

FADE IN:

INT. JESSICA'S SKY-RISE FLAT NIGHT - PRESENT.

It's early evening. JESSICA LYONS, 34, sits at her kitchen island. She is dressed in comfy clothes, sipping a glass of wine and mindlessly scrolling through her phone.

She goes on Tinder and starts swiping. Until one man gets her attention. ALFIE, 35, profile stares back at her. She studies it intensely.

She swipes YES and the notification appears 'it's a match!'.

She ponders this. Her expression is blank, she shuts her phone off and downs her glass of wine.

INT. JESSICA'S BATHROOM - NIGHT.

Jessica is brushing her teeth, emotionlessly staring at her reflection in the bathroom mirror. She looks down at a blue toothbrush in the pot on the sink. She spits out her toothpaste, still staring at the other toothbrush. She contemplates for a moment then puts the other toothbrush in her mouth and stares at herself in the mirror.

INT. JESSICA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT.

Jessica is lying awake in bed. There are tears in her eyes. She opens her phone to a photograph of her and a young man, she scrolls through the photos of them. There's an empty bottle of vodka by her bed.

She opens Tinder and types a message to Alfie: 'Hey, would you like to go for drinks sometime this week?'

She stares up at the ceiling, her phone pressed against her chest.

INT. FUNERAL DIRECTORS OFFICE - DAY.

Jessica sits at a desk in a small, modern office room. There's posters up that read things such as 'we're here for you', 'talk to us about wills' etc.

SUE, 50s, calm and motherly, sits opposite her.

SUE

I've spoken with the Chapel and they've agreed to hold the service on the Saturday the 2nd. Is that still okay?

JESSICA

Will I be able to see him before the funeral?

SUE

You may.

Sue looks at her with a sympathetic look. She leans over to a desk tidy and pulls out a few flyers and hands them to Jessica over the desk.

SUE (CONT'D)

Have a flick through these. There might be something helpful in one of them.

Jessica looks at the leaflets, some reading 'how to deal with the loss of your spouse', 'untimely grief' etc. She smiles and places them in her pocket.

Sue leans toward her a little bit.

SUE (CONT'D)

Not to be too intrusive. But how have you been doing, Jess?

Jessica adjusts herself in the seat so she seems collected.

JESSICA

I've been fine. I'm okay.

SUE

Grief is an extremely strange thing to deal with.

Jessica gives her a smile, and then goes to stand up. Sue is watching her curiously. Then motions for her to sit back down, she does so

SUE (CONT'D)

It's okay to cry, Jessica. In front of me. I've seen it all. Weepers, sniffers, laughers, everyone.

JESSICA

I don't need to cry right now.

SUE
What's your plans for this weekend?

JESSICA
Nothing really. Sitting in my flat
alone again probably.

Jessica has left her phone sits on the desk, it buzzes. She lunges to grab it but Sue, jokingly, picks it up and looks at it.

SUE
Wh...what? Is this a tinder
notification, Jess?

Jessica stands caught.

JESSICA
It's just, well it's nothing. Just
a date.

Sue stares at her like a deer in headlights.

SUE
I didn't know you would be able to
move on so fast.

JESSICA
Sue, I love you and appreciate my
friendship with you, but please,
please don't ever judge me.

SUE
I don't want to judge you, Jessica.
I'm just concerned. You were with
Charlie for a long time.

Jessica sighs.

JESSICA
I'm just trying to live life to
live life now. Going to get some
help with my drinking thing and
maybe move on.

SUE
If you're sure thats what you want.

JESSICA
None of this is what I want, Sue.

Sue sighs understandingly. Jessica smiles, motions towards the leaflets that she'll give them a read, then stands up and leaves.

EXT. HALLWAY OF THE FUNERAL DIRECTORS - DAY.

Jessica shuts the door behind her, walks along the hallway and bins the leaflets on her way, without second thought. As she is walking through the corridors, she brings out a water bottle of her handbag and downs it.

INT. JESSICA'S BEDROOM - EVENING.

Jessica is getting ready for her date, she doing her hair and makeup. She stares at herself in the mirror, and clutches her hands close to her chest. She has Alfie's Tinder profile propped up next to her.

JESSICA
(speaking to his photo)
So what is it that you do, Alfie?

She is trembling.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
What- do.. you work.. do?

She curses and downs a glass of wine.

INT. BAR - NIGHT.

Jessica and Alfie are inside a dimly lit, romantic bar. Both of them with drinks in their hands. She's wearing a black dress and heels. Alfie is equally as attractive wearing a white shirt and black suit pants.

It's been a while into their date now, indicated by the empty glasses next to them. Jessica is drunk, Alfie is too but not as much.

JESSICA
I've always been introverted. I
didn't like many people. I don't
have a lot of friends in the city.

Alfie looks at her intrigued, but he chuckles a little.

ALFIE
I see.

JESSICA

But you Alfie...you are just something else. I like you already.

She giggles.

ALFIE

I think you seem great. Very funny.

Jessica's face drops momentarily, she tries to sober herself up a little bit. She's about to hit him with something:

JESSICA

My ex-husband is dead. I'm doing his eulogy at his funeral and it's pretty funny because I can't speak to people anymore unless I'm stone cold drunk....wait it's stone cold sober isn't it? The expression? What's another term for stupidly drunk?

Alfie blinks at her, and sits back in his seat, slightly taken aback.

ALFIE

Wow, well, I think it's blackout drunk. And I'm so sorry to hear about your husband.

JESSICA

Ex. Ex husband, Alfie.

Jessica tries to fix her gaze on him.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

What do you do, Alfie?

ALFIE

Currently, I work for human resources at this multinational company round the block.

JESSICA

You do? So you like take care of your employee's mental health?

ALFIE

Yeah. I mean I try to at least. It can be tricky at times, and sometimes I forget that I need to take care of my own self.

Jessica leans in.

ALFIE (CONT'D)

But I'm in a bit of a sticky situation right now with my higher ups.

JESSICA

How come?

ALFIE

Just usual office shit. There was some issues with other colleagues before, but it's fine now. Let's pretend I never said that because I do try to make myself look good on the first date.

Jessica smiles and finishes her drink. She motions at the waiter for another. The waiter nods, motions to Alfie if he wants another and Alfie shakes his head.

JESSICA

So what's your *dream* job?

ALFIE

I've always wanted to go into financial advising. Anything with money I guess.

JESSICA

Oh my god. Well maybe this was fate because my father actually owns those new string of banks that have just opened up.

ALFIE

You're kidding.

Jessica nods, a grin creeps up on her face. They finish their drinks.

INT. STREETS OF LONDON - MORNING.

Jessica is on an intensive run through the streets of London, avoiding the commuters. She is constantly looking around, as though she's trying to find someone.

She sees Alfie and some other men dressed in suits walking on the other side of the street.

She runs over to him. He spots her.

ALFIE

Hi.

JESSICA

Hi, Alfie. How's it going?

ALFIE

Well not the best. I've just been fired.

JESSICA

Really? What happened?

ALFIE

Just a follow up from the little issue I had before. But it's okay, new fresh start right. What are you up to?

JESSICA

Trying to run off the hangover. I just want to say, I had a lot of fun on our date the other night. But I had to get really drunk and just want to say I'm not usually like that. It's just nerves.

ALFIE

Don't worry. I enjoyed our date. I would like to see you again, if that's cool.

Jessica sighs with relief.

INT. JESSICA'S FLAT - NIGHT.

Jessica is standing in her flat. She has a piece of paper in her hand, she's trembling.

JESSICA

Charlie was one-of-a-kind...

Her voice is trembling. She looks at herself in the mirror and snaps back into action.

She downs a glass of wine and tries again.

She tries again and again, drinking more wine, her confidence growing. She's getting drunker but her speech is going well.

She applauds herself in the mirror.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

You are a superstar.

INT. PUB - NIGHT.

Alfie is sitting in the pub with his friends. There is a large group of them, laughing and drinking beer.

FRIEND 1

So she *just* lost her husband?

ALFIE

Her ex-husband. She made that very clear or I wouldn't step in. Hmm. No I would actually. I'm a bit sketchy about her though but she's fit so don't care really.

They all laugh at this.

ALFIE (CONT'D)

Her ex might come haunt me as I'm fucking her but probably worth it.

More laughter. A BEAT and then:

A drunk Jessica enters the pub. She is frantically searching for Alfie, she clocks him and runs over to him. Alfie locks eyes.

ALFIE (CONT'D)

Oh fuck.

JESSICA

(out of breath, frantic)
Alfie, can I speak to you outside?

Alfie nervously stands up and motions to his friends that 'this is her'. Followed by laughter.

EXT. PUB - NIGHT.

Jessica takes Alfie's arm through the crowd of people and find a quiet space outside.

ALFIE

How did you know I was here?

JESSICA

You said you and your old colleagues frequent the pub after work each day.

Jessica says this in such a matter-of-fact way that it throws Alfie off a bit.

ALFIE

But I never said which *specific-*

JESSICA

Can you be with me tonight? I can't be alone. I'm always alone.

Alfie blinks at her. She stands staring at him like a lost puppy. There's fear in her eyes.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Listen I don't know many people in London. In fact I have about three contacts including the funeral directors. I took a leap going on a date with you.

Alfie takes her shoulders, trying to ground her a bit.

ALFIE

Listen, Jessica, I have just met you, like a week ago. I'm so sorry to hear about your ex and I wish...

JESSICA

Please. I just need to be with someone.

Alfie shakes his head no.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

I'll cook you a full English in the morning.

Alfie considers this.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

I'll pay for your drinks tonight for all your friends. I know you're unemployed and probably tight on cash.

Alfie gets defensive at this remark.

ALFIE

You don't know me or about my money.

He turns around to leave.

JESSICA

I'll help you get a job with my Dad.

INT. JESSICA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT.

Jessica is sleeping soundly, Alfie is lying next to her. They aren't hugging or close to one another and there is no implication of sex. He is watching her sleep, seemingly uncomfortable but very intrigued by this woman.

He rolls over and looks at her nightstand, there is a purse sitting on it which shows wads of cash. He looks at her, then the wallet, then slowly reaches over and takes out the cash, he puts them in his trouser pocket and then lies back down trying to sleep.

INT. JESSICA'S KITCHEN - MORNING.

Jessica is at her stove and she is cooking two fried eggs in a pan. Some toast pops out of the toaster and there's another pan with bacon sizzling gently.

Alfie sleepily enters the room. He yawns and stretches. He remembers the cash in his pockets and stuffs them further in.

JESSICA

Morning. Did you sleep okay?

ALFIE

I did.

Alfie starts walking around the kitchen taking in the place as he didn't really get a chance the night before.

ALFIE (CONT'D)

You've got a good place here. Did you and your ex live here?

JESSICA

I moved here by myself.

Alfie inspects some of the pictures hanging up on the wall in the corridor.

ALFIE (O.S.)

You got no pictures of him?

JESSICA

Breakfast is ready.

Alfie shuffles through into the kitchen and waits for his breakfast to be served to him. Jessica dishes up all the components of his breakfast in which he scoffs down very quickly.

JESSICA

Hungry?

ALFIE

(with food in his mouth)
I'm unemployed. I live off pot
noodles and sleep.

JESSICA

You've not seen any cash lying
about have you?

Alfie doesn't look up from his plate.

ALFIE

No.

Jessica sits down, she has her own plate that's slightly
smaller and she politely starts nibbling away at her food.

Alfie is mannishly shoveling the food down his throat, not
really paying much attention to her.

JESSICA

The truth is, me and my ex never
really got along.

He looks up.

ALFIE

You didn't?

JESSICA

He was a self-centered asshole. I
think he was cheating on me.

INT. JESSICA'S BEDROOM - FLASHBACK NIGHT.

Jessica and her husband, CHARLIE, are lying in bed. She is
sitting up reading a book. He's sitting up next to her on his
phone. She glances over.

JESSICA

What you looking at?

He turns his phone away so she can't see.

CHARLIE

Nothing. Just work.

Jessica frowns at him.

INT. JESSICA'S KITCHEN - PRESENT.

Alfie doesn't respond he makes a grunt but too engrossed in the food.

JESSICA

What actually happened when you got fired?

Alfie finishes his food.

ALFIE

Well. (*burps*) Like I said before, I got caught up in the wrong crowd. I was kinda bullied into joining this big group of lads who would just make everyones life hell. My manager got the wrong end of the stick after this one incident and fired me for stuff that I was pretty much coerced into.

Jessica nods. She eats her breakfast sparingly. She shakes her head.

JESSICA

That's awful.

Alfie agrees.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Have you ever heard of the term sending away the tigers, Alfie?

Alfie shakes his head.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Basically, it's a misguided notion of liberation. Battling your inner demons by getting drunk. Tony Hancock started it.

Alfie nods, not understanding why she's bringing it up.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

I'm a bit like that in a way. But I'm working on it.

INT. CHURCH - FLASHBACK.

It's Jessica's wedding day. Jessica stands at the alter with Charlie, gripping each others hands.

There is a crowd of people staring at them. Jessica grips Charlie's hands tightly.

JESSICA
I...Jessica Johnson, take
you...Charlie Albert...to...be
my...waff-lawfully,
sorry...lawfully wedded....

Charlie grips her hand and mouths to her.

CHARLIE
You've got this, baby.

INT. JESSICA'S KITCHEN - MORNING.

Jessica slides her phone over the counter and types something on her phone, but we don't see what.

JESSICA
Oh, I have an exciting proposition
for you, Alfie.

ALFIE
What is it?

JESSICA
My father texted me about new start
ups and their looking to fill in
some new positions.

Alfie's face lights up. He stands up, joyful.

ALFIE
Oh my god really?

He runs around the counter and kisses Jessica. This is their first kiss so they both break away, slightly awkwardly.

ALFIE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, but this is just great
news. Great news. Thank you.

JESSICA
Well, no thank you for staying with
me last night. I'll text him about
potential interviews this week.
Although can I ask you one thing?
One little favour?

ALFIE
(still elated)
Yeah, anything.

JESSICA

Would you stay with me again? I just can't seem to be alone. We can go out for another dinner or drinks or something, all on me.

ALFIE

I can.

Alfie leans over the counter and jingles a pair of keys in her face.

ALFIE (CONT'D)

Will I get myself a copy of your keys so I can let myself in?

INT. JESSICA'S FLAT - FLASHBACK

It's move in day, Jessica and Charlie are moving into the flat (the same flat as the one we've seen her in). There are boxes everywhere.

Jessica walks over to Charlie who is hauling large boxes through. They kiss.

Charlie picks out a glass from one of the boxes that is covered in bubblewrap and passes Jessica one. They pretend to 'cheers' with the glasses.

CHARLIE

To our future.

JESSICA

Our future.

INT. JESSICA'S FLAT - NIGHT FLASHBACK.

Jessica places her keys in the pot and starts walking round her flat, calling for Charlie. She calls for Charlie a few times with no response. She goes to her phone and presses to see if she has any messages. The phone says back:

PHONE AUTOMATED

You have one new message.

Then:

WOMAN

Hi Charlie just phoning to see how you are? How was work?

Jessica's face drops.

EXT. STREETS OF LONDON - DAY.

Alfie is walking through the street, he is looking around at his surroundings trying to gather where he is. On his phone is a text from Jessica, with an address on it.

He finds the correct building and enters.

INT. NEW OFFICE BUILDING - DAY.

Alfie walks into the new, shiny building. There's people walking around, and he confidently walks up to the front desk.

ALFIE

Hi, I have an appointment with a Mr Johnson for two thirty.

The receptionist looks up at him.

RECEPTIONIST

What's your name please?

ALFIE

It's Alfred McCarthy.

The receptionist types.

RECEPTIONIST

There's nothing here.

ALFIE

Really? I am supposed to have an interview this was set up by my girlfriend. Her father owns this string of banks.

Alfie says the word girlfriend very gingerly.

RECEPTIONIST

I'm sorry, sir, but there's nothing here.

ALFIE

Can I please talk to Mr Wilson?

RECEPTIONIST

I can't allow that I'm afraid. He's in meetings all day.

ALFIE
Please.

RECEPTIONIST
Afraid not.

Alfie leaves, confused and dejected.

EXT. NEW BUILDING - DAY.

Alfie storms out the building. He pulls out his phone and starts to phone Jessica.

JESSICA
Hello?

ALFIE
You said you arranged the interview for today at 2:30.

JESSICA
What?

ALFIE
It's not in their stupid system or something. Listen, can I talk to your Dad or something or -

JESSICA
I said two o'clock, not two thirty.

ALFIE
What?

JESSICA
Two o'clock. That's when it was.

Alfie stands deflated. He swears under his breath.

ALFIE
Can you try to arrange another time then?

JESSICA
I'll try. I'm sorry, Alfie. This is all my fault. I'm sorry.

INT. CORRIDOR OF A SMALL OFFICE BUILDING - DAY.

Jessica hangs up her phone. She walks through a stuffy little corridor and arrives at a door that has a poorly hung up sign that read 'The Open Meeting - Alcoholics Anonymous'.

She places her hand on the door and then takes it off and starts speed-walking down the corridor. A woman, MAURA, opens the door and calls after Jessica.

MAURA

Excuse me, were you about to come in here?

Jessica rolls her eyes and swivels around.

JESSICA

I was, but... I don't really do speaking. I need to be drunk to talk to others, ironic isn't it?

Jessica laughs weakly. The woman closes the door quietly and sympathetically approaches Jessica.

MAURA

You don't have to speak, you can just sit and listen. That's what most of them do.

JESSICA

I just need to use the bathroom first.

INT. TOILET - DAY.

Jessica stands in the toilet at the open meeting, she reaches into her handbag and takes a swig of her water bottle. She splashes her face with some cold water at the tap and enters the meeting.

INT. ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETING - DAY.

Jessica is sitting back down, she's a bit drunk now and therefore more confident. She raises her hand to speak.

JESSICA

My name is Jessica.

They all mutter hi back.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

I love drinking. It's what gets me to talk to others and gets me through the day. When I was in high school my parents were getting a divorce, I used to sneak away bottles of vodka to cope.

(MORE)

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Then when I was older I met my husband, Charlie. He was everything to me. And he died. He's dead now. So I need to get through this myself. And then the rest of my life.

MAURA

We're all here to help you through this struggle.

Jessica takes out a ring from her pocket and places it on her wedding finger, she fumbles it nervously.

INT. JESSICA'S SKY-RISE FLAT NIGHT - NIGHT.

Jessica is cooking dinner and Alfie is sitting, dejected, at the kitchen island. There's soft music playing in the background.

ALFIE

I just don't understand why I can't come back and do another interview.

JESSICA

They filled in all of the positions. I'm so sorry.

ALFIE

This was my *dream* job.

JESSICA

I know.

Jessica looks at him. She then begins to cry, her tears become wild. Alfie stares at her unsure what to do. He stands up.

ALFIE

Oh god, don't cry.

JESSICA

I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm such a disaster, I can't do anything right.

Alfie reluctantly kisses her forehead.

ALFIE

Should I go? I mean after we eat. I could go and give you some space here, alone?

Jessica huddles closer into him.

JESSICA

I want you to stay with me.

Alfie pulls her in tighter and rests his chin on the top of his head, his facial expression is 'jesus christ'.

A BEAT and then there is a knock at the door.

INT. JESSICA'S HALLWAY - NIGHT.

Jessica goes to the buzzer, trying to collect herself. She presses the answer button.

JESSICA

Hello?

SUE

Hi, it's me, Sue. I've got some soup for you.

Jessica's face drops.

JESSICA

One sec.

INT. JESSICA'S KITCHEN - NIGHT.

Jessica comes back into the room, she's putting on her coat.

JESSICA

Listen. I've got to go down and speak. It's my... building manager, can you just stir that every few minutes? I'll be back in a bit.

She turns away and as she does so, Alfie rolls his eyes.

EXT. JESSICA'S SKY-RISE FLAT - NIGHT.

Jessica pushes the main door open and she sees Sue standing outside. It's windy and rainy but Sue is huddled up in a warm jacket.

SUE

Hi sweetheart.

JESSICA

What are you doing here?

SUE

I came to check up on you. And I brought soup. It's lentil, hope that's okay. Are you okay?

Jessica nervously glances to her window

JESSICA

I will be okay soon. I just need ...peace. You should go though, Sue.

SUE

Why? I wanted to see how your date was the other night. Is that him up there?

Sue points up to the window at the figure in the window. Jessica starts stressing.

JESSICA

No. That's not him.

SUE

Jessica...

JESSICA

Sue?

Sue stares at her, trying to gather her thoughts together.

SUE

Have you been drinking?

Jessica shuts her eyes momentarily then:

INT. JESSICA'S FLAT - FLASHBACK.

Jessica is keeled over the side of the bed. Charlie is crouched down beside her. It's inaudible, but we can tell he's encouraging her to throw up. Jessica is drunk and swaying, her face is screwed up. Charlie is patting her back to get her to be sick. She tries to reach over and grab a bottle of vodka on the nightstand. Charlie snatches it off her and tips it out of the window.

EXT. OUTSIDE JESSICA'S BUILDING - PRESENT.

Jessica open her eyes.

JESSICA

No. I haven't. Not for a while.

SUE
How long is a while?

JESSICA
I don't know. I'm fine, Sue,
really. My life is going in the
direction I want it to, everything
is falling into place. Honestly.

SUE
I'm pleased. Can I at least come in
for a cup of tea, please?

JESSICA
My dinner's cooking up there but
I'll call you and arrange something
soon.

Jessica takes the Tupperware of soup from Sue, and walks back into the flat. Sue is left standing, confused and dejected.

INT. JESSICA'S KITCHEN - NIGHT.

Alfie has not tended to the dinner, he's not in the room anymore, and it appears that the food is overcooking. Jessica rushes back in to the kitchen, she sees the steam rising.

The smoke alarm starts beeping. Jessica rushes over to the stove and turns it down, she stirs the food frantically but it's unsalvageable. She hits the smoke alarm and it stops beeping.

JESSICA
Alfie!

There's no response.

A BEAT again.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
ALFIE?

After another long beat, Alfie trudges back into the room. He looks glumly over at Jessica. There's no sense of panic or remorse in his actions.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Alfie? I told you to watch this.
It's burned now-

ALFIE
I...I just got evicted.

Jessica stares at him.

JESSICA
What? What do you mean?

ALFIE
I got a call from my landlord to
saying I got a Section 8 notice. I
don't even know what that means.

JESSICA
It means you breached tenancy
terms.

ALFIE
How do you know that?

Jessica shrugs.

ALFIE (CONT'D)
I've got a notice to quit which
means I need to be out there by the
end of the week. I don't even
understand what I did wrong.

Alfie stumbles around the kitchen, the wind taken out of him.
Jessica watches him as she begins to clean up the mess. He
sits exasperated at the kitchen island.

ALFIE (CONT'D)
I could move in here.

INT. JESSICA'S BEDROOM - DAY.

Jessica is once again practicing her eulogy, she is looking
in the mirror with a sheet of paper, her hands are trembling.
She reaches over for her water bottle but stops herself. She
takes a deep breath then tries again but it doesn't work.

She starts balling again.

JESSICA
Alfie?

Alfie replies from the other room, a sort of undistinguished
grunt.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Can you please help me with my
speech?

Another grunt.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Or can you just hear me read it to you?

Another grunt which implies 'no'. Jessica sighs.

ALFIE (O.S.)

I'm going to the pub with some of the boys. Can I take this tenner on the table?

JESSICA

Yeah. Okay.

INT. PUB - EVENING.

Alfie is with his friends again. They are all dressed in suits, he's in casual attire. There's many pints being drunk and the atmosphere is rowdy. Alfie chucks down two twenty-pound notes on the table. The group look at him.

ALFIE

My birds cash. I took a whole bunch. I'll pay for everyone's drinks tonight. On her.

FRIEND 1

She not notice you take it?

ALFIE

No, she's too busy crying over her ex.

FRIEND 2

Sounds like she's ripping the piss out of you.

ALFIE

Well she's got this lovely flat, she cooks all my meals, she does everything. It's a win-win in my eyes. Good shag as well.

The group chant at him.

FRIEND 2

Sounds like true love to me, mate.

ALFIE

She's not taking the piss. I'm not weak or anything.

The pub manager is watching them from afar. He speaks to one of the other bar supervisors. They discuss something then the pub manager comes over. PAUL, 40s, your typical barman, seen a few things in his day.

PAUL
Excuse me fellas?

ALFIE
How can I help you?

PAUL
I'm afraid you're going to have to hop out of here.

ALFIE
What, why? We're like two pints deep, mate.

PAUL
The cash you paid me with is fraudulent.

Paul holds up a wad of cash. Alfie scoffs at him.

ALFIE
How?

Paul holds up one of the notes from the table and holds it up to the big light above them. The boys stare up at it.

PAUL
It's fake. Every drink you've bought tonight has been on this counterfeit money.

ALFIE
Well come on clearly I had no idea.

PAUL
I'm sorry but you're going to have to go.

The boys begin to protest, Alfie slams his pint down on the table.

ALFIE
I'm sorry mate but you've already accepted the money. This is hardly my fault.

PAUL

Any type of fraudulent misconduct
gives me every right to ban you all
from the pub.

The boys start to protest harder. Alfie's face goes bright red. He raises his arm to protest, in doing so, he hits one of his mates in the nose and it begins to bleed.

The boys get angrier. The bouncers and other bar staff come over and manhandle the men out the building.

EXT. PUB - NIGHT.

Alfie stares at his pack of friends, they all look angry, drunk and confused. His friend is cleaning up his nose. Alfie goes to comfort him.

FRIEND 2

Stay the fuck away from me.

FRIEND 1

You've changed, mate. Your new Mrs
has fucked you up.

FRIEND 3

This is our *pub* mate. Now we can't
go back.

FRIEND 1

You don't even work with us
anymore. We shouldn't have even
invited you.

ALFIE

Boys, I didn't know it was fake. I
didn't mean to hit you either.

ALFIE (CONT'D)

I did a nice thing buying you guys
those drinks.

FRIEND 1

With shitty fake cash from your
soppy girlfriend?

ALFIE

She's not my girlfriend.

FRIEND 2

Mate, save it. We've all got work
in the morning.

The boys start walking off.

ALFIE
Guys, come on.

A woman who has been watching from her car, speeds off quickly.

INT. JESSICA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jessica is in her bed sleeping, Alfie stumbles in and turns on the light. Jessica wakes up and blinks.

JESSICA
Hey!

Alfie looks livid.

ALFIE
You little bitch.

JESSICA
What-

ALFIE
That money in your purse was fake.
Who do you think you are? Like who
actually are you?

JESSICA
Alfie, what is going on?

ALFIE
I've been fucking evicted, my mates
all hate me, I'm *unemployed*-

JESSICA
You've got me. I said I would help
you get a job-

ALFIE
You set me up for this job
interview which went nowhere.

JESSICA
You stole from me.

ALFIE
I didn't steal.

JESSICA
You asked if you could take that
tenner but there's at least seventy
quid in cash gone from my purse.

Alfie doesn't know what to respond. He hesitates.

ALFIE
It's fake money.

Jessica storms out of bed and into the kitchen. Alfie follows her.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT.

Jessica runs over to her purse on the kitchen island.

JESSICA
See? All of it is gone like you
think I wouldn't notice.

Alfie starts maniacally laughing.

ALFIE
You're delusional.

Alfie chucks the remainder of the fake cash on the floor and begins to storm out.

JESSICA
Where are you going?

ALFIE
I'm leaving this weird.....I don't
even know you. Or what this
situation is.

Jessica stares at him trying to catch her breath. Alfie turns to leave again.

Alfie gets his keys out and starts opening then door, then
THUD FADE TO BLACK.

INT. JESSICA'S BATHROOM - MORNING.

Alfie wakes up in a daze. He is in the bathtub. His eyes adjust to the brightness of the morning. He tries to rub his eyes with his hands but realises he can't move them. He groans and looks down at his hands, they are tied up in front of him. His eyes widen.

There's tape around his mouth. He struggles a bit, and he gets more panicked when he realises the situation he's in. He tries to scream. Then scream again.

The door handles shakes a bit. Jessica enters. She's wearing a black dress.

She looks down at Alfie and smiles sweetly.

JESSICA

Today as we gather to bid farewell to my ever loved husband, I am surrounded by love and full of gratitude. Charlie was a beacon of strength, integrity and unwavering love.

Alfie tries to scream again.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

He was more than just a partner, a confidant, a rock, my soulmate. I found joy even in the darkest of days and solace in times of turmoil.

Alfie starts breathing heavily, he looks angry. Jessica leans over to him and gently tears of the tape from his mouth. Alfie adjusts his mouth a little.

ALFIE

What's happening? Get me out of here-

JESSICA

My husband lived a life of purpose and passion, he touched the hearts of all that had the privilege of knowing him-

ALFIE

What, what are you saying?

JESSICA

You. You, Charlie, had the privilege of knowing my husband, didn't you?

ALFIE

What? I didn't know your husband.

Jessica laughs lightly.

JESSICA

January 8th. I came home from work.
As usual. It was just like any
other day. I was going to cook
something nice and cosy for dinner,
maybe crack open a bottle of wine.

Jessica produces a bottle of wine from the bathroom cabinet
and chugs it.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

I called out for Charlie. I knew he
was having issues at work. His work
colleagues bullied him so much they
got fired, isn't that right? He was
close to quitting so I wanted to
cheer him up. He didn't reply
though.

Alfie squirms around.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

No answer. I got close to the
bathroom and heard the tap going. I
thought oh good he's treating
himself to a nice warm bath. But he
still didn't respond.

INT. JESSICA'S KITCHEN - FLASHBACK.

Jessica is stood in the kitchen, the phone is still ringing
out the message.

WOMAN

I just phoned to tell you that with
the hearing going ahead. Their will
be repercussions to Alfie's actions
and will be dealt with immediately.

Jessica is staring into space. She pauses the message.

JESSICA

CHARLIE?

INT. BATHROOM - FLASHBACK.

INAUDIBLE. Jessica is pacing through the overflowed bathroom,
she is screaming and crying. The bath water has flooded over
and it's stained red.

She splashes through the water to her husbands body and grabs
him.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY.

Alfie looks horrified, knowing he's sitting in the same bathtub.

JESSICA

He left a note in our bedside table.

ALFIE

Please, I'll do anything just let me go. Jess. I'm sorry-

Jessica pulls out a note from her pocket.

JESSICA

My sweet, Jess, I love you and I'm sorry I had to do this. The guys at work have become too much for me to bare. The humiliation. The pain. I can't take it anymore. I'm in a dead-end, completely. I wish this wasn't it, but it is. I love you. I'm sorry. I'll see you on the other side.

Jessica puts the note away.

ALFIE

Please let me go. I'm so sorry. I'm so sorry about your husband. I never meant any harm it was supposed to be playful-

JESSICA

You ever hear the expression, send away the tigers?

Alfie squirms.

ALFIE

You mentioned the other day.

JESSICA

It symbolises the idea of not running away from your issues and conquering someones fear dead on. Getting drunk to cover up the pain. Charlie was my remedy and my detox and you ruined that from me.

Alfie takes a deep breath.

ALFIE

It wasn't me. I said, I was *forced* into all of this. I promise.

JESSICA

Your tigers, Alfie, metaphorical of course, lies with the weight of your decisions. Of course you have nothing left now.

ALFIE

What do you mean?

JESSICA

Well who do you think left that counterfeit money out? Who could get you evicted by telling your landlord that you've drunkenly destroyed his property? Who has got you right where she wants you, helpless and broke.

ALFIE

What the fuck....

Jessica smiles.

JESSICA

I think now is the time for you face your consequences.

Alfie spits.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Your tigers are creeping up on you. And they're deadly.

Jessica places the tape back over Alfie's mouth and starts running the bath. Alfie tries to stand up. Jessica smashes the bottle of red wine against his head.

Red water spills over the side of the bath and then:

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END.