

TOGETHERNESS

"Goodnight, M'lord"

Written by:

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Previously on "Togetherness"...

Tina decides that life will be easier if she finally allows her movie producer boyfriend Larry to take care of her. She moves in with him in his fancy house even though she doesn't really love him.

Alex gets a big acting job in one of Larry's films. Before he flies off to the set in New Orleans he rushes to find Tina to confess his love for her and asks her to come with him. She says no, it's best if she stays with Larry.

Michelle got involved with a project to get a charter school built for Eagle Rock. She works closely on the project with David, a single parent. Weeks of sexual attraction between the two come to a head when Michelle and David go to Sacramento together on business and end up in each other's arms in their adjoining hotel rooms.

Brett has experimented with mushrooms with his friend Linda and has found happiness at last just enjoying time with his kids and taking in how good life is. He is full of excitement over his new view of life and decides to surprise Michelle by driving up to Sacramento.

This episode takes place after the end of season one.

In this episode "Goodnight, M'Lord"...

Michelle feels set up when Brett tries to help the charter school project get exposure. Tina and Alex use phone calls to bond while Alex is on location in New Orleans.

INT. SEEDY HOTEL - DAY

ALEX sits on the dingy bed. Unshaven, messy-haired. Tears in his eyes. He stares at a syringe and a dime bag of heroin.

Sweats. Breathes hard. Finally shakes his head.

ALEX

No. She's not worth it, man.

In one violent sweep he knocks everything to the floor.

ALEX (CONT'D)

You're not worth it! Life goes on
without you, sweetheart!

He falls back onto the bed, sobbing with relief.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Cut! Beautiful!

Alex sits up, happy and all smiles. The DIRECTOR, a scruffy man, 30s, approaches the bed.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

Great job, Alex. Good stuff.

ALEX

Thanks, thanks. But um...do you think
we can try it one more time? I think
I can go a bit deeper.

The Director smiles and nods.

DIRECTOR

You're the man. Whatever you want.

(to crew)

We're going again!

INT. EDITING BAY - DAY

BRETT sits with an EDITOR, a sleep-deprived 20-something guy. They are looking at footage of a Native American Feast Day celebration. AMY, 35, a hip, attractive yet slightly nerdy woman sips coffee.

AMY

Most of the sound we got was great,
right on location. But there's still
a few rough patches.

Brett nods.

BRETT

Yeah, I can help you out with those.

AMY

It was a great shoot, but two months on location in the New Mexican summer, sheesh. A lot of those old houses on the reservation didn't have air conditioning. Like working on the surface of the sun.

BRETT

Actually you wouldn't have been able to have the air conditioning on anyway, it's too loud.

EDITOR

Yeah, the mics pick that stuff up no problem.

AMY

Sure. Air conditioning noise picks up fine, but when I need a crucial bit of dialogue it sounds like crap.

BRETT

We can help you out there.

EDITOR

Yeah. We'll find a work-around. No need to go back to reshoot.

AMY

Thanks, guys. You're lifesavers. I swear, next time I'm doing something local. No more slogs to the desert.

BRETT

Already starting the next project, huh?

AMY

Well, not really.

Brett laughs.

BRETT

Somehow I don't believe you.

AMY

I say no, but you know that deep down I'm already keeping an eye out for my next battle.

EDITOR

Wrongs to be righted!

BRETT

Mountains to climb!

They all raise their coffee mugs and sodas.

BRETT (CONT'D)

To Amy and her quest to put the world
right!

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

MICHELLE picks her coffee up at the counter and joins TINA at
a small table.

MICHELLE

So how has life in the West Hills
been treating you?

TINA

Fabulous. Larry's house is amazing.

MICHELLE

"Larry's" house?

TINA

Well yeah. Of course Larry's house.
How else would I refer to it?

Michelle shrugs.

MICHELLE

I don't know. It just sounded weird.
I guess I was expecting you to call
it "your" house.

TINA

It's not my house, it's Larry's.

MICHELLE

But you're living there.

TINA

It's only been three weeks! It's a
period of adjustment.

MICHELLE

Yeah, yeah, you're right.

TINA

What, you think it was a dumb move?

MICHELLE

No!

TINA

You think it's too soon? That I'm somehow sublimating myself to live *his* life in *his* house with *his* dog and *his* china pattern?

MICHELLE

Jeez, calm down, Hector Projector!

TINA

No, that's NOT what I think. But I can see where you might.

MICHELLE

I don't, I don't!

Michelle laughs, holds her hands up in a gesture of surrender. Tina's cell phone rings.

TINA

Hello? Hey, darling! How's it going?

(beat)

Sure, sure. It's 310-555-3949.

(beat)

Right. Okay. Hey, I'm with Michelle, can I call you back later?

(beat)

Yup, perfect. Call me later so we can watch "Downton Abbey." Don't you dare watch it before me! Bye.

She hangs up.

MICHELLE

Aww. Young love.

TINA

No, that was Alex.

Michelle's eyebrows shoot up in surprise.

MICHELLE

Really? You're watching "Downton Abbey" together?

TINA

Yeah. It's on earlier there because of the time difference, but he DVRs it, then waits until it's on here so we can watch it at the same time.

MICHELLE

How cozy.

TINA

We've been talking a lot on the phone together while he's in New Orleans. He tells me about his day on the set. He's doing really well!

MICHELLE

I know. Brett's been telling me.

TINA

I'm so proud of Alex. He's killing it on this film. Larry's gonna love it.

Michelle almost laughs.

MICHELLE

Listen to you.

TINA

Well, you know, he's much...nicer to deal with now that he's so happy.

MICHELLE

I bet he'd say the same thing.

Tina beams.

TINA

I DO seem happy, huh?

MICHELLE

So Larry's house is amazing. How's Larry?

TINA

(flat)

Uh...he's amazing, too.

INT. EDITING BAY - DAY

Amy is gathering her things, loading up her satchel. The Editor grabs his soda and tosses it.

EDITOR

Gotta go pee.

He leaves.

BRETT

So Amy, are you really looking for a local project to tackle?

AMY

Yeah, maybe. Whatcha got?

BRETT

My wife, Michelle, is heading a project to try and get a charter school built in Eagle Rock. They just started the project and it seems like it's going to be an uphill battle.

AMY

Oo, promising. The underdogs against the big guys?

BRETT

Exactly! Thought it might be interesting for you, and help them get some exposure.

AMY

Hmm.

BRETT

And it's local!

AMY

That might be interesting.

BRETT

And my wife, she's really sweet and personable. I think she'd "play well" on film.

AMY

It's just her trying to get this done?

BRETT

Oh no, she's got a group. And one of the guys on the project is running for office soon, so he's probably got some stories to tell. You want to talk to her?

AMY

Sure!

BRETT

Great. I'll set something up.

INT. FANCY HOTEL - NIGHT

Alex is sprawled out on his luxurious bed. Nibbles on tidbits from a room service tray. He's got his phone on speaker lying on his chest.

ALEX

Oh my god, I forgot how much I love shrimp cocktail.

INT. LARRY AND TINA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Tina lounges on the couch in her and Larry's fancy living room. Her TV is on, but muted. She's on the phone.

TINA

The money for that shrimp cocktail is coming out of Larry's pocket, ya know.

INTERCUT LARRY AND TINA.

ALEX

Well, thank Larry for me. Yum!

TINA

You're basically taking food out of my mouth.

He makes exaggerated slurping noises as he eats.

ALEX

Mm, so good. I might have another.

TINA

Live it up while you can.

ALEX

Oh, I intend to.

She notices what's on her TV.

TINA

Hey, it's almost time!

ALEX

I'm ready.

TINA

You swear to god you didn't already watch it?

ALEX

Tina, would I lie to you about something so important as "Downton Abbey"? I have it paused and ready to go. You'll have to tell me exactly when yours starts.

TINA

You're never gonna get it exactly in sync with me, you know.

Alex nods. He has his TV remote in hand, ready.

ALEX

Tell me about it.

INT. BRETT AND MICHELLE'S PORCH - NIGHT

Michelle is sitting on the porch as Brett walks up the path.

BRETT

Hello, my loving wife.

MICHELLE

Hi.

He kisses her hello and sits in the chair next to her.

BRETT

Escaping from the kids?

MICHELLE

No, it's just such a nice night.
Enjoying the air.

Brett settles back more comfortably into his chair.

BRETT

Yeah, you're right. It is a nice night to sit out here.

They enjoy the quiet for a moment.

BRETT (CONT'D)

Oh, hey. You know that documentary maker I've been working with? Amy Ratcliffe? Well, she's looking for a new subject to tackle and I told her all about your charter school thing.

MICHELLE

Really? You mean...to do a documentary
(MORE)

MICHELLE (CONT'D)
about the school? We don't even have
it yet.

BRETT
Yeah, that's the point. It's not
about the school itself, but the
struggle to get it approved and made.
The plight of the community and all
that. She liked the idea. Wants to
talk to you.

MICHELLE
Me? She should probably talk to David.

BRETT
I'm sure she will. But you're a big
part of it, too. She needs you both.
Isn't that great?

Brett is grinning ear-to-ear, but Michelle only smiles a bit.

MICHELLE
Wow. Yeah. That would be...

BRETT
Amazing!

Brett doesn't seem to notice that he's alone in his bubble of
contentment.

INT. FANCY HOTEL - NIGHT

Alex watches TV, phone still on his chest on speaker.

ALEX
Oh! I can't believe she did that!

He laughs.

TINA (O.S.)
(on speaker)
That was awesome! I love this show!
Larry should do TV.

ALEX
Maybe you could convince him.

INT. LARRY AND TINA'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tina lies on the floor, eyes glued to the TV.

TINA
You'd be good on a show like this.

INTERCUT TINA AND ALEX

ALEX
I wouldn't say no to that.

TINA
I bet. Larry's seen the dailies, he says you're really killing it.

ALEX
Really?

TINA
Yep.

ALEX
What else did he say?

TINA
Shh! We're missing the show!

EXT. MOVIE SET - DAY

Alex, dressed as his character, a lowlife druggie, struts through the set. CREW MEMBERS here and there nod their hellos.

He gets a cup of coffee and a donut. Gazes around at his Shangri-La. Grins.

A YOUNG ASIAN WOMAN catches his eye. She has a mobile manicure-pedicure station. One of the other actors, a BIKER GUY complete with fake bloodied gash on his head, is getting a foot massage. Alex watches this.

OLDER ASIAN WOMAN approaches Alex.

OLDER ASIAN WOMAN
Mr. Pappas? Would you like a mani-pedi? Free of charge.

Alex looks like he's considering it.

OLDER ASIAN WOMAN (CONT'D)
Tip not included, of course.

ALEX
Do men get those?

OLDER ASIAN WOMAN
Oh yes. Very popular with male actors.

A PERKY P.A. approaches Alex.

P.A.

Mr. Pappas? We're ready for you on set, please.

INT. BRETT AND MICHELLE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Michelle pulls towels from a laundry basket on the bed and folds them. Brett sneaks up behind her, kisses her neck. She doesn't stop folding.

BRETT

How's my sexy wife?

MICHELLE

Your sexy wife is folding towels.

Brett tries to entice her with more kisses and caresses from behind her.

BRETT

Maybe my sexy wife could fold the towels later.

MICHELLE

Later she has to start dinner.

He aborts his seduction. His arms fall to his sides.

BRETT

You know, Michelle, it wouldn't be the worse thing in the world to stop and see how wonderful things are.

She turns around, stares at him.

BRETT (CONT'D)

Life is short. And beautiful. Look where you are. In a lovely, cozy home. Life is good. Your loving husband is here.

MICHELLE

Horny husband more like it.

BRETT

Jesus, Michelle!

MICHELLE

What, I'm supposed to stop everything I'm doing because you feel like having sex? Maybe I don't!

BRETT

No, I'm saying you need to stop and take in how good life is! Take your nose out of your chores for a few minutes!

MICHELLE

Brett, you did mushrooms *once* three weeks ago, now you're Mr. Happy Zen? Get real! I'm supposed to drop what I'm doing because you've reached nirvana after one cup of mushroom tea?

Brett looks a bit sheepish. Hesitates. Sits.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

What?

BRETT

Actually I've done it two more times since then.

MICHELLE

What? When?

BRETT

Just a few times. Once I was at work.

MICHELLE

At work?! And no one noticed?

BRETT

I work in the entertainment industry, do you think anyone even noticed? Linda came by for lunch, and we just ended up doing a little.

MICHELLE

Oh, I see. *Linda*. And the second time?

BRETT

The other day when I went hiking.

MICHELLE

Let me guess...Linda was there.

BRETT

Well, yeah. It was out at her place. We took a hike.

MICHELLE

Yeah, I get it. You have such a lovely time doing mushrooms with your girlfriend out in the woods.

He plops down on the bed.

BRETT

Oh please. She's like sixty. It's totally platonic. She's like a... mentor. She's helped me expand my viewpoint on life.

MICHELLE

Meanwhile, I'm at home all day taking care of the kids and trying to create a great school for your kids to go to. Not just get them into the school, like applications and stuff, but actually CREATE the school itself! Then I'm supposed to drop my panties because you come home sounding like Yoda? Not exactly romantic, Brett.

BRETT

Not romantic? Didn't I drive up to Sacramento to surprise you at your hotel? That wasn't romantic? I drove up there to share my excitement with you and you acted all weird and cold!

She turns her back, grimaces. Yikes.

MICHELLE

Yes. I know. I'm sorry. That was very sweet actually. And you're trying to help our charter school get more exposure. That's very sweet of you. I'm sorry. I guess I'm just tired.

TINA (O.S.)

Tired?

EXT. LARRY AND TINA'S SUNNY PATIO - DAY

Tina and Michelle enjoy the sunshine on chaise lounges on the beautifully lush patio. Tall iced teas in hand.

TINA

Guilty is more like it.

MICHELLE

Oh my god, when he mentioned the hotel room I nearly died! I felt terrible!

TINA

Why? You didn't get caught.

MICHELLE

Almost! If he had shown up an hour earlier...oh Jesus.

TINA

But he didn't. Stop beating yourself up over it. You slipped up ONE time.

Tina leans forward. Glares at Michelle.

TINA (CONT'D)

Right?

MICHELLE

(whispers)

Yes! Of course!

TINA

Have you guys seen each other since? I mean, how did you leave things?

MICHELLE

(whispers)

We don't talk about it. I've seen him a few times at the meetings.

TINA

Do you want to see him again?

Michelle slurps on her iced tea. Long swig.

MICHELLE

(whispers)

I don't know. I shouldn't.

TINA

But you want to.

MICHELLE

(whispers)

I don't know what I want.

TINA

Why are you whispering?

MICHELLE

I don't want your servants to hear.

Tina laughs.

TINA

Servants! Marie is just a housekeeper.

MICHELLE

Whatever.

TINA

You make it sound like I have a butler
or something. Or a ladies maid like
on "Downton Abbey."

(British accent)

"That will be all, Anna." "Thank
you, ma'am."

MICHELLE

A housekeeper sounds good to me.

TINA

Larry does spoil me, it's true. Do
you want some more iced tea?

Michelle notices that her glass is empty.

MICHELLE

Sure. Will she bring it out?

TINA

No, doofus. I have to go get it.

Tina hops up and grabs their empty glasses.

INT. FANCY HOTEL BATHROOM - NIGHT

Alex wears only a towel, fresh out of the shower, wet hair.
Holds the phone to his ear.

TINA (O.S.)

(recorded, on
phone)

Hi, it's Tina, you know what to do.

BEEP!

ALEX

Nothing like a shower to wash away
the grime of a hard day doing heroin
and beating up prostitutes. Just
called to say goodnight. Cheerio!

INT. BRETT AND MICHELLE'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Michelle sits at the kitchen table paying bills. Her phone rings. Incoming caller listed as "David Garcia."

She sneaks a glance at Brett in the next room watching TV with the kids. She touches a button, sends the call to voicemail.

INT. FANCY HOTEL - NIGHT

Alex lies in bed, still only in a towel. Lights off. Phone rings. Glances at the incoming caller name. Smiles.

ALEX

'Ello, love!

TINA (O.S.)

(on phone)

Working on that English accent, huh?

INT. LARRY AND TINA'S SUMPTUOUS BATHROOM - NIGHT

Tina soaks in the huge tub. Dim lights. Lovely view through the window of city lights. Phone on speaker on the tub edge.

INTERCUT TINA AND ALEX

ALEX

Whatcha doing?

TINA

I was inspired by your speech about washing away the grime of the day. I'm soaking in the tub.

Alex's eyebrows shoot up.

ALEX

Reeeaaaally?

She smiles, but doesn't let it 'show' in her voice.

TINA

Yup. I'm all soapy and sudsy.

ALEX

Washing away the grime of a hard day shopping and getting pedicures?

TINA

That's right.

ALEX

Oh, speaking of pedicures. They actually have women on the set and their sole job is to give cast and crew pedicures and manicure and foot massages!

TINA

I don't think it's for the crew.

ALEX

Oh. Really? Just the cast?

TINA

When are you going to get it? You're BIG now! You're starring in a freaking movie!

ALEX

Wow. Do men get manicures?

TINA

Sure. A lot of men do. The metrosexuals.

ALEX

Like with nail polish? What, like clear polish or something?

TINA

No, no. No polish. They soften and clean up your cuticles, make them look nice. Then they just trim and buff your nails so they're all nice and shiny.

ALEX

Sounds kinda nice. I was thinking of --

TINA

I find it so prissy though, men who get manicures. So effeminate.

Alex nods. Takes mental note. That's that then.

ALEX

Does *Larry* get manicures? And his little dog gets a matching pedicure?

She purses her lips. Hesitates.

TINA

Oh shit, I almost dropped the phone
into the tub!

Her phone sits - safe and untouched - on the edge of the tub.
Mission accomplished, Alex is distracted.

ALEX

Into that slick, soapy water?

TINA

Slick, soapy, warm water.

ALEX

Oooo. Tell me more.

TINA

Is that an order?

ALEX

(British accent)

Indeed. As lord of the manor I command
you to describe what you're doing at
this very moment.

Tina smiles. She runs her hand down her soapy front and down
under the water.

TINA

(British accent)

As you wish, m'lord!

EXT. BRETT AND MICHELLE'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

Michelle and Tina lean against a half-wall near the patio.
They talk very quietly.

MICHELLE

What?!

Tina laughs.

TINA

I know! I can't believe it!

MICHELLE

Phone sex? With Alex?! What does
this mean?

Tina shrugs.

TINA

It was kind of fun.

MICHELLE

But what about Larry?

Tina shrugs again and frowns.

TINA

Crap. Am I doomed to fuck up every good thing that happens to me?

MICHELLE

Boy, we're quite a pair, aren't we?

They giggle at their shared problem.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Look, you didn't really cheat on Larry. It was just phone sex. No one else was even there!

TINA

Yeah, that's true! I was alone! It's not like I actually had sex with someone and fucked the whole thing up!

This cheers up Tina. Until she sees Michelle's distraught face.

TINA (CONT'D)

Oh. Yeah. Sorry.

Michelle sees through the window that Brett is home -- and brought a woman with him!

INT. BRETT AND MICHELLE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Michelle marches in from the backyard.

BRETT

Ah, here she is. Amy, this is my wife, Michelle. This is Amy, the documentary maker I told you about.

Michelle covers her surprise beautifully.

MICHELLE

Yes, hello! Brett told me so much about you. Your work sounds fascinating.

AMY

Thank you! It's nice to meet you. I can't wait to hear about your charter school project.

MICHELLE
Ooooh. Yeah. Great!

INT. BRETT AND MICHELLE'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Michelle uses a fierce whisper.

MICHELLE
What the hell, Brett?!

BRETT
Didn't you get my message?

MICHELLE
No, what message?

BRETT
I ran into Amy in the parking lot and we started talking. She was so excited to talk to you about the school so I just invited her for dinner.

MICHELLE
Jesus, Brett!

BRETT
Look, it's no big deal. She's laid back, it's just a casual meal. I called you twice on the way home.

She pats her pockets. Looks around the room.

MICHELLE
Shit. I think my phone's still in my purse. I can't hear the ringer when it's in there.

BRETT
Whatever you have planned for dinner is fine. Or I can go get a pizza. Honestly, it's just a casual thing.

Her fuming reduces down into a simmer.

MICHELLE
Okay. Fine.

DING DONG! Doorbell!

BRETT
Oh. Yeah. There's one more thing.

INT. BRETT AND MICHELLE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Brett opens the door to find DAVID on the doorstep.

BRETT
Hi! C'mon in, David.

Michelle freezes. Holy crap.

INT. MOVIE SET - NIGHT

Alex meanders around the set, in costume. Ripped clothes, bruises on his face. MAKEUP ARTIST touches up his cut and bloodied lip. The Young Asian Woman approaches him.

YOUNG ASIAN WOMAN
Manicure while you wait, Mr. Pappas?

Alex shakes his head -- a vigorous "no."

INT. BRETT AND MICHELLE'S KITCHEN - LATER

Brett brings an empty bottle of wine from the dining area. Grabs another full bottle. Laughter and merriment ECHOES from the other room. He makes a quick call as he opens the wine.

ALEX (O.S.)
(on phone)
Hi, Brett.

BRETT
Hey, buddy! How's it going Mr. Movie Star? Do you have your own assistant yet? Is TMZ following you around?

ALEX (O.S.)
(on phone)
It's going great! But hey, I've got Tina on the other line. Can I call you back?

BRETT
Oh. Yeah, sure!

ALEX (O.S.)
(on phone)
Great. We'll catch up later.

BRETT
Okay, we'll -

CLICK.

INT. BRETT AND MICHELLE'S DINING AREA - NIGHT

Pizza boxes fill the table, mostly empty.

AMY

So I learned the hard way that it's not an Indian casino -- it's a "gaming palace!"

Everyone laughs. David seems charmed by her story. This does not escape Michelle's notice.

DAVID

That reminds me of one time when I went to the Grand Canyon. I had my daughters with me and...

Amy seems equally charmed by David.

INT. HOTEL BALCONY - NIGHT

Alex leans against the railing looking out over New Orleans. On the phone, as usual.

LARRY (O.S.)

(on phone)

Hello?

Alex stands at attention.

ALEX

(fake French accent)

'Allo? Is ziss Tina's phone?

LARRY (O.S.)

(on phone)

Yes. Is this Alex?

Alex freezes.

ALEX

Uh...yeah. I was just...

(French accent again)

...practizing zee French accent. Nawlins has inspired me.

Alex cringes.

LARRY (O.S.)

(on phone)

It's good! Keep up the good work.
Uh, I answered Tina's phone by
accident. She's not home.

ALEX

Alrighty then. Um, no message. Just
called to say hi.

LARRY (O.S.)

(on phone)

Okay. Bon nuit, monsieur!

CLICK.

ALEX

He even does a French accent better
than me.

INT. BRETT AND MICHELLE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Michelle sits up in bed. Rubs lotion into her hands and arms.
Brett sits on the edge of the bed, clips his toenails.

BRETT

Amy sure loved you.

Michelle just gives a polite smile.

BRETT (CONT'D)

I think she really wants to do a film
on you guys. Wouldn't that be great?

MICHELLE

I guess.

BRETT

You guess?

MICHELLE

Well, I mean, I don't really see how
it's going to help us.

BRETT

You'll get exposure! People will
know about your plight!

MICHELLE

Plight? Brett, we might get it
approved! We might not *have* a
struggle. Why do you assume we're
going to fail?

BRETT

I'm not assu-- Michelle! I'm trying to help!

He gets into bed with her.

MICHELLE

I know. I know you are. But the only way her film will help us is if she films us for a long time, then we fail, and then after the film comes out we show it around and get publicity. Not exactly the route we were hoping for.

BRETT

Oh. Yeah, I guess that's true.

MICHELLE

By the time her film comes out, then it's sort of too late.

BRETT

I guess.

MICHELLE

Why did you invite David?

BRETT

What do you mean? He spearheaded the whole thing!

MICHELLE

Yeah, I know. I mean, why not just have her meet with him at a separate time?

He stares at her.

BRETT

I don't get it. What's the problem?

MICHELLE

No problem.

Brett snuggles down into bed.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

Why did you suggest that they meet again alone next week?

BRETT

They seemed to be really hitting it off. The more they bond, the better chance of the film getting made. Why? Does it bother you?

MICHELLE

No, of course not. It just seems like you were trying to play matchmaker a little bit.

BRETT

Hey, if they hit it off, good for them. That wasn't my intention though.

Brett closes his eyes, he's ready for a peaceful night's sleep. But nope, it's not meant to be.

MICHELLE

David told me something you said at the fundraiser. That day you were on mushrooms.

He rolls back over to her, opens his eyes.

BRETT

What?

MICHELLE

Something about asking him if you should be worried, like you were afraid David and I were going to get together.

BRETT

Oh. Yeah. That sounds familiar. Like you said...mushrooms.

MICHELLE

It seems like you are trying to make sure David and Amy hook up so you won't have to worry about it anymore.

Brett sits back up again. Michelle turns away from him.

MICHELLE (CONT'D)

(quietly to herself)

Oh my god, I'm Hector.

BRETT

Hector? Who's Hector?

MICHELLE

Um, just some guy at the school board.

BRETT

Michelle, you realize this makes you sound jealous, right? DO I have something to worry about?

A long pause before Michelle finally shakes her head no.

INT. LARRY AND TINA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

She picks up her phone and texts to Alex.

"What are you doing?"

INT. MAKEUP TRAILER - DAY

The Makeup Artist makes Alex look beaten up, bloodied.

Alex sees her text. Types in his reply.

"Getting beaten up."

INT. LARRY AND TINA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

She sees his reply. Then his selfie comes through, Alex looking horrible and beaten. She laughs. Types.

"You look great!"

She then takes a selfie and sends it through. She looks good.

INT. MAKEUP TRAILER - DAY

Alex sees Tina's selfie. He gazes at it for a moment. Doesn't reply. He is still and quiet. Stares at himself in the mirror.

MAKEUP ARTIST

Cheer up, honey! This is all fake.
Soon you can go home and it's all
back to normal.

INT. BRETT AND MICHELLE'S PORCH - NIGHT

Michelle sits with Frankie on her lap. He's asleep. She watches Brett park his car and approach the porch.

MICHELLE

Hi, honey.

BRETT

Hi.

Brett gently kisses the sleeping boy before he plops down.

BRETT (CONT'D)

Don't you wish you could sleep like that? So peaceful. And when they wake up, so full of wonder.

She looks into Brett's eyes.

BRETT (CONT'D)

I know, you're tired of hearing me wax poetic about everything since the mushrooms. But I'm telling you, it has totally changed my perspective and put me in a happier place.

She nods.

MICHELLE

It seems cruel and unfair...in a relationship two people are hardly ever on the same page.

BRETT

Well, maybe you'd like to try taking some with me. You can try the tea...I'll make it really weak for you at first. You can have a very gentle trip. We'll do it together.

MICHELLE

Yeah, maybe. But that's not exactly what I meant. Maybe this new enlightened viewpoint is a good thing for you right now. 'Cause there's something I need to tell you about Sacramento.

He sits back into his chair.

BRETT

Okay.

(laughs)

I'm worried, but okay.

A SOULFUL SONG plays over the scene that continues M.O.S.

The P.O.V. slowly changes from the porch steps back to the sidewalk as the MUSIC plays as Brett sits silently while Michelle spills her guts.

INT. ALEX'S ON-SET TRAILER - NIGHT

Alex types a text to Tina.

"I think you should watch 'Downton Abbey' with Larry. It's the right thing to do."

But he doesn't send it. Sets his phone down. Drums his fingers. Fidgets. Sighs. Picks phone up again. Hits "send."

EXT. MOVIE SET - NIGHT

Alex picks at the remains of his dinner. He watches the Young Asian Woman finish up her pedicure on the ACTRESS playing one of his prostitutes.

Alex wanders over.

YOUNG ASIAN WOMAN
Manicure, Mr. Pappas?

ALEX
Actually, yes! That sounds lovely.

He sits down. His phone rings. He sends the caller to voicemail, then lets the pampering begin, big grin on his face.

INT. LARRY AND TINA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

"Downton Abbey" is beginning on Tina's huge TV. She holds the phone to her ear. Waits.

ALEX (O.S.)
(recorded, on
phone)
Hi, it's Alex. I'm on the set! I'm making a movie, so I'm far too busy to answer your call. Leave a message.

She smirks as she listens. BEEP!

She opens her mouth to leave a message. Nothing comes out. She thinks better of it. Simply hangs up. Puts the phone down on the table. Nods.

TINA
(British accent)
Goodnight, m'lord.

Larry wanders in. She pats the couch next to her. He snuggles up to her and together they watch "Downton Abbey."