MIKA
I like how you tried to coat that burn with Latin. You must be trying to impress me.

ALEC
What's impressing is--

MIKA
"Impressing?" You mean impressive.

ALEC
When I mean impressive, I'll say it as such. Though, I'm not easily impressed, so I don't see you doing that anytime soon. Keep up.

Mika falls behind in stride, speeds up.

ALEC (cont'd)
What's impressing is this first client's potential weight problem.

INT. KRISTINA'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM DOOR - DAY - LATER

LOUD WRETCHES. SOBS.

Alec KNOCKS on the door.

ALEC
Ms. Sinclair?

INT. KRISTINA'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - DAY - LATER

MS. KRISTINA SINCLAIR, 22, lifts her head from the toilet bowl. She walks in front of the bathroom mirror, removes her shirt and grabs at nearly non-existent love handles.

INTERCUT - CONVERSATION

KRISTINA
I should've known!

ALEC
You didn't know?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KRISTINA

I knew he shouldn't have met my mom!

ALEC

Ms. Sinclair, it's our job to help you during this tough time. If there's anything you'd like to get off of your chest--

Kristina opens the bathroom door. Alec notes the D's spilling from her demi cups.

ALEC (cont'd)

Not literally, ma'am.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Alec and Mika approach the entrance of the complex.

ALEC

I'm sure it will be fine, but it's something to be aware of.

MIKA

But wait, is the person who hired us or the mate who we're sent to break up with referred to as the client?

ALEC

I refer to the person who we're sent to help transition as the client.

MIKA

And what do we call the person who hired Termination, Inc?

ALEC

The asshole.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - STAIRCASE - DAY

Alec leads Mika.

ALEC

Whenever possible, take the stairs. People know our company. They see the colors; they know why we're here.

MIKA

So unnecessary.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEC

But courteous. It's our jobs to be as professional as possible.

MIKA

Which is why I'm here with you.

ALEC

Your lack of professionalism, field experience, sexual restraint...

MIKA

Ouch. Imagine what they'd think if they knew about three years ago.

Alec stumbles a bit.

ALEC

Take me through initial procedures.

MIKA

We go in, introduce ourselves, say--

INT. KRISTINA'S APARTMENT - FRONT DOOR - DAY - LATER

Door opens to:

ALEC

Hi, Ms. Sinclair. My name is Alec Daniels and this is Mika England. We're here on behalf of Bradley Parker and TRM, Incorporated.

Alec and Mika CREEP SMILE.

INTERCUT BETWEEN STAIRCASE AND LATER SCENES

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - STAIRCASE - DAY

MIKA

Then we ask if she's aware of our company and the services we provide. Most people are, so we make sure she's comfortable.

INT. KRISTINA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MORNING - LATER

Kristina paces back and forth.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEC

You might relax more if you sit. Do you drink tea?

KRISTINA

No.

Kristina's pacing becomes LOUDER.

Alec sits next to Mika on the couch.

MIKA

First, we want you to know that you're more than this situation.

KRISTINA

What?

A large Vinyl and DVD collection is on a media shelf. A few titles stick out further than others.

RENT, CHICAGO, DEAD POETS' SOCIETY and ONCE on the DVD side.

PHANTOM OF OPERA, LES MIS, and SINGING IN THE RAIN on Vinyl.

SUPER ABOVE DVDS: "Recently watched"

SUPER ABOVE Vinyls: "Recently listened to"

MIKA

We're here emotionally for you...

Books neatly line shelves. On top of one row is a self-help book titled "THE U IN OUR RELATIONSHIP." Several of the books are related to astrology and tarot.

SUPER ABOVE BOOK: "Recently read"

MIKA (cont'd)

We're not going to push because we don't know exactly how you feel, but...

On top of the bookshelf are a few family photos: Overweight Mom and Skinny Dad: Kristina and her Mother. Kristina and her Father. Kristina on graduation day. Parents together with Young Kristina, but all are skinny.

SUPER ABOVE PHOTO: "Only child. Father divorced mother."

Organic chocolate wrappers fill the top of a trash can.

SUPER ABOVE TRASH: "Recently eaten."

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUPER ALONGSIDE KRISTINA: "Tank top and Yoga pants:"

THEN

SUPER: "Trend follower or bulimia?"

MIKA (cont'd)

We're here to offer practical help to support your decisions. Patience is--

ALEC

You like movies. Musicals? Movie-musicals? So do I. And if there's one thing I learned from movies and musicals. It's "Carpe diem,"

SUPER: "Carpe diem" above Dead Poets' Society.

ALEC (cont'd)

"Forget regret, no day but today."

SUPER: Quote above the movie RENT.

ALEC (cont'd)

If you know who we are, then you know why we're here. We apologize on Mr. Parker's behalf, but it's okay that the chapter of your life with him is over. You can now begin anew.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - HALLWAY - DAY

Alec slips a RING from his finger, places it in his pocket, and KNOCKS on the DOOR.

ALEC

There shouldn't be any complications. Just watch and follow my lead.

INT. KRISTINA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY - LATER

KRISTINA

What?!

Kristina shoves finger into her throat, bolts to bathroom.

SUPER "Bulimia."

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - HALLWAY - DAY

Alec and Mika wait in front of Kristina's apartment door.

ALEC
The key is to in all circumstances,
remain professional.

INT. KRISTINA'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM DOOR - DAY - LATER

Alec stands outside of the door with Mika behind him.

MIKA
(whispers)
Not very good at quickies.

ALEC
If there's anything you'd like to get
off of your chest--

Kristina opens the bathroom door. Alec notes the D's
spilling from her demi cups.

SUPER ALONGSIDE KRISTINA'S CHEST: "Not literally, ma'am."

ALEC (cont'd)
Damn! Your breasts are amazing.

SPLIT-SCREEN:

Kristina smiles. | Alec smiles. | Mika rolls her eyes.

KRISTINA
Really?

ALEC
Sorry. I'm usually more professional
than this. I think we have the wrong
place. You're Kristina Sinclair?

KRISTINA
Yes.

ALEC
And you were dating some Parker guy?
(beat.) What an asshole.

Kristina flirt-smiles.

ALEC (cont'd)
I have to apologize again. He just
doesn't get what he's losing out on.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Alec takes her hand and guides her through the **HALLWAY**.

KRISTINA
You think?

ALEC
What do you do, Kristina?

KRISTINA
I teach Yoga and write--

INT. KRISTINA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

ALEC
You're an artist. I knew it. I don't know if you know what tarot is Kristina, but--

KRISTINA
What?! Of course. I practice tarot!

SUPER ABOVE TAROT DECK ON BOOKSHELF: "I know."

ALEC
Well this morning when I did my ritual reading about the day's clients, do you know what card came up first? The Queen of Wands.

KRISTINA
Wow. That card represents someone who is attractive, energetic, healthy, and self-assured.

ALEC
I know.

SUPER ABOVE BOOK ON SHELF: "Becoming the Queen of Wands"

KRISTINA
I read a book on channeling your inner Queen of Wands years ago.

ALEC
She's manifesting in your life, Kristina. I'll give you my card.

Alec reaches into his SATCHEL.

ALEC (cont'd)
And this packet of information. When you're ready, give me a call. We can
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEC (cont'd)
 sit down and plan a life map to
 bringing that inner Queen of Wands to
 the surface. Because she's ready. All
 you needed to do was get rid of the
 element that was blocking your way.

KRISTINA
 Bradley. Wow. It was him.

Alec and Mika, followed by Kristina walk to the door.

ALEC
 The world is yours, Kristina.
 Yesterday is gone and today is going,
 there's only tomorrow left to go.

Mika opens the door.

INT. KRISTINA'S APARTMENT - FRONT DOOR - DAY

KRISTINA
 Thank you so much.

ALEC
 You're welcome, dear. Stay in touch.

MIKA
 (smiling)
 Have a great day.

Kristina closes the door.

MIKA (cont'd)
 (grimace)
 You're gross.

SECTION B

EXT. BISTRO - PATIO - DAY

TWO-SHOT:

Alec and Mika unwrap their sandwiches, pull open their
 kettle cooked chips, and sip from lemonade.

Glass windows to the interior of the restaurant and OTHER
 SEATED PATRONS are visible behind them in the background.

MIKA
 When you went off the flow-chart with
 that woman--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEC
Improvisation is an advanced
technique; I wouldn't recommend it.

MIKA
Must use it often.

A MALE SERVER (19), a "personal life servant" dressed in a gray suit with a vest and no jacket, cuts up the sandwich of an OBESE MALE PATRON (40s) in the background.

ALEC
Depends.

MIKA
Definitely not regulation.

A FEMALE SERVER (20s), dressed in a gray suit with a vest, spoon-feeds an ELDERLY FEMALE PATRON in the background.

Mika continues eating.

Alec eats and reads.

MIKA (cont'd)
It wasn't all improv. What about when
you gawked at her tits.

ALEC
Empathy is also a technique.

Alec takes another bite from his sandwich.

MIKA
If that's what you've always called--

ALEC
Mika, I treat everyone as
individuals.

Alec wipes his mouth with a napkin. He turns his head.

ANOTHER MALE SERVER (20s), wipes the mouth of a GLAMOROUS MALE PATRON (30s) in the background.

ALEC (cont'd)
Even if I were to have the money one
day, I'd never get a server.

Mika turns to watch the empty expression of a ANOTHER FEMALE SERVER (20s) who fork-feeds a mess of french fries into the mouth of a DOLLED UP FEMALE PATRON (20s).

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MIKA
Better that than--

A HOMELESS MAN (30s) approaches the patio with a cart filled with large trash bags.

ALEC
Let's take the rest to go. We need to catch the Green Line trolley to Kensington. It'll take a while.

HOMELESS MAN
Spare any leftovers, sir?

Alec nods and they both pass their food to the man.

INT. TROLLEY - DAY

Alec and Mika sit across from each other. Alec has two manilla folders opened and papers splayed on his lap.

ALEC
You should come look at the CC.

MIKA
The what?

Mika moves next to Alec.

ALEC
It's the "Client Context" file. A briefing that gives relevant details and history about the client provided by their mate and verified by public domain documentation.

MIKA
So all sorts of boring uselessness.

ALEC
I always review client's files before hitting the field.

MIKA
Phil says every case is the same.

ALEC
Phil has the highest number of incidents each month.

Alec slides a manilla folder to Mika. She fingers the page.

INT. IAN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Cluttered. Pam returns, but in gray suit with a vest and no jacket. She unlocks the door, creeps into

LIVING ROOM

She peeks around and pulls a FOLDED BAG from her LARGE PURSE. She picks up a few items: cell charger, tablet, flip-flops and places them in her bag. She tip-toes to the

KITCHEN

And opens the cabinet. The duffel bag is gone. She panics and mouths "fuck" as she paces toward the

BALCONY

Quietly slides the glass window open. Steps out to grab a SMALL POTTED PLANT. She re-enters.

A toilet FLUSHES. She tries to close the glass door. It's stuck. She yanks. She gives up and slips toward the

APARTMENT DOOR

She goes to open it. One foot out when

IAN (O.S.)
Leaving already?

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS - DAY

MIKA
So what if we try to transition this guy and he just isn't responsive.

ALEC
I don't have that problem, but we are authorized to alert police or mental health agents if anything's off.

MIKA
I just have a bad feeling about this guy: a history of violence, a major-depressive, plus it says he's a type four. At unhealthy levels--

ALEC
This client has to be handled delicately. He's unemployed and his girlfriend's a Server.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MIKA

Wait, if she's a server, she either
saved for a hell of a long time--

ALEC

Or...

INT. IAN'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Ian places TWO MUGS into the microwave. Turns it on.

PAM

Yea, I just came by to grab a few
things before tonight.

Ian takes a box of tea from the cabinet, two bags from box.

The Microwave HUMS in the background.

PAM (cont'd)

I have to help my mom clean out her
place. She's moving.

Ian pulls out a CHAIR at the small TABLE. Pam sits.

He stands above her.

The Microwave continues to HUM.

PAM (cont'd)

I work third shift tonight, so--

IAN

I called the temp agency.

PAM

Oh, that's right. Tonight is Friday.
It's tomorrow. I am off today. I
mean, I'll probably stay at my mom's
tonight to help her--

Ian lifts his finger to his lips.

The Microwave HUMS.

IAN

I heard back from the temp agency.

PAM

And how was that?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

IAN

I also got a message from the College Placement Firm.

PAM

Oh, good. Late news is great news.

Ian pulls out the second CHAIR for himself.

IAN

College placement agent said I'd have to consider fourth tier. Temp agency flat out rejected me. Said I'm an insurance risk.

PAM

Could you get your doctor to sign--

IAN

I'm behind on med bills. Doctor won't even talk to me.

Microwave HUMMING.

PAM

That's ridiculous. You need a job to be able to pay them--they always--

Ian lifts his finger up to his lips.

Microwave HUMS. Ian stands.

IAN

Would you like toast?

PAM

No, thank you.

Ian pulls bread and butter from FRIDGE, pops two pieces in the TOASTER.

IAN

You love tea and toast.

Ian opens a nearly empty DRAWER. An ICE CREAM SCOOP. Looks to the full KITCHEN SINK. He opens another drawer, pulls out a LARGE KNIFE.

The Microwave HUMS. Pam looks back. The Microwave DINGS.

IAN (cont'd)

Your mom can wait a bit. You've been so busy lately. Working and all.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Ian leaves the knife on the counter. Takes the mugs from the Microwave. Places them in front of Pam.

IAN (cont'd)
Would you steep?

PAM
What?

IAN
Would you steep? The tea.

Ian points. He picks up the KNIFE.

PAM
Oh. Of course.

IAN
What did you think I said? Cheat?

The Bread POPS up from the toaster.

Pam FLIPS her chair over and RUNS for the APARTMENT DOOR.

She turns the DOOR KNOB as Ian pulls her away.

Ian GRAPPLES her, covers her mouth as she SQUEALS.

He presses the KNIFE to her chin.

IAN (cont'd)
Shhhhhhhhhhh.

INT. IAN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - STAIRCASE - DAY

MIKA
What's his name again?

ALEC
Ian Flagcid.

MIKA
Poor guy. Not even romance agents could find a lasting relationship for him. Honestly, it may have something to do with his last name sounding like a defunct male sex organ.

ALEC
Very inappropriate.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MIKA

It's not like I'm saying it to him.
I'm just saying.

ALEC

Please, Mika.

They approach the cracked open door.

ALEC (cont'd)

(quietly)

He should change his name, though.

INT./EXT. IAN'S APARTMENT - BALCONY - EVENING

Tears puddle in Pam's eyes as Ian DRAGS her to the railing.

IAN

You're just like everyone else out
there. A consumer. If you don't get
exactly what you want out of
something, you pick something else.

PAM

Ian--

IAN

SHHHHHHHHHHHH! I don't wanna hear it.

PAM

Please, I--

IAN

What did I say?! I've known something
was up since you came home without
wearing panties last week. Didn't
think I'd notice. I saw you put some
on in the morning and come back
without any. I even counted to make
sure. You only had 12 pair here and
you had one pair on. That's only 13.
Where's the 14th pair, Pam?

PAM

I--

IAN

Then there was the bag I found this
morning. In the cabinet. I knew you
were acting weird.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PAM

It--

IAN

(excruciatingly loud)

Who the fuck are you?!

Alec and Mika stand shocked. Alec lifts his hands.

ALEC

(awkwardly)

Hi, Mr. Flagcid. My name is Alec Daniels and this is Mika England. We're here on behalf of Pam Ellis and TRM, Incorporated.

IAN

I knew it. I knew.

ALEC

I think the best thing for us all to do right now is to sit down and talk.

IAN

I only need to know one thing.

MIKA

Just let her go.

IAN

And don't you fucking lie to me, Pam.

ALEC

I know you don't want anything bad to happen. Just let her go.

IAN

Are you sleeping with another server ... or with him?

MIKA

Let her--

ALEC

Let me handle this. It doesn't matter, Ian. You don't need--

IAN

You don't know what I need! Answer me, Pam.

Alec approaches.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

IAN (cont'd)
Don't come closer!

Pam tenses.

PAM
I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

Ian backs up, climbs on top of a small table.

His foot edges on the railing. Pam squeals.

ALEC
This won't accomplish anything.
The world is yours, Ian; yesterday is gone and today is going, there's only tomorrow left to go. You can--

IAN
That's what you don't get. None of you. You think everyone can have anything they want. Well, I tried. None of the agencies could find me anything. Not a job, not a college, and now that Pam wants to leave, not even love.

ALEC
What you're feeling is valid. Just come down and we can create a life solution map. Don't you love Pam? If you love her--

Ian looks backward and down at the ground.

IAN
I'm sorry.

He lets Pam go. She steps down and rushes to Mika.

ALEC
Now it's your turn.

IAN
This is bull. I don't want to be here. What's the--

ALEC
Don't say--

Mika steps forward.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MIKA

No, say it. That's the only way it gets better. I know you want to leave, Ian. Because sometimes life is overly complicated. I get it.

INT. MIKA'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - EVENING - FLASHBACK

SUPER "Five Years Earlier"

ALL MOS

Mika (18) is curled up on the floor against the bathtub.

MIKA (V.O.)

It hurts. It's honestly how my transition agent found me.

Alec (23), in uniform, approaches Mika. Crouches down to her. He opens one hand and motions toward the KNIFE in Mika's hand with the other.

MIKA (V.O.) (cont'd)

Hurting myself because I didn't believe in anything anymore.

Mika cries. She passes him the knife.

Alec puts an arm around her.

BLOOD stains Alec's shirt.

MIKA (V.O.) (cont'd)

We talked, though. And it helped.

INT. MIKA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - EVENING - FLASHBACK

Alec and Mika talk in MOS over tea while sitting on couch.

MIKA (V.O.)

He knew what to say because he genuinely cared.

Mika smiles. Alec hugs her. He stands and gives her his business card.

MIKA (V.O.) (cont'd)

And it wasn't just that time.

Alec takes the card, scribbles "919-555-0430" on the back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MIKA (V.O.) (cont'd)
He was there whenever I needed him.

EXT. SIDE OF THE HIGHWAY - EVENING - FLASHBACK

Alec changes Mika's tire.

INT. MIKA'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Along the LIVING ROOM, black shoes, then burgundy pants are strewn on the floor.

Followed by a grey dress shirt, then a tie, and black vest on the HALLWAY floor.

Behind the BATHROOM DOOR, Mika is wrapped around Alec and lifted against the sink as they have sex.

MIKA (V.O.)
He helped me get back on track. He helped me believe in love again.

BACK TO SCENE

INT./EXT. IAN'S APARTMENT - BALCONY - SUNSET

Mika's eyes well up--she doesn't cry.

MIKA
But that only happened because I made a choice. What do you choose, Ian?

Ian drops the knife from the balcony.

He steps down from the railing.

(Beat.)

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)
OWWWW! OH MY GOD!

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS - EVENING

Alec and Mika walk along.

ALEC
You were great back there.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MIKA
I was just honest.

ALEC
An advanced technique.

MIKA
I feel really bad about that guy on
the street, though.

ALEC
The paramedics said he'd be fine.

Mika stops. | Alec stops.

ALEC (cont'd)
What's up?

Mika approaches Alec.

MIKA
I wanna buy you a drink instead.

ALEC
Instead of what?

MIKA
Kissing you.

Alec reaches into his pocket and pulls out a hand with a
WEDDING RING on it.

MIKA (cont'd)
Hence, the drink. There's a bar
around this corner.

ALEC
Yea, I remember.

Mika stands on her tiptoes and inches toward Alec's lips.

He leans in, but they don't kiss.

MIKA
Just making sure you won't take
advantage once I have a few drinks.

ALEC
You wish. I'll see you tomorrow?

Mika nods, smiles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MIKA

I'll see you then, partner.

She walks off.

ALEC

You know you're not my partner,
right? I'm just training you.

FADE TO BLACK