

Mountains
by
Rick Garman

Rick Garman Productions
10825 Blix St. #201
Toluca Lake, CA 91602
818-281-2600
RickGarman.com
Rick.Garman@yahoo.com

Cast (in order of appearance)

Corey Daniels [30's, Male] - Alan's husband, lover, friend, and soul-mate. He is a passionate man in virtually all areas of his life and it hurts him deeply to know that the things he has done and the choices he has made have hurt others.

Alan Wilson [30's, Male] - The accused in the murder of Corey Daniels. He dreamed that they would be together for the rest of their lives, but never could have imagined how painful the reality of that dream would be.

Pritchett Monroe III [35-45, Male] - Assistant District Attorney and lead prosecutor in the case of State v. Wilson. Although he has not sold his soul to the devil for the publicity and prestige of the District Attorney's office, he has had several meetings on the topic.

Dr. Alison McCray [30's, Female] - Alan's best friend, a psychologist with a successful private practice and a national radio call-in show. She is caught between her ambition and her conscience but remains loyal to the people whom she loves.

Christina Myers [30's, Female] - Lawyer, representing Alan Wilson in his murder trial. She is desperately trying to hold onto the ideals that made her want to be a defense attorney in the first place.

Elaine Daniels [30's, Female] - Corey's ex-wife and mother to their child. For years she had to struggle with the pain, grief, and embarrassment of finding out that her husband was gay. Her hatred toward him is only checked by her deep and undying love.

Judge* [Age Open, Male] - Tough no-nonsense jurist presiding over the trial.

Amanda Richardson [30's, Female] - Assistant prosecutor with the District Attorney's office, currently working with Pritchett in the court and out. She is young and still believes in concepts of "right" and "wrong".

Reggie Van Dorn* [Age Open, Male] - Alan and Corey's flamboyant friend.

Dr. Hailey Clinton* [Age Open, Male] - Alan and Corey's doctor.

*These parts may be played by the same actor.

Set: A fluid and open set representing a courtroom, various apartments, various offices, and a radio station.

Time: The Present and the Past

Act One

In the darkness there is the sound of static as if from a radio being tuned. Sounds fade in and out - a snippet of a song and the voices of newscasters, radio personalities, commercials, etc.

As the sound fades out the lights fade up softly on COREY DANIELS, who is standing up-center, as if looking out at some tremendously beautiful view. A moment later, ALAN WILSON enters behind him. Their conversation is light - the mood jovial.

COREY

Hey! I've been waiting for you.

ALAN

Sorry it took so long. Traffic was hell.

Alan puts his arms around Corey from behind and they look out at the view.

COREY

Quite a view from here.

ALAN

Yes, it is.

They stand there for a moment, admiring the view.

The lights fade on Alan and Corey, still embracing as PRITCHETT MONROE III enters to down-center in order to deliver his opening statement to the audience.

PRITCHETT

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, my name is Pritchett Monroe the third and I am the Assistant District Attorney for the county. I want to thank you all for taking time out of your busy schedules to help us here. I have to say that I don't envy you. You're going to hear testimony in the coming days that will probably make you wish you had seized the opportunity to get out of jury duty when you had it. This is a difficult case.

(MORE)

PRITCHETT (CONT'D)

Murder trials are always difficult. And that's what we're talking about here.... murder. The defendant, Alan Wilson, did in fact kill Corey Daniels - the man he was having a homosexual affair with. He killed Corey Daniels in the early morning hours of February fourteenth of this year. Nobody will deny that in this room. Mr. Wilson admits that he killed Corey Daniels that morning and by all rights that should be all there is to this case. It should be easy. It should stop right there. But it doesn't. You see the defense is going to get up here and try to confuse the issue. In fact, the defense will try and make this about issues. You see Corey Daniels suffered from AIDS - his body and mind ravaged by the disease, and yet... and yet... he clung to life. Alan Wilson ended that life. The defense will try to tell you that Alan Wilson killed out of love. They'll say that he killed out of mercy. They'll say that he killed for a principle. But was it all as pure as that? Was it that simple? Of course not. Alan Wilson stood to benefit from Corey Daniels death in more ways than one. Psychologically he could get on with his life while he was still healthy enough to enjoy it. Emotionally he would no longer be burdened with being a care-taker. And as you probably know, Corey Daniels was a famous author and famous authors make a lot of money. Would you like to take a guess as to who inherits a large portion of that money? This case, ladies and gentlemen, is not about issues. It is about the facts and the law. In this state the law says that if you feed a deadly mix of pills into another human being, as Alan Wilson did to Corey Daniels, it is not a mercy killing. It is murder.

(MORE)

PRITCHETT (CONT'D)

Questions of moral absolutes and ethical dilemmas are all very well and good but they have no business in this court. That is not what we are debating here. Now nobody is suggesting what they went through wasn't sad. Nobody is saying that Corey Daniels didn't suffer. What we're saying is that other people have suffered as much. Other people have seen it through to the end, no matter how difficult and painful it may have been because they knew that this thing... this heinous act that Alan Wilson committed... is not an answer. We're saying that Alan Wilson murdered Corey Daniels. We're saying that he did it with a great deal of planning. And we're saying that you as a jury have no other choice but to find him guilty of murder in the first degree. No matter how difficult that decision is to reach... reach it you must, because we as a people do not govern our society on issues. We govern by laws. The law, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, is what you're here to uphold.

ALISON MCCRAY and Alan enter as Pritchett exits. She is carrying a crossword puzzle and he is all smiles.

ALISON

Oh, for God's sake just spit it out.

ALAN

What?

ALISON

Whatever it is that you're dying to tell me.

ALAN

What makes you think I want to tell you something?

ALISON

Because ever since you got here you've been following me around with that stupid grin on your face and you...

(MORE)

ALISON (CONT'D)

(beat)

Don't tell me. You met a guy.

ALAN

You say it as if it's a bad thing.

ALISON

It's called a track record, Alan.

ALAN

Are you this cynical with all your patients?

ALISON

You're not a patient. Although if you were I probably could've paid off the BMW by now.

(back to the crossword)

Let's see, nine across...

(beat - then grudgingly)

So... where did you meet this week's Mr. Wonderful?

ALAN

Are you ready? Are you sitting down? We met at... drumroll please... The Gap!

ALISON

The Gap? You were cruising guys at the gap?

ALAN

I wasn't cruising guys. I was shopping.

ALISON

Oh, please. You're not a Gap kind of person. You look horrible in khaki.

ALAN

Everyone looks horrible in khaki. That's why it's so popular. It gives you such a good excuse.

ALISON

Okay, so you're standing there awash in khaki...

ALAN

Yes, and I was amusing myself by wandering around and picking up things and saying stuff like, "How very Gap". "My isn't this Gappish". "How Gapesque".

ALISON

You were exchanging witty bon mots with yourself?

ALAN

Everyone else was exchanging khaki. So I go to reach for this incredibly Gappy vest and someone reached out before I could and grabbed it. And I look up...

ALISON

And it was love at first sight.

ALAN

No, it was lust at first sight. He's gorgeous.

ALISON

See, now, right there is your problem. Why do you always fall for gorgeous men?

Alan looks at her with a great deal of scorn.

ALISON (CONT'D)

That really didn't come out the way I meant it.

ALAN

I would hope not.

ALISON

What I meant was... guys with perfect bodies and smiles and hair and all that stuff on the outside are usually trying to make up for something missing on the inside.

ALAN

Thank you Dr. McCray, world famous radio psychologist. May I continue?

ALISON

Only if you can give me an ten letter word for love-struck.

ALAN

(beat)

Infatuated. Believe me, I had the same thoughts you are having. My first reaction was... Yum! My second reaction was to go running screaming into the streets.

ALISON

Many people leave the Gap that way.

ALAN

But then he said something.

ALISON

He has the ability to form complete sentences? Well, that's a start.

Corey enters with the vest.

ALAN

He looked at the vest and said...

COREY

Well, isn't this so very Gap?

Alan moves over near Corey and the lights fade on Alison.

ALAN

Actually, I was thinking it was incredibly Gappy.

COREY

No, no. The vest is so very Gap. The matching pants are incredibly Gappy.

ALAN

I stand corrected.

The smile at each other for a moment but then Alan, too shy to go any farther looks down and moves away a little bit, trying to look at clothes while stealing glances at Corey. Corey moves over by Alan again.

COREY

So... shop here often?

ALAN

At the Gap? No. I have too many friends that are members of the fashion police.

COREY

I've heard they've been shooting people who make a break for the denim shirts.

ALAN

Just a rumor. But I have it on good authority that they will fix you with withering stares.

COREY

Which in some cases may be worse.

There is another uncomfortable pause.

COREY (CONT'D)

Listen... I want you to know that I usually don't flirt with guys in The Gap.

ALAN

(taken aback)

Is that what you're doing?

COREY

Yes. I am I that bad at it that you didn't even know?

ALAN

No! No, I just... it's just not something that usually happens.

COREY

Guys flirting with you at The Gap?

ALAN

Guys flirting with me anywhere.

COREY

I have a hard time believing that. Regardless, I'm sure I've made some horrible Gap faux faux.

ALAN

One Hundred and One Etiquette Rules for Politically Correct Gap shopping.

COREY

Number one: Never flirt.

ALAN

Number two: Never, under any circumstances, should you taunt the sales staff with bright colors.

COREY

They spook easily.

Another pause.

ALAN

So... why the exception to rule number one?

COREY

Rule number three: Never pass up what looks like a good deal.

CHRISTINA MYERS enters to take up her position for opening remarks.

ALAN

Alan.

Alan extends his hand.

COREY

Corey.

And they shake on it. The lights fade on them and go full on Christina.

CHRISTINA

Good morning. I'm Christina Myers, attorney for the defense. Let me start by saying that Mr. Monroe made a good point in his opening statement. This case is not about issues. It is about the law. But let us, for just a moment, examine what the law really is. In a perfect world there would be black and white. Those moral absolutes and ethical certainties that Mr. Monroe alluded to. But I'm sure I don't need to tell you that this is not a perfect world. It's a frightening and confusing place and in order to make it a little bit less of both, we have laws. Laws help us gauge the difference between right and wrong. For instance, it is right to always wear your seatbelt.

(MORE)

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

That's the law. It is wrong to steal. Also the law. It is right to report a crime if you witness one. It is wrong to drive over the speed limit. It is right to wait until you get off the elevator to light a cigarette and it is wrong to kill another human being. Absolutely, one hundred-percent wrong.

Christina heads back toward the defense table but then stops.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

Unless... unless your life is in imminent danger. Then it's self-defense. Or if the brakes on your car fail and you can't stop in time. Then it's an accident. Or if you're in the military. Then it's your duty. There are no absolutes and that may be what is so wonderful about our legal system. It takes into account the fact that each of us is an individual and that every circumstance is different. There are grey areas. Alan Wilson is a prime example of that. Because he fulfilled the wish of someone that he loved with all of his heart... he stands here accused of murder. Corey wanted to die. You'll hear testimony proving that. Corey wanted to die and Alan helped him to do that. As I said, the Assistant District Attorney is right. This case is not about issues. It is about the law. And the law is about right and wrong and it is your job to decide what is right... and what is wrong. Don't let anybody try to tell you any differently because to suggest such a thing would be tantamount to saying we don't need juries. Why do you think you're sitting here? If it was all so cut and dried we'd just ship Alan off to jail right now. You're here because it is not that simple. It is not black and white. What Alan Wilson did, he did out of love and responsibility and respect.

(MORE)

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

You have to decide if acting out of love and responsibility and respect is right... or wrong. But I have to ask you... how could it possibly be wrong?

Alan and Corey enter with a picnic basket as the lights fade on Christina.

ALAN

What about up here?

COREY

Perfect. Look at that view.

ALAN

Do you want some wine?

COREY

Please.

They sit as Alan takes a bottle of wine out of the picnic basket.

ALAN

So you were telling me about your daughter.

COREY

Chloe. Eighteen months old and already a little hell-raiser.

ALAN

She take after her mother or father?

COREY

A little of both.

ALAN

(beat)

Okay, I've given you ten opportunities to tell me about your ex-wife and you haven't bitten once. I'm tired of being subtle.

COREY

I know, I'm sorry. It's a topic I sort of wanted to put off until, like, our fifth date.

ALAN

This is our fifth date.

COREY

Sixth date?

(beat - deep breath)

I don't know... Elaine is... you know if it wasn't for Chloe I'd file Elaine under the heading of "Enormous Mistakes" and be done with it.

ALAN

You two aren't on good terms?

COREY

We have all sorts of terms for each other but very few of them are good. She just feels like it's our duty to work it out.

ALAN

Work it out? She still wants to be with you even though you're gay?

COREY

Well... she doesn't actually know that... specifically.

ALAN

She doesn't know you're gay? What did you tell her when you asked for the divorce?

COREY

Well, now, there's another thing...

ALAN

Oh my God.

COREY

Alan, wait.

ALAN

You're still married? Oh my God!

COREY

Alan...

ALAN

Did you hear that? It was the sound of the other shoe dropping.

COREY

It's only a marriage in the sense that we're not divorced yet. We don't live together.

(MORE)

COREY (CONT'D)

We barely speak.

(beat - regroup)

Alright, look, I'll give you the Reader's Digest version. I've known Elaine since we were kids and to be blunt, I married her because I thought that would make me straight. I know, I'm not going to win Man of the Year. I couldn't handle being gay. But over time I realized that it wasn't the evil that I thought it was. That I had been taught it was. I was going to tell her but then Chloe came along and I tried again. And then when Chloe was about six months old a guy in a hotel bar came on to me... and we went up to his room. I moved out the next day.

ALAN

And you never told her why?

COREY

No. I know it sounds stupid but, I can handle the thought of her hating me because I'm a jerk... but I can't stand the thought of her hating me because I'm gay.

ALAN

You still love her don't you?

COREY

In a way, yeah.

ALAN

You can't keep it a secret forever.

COREY

I know. But I've just never had a good enough reason to tell her.

ALAN

What would be a good enough reason?

COREY

(beat)

You.

Alan reaches over and puts his hand on Corey's. The lights fade as Pritchett enters and ELAINE DANIELS takes the witness stand.

CLERK (V.O.)
Do you solemnly swear to tell the
truth, the whole truth and nothing
but the truth so help you God?

ELAINE
I do.

PRITCHETT
Please state your name for the
court.

ELAINE
Elaine Daniels.

PRITCHETT
And what was your relationship to
the deceased?

ELAINE
I was his wife. Ex-wife.

PRITCHETT
How long where you married to Corey
Daniels?

ELAINE
Four years. We got married right
out of college.

PRITCHETT
And you had a child together?

ELAINE
Chloe... yes.

PRITCHETT
How old is your daughter now, Mrs.
Daniels?

ELAINE
She'll be nine next month.

PRITCHETT
How old was your daughter when
Corey Daniels left you to go lead a
homosexual lifestyle with Alan
Wilson?

ELAINE
She wasn't quite two.

PRITCHETT

Had you any inclination that your husband was a homosexual?

ELAINE

No. It came as a total shock to me.

ELAINE (CONT'D)

I'm not sure that I understand this.

Corey enters as Pritchett exits.

COREY

Elaine, I know that this is difficult and I want you to know that I never...

ELAINE

I don't understand this.

COREY

Which part?

ELAINE

The part about you being in love with a man.

COREY

It's true.

ELAINE

It can't be true.

COREY

I'm sorry, Elaine.

ELAINE

So you're saying that you're....

COREY

I'm gay.

ELAINE

Since when?

COREY

Since always.

ELAINE

So who was having sex with me all those years?

COREY
That's not the point, Elaine. I
just...
(he trails off)

ELAINE
You just what, Corey? You just
hoped I'd understand? Fuck you.

Elaine turns her back on him and moves away. Corey follows tentatively.

COREY
Elaine, I had no choice...

ELAINE
You had plenty of choices. You
chose to marry me, you chose to
have a daughter with me, and you
chose to abandon us so you could go
have sex with men. Am I leaving
anything out?

COREY
I have made some horrible mistakes
and I'm trying to keep myself from
making anymore. I don't know what
else to do.

ELAINE
Come back.

COREY
Come back? And be your husband?
You want us to lie to each other
and our daughter and just pretend
that everything is alright? What
kind of life is that? What kind of
father would I be?

ELAINE
Present. Here. Where she needs
you.

COREY
I will always be here for her. And
for you.

ELAINE
No you won't. You'll be off
fucking your new boyfriend. Or
does he fuck you?
(laughs - a bit
desperately)
(MORE)

ELAINE (CONT'D)

Boy, I never thought I'd hear that sentence coming out of my mouth.

(beat)

Who is he?

COREY

His name is Alan.

ELAINE

Alan. That's great. That is just fucking great, Corey. Well, I wish you all the best. Many, many years of happiness.

(beat)

Now get out of my house.

COREY

Can we talk about this?

ELAINE

Why? Are you going to change your mind?

COREY

No.

ELAINE

Do you think you're mistaken or you're just going through a phase?

COREY

No.

ELAINE

Then we have nothing to talk about.

COREY

What about Chloe?

Elaine crosses to him quickly, almost violently, and comes face to face with him.

ELAINE

You leave her out of this. The minute you fucked around on me you lost all rights as a parent.

COREY

This isn't like you...

ELAINE

I get full custody and if you fight me, I'll ruin you. Now get out.

Corey stands there shell-shocked for a moment.

ELAINE (CONT'D)

Get out!

Corey looks at her with a great deal of sorrow and then exits slowly. Once he is gone, Elaine has a moment where she begins to break down to tears but she pushes it back, straightens her hair, and exits just as Pritchett and AMANDA RICHARDSON enter at a brisk pace. They stop as Pritchett tries to straighten his appearance.

PRITCHETT

Damned reporters. They won't let you get a full sentence out before they start asking another question.

AMANDA

Oh yeah, all this media attention is just killing you, isn't it, Pritchett?

PRITCHETT

(ignores her)

Do you have the Newman brief?

AMANDA

Yes, it's right here.

PRITCHETT

Also, see if you can get me an investigator for State versus Lowell.

AMANDA

I already did. Sorry.

PRITCHETT

They wouldn't give us one?

AMANDA

Yes, they did. Anderson.

PRITCHETT

I hate Anderson.

AMANDA

I know. That's why I'm sorry. So, beach or mountains?

PRITCHETT

What?

AMANDA
Beach or mountains? Romantic THREE
day weekend, remember?

PRITCHETT
Uh... beach.

AMANDA
Well, as long as you've thought
about it.

PRITCHETT
I said beach.

AMANDA
I heard you Pritchett.

Pritchett heads to the prosecutor's table but Amanda grabs
him.

PRITCHETT
Amanda, we're late.

AMANDA
You're not going to flake on me
again are you?

PRITCHETT
No.

AMANDA
Pritchett...

PRITCHETT
The beach. Definitely, the beach.

He kisses her on the forehead and goes past her to the
prosecutor's table. She shakes her head and follows as
Christina and Alan enter to the defense table.

CLERK (V.O.)
All rise.

They do and the JUDGE enters.

JUDGE
Be seated. Mr. Monroe, call your
next witness.

PRITCHETT
The state would like to call Dr.
Alison McCray.

Alison enters and goes to the stand.

CLERK (V.O.)

Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

ALISON

I do.

CHRISTINA

Your Honor, I must once again respectfully renew my objection to this witness.

JUDGE

We've been over this before, Ms. Myers. My ruling stands. Please continue, Mr. Monroe.

PRITCHETT

Thank you, your Honor. I would also like to make a motion, per the brief I filed, for permission to treat the witness as hostile.

JUDGE

Motion granted. Continue.

PRITCHETT

Thank you. Please state your name for the court.

ALISON

Dr. Alison McCray.

PRITCHETT

What kind of doctor are you?

ALISON

I am doctor of psychology.

PRITCHETT

And you have a private practice?

ALISON

Yes.

PRITCHETT

As well as a very successful radio show, correct?

ALISON

Yes.

PRITCHETT
I'm a big fan.

ALISON
(acidly)
I'll send you a newsletter.

PRITCHETT
I appreciate that. So... how do you know the defendant?

ALISON
He's one of my best friends. I've known him for almost fifteen years.

PRITCHETT
Was he ever a patient?

ALISON
No.

PRITCHETT
But you gave him advice, right?

ALISON
As a friend... sometimes.

PRITCHETT
Sometimes. Isn't it true, Dr. McCray, that you have always been Alan Wilson's closest confidant?

ALISON
No.

PRITCHETT
No?

ALISON
I was just his friend. Corey was his husband.

PRITCHETT
Husband? Interesting choice of words, but since this is a court of law, let's stick with legal definitions here. Corey Daniels was not Alan Wilson's husband. He was Elaine Daniels' husband.

ALISON
Ex-husband.

PRITCHETT
That must have been very difficult
for her, wasn't it Dr. McCray?

ALISON
I couldn't say.

PRITCHETT
Couldn't say because you don't know
or couldn't say because you can't
reveal information about a client?

ALISON
I couldn't say.

PRITCHETT
Because that is true, isn't it Dr.
McCray? Elaine Daniels was a
patient of yours? The ex-wife of
your best friend's homosexual lover
was a patient? Didn't I see that
on "General Hospital"?

CHRISTINA
Objection!

JUDGE
Mr. Monroe, please amuse yourself
on your own time, not ours.

PRITCHETT
My most humble of apologies, your
Honor. And to you Dr. McCray. Now
let me clarify something. I had
asked you if it was difficult for
Elaine Daniels to have a husband
turn suddenly homosexual on her.

ALISON
Anything Elaine Daniels may have
said to me is strictly
confidential.

PRITCHETT
As it should be. I'd never dream
of asking you to reveal
confidential information. I
apologize again.

He walks away and pauses for dramatic effect. Then he turns
back.

PRITCHETT (CONT'D)
I wonder though... what if I was
your best friend?

CHRISTINA
Your Honor! Is Dr. McCray on trial
for something because if she is
I'll be needing a larger retainer.

JUDGE
Point take counselor. Mr. Monroe,
I'm having a hard time seeing the
relevancy of this.

PRITCHETT
Your Honor, if I may be allowed
some latitude.

JUDGE
No, Mr. Monroe, you may not. I'm
not much of a fan of your "Perry
Mason" theatrics. Either get to
the point or go sit down.

PRITCHETT
Your Honor, may counsel approach
the bench?

The judge nods wearily and Christina and Pritchett walk up to
the judge.

JUDGE
Make it snappy, Mr. Monroe. My
coffee machine was broken this
morning and I'm experiencing a
severe lack of patience.

PRITCHETT
Your Honor, it's imperative that I
establish the doctor's ethics in
this matter.

JUDGE
And why is that, Mr. Monroe?

PRITCHETT
Because that establishes how much
knowledge Alan Wilson had before
the murder.

CHRISTINA
Alleged murder.

PRITCHETT

(sighs)

Alleged. It sets up motive, premeditation. Your Honor, I promise, it has relevancy but to say any more would jeopardize my case.

CHRISTINA

Needless to say, your Honor, I object.

JUDGE

(beat)

I'll let you go a little further, Mr. Monroe. But don't push your luck, understood?

PRITCHETT

Absolutely. Thank you, your Honor.

Christina and Pritchett go back to their respective positions.

PRITCHETT (CONT'D)

Now then, Dr. McCray. When did Elaine Daniels become a patient of yours?

CHRISTINA

Objection! Mr. Monroe is once again asking the doctor to break her confidentiality.

JUDGE

Sustained.

PRITCHETT

Alright. How about this? Was she a patient before or after Alan Wilson met Corey Daniels.

ALISON

Before.

PRITCHETT

So Elaine Daniels was already a patient when Alan Wilson came to you with the news that he'd met her husband?

Elaine enters and begins pacing.

ALISON

Yes. But I didn't know at first
that it was her husband.

Pritchett, Christina, the Judge, Amanda, and Alan all exit as
the lights come up full on Elaine.

ELAINE

Why don't you let people smoke in
here?

ALISON

Because smoking is a defense
mechanism. You've heard of the
phrase smoke-screen?

ELAINE

It still sucks.

ALISON

You seem especially agitated today,
Elaine. What's going on?

ELAINE

Nothing.

ALISON

Bullshit.

ELAINE

Bullshit? Is that an approved
psychotherapeutic term?

ALISON

Freud used it all the time. Foul
mouthed little bastard.

ELAINE

A funny therapist. Great. My life
is complete.

ALISON

Alright, if you want to sit here
talking about cigarettes for an
hour, that's just fine by me. I
still get paid the same. So how
many packs a day are you up to?

ELAINE

(beat)
Corey wants a divorce.

ALISON
Really? You know how much I hate
to sound like a cliché but I have
to ask...

ELAINE
How does it make me feel? I'm
pissed.

ALISON
Pissed because he's divorcing you
or pissed because he's divorcing
you before you had a chance to
divorce him?

ELAINE
I never said I was going to divorce
him.

ALISON
True.

ELAINE
I was just keeping my options open.
It's important to keep your options
open.

ALISON
Did he say why?

ELAINE
Oh yeah. He said alright.

ALISON
Do you want to tell me about it?

ELAINE
He's in love with somebody else.

ALISON
Well, now you know. You've been
wondering for months if he was
seeing another woman.

ELAINE
He's not. He's seeing another man.

ALISON
Oh...

ELAINE
Oh, is right. And of course he has
to tell me all about him. He's so
nice and so handsome.

(MORE)

ELAINE (CONT'D)

Oh and are you ready for this?
They met at the fucking Gap for
Christ's sake. Is that just too
much? This is just too much.

Alan enters carrying bowls and fixings for salad.

ALISON

(beat)

Yeah. That's too much.

Elaine exits.

ALAN

Do you serve red or white with
this?

ALISON

What?

ALAN

Red or white wine? With the
chicken? Hello?

ALISON

I'm sorry, I'm just... red... no
white. Definitely white.

ALAN

Are you sure?

ALISON

No. You're the homosexual, aren't
you supposed to know about things
like that?

ALAN

Bitter, party of one. Your table
is ready.

ALISON

I am not bitter. I am preoccupied.
Work is... busy.

ALAN

What a surprise. I haven't seen
you in, what?... two months? It's
gotten to the point where I feel
like I have to call your radio show
to talk to you.

ALISON

Alan, you know you can always talk
to me.

ALAN
I appreciate it. I could really use some advice right now. Corey's wife is just making his life...

ALISON
Except for Corey. I can't talk to you about Corey.

ALAN
Why not?

ALISON
I just can't.

ALAN
What do you mean you just can't? What kind of explanation is that?

ALISON
Alan, please don't press this. It's really complicated.

ALAN
Why would my relationship be complicated for you?

Alison pauses for a moment and then takes a deep breath.

ALISON
I am about to break every oath I ever took when I became a psychologist...

ALAN
I don't understand.

ALISON
Elaine is my patient.

ALAN
Elaine who?
(beat)
Elaine Daniels?

ALISON
I had no idea when you first started talking about him.

ALAN
Well, how hard could it have been, Alison? I mean how many Corey's do you know?

ALISON

It is not inconceivable that there could be more than one Corey in this city. And besides, your Corey didn't sound at all like her Corey. I mean, your Corey sounds like a really sweet... See? I can't do this. This is the problem right here.

ALAN

Is this why you've been avoiding me?

ALISON

I didn't know what else to do.

ALAN

You could've just told me.

ALISON

No, I couldn't. A psychologist is not supposed to reveal anything about her patients. Not even who they are.

ALAN

So where does that leave us?

ALISON

I don't know. The ethical thing to do would be to tell her.

ALAN

But she's just been dumped by her husband and you're afraid of how she'll react if she's dumped by her shrink as well.

ALISON

When you start counseling with a patient you are making a commitment. I can't break that right now. She's too vulnerable.

ALAN

What about your commitment to me?

ALISON

Until I get her to a more stable place, you and I have to be careful what we talk about.

ALAN

Well, that should make for some stimulating conversation.

ALISON

There are lots of other things we can talk about.

ALAN

Oh sure. Music and books and "Seinfeld".

ALISON

You hate "Seinfeld".

ALAN

(beat)

I'm in love with him, Allie.

ALISON

You've only known him for a few months.

ALAN

I don't care. And I know that I say that every time I meet a guy but this one is different.

ALISON

You say that every time, too.

(beat)

Alan, I believe that you care about him and that's exactly why you can't talk to me about it.

ALAN

But that's exactly why I want to talk to you about it. I want to share this with my best friend.

ALISON

Hey... come on. This isn't going to be forever, you know? In a couple of months I'll feel better about telling her.

ALAN

So what do I do in the meantime? After all, with my track record in the romance department I may be needing your advice.

ALISON

I charge most people for advice.

ALAN
 You don't charge any of the callers
 on your radio show. Hey, that's an
 idea. I'll just call up and
 disguise my voice.

ALISON
 Don't you dare.

ALAN
 Oh, come on. You'll never know
 it's me.
 (tries to disguise his
 voice)
 Uh... hello Dr. McCray, my name is
 Jim and I...

ALISON
 You sound like Richard Nixon.

ALAN
 Okay. Try this...

ALISON
 Stop it!

The two of them exit laughing while Pritchett and Amanda
 enter opposite, also laughing and getting dressed.

AMANDA
 Stop it!

PRITCHETT
 All I'm saying is that the judge
 likes you.

AMANDA
 You said he has a crush on me.

PRITCHETT
 Would that be so bad?

AMANDA
 You're a pig.

PRITCHETT
 Come on. Didn't you say he was
 your law school professor or
 something? Illicit law school
 love? Or was it lust?

AMANDA
 A complete and total pig. I may go
 to the beach without you.

PRITCHETT

Oh... I've been meaning to talk to you about that.

AMANDA

Pritchett...

PRITCHETT

I put in for State versus Crandall.

AMANDA

That has pre-trial next week.

PRITCHETT

So? This mercy killing thing will be done by Friday.

AMANDA

You promised.

PRITCHETT

I know.

AMANDA

Three days, Pritchett. That's all I ask. Seventy-two hours of no phones, no briefs, no paperwork, no judges. Is that too much for you too handle?

PRITCHETT

Of course not. Look Amanda, I am in line for the District Attorney spot when Tremell retires next year. These high profile cases are gold to me.

AMANDA

I know...

PRITCHETT

Please don't be mad at me.

AMANDA

I'm not mad. I'm just disappointed.

PRITCHETT

I'll make it up to you. I promise.

AMANDA

Yeah. So, you really think you're going to wrap up the Alan Wilson thing by the weekend?

PRITCHETT

Easy. Did you see the juror's faces when Elaine Daniels was talking about how her daughter misses her father? They were on the verge of tears. Even the men. Poor little girl with no father and guess who is responsible? Boom! Guilty.

AMANDA

I hate it when you get cocky.

PRITCHETT

Why shouldn't I be? Tomorrow I put the wife back on the stand and have her tell about the fights she witnessed. That plus our reluctant radio host with the tape... they'll be ready to lynch him.

AMANDA

But then the defense gets the case...

PRITCHETT

It'll be over before Myers has a chance to open her mouth.

AMANDA

Well, I'm glad I'm only assisting on this one. Can you imagine if Tremell had asked me to go solo this time?

PRITCHETT

Don't tell me you're feeling sorry for him.

AMANDA

How can you not? I mean do you seriously believe that he would be on trial if Corey Daniels wasn't some big hot shot best selling author? It's just one big photo opportunity.

PRITCHETT

It doesn't matter why he's on trial.

AMANDA

Well, it should.

PRITCHETT

What matters is that it's our job to convict him.

AMANDA

And... and... do you seriously believe you'd be trying this case if there weren't television cameras all over the place?

PRITCHETT

You're missing the point.

AMANDA

And finally, do you really think that this would be as big a media sensation if the big hot shot author had been killed by his wife instead of his gay lover?

PRITCHETT

You're being ridiculous.

AMANDA

And you love that aspect of it, don't you?

PRITCHETT

What does that mean?

AMANDA

You have a problem with gays.

PRITCHETT

I do not.

AMANDA

Oh please. All that, "decided to live a homosexual lifestyle" crap in court.

PRITCHETT

I'm just playing to the jury, Amanda. It doesn't necessarily mean I believe it.

AMANDA

Do you ever actually listen to the words that come out of your mouth?

PRITCHETT

Are you insinuating that I'm letting my personal feelings influence the way I try a case?

AMANDA
Of course not, Pritchett.

PRITCHETT
Well... good.

AMANDA
You don't have any feelings.

Amanda take her seat at the prosecution table and Pritchett turns to greet the Judge as he enters. Christina and Alan enter as well and take up their place at the defense table. Elaine enters and takes the stand.

PRITCHETT
Good morning, your honor. The state would like to continue our questioning of Elaine Daniels where we left off yesterday.

JUDGE
Please be advised, Mrs. Daniels, that you are still under oath.

ELAINE
I understand.

PRITCHETT
Mrs. Daniels, just a few more questions and then we'll be all finished, alright?

ELAINE
Alright.

PRITCHETT
You've stated that, at first, it was very difficult for you to maintain a relationship with your husband Corey.

ELAINE
Yes. I was angry and he was...

PRITCHETT
Off having sex with another man?

CHRISTINA
Begging the court's permission to throw something at opposing counsel, your Honor.

JUDGE

Alright, that's enough! Mr. Monroe, watch your mouth or I'm going to grant Ms. Myers' request.

PRITCHETT

Yes, your Honor. Mrs. Daniels, did you eventually patch things up with your husband?

ELAINE

Sort of.

PRITCHETT

Define, "sort of".

ELAINE

We came to an understanding, I guess. Chloe needed a father and it wasn't doing any of us any good to hate each other, so...

PRITCHETT

Did you see him regularly after that?

ELAINE

At least once a week.

PRITCHETT

And what about Alan Wilson?

ELAINE

I avoided that whenever I could.

PRITCHETT

But sometimes you couldn't avoid it.

ELAINE

No.

PRITCHETT

Did the two of you get along?

ELAINE

Alan and I? No... we never really hit off.

PRITCHETT

Were you jealous of their relationship?

ELAINE
I suppose so, yes.

PRITCHETT
But you said you still got to spend
time with Corey, isn't that
correct?

ELAINE
Yes.

PRITCHETT
And how did Alan Wilson feel about
that?

CHRISTINA
Objection. Speculative.

JUDGE
Sustained.

PRITCHETT
Did Corey ever tell you how Alan
felt?

CHRISTINA
Objection. Hearsay.

JUDGE
Sustained.

PRITCHETT
Was Alan Wilson jealous of your
relationship with Corey?

CHRISTINA
Objection! Irrelevant.

JUDGE
Sustained. Fourth down and long,
Mr. Monroe. Care to punt?

PRITCHETT
No, your honor, but I am going to
pass it off to the running back.
Ms. Richardson?

Amanda stands nervously. Pritchett sits.

AMANDA
Your Honor. Mrs. Daniels, Amanda
Richardson. Uh... what did you
think of Alan Wilson's relationship
with your ex-husband?

CHRISTINA
Objection. Irrelevant.

JUDGE
(beat)
Over-ruled.

AMANDA
(surprised)
Okay. Mrs. Daniels?

ELAINE
What did I think of their
relationship? I hated it, of
course.

AMANDA
No, I meant, did they have a good
relationship in your opinion?

ELAINE
I guess so.

AMANDA
Did they argue?

ELAINE
Yes, of course.

AMANDA
Did you ever witness an argument
between the defendant and Corey
Daniels

ELAINE
Yes.

AMANDA
Can you give us an example of a
fight you witnessed?

Alan gets up from the defense table and crosses downstage as everyone except for Elaine exits. She stays put, dimly lit throughout the following scene.

ELAINE
Chloe had been visiting Corey and I
left her diaper bag there. When I
went that night to get it back, I
could hear them arguing.

Corey enters angrily.

COREY
Don't you dare walk away from me.

ALAN
I am not walking away from you.

COREY
You just turned and left the room.

ALAN
That wasn't walking away.

COREY
Then what was it?

ALAN
Walking in a direction that you
happened, coincidentally, to not be
in. I was not, however, actively
walking away from you.

COREY
We need to talk about this.

ALAN
No, we don't.

COREY
So... what? You're just going to
be mad at me?

ALAN
I'm not mad.

COREY
You sound mad.

ALAN
Well, I'm not.

COREY
You look mad, too.

ALAN
I am not mad!

There are a few beats of silence.

COREY
Sound mad to me.

ALAN
Corey, I am standing near a lot of potentially dangerous household appliances. Don't push it.

COREY
I can't believe you would be this selfish.

ALAN
Selfish?

COREY
Yes. Do you see...

ALAN
(over)
You're the one being selfish.

COREY
You can't even see that this is a huge opportunity for me.

ALAN
I can see that.

COREY
This is my job.

ALAN
I know.

COREY
It's a tenured position at a major university.

ALAN
A major university in Seattle.

COREY
Yes.

ALAN
Which means, therefore, that you are moving to Seattle.

COREY
It would probably entail that, yes.

ALAN
Make sure to take a poncho. Rains every day.

Alan gets up and heads for the front door.

COREY
Alan come on...

Alan stops and turns back.

ALAN
Come on, what?

COREY
I don't want this to...

ALAN
... to? To what? To be the end?
Well, hell Corey, I don't see how
it could possibly be anything else.

COREY
I'll get breaks here and there.
Plus I get the whole summer. I can
come back here and work on the
novel...

ALAN
Corey, I'm sorry. I am not your
daughter and I will not be
satisfied with visitation rights.

COREY
I cannot believe you just said that
to me.

ALAN
Well, I did.

COREY
You have no idea how hard it is for
me to let her go. No idea!

ALAN
But you do it Corey. You do it
with her and now you're doing it
with me.

COREY
It is not the same thing and you
know it.

ALAN
It is the same. You walked out on
your kid to go start a new life and
now you're walking out on me to do
it again.

COREY

I am not walking out on you. And even if I was, it's not like we're married. For God's sake, we don't even live together.

ALAN

Okay. Move in with me.

COREY

What?

ALAN

You heard me. Move in. This weekend.

COREY

You know I can't do that.

ALAN

Can't or won't.

COREY

Can't! How can I possibly turn this down? Do you know how rare it is for someone my age to get an opportunity like this?

ALAN

We've been over this part.

COREY

So I just turn it down?

ALAN

Yes.

COREY

Why?

ALAN

Because you love me.

COREY

I do love you. You know I do.

ALAN

Then why are you leaving?

COREY

Why are you asking me to stay?

(beat)

We'll find a way to work it out. I promise.

ALAN

I hope you're more convincing in front of your students. Otherwise you'll be back here before Christmas.

COREY

I'm sorry.

ALAN

No need to be.

COREY

No... I'm sorry you don't believe in me.

Corey exits. Alan hesitates for a moment and then exits the apartment to find Elaine trying to sneak away.

ALAN

The night just keeps getting better and better.

ELAINE

Nice to see you too. I left Chloe's diaper bag.

ALAN

Oh.

(Alan looks toward the apartment)

If I were you, I'd wait until tomorrow.

ELAINE

What if she needs diapers tonight?

ALAN

Ever heard of a twenty-four hour grocery store? It's a new invention, quite revolutionary. You see..

ELAINE

I would appreciate you not taking your hostility out on me. Although I will say that it was nice to hear somebody else fighting with Corey.

ALAN

You heard all that?

ELAINE

Every last word.

ALAN

Great. So, what should I do?

ELAINE

You are not asking for my advice on how to settle your little love spat with my ex-husband are you?

ALAN

Kinda.

ELAINE

My life is so fucking weird. I don't know, you could always kill him. Butcher knife?

ALAN

Too messy. How about poison?

ELAINE

Poison is good.

There is a pause as they both almost smile.

ELAINE (CONT'D)

We're not bonding or anything stupid like that are we?

ALAN

God, no.

ELAINE

Good. Look, he's your problem now. I'm out of it. You want advice, call a shrink.

Elaine starts to exit but Alan stops her.

ALAN

Just remember Elaine... if he leaves, he's leaving you too.

Alan exits and Elaine is left there to digest what he has just said to her. As Elaine exits Alison enters and takes up her position at the radio station.

ALISON

Good evening and welcome back. My name is Dr. Alison McCray, and you're listening to WMTS, Talk Radio Worth Talking About. It is 9:38 on this beautiful Monday night and our next caller is Jim. Hi, Jim.

Alan enters on a cordless phone to another part of the stage.

ALAN
Uh.. hi Dr. McCray. Thanks for
taking my call.

ALISON
My pleasure.

ALAN
I love your show.

ALISON
Thank you. What can I do for you
tonight?

ALAN
I just had a fight with my
boyfriend.

ALISON
How long have you been together?

ALAN
Almost a year.

ALISON
What was the fight about?

ALAN
He's been offered a job in another
city.

ALISON
Is it a good job?

ALAN
Yes.

ALISON
Then you have to let him take it.

ALAN
But I don't want to lose him.

ALISON
Then go with him.

ALAN
I can't. My job is here. Besides,
he never even asked me to that.

ALISON

Maybe that's because asking you to leave your job is just as unfair as asking him to give up his. Look, Jim... long distance relationships aren't easy, but they can work if you put some effort into it.

ALAN

So what do I do?

ALISON

Is the relationship worth fighting for?

ALAN

Absolutely.

ALISON

Okay. First go and talk to him...

ALAN

I'm not sure he's speaking to me.

ALISON

Well, then make him speak to you. Lock him in a closet or something. Tell him it's okay that he goes away. And that you love him enough to be there when he gets back. It's the only way or you'll lose him for sure. Does he know how often he can visit?

ALAN

Some weekends and a couple of months in the summer.

ALISON

Plan special things. A moonlight picnic or a whole day at an amusement park. Do you know his favorite get away spot?

ALAN

The mountains. He loves the mountains.

ALISON

Find a secluded cabin for a weekend. See, these are the kinds of things that will make him remember where home is.

(MORE)

ALISON (CONT'D)

It will make him want to hurry to get back to you... and it will make the time you spend together more precious. Do things like revisiting the spot where you first met.

ALAN

We met at the Gap.

Alison and Alan both go silent for a moment. Alan because he's realizing what he has said, and Alison because she's realizing who this is.

ALISON

(hurried but pleasant)

Jim, I want to thank you for your call but we have to go to commercial. I'm Doctor Alison McCray and you're listening to WMTS, Talk Radio Worth Talking About. We'll be right back.

She punches a button on the console and then screams.

ALISON (CONT'D)

You son of a bitch! Alan? Alan, answer me! I know it's you and I know you're there. I can hear you sniveling.

ALAN

I am not sniveling.

ALISON

You bastard!

ALAN

Alison, I'm sorry. I just couldn't help myself.

ALISON

How could you do this to me?

ALAN

I needed your advice.

ALISON

We've been doing so well...

ALAN

No, you've been doing well! You've got your show and your patient and your best friend waiting around whenever you need him. I on the other hand have to make an appointment to see you and when I do I have to tiptoe around so much that we barely have anything left to talk about. I miss you, Alison.

There are a few beats of silence between them.

ALISON

Hold on...

(speaks into microphone)

Weather tonight, partly cloudy with lows in the balmy upper-sixties. Tomorrow, another sunny and beautiful day with highs in the mid-eighties. I'm Dr. Alison McCray and I'll be right back with more of your calls.

Silence again and then she speaks to Alan.

ALISON (CONT'D)

I'm back.

ALAN

You're not saying anything.

ALISON

I'm trying to think of where there's a flower shop open this time of night.

ALAN

They better come with a card.

ALISON

I have to get back to the show.

ALAN

Thank you for taking my call, Dr. McCray.

ALISON

Thank you... Jim.

Alan returns to the defense table as Christina, Pritchett, Amanda, and the Judge enter to their respective positions. Alison is back on the witness stand.

CHRISTINA

Dr. McCray, what happened between Corey and Alan after that phone call to your show?

ALISON

They worked it out. Corey relocated to Seattle for about four months and then he sold his novel so he moved back.

CHRISTINA

So they fought and made up?

ALISON

Yes.

CHRISTINA

And what was the end result of this episode on their relationship?

ALISON

I think it made it stronger. More passionate.

CHRISTINA

As a psychologist, do you deal with this kind of thing often?

ALISON

Couples fighting?

CHRISTINA

Yes.

PRITCHETT

Your Honor, I object. Dr. McCray's views on relationships are not relevant here.

CHRISTINA

Your Honor, I believe they are relevant. In addition to being a good friend of the defendant, she's also trained in dealing with this very issue. And might I add that Mr. Monroe got us into this subject himself.

JUDGE

Objection over-ruled.

CHRISTINA

Thank you, your Honor. Dr. McCray,
is it unusual for couples to argue?

ALISON

Quite the opposite. It's unusual
and often unhealthy if they don't.

CHRISTINA

Why is that?

ALISON

Arguing is a form of communication.
Too many people let their anger and
resentments build inside until it's
done too much damage to the
relationship to repair.

CHRISTINA

So in your opinion, Alan and Corey
were a normal and healthy couple?

ALISON

Absolutely.

CHRISTINA

Deeply committed to one another?

ALISON

Yes.

CHRISTINA

And in love?

ALISON

Very much in love.

CHRISTINA

A lot of people don't understand
the concept of two men in love, do
they?

ALISON

A lot of people are stupid.

Christina taps her pencil on the table in front of Pritchett
and then returns to face Alan at the defendant's table, now a
desk in her office. The Judge, Pritchett, Amanda, and Alison
exit.

CHRISTINA

So I've been doing a lot of thinking, Mr. Wilson, and I'm sorry. I'm just not going to be able to take your case.

ALAN

May I ask why?

CHRISTINA

Well, a lot of it has to do with my case load.

ALAN

Case load.

CHRISTINA

Right.

ALAN

I thought you'd only recently joined this firm.

CHRISTINA

That's true, but I've been very lucky. They keep me very busy here.

ALAN

I see. Well then, thank you for your time. I won't be taking up any more of it.

Alan heads for the door.

CHRISTINA

I can give you some referrals.

Alan stops and turns back to her.

ALAN

You were a referral, Ms. Myers.

CHRISTINA

I'm sorry, Mr. Wilson.

ALAN

(beat)

Can I ask you a question?

CHRISTINA

Sure. No charge.

ALAN

Is it because you don't think I can win?

CHRISTINA

Of course not. As I said...

ALAN

Case load.

CHRISTINA

Exactly. I'm sure you have a good chance. And I'm sure that you'll find a good attorney.

ALAN

I believe they call that an oxymoron. Good - attorney.

(beat)

You know I shouldn't have to do this. I hate to sound melodramatic but I'm too busy dying to be running around looking for an attorney to save my life. But I don't have a choice like you do.

CHRISTINA

Sometimes the choices are made for you.

ALAN

I see. A little too sordid for your bosses?

CHRISTINA

I didn't say that.

ALAN

Would you take the case if you were allowed?

CHRISTINA

I didn't say that I wasn't allowed to take your case, Mr. Wilson.

ALAN

Of course you didn't. But hypothetically speaking... if a man came to you with a case you wanted to take, but the partners in your law firm wouldn't let you... what would you say to him?

CHRISTINA
Hypothetically speaking? I'd probably say something like, "I have a very heavy case load".

ALAN
I thought defense attorneys would take just about any case. Especially one with a lot of publicity.

CHRISTINA
This is a very conservative state. The publicity may be do more harm than good.

ALAN
And you're okay with all of this?

CHRISTINA
No. I didn't invent the rules Mr. Wilson but I still have to play the game. Even if it hurts people that I believe in.

ALAN
What would happen if you took the case anyway?

CHRISTINA
I'd get fired before it ever got to trial. Hypothetically speaking.

ALAN
Hypothetically... that sucks.

CHRISTINA
Nothing hypothetical about that part.

(beat)
Let me give you some referrals. They're good people. And good attorneys. Better than I am.

ALAN
Better attorneys or better people?

CHRISTINA
Probably both.

ALAN
Did you mean what you said? About that hypothetical guy... you believe in him?

CHRISTINA

Yes, I do.

ALAN

Corey always says that the one...

Corey enters and stands behind Christina, looking at Alan.

ALAN (CONT'D)

(beat)

..used to say... I haven't gotten used to referring to him in the past tense... he used to say that there's only one thing better than a person believing in you.

CHRISTINA

What's that?

COREY

Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream.

CHRISTINA

(smiles)

He may have been right.

ALAN

Well... I better get going.

CHRISTINA

Mr. Wilson.

(beat)

Did you love him?

Corey walks over and puts his hand gently to Alan's face. Alan takes his hand and kisses it. Corey then exits.

ALAN

Yes. Very much.

CHRISTINA

(beat)

Can I buy you a drink?

ALAN

It's a little early to leave work isn't it?

CHRISTINA

No. I think it's just in time. You go on ahead, I'll meet you by the elevators.

Alan nods and exits. Christina pauses for a moment and then lifts the telephone receiver and dials.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

Hi Marge, it's Christina... is he in? Sure I'll hold... Roger? Hey it's Christina. I'm settling in fine, thank you... The office is great... no, I love the view... Listen, Roger, let me tell you why I'm calling. I was just remembering something my Mama told me when I was little girl. She said to me, "Christina, love is the most important thing in the world. It's the only thing worth fighting for."

(beat - sadly)

Roger, I haven't been lucky enough in my own life to have that to fight for... I know, you don't understand what I'm talking about. That's part of the problem, Roger. I wouldn't expect a pompous, sanctimonious, self-involved, homophobic, bigoted asshole like you to understand something as simple as love. So let me break it down into mono-syllabic words that you might be able to understand. I quit!

She slams the phone down in triumph. She pauses, then redials.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

Hi Marge, it's me again. Thanks... Roger? Do you need a formal resignation in writing or...

(beat - as if he has hung up on her)

I'll take that as a no.

Christina hangs up the phone and exits. From opposite, REGGIE VAN DORN, enters grandly carrying a small box. Alan and Corey's lines are spoken from off until their entrance is indicated.

REGGIE

I am just not wearing the right heels for this. Darlings, how are you doing with the couch?

ALAN
Give us a hand, will you?

Reggie applauds and then giggles madly.

REGGIE
I've been waiting for years for
someone to give me that set up.
Now ask me to call you a cab.

COREY
Reggie!

REGGIE
Oh, don't have a hissy! I'm no
good at moving large, heavy
objects. Just ask my last
boyfriend.

ALAN
Come down here and help us!

REGGIE
Darlings, why don't I just stick
with the things I do best? Anybody
care for cocktails?

ALAN & COREY
Reggie!!

REGGIE
Cocktails it is. Now let me see,
where, oh where, do you suppose the
glasses might be packed?

Reggie pokes around while Alan and Corey continue arguing.

ALAN
Wait a minute.

COREY
What?

ALAN
The couch is stuck.

COREY
It's not stuck it's just a little
wedged.

ALAN
Crawl over to my side buddy, it
looks pretty stuck to me.

Corey and Alan enter looking off at the stuck couch. Reggie joins them.

COREY
Okay... maybe it's a little stuck.

ALAN
How can something that big be a little stuck?

COREY
This is not a problem.

REGGIE
It is if we ever want to leave the apartment. Although maybe you could spray paint little geese wearing hats on it and pretend that it's a really big welcome mat.

ALAN
Reggie, darling... you're not helping.

REGGIE
I'd be happy to help if you'd just tell me where the vodka is.

COREY
I'm going to go down to the truck and see if I can find a crowbar... or some explosives...

Corey exits.

ALAN
Oh God, Reggie. Maybe this is a sign.

REGGIE
What kind of sign?

ALAN
You know, like an omen of bad things to come?

REGGIE
How very Shirley McLaine of you.

ALAN
Maybe it's the universe's way of saying we're moving too fast.

REGGIE

Darling, you've been seeing each other for over a year. If I were dating him I would've had the U-haul booked by the third date.

ALAN

I'm being serious here.

REGGIE

Alan, sweetie, listen closely to your older, wiser, and more beautiful sister: I have been on this planet for longer than you and I have seen relationships come and go. Mostly mine, but that's a story for another time. In all seriousness, I have never seen two people more suited for one another than you and Corey. You're not making a mistake, you're not moving too fast, so just shut the hell up and enjoy it.

ALAN

Okay, I get it.

REGGIE

Besides... an omen would never have upholstery like that.

Alan and Reggie consider the upholstery as the lights fade on them and up on Alison who enters carrying a paper bag. Corey enters opposite carrying a sledge hammer.

ALISON

Excuse me? I'm looking for 851 Delancy Street?

COREY

Uh, yeah, 851 is right there.

ALISON

Right in front of my face. Thank you.

COREY

No problem.

(beat)

You're Alison McCray aren't you?

ALISON

Yes, I am.

Corey offers his hand.

COREY
Corey Daniels.

ALISON
Hi. Uh... nice to meet you.

COREY
Same here.

ALISON
Yeah, I've heard a lot about you.
From Alan I mean. I mean, after...
you know...

COREY
You and Elaine stopped...

ALISON
Right, because I'm not her...

COREY
Therapist anymore.

ALISON
Psychologist.

COREY
Right. Psychologist.

ALISON
Right. It's been a couple of
months. I'm sorry that we
haven't...

COREY
Oh, you know. I was out of town.

ALISON
Right, Seattle.

COREY
Right. And now I'm back and...

ALISON
Congratulations on the book, by the
way.

COREY
Thanks, it's exciting.

Alan enters and is shocked to see Alison.

COREY (CONT'D)
Alan! Look who's here.

ALAN
Allie? Hi. What a surprise. I'm assuming you two know who each other is... are?

ALISON
Yes, we've been...

COREY
Talking. Sort of... Well, I can't imagine how this could possibly be any more uncomfortable.

Reggie enters, looking a bit disheveled.

REGGIE
Alan!

COREY
Then again...

REGGIE
How could you leave me like that? Trapped up on your couch, it was awful. I felt like a slender, well-dressed whale that had beached himself. Oh hi, Alison. Kiss, kiss. It was dreadful! I saw my entire life flash before my eyes. Well, that part was kind of fun, especially that weekend in Barbados with that Irish rock band when I...

ALAN
Reggie! Can we hear this story later?

ALISON
Listen, I just stopped by for a minute to bring you a little something for your housewarming.

She pulls a four pack of wine coolers out of the bag.

ALISON (CONT'D)
They were out of champagne.

REGGIE
A cocktail is a cocktail, darling.

ALAN
Well, let's go upstairs and break
them open.

COREY
Uh, Alan. The couch?

ALISON
The couch?

REGGIE
(shudders)
The couch.

ALAN
Oh, what the hell.

Alan takes a wine cooler and the others follow suit.

COREY
What shall we toast to?

ALAN
Well, how about...

ALISON
May I?

The lights begin to fade on Reggie, Alan, and Corey.

ALISON (CONT'D)
(raising her bottle)
To Alan and Corey. May your days
be filled with nothing but love and
your nights be dreamless... because
all of them have already come true.

The four of them toast to it and drink. Pritchett enters and
Reggie, Corey, and Alan exit.

PRITCHETT
Dr. McCray...

ALISON
What? I'm sorry.

Alison returns to the witness stand.

PRITCHETT
I asked you how your radio show
operated.

ALISON
In what regard?

PRITCHETT

Do you screen your callers first?

ALISON

I don't personally. I have an assistant.

PRITCHETT

So you know what the calls are about before you take them, correct?

ALISON

Generally speaking, yes.

PRITCHETT

And do most of your callers use their real names?

ALISON

I wouldn't know.

PRITCHETT

Depends on the content of the call I suppose.

ALISON

Perhaps.

PRITCHETT

Do you remember a call from a man named "Jim" on the thirteenth of February of this year?

ALISON

I take a lot of calls.

PRITCHETT

But you know which call I'm talking about, don't you Dr. McCray?

(beat - no answer)

It was a long time ago. Perhaps we need to refresh your memory. Your Honor, at this time I'd like to play for the court a tape of Dr. McCray's radio show from February thirteenth of this year. We'll mark it prosecution exhibit G.

The courtroom fades as Pritchett exits. Alan enters and sits in darkness with a cordless phone.

ALISON

I'm Dr. Alison McCray and we're back for another hour of your calls on what is troubling your heart and mind. It is 11:08 on this Valentine's evening and our first caller this hour is Jim. Hi, Jim.

Lights up dimly on Alan.

ALAN

Hi Dr. McCray, thanks for taking my call.

ALISON

(she knows who it is)
Sure...

ALAN

I have a problem and I don't know what to do.

ALISON

Well... that's what I'm here for.

ALAN

My lover... Craig... is very sick. He has AIDS and he... most of the time he doesn't even know I'm in the room. Anyway... tonight I'm supposed to help him... end his life.

ALISON

Jim... you know that's against the law.

ALAN

I know.

ALISON

And we're on the air here... I can't...

ALAN

I'm not asking you to tell me whether or not I should do it. I'm asking you how I can tell him that I can't.

ALISON

(beat - gently)
Why can't you do it?

ALAN

I don't know... I just... I can't.

ALISON

Give me some reasons why you would do it.

ALAN

He's in so much pain. If I was in his place... when I'm in his place... I might want someone to help me too.

ALISON

You hate to see him suffering?

ALAN

Of course. I love him. We've spent almost every day of the last eight years together.

ALISON

And you don't want him to leave.

ALAN

No.

ALISON

That's your reason for not wanting to do it. But understand this... just because he wants to die, doesn't mean he wants to leave. Does that make sense?

ALAN

Yes, it does. I guess I'm just being selfish.

ALISON

Not selfish. Just hurt... and sad... and afraid.

ALAN

Do you think I should do it?

ALISON

I'm not saying that. I'm just telling you that you need to be really clear on what it is you're doing. The reasons why you would or would not. And I think it's important that you communicate those reasons to Corey... to Craig.

Corey enters carrying a pillow, a blanket, a glass, and a bottle of pills. He lays down and covers himself next to Alan.

ALISON (CONT'D)
Talk to him. Even if you think he doesn't understand. Somehow he will.

ALAN
Thank you, Dr. McCray.

Alan sets down the phone and Pritchett enters in a separate spotlight.

ALISON
(beat)
We'll be right back after this message.

The light fades on Alison but she remains in her seat.

PRITCHETT
Mr. Wilson. What happened on the night of February 14th?

The light fades on Pritchett but he remains onstage.

ALAN
Corey? Do you want to go to the mountains this weekend? You always loved it up there. I remember when we rented that log cabin... the one with the big rock in the back. We climbed up on it and spread out in front of us was the most amazing view. You could see... forever.

Alan moves closer to Corey.

ALAN (CONT'D)
I love you. I have since the very first moment we met. I cannot imagine what my life would've been like without you.

Alan puts his hand on Corey's face and strokes his hair.

ALAN (CONT'D)
I don't even know if you can feel me touching you. You always said that when I stroked your hair it made you feel safe... and protected.

(MORE)

ALAN (CONT'D)

I wish I could protect you from this. I wish I could make it all better. Just close your eyes... go to sleep... and when you wake up it will be all better. I promise.

Alan moves away from the bed crying softly. He looks into the darkness beyond the bed.

ALAN (CONT'D)

Please forgive me, Corey. I love you... please forgive me.

Alan hesitates for a moment and then goes back to the bed. He picks up the pills and begins putting them in Corey's mouth.

ALAN (CONT'D)

There was... a little pond... just down from the cabin. We went skinny dipping even though it was only like forty degrees. And the sun reflected off the pond and looked like faces... faces in the water shining up at us. It was almost as if they wanted us to come in with them. And so we dove in...

The lights dim on Corey and Alan but they remain in place as the Judge enters and the lights come up on Alison and Pritchett.

PRITCHETT

Do you know who it was that called you that night, Dr. McCray?

ALISON

No, I don't.

PRITCHETT

Do I need to remind you that you are under oath?

ALISON

No.

JUDGE

Dr. McCray... the penalty for perjury is quite severe. I'd ask you to rethink your answer.

PRITCHETT

Who called you that night asking
for advice about murdering his
lover? Who was it?!

ALISON

Alan... it was Alan.

The lights fade on Alison and the Judge but they remain
onstage as Amanda enters. She is getting ready for bed, he
begins drinking a beer.

PRITCHETT

Did you love it? "Who was it?!"
Man, the jury was on the edge of
their seats. Did you see their
faces?

AMANDA

I saw Pritchett. Do we really have
to go over this again? You've done
nothing but crow about it all night
long.

PRITCHETT

Why shouldn't I? I won the case
today. That phone call shows
premeditation. Hasta la vista,
baby!

AMANDA

And Pritchett Monroe the third
makes the world safer for all of
humanity.

PRITCHETT

What is that supposed to mean?

AMANDA

Christ, Pritchett... it's not like
the guy is Charles Manson.

PRITCHETT

We are not going to start in on
this again, are we?

AMANDA

I just think we need to put this
whole thing into perspective.

PRITCHETT

You want perspective? Fine. I'll
give you perspective. The man
broke the law and it is our job...

(MORE)

PRITCHETT (CONT'D)

you and me, our job... to put him in jail for it. We did that today and we should be happy about it. That should be your perspective.

AMANDA

Well, I don't like that perspective very much.

PRITCHETT

Why the hell not?

AMANDA

Something's not right.

PRITCHETT

Like what?

AMANDA

I don't know. I can't quite put my finger on it.

PRITCHETT

You're just feeling sorry for the guy. Hell, even I felt a little sorry for him during his testimony about the mountains and shit. But we can't let that cloud the facts.

AMANDA

I hate facts.

PRITCHETT

Then you, my dear, picked the wrong line of work. I'm going to get another beer. You want one?

AMANDA

No, I'm going to bed.

PRITCHETT

Amanda... I know this is a tough one. Just keep reminding yourself that if he did it, he has to go to jail.

Pritchett kisses her on the forehead and exits. Amanda shakes her head and then she looks up - a realization taking place.

AMANDA

If he did it...

Amanda grabs her briefcase and pulls out some papers. She goes through them quickly until she finds what she is looking for.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Alan Wilson... Alison McCray...
Alan Wilson..."I'm not asking you
to tell me whether or not I should
do it. I'm asking you how I can
tell him I can't."

Amanda lowers the papers as the thought takes its form.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Oh my God... what if he didn't
really do it?

Pritchett enters downstage center, Christina enters to the defense table, and Elaine enters to stand near Alan and Corey.

PRITCHETT

Your Honor, the prosecution rests.

The Judge bangs the gavel and there is an immediate black out.

Act Two

The lights come up quickly and full to find Alan laying in the same position as Corey was before. He jerks awake and reaches out for Corey but he isn't there.

ALAN

Corey?

The lights fade to black and Alan exits as the radio sound comes back again. In the darkness we hear the radio being tuned and snippets of voices and songs fill the air. As it fades the lights come up to find Christina questioning DR. HAILEY CLINTON on the witness stand.

CHRISTINA

Please state your name for the
court.

DR. CLINTON

Hailey David Clinton, M.D.

CHRISTINA

And what kind of medicine do you
practice, doctor?

DR. CLINTON
I specialize in the treatment and
care of persons with AIDS.

CHRISTINA
And was Corey Daniels your patient?

DR. CLINTON
Yes, he was.

CHRISTINA
Can you describe for the court,
please, what condition Corey
Daniels was in before his death.

DR. CLINTON
The disease primarily seemed to
attack Corey's brain. He was
suffering from a combination of
afflictions.

CHRISTINA
And what were the physical results
of these afflictions?

DR. CLINTON
Partial paralysis, diminished motor
skills, incontinence, diminished
cognitive capabilities. In many
ways it mimicked advanced
Alzheimer's disease.

CHRISTINA
There's been a great deal of
discussion in the media about new
treatments.

DR. CLINTON
Protease inhibitors, fusion
inhibitors yes. In many patients,
these drugs have caused remarkable
turn-arounds. T-cells return to
normal and HIV drops below
detectable levels.

CHRISTINA
In many patients? But not all?

DR. CLINTON
No, unfortunately not. Most
studies are showing about seven out
of ten.

CHRISTINA

Was Corey Daniels one of the seven?

DR. CLINTON

Not at first. We tried several different combinations before we finally seized on one that seemed to have an affect. Unfortunately by that time, Corey had already suffered so many opportunistic infections, a bout with cancer, and of course the dementia.

CHRISTINA

So you may have been able to cure his AIDS but it wouldn't have changed his condition?

DR. CLINTON

Cure is a strong word. Ultimately we couldn't have done anything to make him better but we probably could've ensured that no new opportunistic infections occurred.

CHRISTINA

So he could've lived in that state - incontinent, partially paralyzed, diminished mental capacity - for how long?

DR. CLINTON

Indefinitely.

CHRISTINA

Are you also Alan Wilson's doctor?

DR. CLINTON

Yes, I am.

CHRISTINA

And is he one of the lucky seven out of ten?

DR. CLINTON

No. I'm afraid not.

CHRISTINA

And what is his outlook?

DR. CLINTON

Not very good.

CHRISTINA

What condition were Corey Daniels and Alan Wilson in when you first met them?

Corey enters the apartment at a slow jog and goes to get some water as Christina and the doctor exit. Corey is winded but looks great - healthy and happy. He stretches and a moment or two later, Alan stumbles in looking like death and falls face down on the floor, gasping and wheezing.

COREY

Where have you been?

ALAN

Dying. I'm dying.

COREY

You're not dying.

ALAN

Yes, I am. I'm dying. Right here on the floor... which hasn't been vacuumed in a week.

Corey hands Alan the water.

COREY

You're not dying.

ALAN

Massive coronary. Brain embolism. I can see the headlines now - "Exercise Kills Man In The Prime Of His Life. Sadistic Boyfriend Implicated."

COREY

You know you really are in lousy shape.

ALAN

I am sorry Mr. Eight-Miles-A-Day-For-The-Last-Fifteen-Years. I'm new at this, okay?

COREY

We only jogged around the block a couple of times.

ALAN

It's a big block.

COREY
You're a big baby.

ALAN
And what about that dog? I thought
it was going to eat me alive.

COREY
It was a poodle.

ALAN
It was a big poodle.

COREY
The dog's name is Pumpkin.

ALAN
How do you know?

COREY
I stopped to talk to her owner,
Mrs. Lendhoff when it was chasing
you around that tree. She said
Pumpkin usually only chases cars.

ALAN
Great. It thought I was Buick. I
mean I know I've put on a few
pounds but...

COREY
Alan, shhh. If you don't want to
jog with me, you don't have to.

ALAN
Really?

Corey gets down on the floor next to Alan.

COREY
Really. I like your love handles.
They're sexy.

ALAN
In which parallel universe?

Corey kisses Alan sweetly.

COREY
I'm going to go take a shower.
Care to join me?

ALAN
The floor and I are getting along quite well, thank you very much.

COREY
Okay. Suit yourself.

Corey exits but calls out to Alan.

COREY (CONT'D)
Hey did you call Helen and Mark?

ALAN
Yes.

COREY
What time are we supposed to be there?

ALAN
They weren't home. I left a message.

COREY
Check the machine. Maybe they called back.

ALAN
It's too far.

COREY
Alan go check the machine.

Alan drags himself to the point where he can reach the cord of the answering machine. He pulls the machine to him and, smiling at his ingenuity, presses the play button.

FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)
Hey guys, it's Helen. Six o'clock. Don't be late or I'll have to make fun of whatever you're wearing. Bye.

MALE VOICE (V.O.)
Hello, Alan. This is your father, George.

ALAN
As opposed to my other father, Bill.

MALE VOICE (V.O.)
I guess you're not there. Call me
when you get a moment. It's
nothing important.

DR. CLINTON (V.O.)
Hello, I'm calling for Corey
Daniels. Mr. Daniels, this is Dr.
Clinton calling on Friday at around
three p.m. My nurse informs me
that you haven't been returning her
calls. I think it's very important
that you set up a meeting with me
so we can discuss your test
results. I'll be waiting for your
call. The number is 655-3201.
Thank you.

This has brought Alan to attention. He sits up and then
dials the phone.

ALAN
Hello, I'm calling for Dr.
Clinton... this is Corey Daniels...
I'll hold.

Alan looks toward the bedroom from which we can hear a shower
running and some vague humming by Corey.

ALAN (CONT'D)
Yes? Hello, Dr. Clinton, this is
Corey Daniels.... I know... I got
called away on a business trip...
Sure, I'll come in but I'd like to
know the results now... I
understand that, but I really want
to know now... Dr. Clinton if you
insist on not telling me I'm going
to assume it's bad news...

Alan slowly lowers his head and closes his eyes.

ALAN (CONT'D)
I'll come in first thing on Monday
morning. And you probably ought to
examine my lover Alan as well...
ten o'clock is fine... thank you.

Alan hangs up the phone. Corey comes through the doorway
wearing a towel and drying his hair with another.

COREY
Did she call?

ALAN
Six o'clock.

COREY
Oh man. We better hurry then.
I'll turn the shower back on for
you.

Alan does not move.

COREY (CONT'D)
Hello? Earth to Alan? What's
wrong?

Alan press the button on the answering machine again.

DR. CLINTON (V.O.)
Hello, I'm calling for Corey
Daniels. Mr. Daniels, this is Dr.
Clinton calling on Friday at around
three p.m....

Alan turns off the machine.

COREY
You called him?

ALAN
Yes.

COREY
And he gave you the results?
(beat - Alan doesn't
respond)
I don't suppose you're going to
yell "April Fools" are you?

ALAN
It's May. He said...

COREY
Wait... wait...

Corey sits down on the floor next to Alan and takes his hand.

COREY (CONT'D)
Let's just sit here for a minute
okay? Let's just sit here and
pretend we're going to live
forever. Okay? Just for a minute.

The lights fade slowly on them and then Pritchett and Dr.
Clinton enter to take up their positions in court. Alan and
Corey exit.

PRITCHETT

Dr. Clinton, just a couple of questions. You stated that Corey Daniels could've lived a long time in his state. Isn't it true that he could've passed away quickly?

DR. CLINTON

It is possible, yes.

PRITCHETT

Isn't it in fact more likely considering his condition at the time of his death?

DR. CLINTON

As I said, I believe we had found the right combination of drugs that would've fought back the HIV virus.

PRITCHETT

But you don't know how long that would've lasted.

DR. CLINTON

No, of course not.

PRITCHETT

Thank you, Doctor. Now, let's get back to Mr. Daniels' condition. You said he had diminished cognitive capabilities. Is that correct?

DR. CLINTON

Yes.

PRITCHETT

Meaning he was confused and disoriented?

DR. CLINTON

Yes.

PRITCHETT

Unable to form opinions, ask questions, make decisions?

DR. CLINTON

Nothing very complex.

PRITCHETT

Do you think that asking someone to help you die is a complex decision?

DR. CLINTON

Yes, but...

PRITCHETT

So when Corey Daniels allegedly asked Alan Wilson to help him die, he may not have really understood what he was asking, is that correct?

DR. CLINTON

He had moments of lucidity so it is possible that he did understand.

PRITCHETT

Possible? So therefore it is also possible that he did not understand what he was asking?

DR. CLINTON

(beat)

Yes.

Elaine enters and lights a cigarette.

PRITCHETT

Thank you, Doctor. No further questions.

Pritchett and Dr. Clinton exit. Elaine takes a deep drag and looks out toward the audience, as if checking her appearance in the mirror. A moment later, Alison enters.

ALISON

I thought you quit.

ELAINE

Please don't start with me.

ALISON

And I don't think you're supposed to be smoking in the ladies room.

ELAINE

I swear to God, Alison.

ALISON

Sorry.

ELAINE

It's not going well, is it?

ALISON

The doctor was just the first defense witness. It'll turn around.

ELAINE

I've always envied your optimism. It annoys the hell out of me, but...

ALISON

You know you don't have to be in the courtroom all the time. If it's too difficult, Alan will understand.

ELAINE

I know... I skipped most of the prosecution. Of course then I watched the highlights on Court TV. It's very surreal. It's like watching a dramatization of my entire life. Maybe I'll call up Cheryl Ladd and see if she can play me.

ALISON

A lot of memories...

The lights fade on Alison but she remains on stage. Corey enters.

ELAINE

Yeah... a lot of memories.

COREY

Elaine...

ELAINE

Corey, you can't just drop by whenever you feel like it. I'd appreciate a call first next time.

COREY

Elaine, I have to talk to you.

ELAINE

Well, make it quick because I have to go run some errands before I pick up Chloe from school. Where are my goddamn keys?! Speaking of which... Chloe, not the keys...

(MORE)

ELAINE (CONT'D)
her teacher wants to meet with both
of us. So take a look at your
schedule and let me know...

COREY
I'm HIV positive.

This stops Elaine dead in her tracks. She turns to look at
him but doesn't say anything.

COREY (CONT'D)
Say something.

ELAINE
I... I can't...

COREY
(beat)
I found out on Friday. Alan got
his test back this morning.
Positive. Uh... we don't know
which of us had it first. I guess
it doesn't really matter.

ELAINE
Should I... were you with anyone
while we were...

COREY
Oh my God, no. Only after we were
separated. You're fine.

ELAINE
(laughs)
No. No, I'm not Corey. How could
you be so stupid? How could you be
so totally fucking irresponsible!

COREY
We thought we were being careful...

ELAINE
Well, obviously you were wrong.
(beat)
I know that this is probably not
the reaction you were expecting
from me but you have no idea how
angry I am right now.

COREY
I'm sorry.

ELAINE

Sorry for what? For which part?
For abandoning me - for abandoning
your daughter? Sorry because I'm
the one who has to explain to a
five year old girl why her daddy
isn't around? Sorry for making me
watch you fall in love with someone
else? And now... are you going to
be sorry for making me watch you
die? What the hell do you want
from me, Corey? Do you want
forgiveness? Is that what you're
looking for? Fine. I forgive you.
I totally absolve you of any guilt
or blame. You're forgiven... now
just go away.

Elaine moves away from him and sits. Corey follows and sits
next to her.

ELAINE (CONT'D)

God I hate you. I really do...
because no matter how hard I try
not to be, no matter how angry I
get... I'm still in love with you.

She holds out her hand. He takes it and she draws him into
an embrace - as if she is sheltering him from a storm.

COREY

I am so afraid.

ELAINE

I know. It's going to be okay. I
promise.

ALISON

Elaine...

The lights come back up on Alison and Elaine turns her
attention away from Corey. As she does, he slips out of her
embrace and exits and she watches him go. Alison puts her
hand on Elaine's shoulder and shakes it gently.

ALISON (CONT'D)

Elaine...

ELAINE

I don't know if I can go through
with this.

ALISON

You have to.

ELAINE

He's going to go to jail.

Alison grabs her, almost roughly.

ALISON

Elaine... no regrets.

Alison holds Elaine's gaze for a moment and then leaves.
Elaine turns back to the mirror.

ELAINE

You're wrong. We have a lot of
regrets. Don't we Alison?

Elaine pulls herself together and heads off. As she is doing
so, Amanda enters and watches her exit. It is obvious that
she has heard the whole thing. She turns toward the mirror
and looks at herself intently.

AMANDA

Now, what do I do?

Christina, Alan, Pritchett, and the Judge all enter to their
respective courtroom positions. Amanda returns to the
prosecution table and Alison enters to the witness stand.

CHRISTINA

Dr. McCray, what was your
relationship with Corey Daniels?

ALISON

He was my best friend's husband.

PRITCHETT

Objection. Your Honor, how many
times do we have to cover this?
Alan Wilson and Corey Daniels were
not legally married and therefore
to refer to one as the other's
"husband" is not appropriate in a
court of law.

JUDGE

I'll decide what's appropriate and
what's not, Mr. Monroe.

PRITCHETT

Of course, your Honor. However, I
would still like to move that the
word husband be stricken from the
record and humbly ask that you
admonish the witness not to use the
term in the future.

JUDGE

Objection sustained. The recorder will strike all references to Alan Wilson and Corey Daniels as each other's husband. The jury will disregard such references. And Dr. McCray, please try to refrain from allowing your personal euphemisms into legal testimony. All right?

ALISON

Yes, your Honor.

JUDGE

Ms. Myers, you may continue.

CHRISTINA

Thank you. Dr. McCray... your relationship with Corey Daniels?

ALISON

If two gay men were allowed to marry, Corey would've been my best friend's husband.

PRITCHETT

Objection!

JUDGE

Dr. McCray, I am not universally known as a very nice man. I enjoy throwing people in jail for contempt of court. Do you understand?

ALISON

Yes, your Honor.

JUDGE

Ms. Myers. Why don't you try rephrasing the question?

CHRISTINA

Dr. McCray, were you and Corey Daniels friends?

ALISON

Not at first. Maybe not even at the end.

CHRISTINA

Why not?

ALISON
Elaine Daniels was my patient long
before Corey and Alan became...
lovers?

Alison looks at the Judge, the Judge looks at Pritchett,
Pritchett nods, and the Judge nods at Alison.

ALISON (CONT'D)
Lovers it is. Anyway, I always
felt a loyalty to her even after
she switched to another
psychologist.

CHRISTINA
So you and Corey didn't have a very
good relationship?

ALISON
It's not that it was bad. I just
always felt like he was kind of
nervous around me. Like he thought
that Elaine had told me some deep
dark secret about him.

CHRISTINA
But the two of you did talk.

ALISON
Of course.

CHRISTINA
I mean, intimately. On a very
personal level?

ALISON
There were a couple of times, yes.

CHRISTINA
Did he ever talk to you about
dying?

ALISON
Yes.

CHRISTINA
Could you please tell the court
about that conversation?

Christina, Pritchett, Amanda, and the Judge all exit as
Alison leaves the witness stand and moves down center to
admire the view. Corey enters behind her.

ALISON
We had gone to the mountains... the
three of us... and I got up early
one morning to look at the view...

COREY
You're up early.

ALISON
I wanted to see the sun rise.

COREY
Do you mind if I join you?

ALISON
Not at all.

COREY
Thanks for coming up here with us.

ALISON
Hey, a free weekend in the
mountains. Who could say no?

COREY
It means a lot to Alan that you
came.

ALISON
It means a lot to me that I was
invited.

COREY
He really wants us to get along.

ALISON
We get along.

COREY
You know what I mean.

ALISON
I've been a psychologist for years
and believe me... compared to some
of the people I know, we have a
great relationship.

There is a companionable silence between them for a moment.

COREY
I really love it here.

ALISON
I can see why.

COREY

It's like... it's like there's nothing else in the world, you know? Hell, it's like there is no world. No people, no crime, no smog...

ALISON

No disease?

COREY

No... that's one thing I can't leave behind.

ALISON

How are you feeling?

COREY

I feel fine. My t-cells are getting a little low but I haven't seen any signs of it yet. Nary a sniffle.

ALISON

What about Alan?

COREY

He's doing great.

ALISON

He won't talk to me about it. Every time I try he makes some horrible death joke.

COREY

How many pallbearers does it take to change a light bulb?

ALISON

Seven. One to play the organ and six to carry the toolkit.

COREY

I believe in your line of work they call it a defense mechanism.

ALISON

I usually just call it a bunch of crap.

COREY

That's why they pay you the big bucks.

ALISON
Does he talk to you about it?

COREY
No. He doesn't want to hear it. I mean I'm just trying to be practical about the whole thing.

ALISON
How can you be practical about dying?

COREY
How can you not? The only other choice is to get weepy and hysterical and I just can't find a mascara that won't run.

ALISON
More jokes.

COREY
There's just some things I want to get squared away before I'm not able to.

ALISON
You sound like you've resigned yourself.

COREY
You mean I sound like I've given up. That's what Alan says. He honestly thinks we can beat this thing if we just set our minds to it.

ALISON
Is that such a bad thing?

COREY
I've accepted the fact that I'm going to die. Is that a bad thing?

ALISON
No. As long as you haven't given up hope.

COREY
Hope... yeah. I just hope it's a long time before I cross the line.

ALISON
What line?

COREY

The proverbial line. See I've always looked at things as either being acceptable or unacceptable, and there's a line that divides those two. I'll be here as long as the quality of my life is acceptable. As long as I can get up every day and not have to step over that line. After that...

ALISON

You're talking about committing suicide?

COREY

I prefer to think of it as bowing out gracefully. See, that's the one thing I get so frustrated with Alan about. He needs to know where that line is for me.

ALISON

Why?

COREY

In case I need help.

ALISON

You would really ask him to do that?

COREY

I'd do it for him.

ALISON

I mean it's one thing to want to end your own life but to ask Alan to do it for you?

COREY

Do you know what it's like, Alison? I mean do you have any idea how gruesome this can be?

ALISON

I saw how Reggie was.

COREY

Yeah, when he'd slapped on some makeup and had us put him under flattering light. The last year of his life was constant pain.

(MORE)

COREY (CONT'D)

He had parasites in his intestines that gave him diarrhea every day for eight months. He went blind, he got liver cancer, he didn't even know who we were.

ALISON

And yet he stuck it out. He believed that every single minute of life was precious.

COREY

So do I. Oh God, Alison you have no idea how much I believe that. But that isn't life. It's maintenance. That's not what we were put on this planet for. It's unacceptable and it crosses the line. My line.

ALISON

I understand that Corey. I just think you need to make sure that you're not asking Alan to cross over his line.

COREY

If he loves me, he will.

ALISON

It's because he loves you that he might not be able to.

There is a small silence between them.

COREY

The sun is coming up.

The sound of knocking is heard and the Judge enters to take a position at a desk.

JUDGE

Come in.

Corey turns and exits as Amanda comes in near the Judge.

ALISON

I wish I had told you how much I respected you.

Alison exits.

JUDGE

Ms. Richardson. What can I do for you?

AMANDA

I need some advice.

JUDGE

Is this about the case?

AMANDA

(hesitant)

No...

JUDGE

You're sure? Because although I know you slept through a couple of my lectures I'm sure you remember the one about ex-parte communication. I can't talk to you about the trial without opposing counsel present.

AMANDA

It's not about the trial. It's about a friend.

JUDGE

A friend.
(beat - considering)
All right.

AMANDA

This friend is assisting on the prosecution of a murder case.

JUDGE

You and your friend have a lot in common.

AMANDA

We're very close.

JUDGE

(smiles)

Continue. Carefully.

AMANDA

She's having some doubts about the case and doesn't know what to do about it.

JUDGE

What kind of doubts?

AMANDA
That they might not be prosecuting
the right person.

JUDGE
(very serious)
Does your friend have any evidence?

AMANDA
No. I mean, nothing concrete. But
I will say that it is amazing the
things you overhear in a ladies
room. Never mind. I guess it's
more of an instinct at this point.

JUDGE
I see. Is your friend sure she's
not letting the emotions of the
case cloud her judgment?

AMANDA
My friend's not sure of much of
anything anymore. But yes... I
think it's more than just emotions.
What should she do?

JUDGE
It depends. Does your friend
believe in justice?

AMANDA
Of course.

JUDGE
And does your friend realize that
justice sometimes comes with a
heavy price?

AMANDA
Yes.

JUDGE
Well, then she needs to decide if
she is willing to pay that price.
If she is, then she needs to do
whatever is necessary to ensure
that justice is served. That is
her responsibility.

AMANDA
What would you do?

JUDGE

(beat)

I had a friend in a similar situation. This was many years ago when he was a bright, up and coming defense attorney. He represented a man that had been accused of raping a little girl. He took the case because he believed in the man's innocence but then during the trial he heard some things that made him start to question that belief. But he did his job... and the man was exonerated. My friend has regretted that his entire life because he is sure that he put a pedophile back on the streets. Regret is a devastating emotion, Ms. Richardson.

Alison enters opposite with a tray of drinks.

AMANDA

No regrets...

The lights fade on the Judge and he exits. Alison hands Amanda a drink.

ALISON

Here you go.

AMANDA

This is a lovely home you have here.

ALISON

Thank you.

AMANDA

I bet you get a lot of sunlight in the morning with these windows.

ALISON

Yes, I do.

Amanda picks up a book from a table.

AMANDA

This is one of Mr. Daniels' books. I read this a couple of months ago. It's very good. I heard they're making it into a movie with Harrison Ford.

ALISON

Really?

AMANDA

That's what I heard.

ALISON

So are we going to talk about the weather now?

AMANDA

I'm sorry... I'm kind of nervous.

ALISON

About what?

AMANDA

I shouldn't be here.

ALISON

Then why are you?

AMANDA

I want to ask you a couple of questions.

ALISON

Why not ask them in court?

AMANDA

These are not the kinds of questions that I want Pritchett to hear.

ALISON

Pritchett...

AMANDA

Mr. Monroe. See, it could mean losing the case. Pritch... Mr. Monroe doesn't like to hear anything that might mean losing a case.

ALISON

And you do?

AMANDA

Not usually.

ALISON

What makes this one different?

AMANDA

Do you believe in hunches?

ALISON

Psychologically speaking? No. But that doesn't mean that they don't exist.

AMANDA

I have a hunch that Alan Wilson shouldn't be on trial for the murder of Corey Daniels.

ALISON

That's not a hunch. That's your conscience. It's obscene that you're prosecuting him for this.

AMANDA

This has nothing to do with moral rights and wrongs.

ALISON

Then what?

AMANDA

I don't think he did it.

Alison doesn't say anything or have any observable reaction. This startles Amanda.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

You don't seem shocked.

ALISON

I'm a psychologist. I've trained myself not to gasp when people say shocking things. So how did you come to your remarkable conclusion?

AMANDA

Little things... bits of testimony that don't fit. Conversations that I've overheard.

ALISON

If he didn't do it, then who did?

AMANDA

I don't know. But I think he's covering for someone.

ALISON
(beat - a crack in the
veneer)
Why would he do that?

AMANDA
Again, I don't know. You tell me.

ALISON
It's your theory. Besides, even if
it were true, why should you care?

AMANDA
Because I don't want to send an
innocent man to jail.

ALISON
But if he did it... which, by the
way, he admits to doing... you
would want him to be put away?

AMANDA
I don't want to get into a mercy
killing debate with you.

ALISON
Well, that's too bad. If you
expect me to help you...

AMANDA
I expect you to help Alan. This
isn't going to help me at all. In
fact, I'll probably be disbarred
for it.

ALISON
Then why do it?

AMANDA
I just told you. If Alan didn't
commit the crime then he shouldn't
go to prison for it.

ALISON
But whoever did it should?

AMANDA
Dr. McCray, it is a crime and it is
my job to help prosecute criminals.
That's what I would like to do in
this case, only I don't think we
are. You're his best friend. If
you don't help him we're going to
win this case.

ALISON

You'll forgive me if I don't send you a card congratulating you on your victory.

AMANDA

It won't be a victory. A victory means that justice was served and this isn't justice.

ALISON

Then get them to drop the charges.

AMANDA

I can't unless I can prove that someone else did it.

ALISON

And what would that accomplish?

AMANDA

Everything! Alan would get his life back and whoever did this...

ALISON

Excuse me? Get his life back? Haven't you been paying attention? Alan has no life left. Ever since Corey died he's just been waiting to join him. You see, it's sort of like he's already in jail and he's just waiting to be released. Corey made a decision when he asked for someone to help him die. Whatever happened after that was Alan's decision and I plan on continuing to respect that.

AMANDA

(beat)

What did happen after that, Dr. McCray? What happened after Corey asked Alan to help him die?

ALISON

(beat)

I believe that's your job to find out.

AMANDA

I'm trying to. But why do I get the feeling that you know more than you're telling me?

ALISON

I wish you luck on your crusade for justice, Ms. Richardson. You're going to need it because there isn't any here.

AMANDA

(beat)

His best friend. He's covering for his best friend, isn't he Dr. McCray?

ALISON

(beat)

Good night, Ms. Richardson.

Alison exits with the tray and drinks as Pritchett enters, enraged.

PRITCHETT

How could you be so stupid?

AMANDA

Pritchett, do not raise your voice to me.

PRITCHETT

I will scream at you from the fucking rooftops if I feel like it! Do you realize what you've done?

AMANDA

Yes, I do.

PRITCHETT

Well, then let's just review. You questioned a witness outside of court. Told her that our case has absolutely no merit. And what else? Oh yeah, you accused her of committing murder! At the very least we are looking at a mistrial here. You'll get disbarred. I'll be humiliated. Oh, and I can forget about becoming D.A. next year. In one fell swoop you've ruined the case and both of our careers.

AMANDA

Don't you care that we're prosecuting an innocent man?

PRITCHETT

No, I don't.

AMANDA

What?

PRITCHETT

I don't because he's not innocent. He admitted it. He took an oath and admitted in a court of law that he killed Corey Daniels.

AMANDA

He lied.

PRITCHETT

How do you know that?

AMANDA

I just do.

PRITCHETT

Oh, well then fine. I'll just go to the judge and say, "I'm sorry, your Honor, but we're going to drop the charges because my girlfriend has some sort of weird feeling that we're prosecuting the wrong guy".

AMANDA

It's more than a weird feeling.

PRITCHETT

Then what is it? Because it sure as hell doesn't have anything to do with the facts.

AMANDA

It has to be about more than facts, Pritchett.

PRITCHETT

No, it doesn't. It absolutely does not - cannot be about anything else.

AMANDA

You'll never take me seriously because in your mind he's guilty.

PRITCHETT

He's guilty because he says he's guilty. Why would he lie?

AMANDA

Because he's protecting Alison McCray.

PRITCHETT

You are out of your mind.

AMANDA

You weren't there, Pritchett. You didn't see her face when I...

PRITCHETT

When you accused her of committing murder?

AMANDA

She didn't deny it.

PRITCHETT

She was probably in shock! I know I sure as hell am.

AMANDA

I know what I saw, Pritchett.

PRITCHETT

Wait a minute... why are we even having this discussion? She has an alibi!

AMANDA

What do you mean?

PRITCHETT

The coroner looked at the time of death and determined that someone fed Corey Daniels the pills between ten and midnight. McCray's show goes from nine to one in the morning. She couldn't have done it, she was on the radio.

AMANDA

(beat)

Maybe the show was taped.

PRITCHETT

Oh my God. I suppose next you'll be asking her if she was anywhere near the grassy knoll in November of 1963.

AMANDA

It's possible, Pritchett. If she wanted to find a way to do it, she would've.

PRITCHETT

I don't even know how to respond to that.

AMANDA

I'm telling you. At some point you're going to hear something that doesn't sit right. You probably already have, you've just chosen to ignore it. Next time you won't be able to.

The sound of knocking is heard.

PRITCHETT

That's Myers. Now I want you to sit there and not say a word. Do you understand me? Not one fucking word. If you keep your mouth shut we still might be able to keep our jobs.

(composes himself)

Come in.

Christina enters.

PRITCHETT (CONT'D)

Christina, thanks for coming.

CHRISTINA

Pritchett. Amanda.

PRITCHETT

Have a seat.

CHRISTINA

I'd prefer to stand. This won't take long.

PRITCHETT

Okay. First I want to offer my apologies on behalf of my colleague.

CHRISTINA

Pritchett, spare me. If it were up to me, I would have had this case dismissed and the two of you brought up on ethics violations before you got out of bed this morning.

PRITCHETT

I understand...

CHRISTINA

No, I don't think you do, Pritchett. I want you to know how very close you are to losing everything you've been working at for your whole miserable little life. I want to see you sweat. I want to hear you grovel. I want to watch you cry and beg for my mercy.

PRITCHETT

I believe you're enjoying this.

CHRISTINA

You're damn right I am.

PRITCHETT

Then why don't you do it? Why isn't the case dismissed already?

CHRISTINA

Because that's not what my client wants.

AMANDA

What?

CHRISTINA

He wants to go forward with the trial.

PRITCHETT

You're kidding. Why?

CHRISTINA

Because he's sick, Pritchett. He's sick and he's tired and he just wants this to be overwith. If we declare a mistrial then it just starts all over again and frankly neither he nor I think he's got it in him.

AMANDA

But he has to know that he's going to get convicted.

CHRISTINA

The trial's not over yet, Amanda. I think we still have a chance to pull this thing out. But even if we don't, he's not going to jail.

PRITCHETT

It's murder, Christina. He has to go to jail.

CHRISTINA

Not if the Assistant District Attorney requests a stay of sentence due to his health. He's going to be dead inside of two years anyway - all of his doctors are saying that.

PRITCHETT

(beat)

What about a plea bargain? We'll drop it down to manslaughter and he'll walk with probation.

CHRISTINA

I thought of that, too. He refuses to plead it out.

PRITCHETT

What? Am I the only sane person left on this planet?

CHRISTINA

Do we have a deal or not, Pritchett?

PRITCHETT

There's no guarantee that the judge will go for it.

CHRISTINA

You better make it a guarantee, Pritchett. Call your boss and have him step in. Call the governor, call the fucking President, I don't care... just do it.

PRITCHETT

You drive a hard bargain, Christina.

CHRISTINA

A bargain would imply that there's room for negotiation. There isn't.

PRITCHETT

I understand. Well, I guess I don't have any choice.

CHRISTINA

I have your word then?

PRITCHETT

You have my word.

CHRISTINA

Unfortunately I don't think that's worth jack-shit but I guess it's going to have to do. Just remember something, Pritchett. You so much as look at me wrong and I'll march right up to the first reporter I can find and tell him every last little detail... so don't fuck with me.

PRITCHETT

I wouldn't dream of it.

CHRISTINA

Good. Now get out of here. I want to talk to Amanda.

PRITCHETT

No, I don't think...

CHRISTINA

You're right, Pritchett, you don't think. You do. Don't worry, I'm not going to ask her how you are in bed.

Pritchett looks as though he wants to make some witty retort but just can't think of anything. He leaves anyway.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

So how is he in bed?

Amanda smiles and makes a "so-so" motion with her hand.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

That's what I figured. Why'd you do it?

AMANDA

I don't think Alan killed him.

CHRISTINA

I know. But it's not your job to worry about things like that.

AMANDA

Don't you worry about it?

CHRISTINA

It keeps me up at night. But I'm the defense and you're the prosecution. You're supposed to be getting a good night's sleep.

AMANDA

Pritchett snores.

CHRISTINA

Put a pillow over his face. There isn't a jury in the world that would convict you.

AMANDA

I couldn't just sit by and let it go.

CHRISTINA

Look... I'm not saying that I'm not grateful. But what you've got to understand is that if you're going to do this job then there will be times when you'll have to prosecute cases you don't like. It goes with the territory.

AMANDA

So as defense you always get to choose things you believe in?

CHRISTINA

No... not always. But hopefully there'll be enough people like Alan that it will make up for all the sleazeballs I have to defend just to pay the rent.

AMANDA

Maybe I've chosen the wrong line of work.

CHRISTINA

Maybe. Or maybe you're just on the wrong side of the courtroom.

AMANDA

Would you like to have lunch when this is all over? Maybe talk about the view from the defense table?

CHRISTINA

I'd like that a lot.

Christina gets up to leave.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

Only... leave Pritchett at home.

Amanda smiles and exits as Alan enters opposite. Christina crosses to him.

ALAN

Well?

CHRISTINA

They went for it.

ALAN

Good.

CHRISTINA

You understand that there are still no guarantees. It's up to the judge.

ALAN

I don't suppose we can dig up any dirt on him?

CHRISTINA

I'll see what I can do.

ALAN

Thank you, Christina.

CHRISTINA

I really don't feel like I should be thanked for this, Alan. We could've gotten a mistrial.

ALAN

I know. But I explained to you why I didn't want that.

CHRISTINA
Yes, you did. Now how about
telling me the truth?

ALAN
I did tell you the truth.

CHRISTINA
I don't believe you.

ALAN
Why not?

CHRISTINA
Because I've been thinking about
all the things that Amanda
Richardson said and I can't help
but agree. I think you're covering
for someone.

ALAN
Why would I do that?

CHRISTINA
I don't know. You tell me.

ALAN
There's nothing to tell. I killed
Corey.

CHRISTINA
But hypothetically speaking... if
you were covering for someone...
why would you do it?

ALAN
Hypothetically? Well... I suppose
it would be because I really don't
have a lot left to lose.

CHRISTINA
You have everything to lose, Alan.
You're not dead yet.

ALAN
But I will be.

CHRISTINA
We all will be. Hell, I could walk
out of here and get hit by a bus
and you'd be coming to my funeral
instead of the other way around.

ALAN

Well, there's a happy thought.

CHRISTINA

Alan, I know the protease inhibitors didn't work for you, but they're developing new things every day. One of those things could work.

ALAN

And if it doesn't?

CHRISTINA

Then I don't want to see you throw away what little time you have left.

ALAN

Are we still speaking hypothetically here?

CHRISTINA

Fuck hypothetical. Tell me the truth!

ALAN

You want to know what the truth is, Christina? The truth is a concept invented by people who couldn't lie very well. We invent the truth all the time. We twist it and warp it just to survive. If we had to face the truth... the honest truth about everything... it would kill us before we ever got out of bed. This is the truth that I need to survive. Let me have that.

CHRISTINA

I can forgive you for lying, Alan. The question is can you forgive yourself?

Christina walks downstage as Corey enters wearing a bathrobe and carrying a box of cards from the "Trivial Pursuit" game.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

Your honor, the defense rests.

Corey slams the box down on the table, which mimics the gavel sound. Christina exits.

ALAN
What are you doing out of bed?

COREY
Ask me.

ALAN
Corey, don't...

COREY
Ask me!

Alan and Corey face off for a moment and then Alan reluctantly takes a card out of the box.

ALAN
"What Tennessee Williams play did Paul Newman direct a 1987 film version of?"

COREY
(beat)
I don't know.

ALAN
"The Glass Menagerie". Corey, even I didn't know that...

COREY
Ask another one.

ALAN
Why are you doing this to yourself?

COREY
Ask me a fucking question!

Alan draws another card from the box.

ALAN
"What was the name of the cat in the movie 'Alien'?"

COREY
(agonized)
Oh God...

ALAN
Come on Corey, this is one of your favorite movies.

COREY
It is?

ALAN
You've seen it a hundred times.
Come on, Corey think.

COREY
I don't remember!

Corey begins grabbing cards out of the box, throwing them everywhere.

COREY (CONT'D)
I don't know... I don't know... I
don't know any of these!!

ALAN
Corey, it's just a stupid game.

COREY
I used to know all of them. I used
to kick your ass at this game.

Corey sinks down into a chair and Alan goes behind him to embrace and comfort him.

ALAN
Yeah... but I used to kick yours at
Monopoly.

COREY
That's a stupid game.

ALAN
Only because you lost all the time.
Do you remember when we first met
we used to play strip monopoly?

COREY
(beat - tortured)
No... I don't remember. I can't do
this anymore, Alan.

Alan starts to collect the Trivial Pursuit cards.

ALAN
I'll put it away.

COREY
Not the game... not that one. I'm
going to call Dr. Clinton on
Monday.

ALAN
For what?

COREY
He said he would help... he'd write
me a prescription when I was ready.

ALAN
Are you? Ready?

COREY
I think so.

ALAN
Well, I'm not. I won't you let you
do it.

COREY
I love you, Alan.

Alan turns away from him.

ALAN
Shut up.

COREY
Look at me. Please...

Alan turns back.

COREY (CONT'D)
Do you remember when we first met?

ALAN
Yes.

COREY
I was standing there holding that
vest... and I looked into your eyes
and there was a moment. Everything
just sort of fell into place like
someone had just given me the
answer to a puzzle I had been
trying to solve for the longest
time. You have made me happier
than I ever thought I could be...
and I have felt more loved than any
one person deserves. And the
thought that I might forget that...
that I might not remember the first
moment when I looked into your
eyes... it breaks my heart.

Alan goes to Corey and strokes his hair.

ALAN
I won't let you forget.

COREY

Alan, I need to do this while I'm still able to.

ALAN

You have to give it a little more time.

COREY

I can't.

ALAN

I'll make you a deal. Okay? You give it three more months. If you're not doing any better by... if you're not doing better by February fourteenth, then...

COREY

What if I get worse?

ALAN

You won't.

COREY

You have to promise me, Alan. That has to be part of the deal. If I'm not able to do it myself, you have to do it for me.

ALAN

You're not going to get worse.

COREY

Alan, promise me! You have to or...

Corey pauses and looks down at himself.

COREY (CONT'D)

I think I just had an accident.

ALAN

I'll get a towel.

Alan starts to run toward the bathroom but stops as Corey calls out.

COREY

Jones.

ALAN

What?

COREY

The name of the cat in "Alien". It was Jones.

ALAN

Yeah... that's right.

COREY

February fourteenth, Alan. Promise me.

ALAN

(beat)

I promise.

The lights fade on Corey and Alan and come up on Pritchett, Elaine, and Amanda. Elaine is in the witness chair but it isn't the courtroom.

PRITCHETT

Now tomorrow I'm going to be recalling you to the stand as a rebuttal witness to talk more about Corey and Alan's relationship. We've gone over the testimony before but I'd like to do it again, just to make sure that there won't be any surprises. Alright.

ELAINE

Is this really necessary? It seems to me like you've already won.

PRITCHETT

We just want to be sure, Mrs. Daniels.

The Judge enters to the bench and Christina and Alan enter to the defense table.

ELAINE

All right.

PRITCHETT

What did you think of Corey and the defendant as a "couple" so to speak?

ELAINE

Well... like I said... I always thought they argued a lot.

PRITCHETT
 "Healthy" arguments like Doctor
 McCray was talking about?

ELAINE
 I don't know.

PRITCHETT
 (beat - a little thrown)
 Did they argue more than you and
 Corey did when you were married?

ELAINE
 I guess. Like I said, it's hard to
 know for sure.

PRITCHETT
 (beat - still thrown)
 Uh... your honor, may I have a
 moment to confer with my co-
 counsel?

JUDGE
 A moment?

PRITCHETT
 Half a moment.

The Judge nods and Pritchett goes to Amanda.

PRITCHETT (CONT'D)
 (hushed)
 What is she doing?

AMANDA
 I don't know.

PRITCHETT
 We over all of this last night,
 what in the hell is she doing?

AMANDA
 I don't know. Something is up
 though. I'd bail out.

JUDGE
 Mr. Monroe, I'm getting bored. I
 get crankier when I get bored.

PRITCHETT
 Yes, your honor. I'm sorry. Uh...
 Mrs. Daniels...
 (MORE)

PRITCHETT (CONT'D)

would it be fair to say that your ex-husband argued more often in his relationship with Alan Wilson, than in your relationship?

ELAINE

I suppose. Yes.

PRITCHETT

And your relationship ended in divorce?

ELAINE

Well, there were other...

PRITCHETT

Yes or no, Mrs. Daniels?

ELAINE

Yes.

Pritchett becomes more confident throughout as Elaine gets more and more fragmented.

PRITCHETT

And what was it like after Corey got sick?

ELAINE

Well, I know that Alan was there all the time. He quit his job and they lived off their savings just so Alan could take care of him.

PRITCHETT

Must've been quite a burden.

ELAINE

It was difficult for Alan.

PRITCHETT

What makes you say that?

ELAINE

He would call me sometimes and he'd be crying because Corey was so sick.

PRITCHETT

And he hated to see Corey suffer?

ELAINE

Absolutely.

PRITCHETT
Cooped up in that apartment all day. Making sure he took his medication, hooking up IV's... changing his diapers. Did he ever talk to you about those things?

ELAINE
Yes. He hated it.

PRITCHETT
Really?

ELAINE
Well, yes... I mean, wouldn't you?

PRITCHETT
Alan did view it as a burden, didn't he, Mrs. Daniels?

ELAINE
I don't know that I'd say a burden.

PRITCHETT
But you just said he hated it. I would think that would mean that he couldn't stand doing the things that he had to do.

ELAINE
He hated it because Corey was sick.

PRITCHETT
And that meant he had to take care of him?

ELAINE
Exactly.

PRITCHETT
And he didn't like taking care of Corey?

ELAINE
That's not what I said.

PRITCHETT
Well, then what did you say?

ELAINE
Alan took care of Corey because he wanted to. Not because he had to.
(MORE)

ELAINE (CONT'D)

And the only reason that he was upset is because Corey was dying. Alan just wanted it to be overwith.

PRITCHETT

Overwith? In other words, he wanted Corey to die?

CHRISTINA

Objection! Your Honor, he's putting words in her mouth.

JUDGE

Sustained. Watch yourself, Mr. Monroe.

PRITCHETT

Mrs. Daniels, did Alan Wilson ever say to you, he wished Corey were dead?

ELAINE

No... I mean not like...

PRITCHETT

But he did say it?

ELAINE

(beat)

I don't remember.

PRITCHETT

(beat - regrouping but angry)

You said he wanted it to be overwith. Those were your words, correct?

ELAINE

Yes.

PRITCHETT

And what would "overwith" mean exactly?

ELAINE

I'm not sure...

PRITCHETT

Oh come on, Mrs. Daniels. When Alan Wilson said he wanted the whole thing to be overwith, what do you think he meant?

ELAINE

I think he meant that he wished
Corey would get better.

PRITCHETT

But he didn't really believe that
was going to happen did he?

ELAINE

He just wanted to make it better
for Corey. He wanted to protect
him and make him feel safe. You
know, how he was sitting by the bed
and stroking his hair that night.
He just wanted to make it better.

PRITCHETT

Really Mrs. Daniels, do you...

Pritchett stops mid-sentence. He has his back to her and
slowly turns to face her. There is a moment of silence.

JUDGE

Mr. Monroe, is everything all
right?

PRITCHETT

(beat)

Yes. Yes, everything is fine. I
have no further questions.

JUDGE

Mrs. Daniels, you may step down.

Elaine gets out of the witness chair and exits the courtroom

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Mr Monroe, do you have any more
witnesses to call?

PRITCHETT

No, your Honor.

JUDGE

Ms. Myers? Any rebuttal witnesses?

CHRISTINA

No.

JUDGE

This court is adjourned until two-
o'clock this afternoon when we will
hear closing arguments.

At the gavel, all lights go out except for a warm spot near the front of the stage. Alan steps into the spot as everyone else exits. A moment later, Pritchett joins him.

ALAN

Quite a view from up here.

PRITCHETT

Yes, it is.

ALAN

So...

PRITCHETT

So...

ALAN

Isn't it against the rules for you to be talking to me on the roof of the court building? Or anywhere outside of court for that matter?

PRITCHETT

Yes, it is.

ALAN

You don't strike me as a rule-breaker. I'm intrigued.

PRITCHETT

Why are you protecting her?

ALAN

Oh great. Now you think Alison did it too? You and your assistant really need to stop watching those "Matlock" reruns.

PRITCHETT

Not Dr. McCray. Elaine Daniels.

ALAN

(beat)

I'm sorry?

PRITCHETT

"The way he was sitting there, stroking his hair that night." Not, "The way he always stroked his hair" or "The way he told us he was stroking his hair". "The way he was sitting there stroking his hair... that night". She was there, wasn't she?

ALAN

No, she wasn't. It was me and Corey.

PRITCHETT

Okay. I'll just put her back on the stand.

ALAN

You've already rested your case.

PRITCHETT

Mr. Wilson, you testified that the last thing you said to Corey before you fed him the pills was "Please forgive me". You weren't asking his forgiveness because you were about to kill him. You were asking his forgiveness because you couldn't.

ALAN

Why are we doing this? Here? Why aren't you asking me these questions in court?

PRITCHETT

Because if it's true then it means that not only did you lie, but so did Elaine Daniels and Alison McCray and your doctor and your lawyer... and before I go into court and blow this whole conspiracy out of the water I want to know why.

ALAN

(beat)

Do you believe that Corey wanted to die?

PRITCHETT

That's not the point.

ALAN

That is exactly the point. Right now we are not accuser and accused. We are two people having a conversation and I am asking you to stop being an assistant District Attorney for one minute and just tell me... do you think Corey wanted to die?

PRITCHETT

(beat)

Yes.

ALAN

Do you believe that I loved him?

PRITCHETT

Yes.

ALAN

(beat)

Mr. Monroe, I know you believe in doing the right thing. So do I. Please let me do it.

PRITCHETT

You'll probably end up in jail.

ALAN

You're supposed to make sure that doesn't happen.

PRITCHETT

I can't guarantee it. It's not up to me.

ALAN

But I have faith in you.

PRITCHETT

Why?

ALAN

You're good at what you do. Hell, you almost had me convinced.

PRITCHETT

Maybe I'm a little too good.

(beat)

I can't get you to change your mind?

ALAN

About what?

Pritchett nods and the two of them look out over the city again.

ALAN (CONT'D)

You know... Corey would've loved it up here.

Corey enters with the pillow, blanket, glass, and pills which he sets down so he can put his arms around Alan from behind.

PRITCHETT

From what I've heard, he seemed like a good man.

ALAN

He was. You might've liked him. But he would've hated you.

PRITCHETT

Why?

ALAN

His favorite joke was...

COREY

What's the difference between a lawyer and a catfish?

PRITCHETT

One's a scum sucking bottom feeder and the other is a fish.

ALAN

(laughs)

He might have liked you after all.

PRITCHETT

Good luck to you, Mr. Wilson.

ALAN

Same to you, Mr. Monroe.

Pritchett steps into his own spotlight, the Judge enters to the bench, and Christina enters to her own spotlight. Corey and Alan take up the same positions as the earlier scene. All the lines overlap.

CHRISTINA

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, you've heard a lot of testimony in this courtroom over the last few days. And now you face a decision. It's really pretty simple. Guilty or not guilty?

PRITCHETT

Guilty or not guilty? What you have to do is weigh the evidence and look at the facts. The facts, ladies and gentlemen, is what I've been saying this case is all about.

ALAN

Corey? Do you want to go to the mountains this weekend? You always loved it up there. I remember when we rented that log cabin... the one with the big rock in the back. We climbed up on it and spread out in front of us was the most amazing view. You could see... forever.

CHRISTINA

It's about love and honor, ladies and gentlemen. These days that's just about all we have left to hold on to. Alan Wilson honored his love. Please don't punish him for that. The facts, ladies and gentlemen...

PRITCHETT

The facts, ladies and gentlemen. The facts. Alan Wilson admits to killing Corey Daniels. I wish we could care about more than that... I desperately wish that. But we can't. This is all the truth that we need to know.

Christina and Pritchett exits. Alan moves to the bedside.

JUDGE

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, have you reached a verdict?

ALAN

I love you. I have since the moment we first met. I cannot imagine what my life would've been like without you.

JURY (V.O.)

Yes, your Honor, we have.

JUDGE

How say you?

The Judge exits as Alan puts his hand on Corey's face and strokes his hair.

ALAN

I don't even know if you can feel me touching you. You always said that when I stroked your hair it made you feel safe...

(MORE)

ALAN (CONT'D)
and protected. I wish I could
protect you from this. I wish I
could make it all better. Just
close your eyes... go to sleep...
and when you wake up it will be all
better.

JURY (V.O.)
We the jury...

ALAN
I promise.

Alan moves away from the bed, crying softly. He looks into
the darkness beyond the bed.

JURY (V.O.)
Find the defendant...

ALAN
Please forgive me, Corey. I love
you... please forgive me.

Instead of returning to the bed as before, Alan stays where
he is at with his back to Corey. A moment later Elaine steps
into the light by Corey's bedside. She reaches down and
takes the bottle of pills and opens them. As she places the
first one at Corey's lips...

JURY (V.O.)
Guilty.

Elaine lets out a sob and runs to Alan. The lights dim on
Corey but he remains there.

ELAINE
I can't let them do this!

ALAN
Yes, you can. You have to.

ELAINE
I never would have gone along with
it if I thought they would convict
you. I'm going to the judge.

ALAN
No, you're not.

ELAINE
Would you stop being a fucking
martyr for just one minute and
listen to me?

ALAN

I am not being a martyr. I promised him, Elaine. I promised that I would help him. If I had done that in the beginning, none of this ever would've happened.

ELAINE

Nobody forced me to do what I did.

ALAN

But it should've been me.

ELAINE

So now you feel guilty and this is your punishment? Is that it?

ALAN

No, Elaine. It's not my punishment... it's my responsibility.

ELAINE

This is not right.

ALAN

Yes, it is. Stop for a minute and think of Corey. He's happy... because he knows that I'm going to be okay. And you're going to be okay. And Chloe's going to grow up knowing that her Daddy loved her very much. Right?

ELAINE

Yes.

ALAN

You have to promise me that, Elaine. Promise me you'll tell her all about him. And about us. That more than anything... we loved each other.

ELAINE

I'll take her to the mountains.

ALAN

Yeah... show her the view.

Elaine and Alan embrace for a moment and then Alan moves back to where Corey is. Corey stands and Alan is behind him.

ELAINE

Chloe! Come on, honey. We have to get back to the cabin. It's starting to get dark.

Elaine exits.

COREY

(quietly)

I've been waiting for you.

ALAN

Sorry it took so long... traffic was hell.

Alan goes up and puts his arms around Corey from behind. Corey closes his eyes for a moment as they embrace but then opens them again.

COREY

It's quite a view from here.

ALAN

Yes, it is.

The light fades slowly as the radio starts again.

ALISON (V.O.)

So I'll sign off for the night, dear listener, with a question. something for you to think about on those cold and lonely nights. It goes something like this: somewhere within each of us, there is a line... a line between acceptable and unacceptable. Where is yours?

Black out.