

LOVE ON SAFARI

Hallmark Draft 4b

January 7, 2018

**ACT ONE**

FADE IN:

1 EXT. AFRICAN SAVANNA -- DAY 1

OPENING CREDITS ROLL over various shots of the African savanna at its most magnificent, teeming with life: herds of zebra, impala, and elephants roaming free.

On a shot of a spectacular elephant we:

DISSOLVE TO:

2 INT. TECH OFFICE BULLPEN - KIRA'S DESK - DAY 2

TIGHT on a computer screen saver of an elephant.

PAN to reveal a more about the occupant of the cubicle. There's a touch of creativity for website design (color palettes, coding books, etc.). There is a "I <3 CHICAGO" sticker, and a couple of pictures of an All-American pretty woman and a handsome man.

As the OPENING CREDITS END, PULL BACK to reveal the hectic, open office space with computer workstations and a bunch of younger people at them, all dressed casually.

The woman in the photos, KIRA SLATER (30s, optimistic but reserved) approaches, sits at her desk and barely has a chance to breathe before a young woman, VICKY HERNANDEZ (20s, intense) pops up over the adjoining cubicle wall.

VICKY

Kira, where have you been?

KIRA

I had to run some errands at lunch.  
Vacation in three days, remember?

VICKY

(humoring her)

Right. Scottsdale. Exciting.  
But, I need you to help me QA the  
interactive shark diving feature  
for the new travel site.

KIRA

Vicky, I still can't believe you  
got in the water with sharks.

VICKY

It's not like I was petting them or anything. There was a cage.

KIRA

There is no cage big enough to make me consider doing that.

VICKY

Well, then you can sit safely in your chair and experience it online. Help me, please?

KIRA

You've got, like, a bazillion followers on Twitter. Get them to beta test for you.

VICKY

I did, but it involves them having to read more than 280 characters at a time, so...

KIRA

How do you have so many followers anyway?

VICKY

I do things like get in the water with sharks.

KIRA

(laughs)

Well, I'm sorry, but I have my own websites to work on. The more I get done here the less I'm going to have to do while I'm on vacation.

VICKY

You're going to Scottsdale. What else are you going to do?

KIRA

Golf. Got to the spa. Hike.

VICKY

You don't hike.

KIRA

(faux bravery)

I might. If the trails are clearly marked.

VICKY

Kira, shark diving is not for everyone. It's okay to like things to be safe and dependable.

KIRA

You mean boring and bland.

VICKY

I didn't say that.

At that moment, Kira's boyfriend BRAD WILSON (30s, buttoned down, organized) comes into the bullpen wearing slacks and a sweater vest. He is carrying a bunch of envelopes and mail.

VICKY (CONT'D)

(making a point)

Oh, look, it's your boyfriend.  
Brad... from accounting.

Kira gives her a look and Vicky sinks down behind the cubicle wall. Kira goes to meet Brad.

INT. TECH OFFICE BULLPEN - DAY

Kira walks up to Brad just as he barely escapes getting run over by a co-worker who is rushing somewhere. They walk toward her cubicle.

BRAD

It's like a jungle in here. I don't understand how you can get anything done.

KIRA

It's fun. Creative.

BRAD

Loud. It's nice and quiet up in accounting. I'm just saying.

KIRA

I think the company is better off with me staying as far away from the books as possible.

BRAD

You're good with numbers.

KIRA

Checking, savings, 401K. Anything more complex than that is why I'm dating an accountant.

BRAD  
You just love me for my  
spreadsheets.

KIRA  
The truth comes out.

BRAD  
Did you get your errands done?

KIRA  
I did. Three days until vacation!

BRAD  
Just don't get so enamored with  
Scottsdale that you don't come  
home. There will be a very special  
birthday surprise waiting for you.

KIRA  
You keep saying that. What are you  
planning?

BRAD  
My lips are sealed.

They have reached Kira's workspace.

BRAD (CONT'D)  
Oh, I brought your mail.

He hands her a stack of mail as they go into her cubicle.

3 OMITTED 3

4 INT. TECH OFFICE BULLPEN - KIRA'S WORKSPACE - DAY 4

Kira sits and goes through the mail as Brad stands next to  
her. One envelope stands out. It says it is from "UKUTHULA  
RESERVE, SOUTH AFRICA." Brad sees it.

BRAD  
South Africa?

KIRA  
(as she opens envelope)  
Ukuthula. It's the wildlife  
reserve my Great Uncle Irving owns.  
I went there when I was a kid...  
(points at screen saver)  
I loved the elephants...

BRAD

Is that where that comes from?

Kira takes out a piece of paper and reads. Her reaction to the news is not overly sad - she barely knows this guy.

KIRA

Awww, Uncle Irv passed away.

BRAD

I'm sorry.

KIRA

He was so sweet to me when I was a kid. I haven't seen him in years though. I think the last time I heard from him was a card when my dad passed.

(reads letter)

They've been trying to find me for a couple of months.

BRAD

Why?

KIRA

It says he left a portion of his estate to me.

(reads letter - scoffs)

But there's a reading of the will and I have to be there to claim it.

BRAD

In South Africa?

KIRA

Yes!

Vicky pops up over the cubicle wall.

VICKY

You're going to South Africa?

KIRA

No!

A disappointed Vicky sinks back down again.

BRAD

Does it say what he left you?

KIRA

No. But apparently if I don't go there to claim whatever it is, they'll sell it and the proceeds will go to charity.

BRAD

Well, that's crazy. You can't go to Africa.

KIRA

No, of course not. Scottsdale is more than enough adventure for me.

She dismisses the idea and tosses the letter on her desk.

ZOOM into the Ukuthula logo on the envelope.

5 EXT. UKUTHULA RESERVE - DAY 5

We see the same logo on a sign, and then get a glimpse of the reserve in all its glory: a herd of zebras gallop over the plain; a flock of flamingos rises from a watering hole; where elephants and hippos cool themselves.

6 EXT. LODGE - DAY 6

Establishing a beautifully kept, rustic lodge as a safari vehicle pulls up. A man, dressed in a Ukuthula Ranger uniform, gets out and heads to the doors in a hurry - this is TOM ANDERSON (early 30s, rugged, determined).

7 EXT. LODGE - VERANDAH - DAY 7

Tom comes out onto a verandah with a spectacular view of the reserve. He spies a young woman in a ranger uniform, ALLY BOTSMAN (late 20s, energetic, light-hearted), talking to a colorfully dressed older woman, LWAZI (60s, regal, doesn't suffer fools). Tom approaches.

TOM

I just replaced a dozen fence posts.

LWAZI

Well, then that is a dozen less that need replacing, so we shall deem that as progress, yes, Tom?

TOM

Lwazi, we are playing a dangerous game here. The entire fence needs to be replaced.

ALLY

Not the entire fence if you just did a dozen posts...

TOM

(to Ally)

Ally, you're not helping.

ALLY

(smiles)

I wasn't trying to.

TOM

Don't you have some guests to take on a safari tour or something?

ALLY

Not for another hour. Besides, if they want to see wild beasts in action, I could bring them in here and watch the two of you go at it.

Tom gives her a look. Lwazi starts walking away and Tom and Ally follow.

TOM

Lwazi. We're not done talking about this.

They head away from the lodge.

8

EXT. LODGE - GROUNDS - DAY

8

Lwazi, followed closely by Tom and Ally, come out onto the lodge grounds.

TOM

Did you call the lawyers again?

LWAZI

Yes, I did.

TOM

And what did they say?

LWAZI

That until they settle the details of Irving's estate, we must tighten our belts.

TOM

They've been saying that for three months. Our belts are so tight we can't breathe.

LWAZI

Perhaps we are eating too much.

TOM

If they'd just listen to me, I could fix this.

ALLY

Oh, here we go.

TOM

What?

ALLY

You always think you can fix things by yourself.

TOM

I just did a dozen fence posts by myself.

LWAZI

And we appreciate your passion for Ukuthula.

TOM

You get passionate about this place, too. It's just more subtle. It's that thing you do with your eyebrow, when it arches up really, really high and it's kind of scary and...

Lwazi smiles and continues walking. Tom starts to follow but sees that Ally isn't.

TOM (CONT'D)

Are you coming?

ALLY

You're the one who wants to do things by himself.

Tom, frustrated, goes after Lwazi while Ally stays behind.

INT. LODGE - GREAT ROOM - DAY

Lwazi and Tom come into the sunny main room of the lodge, which has cozy furnishings, a big fireplace, and a soaring ceiling. There is an oil painting over the fireplace of an older man.

TOM

Are you just humoring me because of the job offer in the States? I told you, I'm not taking it.

LWAZI

But if you do, you will leave with our hearty felicitations and best wishes for continued success.

A man walks into the adjacent dining room. This is ARTIE HARRINGTON (30s, rich, gets what he wants). He looks around as if inspecting the place.

TOM

(grimaces - to Lwazi)  
Ugh. Why is Artie Harrington here?

LWAZI

For a tour.

TOM

A tour? Why?

LWAZI

The lawyers arranged it.

TOM

His family owns tacky resorts. Tourist traps that are about as far from authentic as you can get. The lawyers aren't talking about selling to him are they?

In response, Lwazi merely arches her eyebrow.

TOM (CONT'D)

There. Eyebrow.

Lwanzi shakes her head and walks away to greet Artie. Tom watches, trying to puzzle out what's happening. He glances at the nearby oil painting.

TOM (CONT'D)

(to the painting)  
Irving, I know you wouldn't want him here.

Irving doesn't have an answer.

10 EXT. CHICAGO - NIGHT 10

Establishing shot of Chicago.

11 INT. TECH OFFICE BULLPEN - NIGHT 11

The bullpen is mostly empty but Kira is working late, her computer screen filled with code as she types.

The Ukuthula envelope on her desk catches her eye. She picks it up and looks at the letter. She thinks for a moment then looks around the office to make sure she has some privacy.

She types/clicks on the computer and a PHOTO CLOUD logo comes up. A few more clicks and she brings up a picture - it's of a young girl of about ten years old with several adults (one of which is recognizable as Irving) and an elephant.

Kira smiles at the memory and continues clicking through pictures. She smiles; these are good memories. She looks at the letter laying on her desk again, considering.

12 EXT. STREET - DAY 12

Brad is putting Kira's suitcase in the trunk of a cab.

BRAD

I still can't believe you're going to Africa.

KIRA

I can't either, to be honest.

BRAD

You don't even know what your uncle left you!

KIRA

I spoke with his lawyer and he said that it was "significant" but he couldn't say anything more until the reading of the will.

BRAD

Significant? What does that mean?

KIRA

I remember he had this collection of antique safari whistles that I played with. I'll bet it's that.

BRAD

You're going all the way to Africa for whistles?

KIRA

Am I crazy?

BRAD

Definitely.  
(hugs her)  
Stay safe.

KIRA

Brad, you know me. I keep my feet planted firmly on the ground.

Of Kira's resolve we...

DISSOLVE TO:

- |    |  |    |
|----|--|----|
| 13 | OMITTED  | 13 |
| 14 | EXT. AFRICAN SAVANNAH - DAY  | 14 |
|    | A bird's eye view of the majestic African savanna, wildlife and scenic vista straight out of a nature documentary.   |    |
| 15 | INT. AIRCRAFT - DAY  | 15 |
|    | In the back of the small aircraft, Kira is sitting still as a rock, gripping the arm rests, eyes closed. She manages to crack one eye open and looks, then the other eye.                            |    |
|    | It's impossible to deny the beauty of the place and despite her inherent fear of being in this small plane, her breath is taken away by the scenery.   |    |
| 16 | EXT. UKUTHULA LANDING STRIP - DAY  | 16 |
|    | A small landing strip in the savanna is bare bones - no buildings or services - just a place to land, which is happening now as the plane touches down. Tom and Ally are waiting by a range vehicle. |    |

ALLY

So, who are we picking up again?

TOM

Irving's great niece from Chicago. She's here for the reading of the will. All Lwazi really said was she's a VIP and to "be nice."

ALLY

(teasing)

And she still sent you?

TOM

(mock offended)

I am a joy to be around always.

ALLY

Wait. You don't think she's the new owner do you?

TOM

What? No.

ALLY

Who else would he leave it to? I didn't think he had any family.

TOM

That's my point. Irving never mentioned her and she's never even visited - at least not in the last decade since I've worked here.

ALLY

Well, if she's coming in for the reading of the will...

The plane comes to a stop.

TOM

It's probably going to one of the reserve owners he was friends with like the Sweeney family. Someone who knows what they're doing.

ALLY

I don't know.

TOM

I'm telling you, Irving would never leave Ukuthula to someone who didn't love this place as much as he did. Someone who belonged here.

ALLY  
 How do you know she doesn't belong  
 here?

The plane door opens, the pilot emerges, and he helps a very unsteady Kira gets out. She wobbles and a gust of wind blows away her hat. The pilot scrambles to get it back for her.

TOM  
 Just a hunch.

They go toward her.

16A EXT. UKUTHULA LANDING STRIP - PLANE - DAY

16A

Kira is standing by the plane, mopping sweat off of her brow, as the pilot chases down her hat.

KIRA  
 (calls out to him)  
 Sorry!

Tom and Ally approach.

TOM  
 Hi. You must be Kira. I'm Tom  
 Anderson, head ranger for Ukuthula.

ALLY  
 And I'm Ally Botsman, also a  
 ranger.

KIRA  
 Nice to meet you. Wow it's hot.

TOM  
 I guess we've gotten used to it.

ALLY  
 How was your flight in?

KIRA  
 I have never been so happy to be on  
 the ground in my entire life.

ALLY  
 Not a fan of small planes?

KIRA  
 My fingernail marks in the pilot's  
 forearm gave me away? Is there  
 really no other way to get here?

TOM  
(humoring her)  
Well, we used to offer elephant  
rides from Johannesburg but it just  
wasn't cost efficient.

KIRA  
Really?

Tom can't believe she believed that.

TOM  
We would never use animals to...

ALLY  
(intercedes)  
It was a joke. Uh, Ally, why don't  
we get your luggage and get you to  
the lodge?

KIRA  
That would be great. I just want  
to stop to freshen up before we go  
if that's okay.

Kira takes a few steps away from the plane and looks around.  
There is no building, no outhouses, no nothing - just savanna  
stretching out for miles. She turns back to them.

ALLY  
Where's the airport?

TOM  
We had to get rid of it when we  
shut down the elephant rides.

Kira forces a smile and nods.

ALLY  
Kira, go ahead to the truck over  
there and we'll bring your luggage.

Kira goes toward the vehicle. Tom waits a moment and smiles.

TOM  
(to Ally)  
Told you she didn't belong here.

Ally swats Tom on the arm.

ALLY  
I thought you were going to be  
nice.

TOM

That was me being nice. But come on... this is the person you thought Irving left the reserve to?

Ally shakes her head and starts to walk away.

TOM (CONT'D)

Wait a minute. The luggage?

ALLY

You like to do things by yourself... I'm just being nice and letting you.

Ally smiles and walks off toward the range vehicle as Tom starts to reluctantly gather Kira's luggage.

17 EXT. SAVANNA - DAY

17

Off beautiful shots of wildlife we see Kira soaking in the surroundings: Rhinos grazing, flamingos wading. She is only slightly distracted by glancing at Tom who is actively avoiding looking at her while Ally drives.

18 EXT. LODGE - DAY

18

The ranger vehicle pulls up to the front of the lodge as Lwazi comes down the steps from the broad verandah to meet them. Kira, Tom, and Ally get out of the vehicle.

LWAZI

Kira. Welcome. I'm Lwazi.

KIRA

Of course! I remember you. You used to sneak me extra cookies in the dining room.

LWAZI

(conspiratorially)

Shhh. Don't tell these two.

(points at Tom & Ally)

They'll want me to sneak them extra cookies.

They all share a good laugh over that.

LWAZI (CONT'D)

You must be thirsty. Come inside. We have fresh iced tea.

ALLY

(checks her watch)

Not me. I've got my last group of the day to guide. And by "group", I mean Mr. and Mrs. Bagwell.

Kira takes note of this, with interest.

KIRA

Thanks for the lift, Ally.

She pointedly leaves Tom out of that. He notices.

ALLY

My pleasure.

(to Tom)

See you back at the Rangers' Office?

TOM

Yes, ma'am.

Kira notes the warm relationship between Ally and Tom.

Ally jumps back into the jeep as Lwazi heads inside. Kira hangs back with Tom who is collecting her bags.

KIRA

I can get those.

TOM

No, it's okay. I've got it. Why don't you go on inside. Wouldn't want you to get overheated.

This gets Kira's dander up a bit.

KIRA

(tight smile)

I'm sure I'll be fine.

She reaches in to grab one of her bags at the same time he does and they both wind up with a part of the handle. It's not quite a tug of war, but it could probably turn into that.

TOM

I can do this on my own.

KIRA

And I can carry my own luggage.

TOM  
I'm sure you can. We just like to  
check for spiders before we carry  
the bags inside.

KIRA  
Spiders?

TOM  
(nods)  
Big ones.

Kira puts her chin up, defiant, but then caves and let's go.  
She nods and turns to walk toward the front door.

TOM (CONT'D)  
They're on the paths, too...

Kira looks down at the ground, trying not to react to that  
but can't quite pull it off. She rushes toward the door.

Tom smiles, satisfied.

19

INT. LODGE - GREAT ROOM - DAY

19

Kira comes into the great room, looking around and her eyes  
settle on the portrait of Irving. She goes to it and smiles.

Tom enters and puts her luggage down near the door.

Lwazi, in the adjoining dining room, looks at him and gives  
him the eyebrow. He sighs and goes over to Kira.

TOM  
He was a good man.

KIRA  
I have very fond memories. I wish  
I had gotten to know him better.  
(beat)  
Did you know him well?

TOM  
Oh, yeah. I've been here for  
almost ten years. He was quite a  
character. He loved this place.

KIRA  
I remember. Who owns it now?

TOM

We don't know. We've been dealing with lawyers ever since he died and they're trying to sort it out.

KIRA

That must make things here a little challenging.

TOM

It does. But the end result is always worth it.

KIRA

(joking)  
Even with the spiders?

TOM

(smiles, nods)  
Even with the spiders.

Lwazi enters with a glass of iced tea for Kira.

LWAZI

(to Kira)  
Why don't we get you settled in your room? Tonight, we'll have dinner in the boma and then tomorrow morning we'll meet with the lawyer. We have a sunrise Savanna breakfast planned!

KIRA

That sounds great. Thank you.

Lwazi motions for an attendant who comes to get Kira's luggage and Kira leaves following him.

She takes a moment to glance back at Tom and then as she goes, he glances at her.

20

INT. LODGE - KIRA'S ROOM - DAY

20

An attendant opens the door for Kira and drops off her luggage.

KIRA

(to the attendant)  
Thank you.

The attendant leaves and Kira looks around the room - it's beautiful and comfortable and we can tell she approves.

Kira walks to the verandah doors and opens them, then walks out onto the private balcony overlooking the grounds - animals roam freely in the distance.

It is undeniably beautiful here and she is obviously impressed by the surroundings.

Then seemingly from nowhere, a giraffe cranes its neck over the railing. Kira gives a yelp of surprise and backs into the room, closing the doors to the verandah slowly.

21 EXT. LODGE - NIGHT 21

Establishing shot of the lodge at night.

22 EXT. LODGE - BOMA - NIGHT 22

An enchanting scene lit by torchlight, inside a large circular enclosure surrounded by a wall of ten foot high pikes. Outside the boma, lions roar, monkeys chatter. Inside, exotic flowers adorn the space and food cooks over a fire pit, near which, Tom and Ally are chatting.

Only two of the tables have people at them - one has an older couple that Lwazi is talking to and the other has JOHN (50s, irascible) and EVELYN BAGWELL (50s, enthusiastic). Lwazi finishes up her conversation with the other table and is heading toward the Bagwell's table when Kira walks in.

LWAZI

Kira! Welcome. Is your room to your liking?

KIRA

It's very nice. But, there was this giraffe...

LWAZI

Beautiful aren't they? Come, meet some of our guests.

She leads Kira to the Bagwell's table.

LWAZI (CONT'D)

Mr. and Mrs. Bagwell. I'd like you to meet another guest of ours, Kira Slater.

KIRA

Hi, nice to meet you.

EVELYN

Nice to meet you, too.

There are handshakes all around.

LWAZI

How is your dinner?

EVELYN

Oh, it's wonderful. Everything is just fantastic here, isn't it John?

JOHN

(points to plate)

This could use some salt.

LWAZI

I'm sure we can arrange that.

Lwazi smiles and steps away from the table.

EVELYN

You're not supposed to have salt, remember, John?

JOHN

Evelyn, we're in Africa and although I haven't actually seen one, we're supposedly surrounded by lions. I think I can risk a little bit of sodium.

EVELYN

(to Kira)

You'll have to forgive my husband. He's not much of a traveler.

KIRA

That's okay. I'm not either. At least never like this, before.

JOHN

Our 25th anniversary, I say, Evelyn, let's take a trip. Wherever you want. I figured she'd want to go to someplace normal, like Scottsdale.

Kira has to laugh at that.

EVELYN

(sees Tom and Ally)

Oh, look, there's Tom and Ally.

Kira looks over at them.

EVELYN (CONT'D)

They make such a cute couple, don't you think?

KIRA

(surprised)

They're a... couple?

EVELYN

I think so. They're always together.

Kira takes that in, looking over at Tom. Ally walks away and Tom catches Kira's eye. He smiles politely and nods.

23

EXT. LODGE - BOMA - FIRE PIT - NIGHT

23

We see Kira saying goodbye to the Bagwell's and then she walks over to join Tom by the pit, watching the cooks work and inhaling the incredible aroma.

TOM

Did you get out to explore the grounds at all?

KIRA

Uh... No, not really. The grounds kind of came to explore me.

TOM

What do you mean?

KIRA

Well, there was this giraffe...

TOM

Oh, yeah. They do that. They're very friendly.

KIRA

I'm sure they are, I just didn't expect one in my room. You don't get that at the zoo.

TOM

Zoos are terrible for animals like these. They should be free to roam the savanna. You'll see when we get you out tomorrow to experience more of it.

KIRA  
 (hesitant)  
 Okay. But nothing too extreme. No shark cages for me.

TOM  
 No... what?

KIRA  
 Never mind. I noticed there aren't a lot of guests. Is that normal for this time of year?

TOM  
 We're lighter than usual. We rely on European tourists and the Euro is low right now. Makes it hard for them to travel.

KIRA  
 This is high season, though, right?

TOM  
 It is. Makes our job a little tougher, especially considering the condition of some of the facilities...

Ally walks up to join them and he puts his arm around Ally casually. Kira notices.

ALLY  
 Kira, feel free to ignore anything this man says. I usually do.

KIRA  
 (smiles)  
 Good to know.

Lwazi approaches with a man, S'BU (40s, quick to smile).

LWAZI  
 Wonderful! Everyone is here. Kira, you haven't met S'bu. He manages the food and beverage program here at Ukuthula.

KIRA  
 (shakes his hand)  
 So, stay on your good side if I want to eat, right?

S'BU  
 (warm smile)  
 I don't know about that. Tom  
 hasn't been on my good side for  
 years and I still feed him.

TOM  
 (smiles)  
 Apparently this is Pick on Tom,  
 Night?

ALLY  
 It's always Pick on Tom Night.  
 It's better than charades.

LWAZI  
 Please, everyone. Sit...

Kira, Tom, Ally, and S'bu all take a seat at a table while  
 Lwazi stands at the head of it.

LWAZI (CONT'D)  
 First, a toast.

She raises a glass and the others follow suit.

LWAZI (CONT'D)  
 I look at this table and I am  
 reminded of an old African proverb:  
 You should return to old watering  
 holes for more than water; friends  
 and dreams are there to meet you.  
 Cheers.

Everyone clinks glasses and sips.

KIRA  
 That's beautiful, Lwazi.

LWAZI  
 (a smile)  
 Not as beautiful as this...

She motions and several waiters come to the table carrying  
 platters of food that they put in the center for all to  
 share. It is impressive to say the least.

We see a few shots of the dinner in progress - lots of  
 laughing, talking, and conviviality. Kira and Tom exchange  
 more than a few glances.

24 EXT. LODGE - NIGHT

24

Kira, Tom, and Ally are walking to the lodge. Tom casually puts his arm around Ally again and again Kira notices.

KIRA

Everything was so good. I don't think I'll be hungry again for a week.

TOM

Wait until you see the Savanna breakfast tomorrow morning. I guarantee it will spark your appetite.

ALLY

Be careful, Kira. They won't be happy if you don't have food in your hands. You'll be sitting there, minding your business, and all of the sudden it's like, where did this sandwich come from?

KIRA

Well, then hopefully Uncle Irv left me a wheelbarrow so you can have something to haul me off in after I've gained a hundred pounds.

ALLY

(laughs)  
That's why they call it vacation.  
Well, good night, Kira.

KIRA

Good night.

TOM

Night.

Ally and Tom head off together and Kira watches them go for a moment before turning back to the lodge.

25 EXT. SAVANNA - SUNRISE

25

The sun is coming up over the savanna, the day coming to life.

An elegant table has been set near a watering hole - white tablecloth, crystal glasses and silver flatware - and a spread fit for a king is lovingly displayed. Lwazi, S'bu, and a couple of waiters are standing by as is a man in a light suit - this is GLEN WOODS (50s, lawyerly).

A range vehicle pulls up driven by Tom. Tom, Ally, and Kira get out. Kira is stunned by the scene.

KIRA

Wow. This is... do you do this for all of the guests?

LWAZI

This was what Irving wanted for the reading of his will. Kira, this is Glen Woods, one of Ukuthula's lawyers.

GLEN

(shakes her hand)  
Ms. Slater. I believe we spoke on the phone.

KIRA

Yes, hi. Nice to meet you.

LWAZI

And you know Tom and Ally.

GLEN

Yes. Well, should we get started?

LWAZI

Certainly. Everyone, please...

They take their seats at the table except Glen who stands at the head of it.

GLEN

There are a number of items to get through, some personal treasures that Irving wanted to leave to specific people like his coin collection and his antique safari whistles.

Kira smiles at this, thinking that's what she's getting.

GLEN (CONT'D)

But first, we should talk about the  
proverbial elephant in the room...  
Or on the Savanna in this case.

Glen thinks he's funny. Everyone else humors him.

GLEN (CONT'D)

He wanted Ukuthula to be cared for  
the way he did throughout his life.  
And he felt that the only way for  
that to truly happen was for it to  
stay in the family. So, he granted  
full ownership of the reserve to  
his nearest living relative.

Glen looks at Kira and then one by one the rest of them do.  
Kira looks around the table at everyone looking at her. It  
all dawns on Kira and she sits back in her chair, stunned.

KIRA

I really should've gone to  
Scottsdale.

Everyone keeps staring at her.

**END ACT ONE**

ACT TWO

27

EXT. SAVANNAH - WATERING HOLE - DAY

27

Picking up moments after we left off, Kira has walked to the edge of the watering hole, more than a little overwhelmed. Glen, Lwazi, Tom, and Ally have followed.

KIRA

He left me...

(points)

This?! All of this?

GLEN

I know this is a surprise...

KIRA

No, a surprise is balloons and people with noise makers and cake. A surprise is not a wildlife reserve in Africa. I thought he was leaving me whistles!

GLEN

He left you the whistles, too...

KIRA

Great. Anything else? Some other chunk of Africa? The Serengeti, maybe? I've heard the Sphinx is nice. Needs some work.

GLEN

Ms. Slater, we anticipated that this might be... shall we say, outside your area of expertise.

KIRA

Way outside!.

GLEN

So, we put together a proposal that would allow you to quickly shed yourself of the responsibility.

He takes an envelope out of his pocket and hands it to her.

KIRA

What's this?

GLEN

An offer to buy Ukuthula.

TOM  
Buy it? Who is the offer from?

GLEN  
A very reputable, family owned  
company...

TOM  
Not Artie Harrington?!

KIRA  
Who?

GLEN  
The Harrington Group is a very  
successful resort company...

TOM  
Because they cater to the lowest  
common denominator. Their  
properties are all the same with no  
personality. Ukuthula is special.

LWAZI  
Everyone, perhaps we should sit and  
enjoy our breakfast and talk about  
this calmly. I'm sure it will all  
be fine.

TOM  
Not if Ukuthula is sold to Artie  
Harrington. Kira, you can't do  
that. There must be someone else  
who would be willing to buy it.  
I'll find someone else to buy it!

GLEN  
I'm afraid there's not. This was  
the only offer.

TOM  
Well, then she just has to keep it.

KIRA  
Keep it? I rent my apartment. I  
lease my car. I can't own an  
African reserve.

GLEN  
So would you like me to initiate  
the sale?

Everyone looks at her expectantly. She is more than a little  
overwhelmed.

Tom and Ally stand next to the range vehicle while Lwazi takes Ally into the lodge. When they are gone, Tom vents.

TOM

I can't believe they are going to sell Ukuthula to Artie Harrington.

ALLY

I'm surprised it matters to you.

TOM

Ally, I love this place.

ALLY

Then why are you considering that job in the States?

TOM

I'm not.

ALLY

You haven't told them no.

TOM

They asked me to take a couple of weeks to think about it. And with all the upheaval around here I just figured...

ALLY

You wanted to have options.

TOM

Which we seem to be out of here. We need someone who appreciates Ukuthula for what it is.

ALLY

I agree. But I'm not the one who needs convincing.

TOM

The lawyers will listen to me.

ALLY

The lawyers don't own Ukuthula. Kira does.

TOM

(beat - hmmm)

We need to convince her not to sell. I think I could do that.

ALLY

Unless you decide that the new job  
in the States is a better idea.

TOM

Whether I stay or not, I don't want  
to see Ukuthula go to Harrington.

ALLY

Okay, then the only question is how  
do you get Kira to want that, too?

TOM

(smiles)  
I make her fall in love.  
(off her skepticism)  
With the reserve. A charm  
offensive.

ALLY

(sly smile)  
Wouldn't that require you to be  
charming?

Tom gives her a smiling shake of the head and then starts to  
formulate his plan.

29

INT. LODGE - KIRA'S ROOM - NIGHT

29

Kira is sitting on the bed in her spacious room in the lodge,  
chatting on a Skype call with Brad, who is talking to her  
from the office bullpen space we saw earlier.

BRAD

He left you everything?

KIRA

Yes! This whole thing is crazy.

BRAD

Well, the good news is, the lawyers  
lined up a buyer, so all you have  
to do is hand over the keys.

KIRA

Yeah. I guess so.

BRAD

What do you mean, you guess so?

KIRA

Nothing. It's just one of the guys here didn't have very nice things to say about the buyer.

BRAD

That's not your problem.

KIRA

I know. But at the same time I don't want anything bad to happen. I mean, it is beautiful here.

BRAD

Kira, your only concern right now should be to sell the place. Did you look at the offer?

KIRA

I did. They want me to go meet with the buyer tomorrow. I'm still a little bit in shock right now.

BRAD

Do you want me to look at it? It's ultimately about numbers and there's a reason you're dating an accountant, remember?

KIRA

Spreadsheets.

BRAD

Exactly. Scan it and email it to me. I'll let you know if it makes any sense.

KIRA

Okay. Thank you, Brad.

BRAD

Of course. In the meantime, just stay focused, okay?

KIRA

Right. You're right.

BRAD

Because the sooner you take care of it, the sooner you can come home to your fantastic surprise.

KIRA  
 Let me guess. You bought me the  
 Lincoln Park Zoo.

BRAD  
 (smiles)  
 Rats. How did you guess?

He waves and the call disconnects. Kira sits at the computer for a moment and then has a thought - she pulls up the website for Ukuthula.

KIRA  
 Yikes. 2007 called. They want  
 their website back.

She clicks through it, more curious than anything else.

30 OMITTED 30

31 EXT. RANGERS' OFFICE - DAY 31

Off warthogs rooting around in the dirt we find Tom, with his head under the open hood of a tour vehicle, fidgeting with the motor. He pulls his head out from under the hood and goes to slide behind the wheel. He tries the ignition but it won't catch.

Ally breezes out of the Rangers' Office, eating an apple.

ALLY  
 Yet another thing you think you can  
 do by yourself? Call a mechanic.

TOM  
 I don't need to call a mechanic.

Tom turns the key in the ignition. The engine turns over. Tom looks at Ally, satisfied.

ALLY  
 Huh... I fixed it.

TOM  
 You fixed it?

ALLY  
 It wasn't working before I came  
 over here, and it is now. Cause.  
 Effect.

Taking in their playfulness, she hesitates, not wanting to intrude. Ally sees Kira.

ALLY (CONT'D)  
 Oh, hey, Kira. Good...  
 (glances at watch)  
 Yep, it's still morning. Good morning.

KIRA  
 Hi. I know, I slept a little late. I think I'm still jet lagged.

ALLY  
 It happens to the best of us. Right, Tom?

She leans into Tom to whisper.

ALLY (CONT'D)  
 (whisper)  
 Time to be charming.

TOM  
 (nods)  
 Absolutely. That jet lag thing is... hard.

ALLY  
 (rolls her eyes)  
 Nice job.  
 (to Kira)  
 Kira, what's on your agenda today?

KIRA  
 Oh... the lawyers want me to go meet with Artie Harrington later this afternoon.

Tom and Ally exchange a look.

KIRA (CONT'D)  
 Please tell me there's a way to get there that doesn't involve a plane.

ALLY  
 (laughs)  
 We'll arrange for a car to take you. It's about an hour's drive.

KIRA  
 Thank you.

ALLY  
 (thinking on her feet)  
 Uh... Are you hungry?

KIRA  
 Famished, actually.

ALLY  
 Great. Well, Tom here has a  
 special lunch planned for you.

KIRA  
 You do?

TOM  
 I do?

ALLY  
 Yes. He's going to get some  
 supplies from the kitchen and take  
 you out to one of the most scenic  
 spots on the reserve. Rock Lodge.

Tom looks at Ally like "what are you doing?" but plays along.

TOM  
 Yes. Rock Lodge. It's beautiful.

KIRA  
 Well, okay. I'm game. Let me just  
 go grab a hat.

ALLY  
 Great. Meet back here in ten?

KIRA  
 Sounds good.

Kira nods and starts to walk back toward the lodge as Tom and Ally descend into an animated, sotto voce "discussion" about what just happened. Kira turns back and they quickly stop, plaster on big smiles, and wave. Confused, Kira waves, and continues on her way.

32

EXT. SAVANNA - NEAR ROCK LODGE - DAY

32

Tom and Kira, in the same vehicle we saw Tom fix, are driving through a hilly area of the reserve.

33 INT. RANGER VEHICLE - DAY

33

Tom and Kira are bouncing along the dirt road. They hit an especially big bump, which sends them into each other.

TOM  
Sorry about that. The roads here  
are pretty bad.

KIRA  
You obviously haven't driven on a  
Chicago city street lately.

He laughs.

KIRA (CONT'D)  
This terrain is so different from  
what I've seen so far.

TOM  
We've got over sixty square miles  
and lots of variety. A little  
something for everyone.

Tom stops the vehicle, apparently in the middle of nowhere.

KIRA  
Why are we stopping?

TOM  
Follow me.

Tom and Kira get out of the vehicle and he grabs a picnic basket from the back.

34 EXT. ROCK LODGE - DAY

34

Tom and Kira come up a set of rock steps to a private guest house that opens onto a patio. The view of hills and savanna is stunning with animals grazing in the distance.

TOM  
Welcome to Rock Lodge.

Kira looks out at the view, agog.

KIRA  
Wow. I mean... wow. I've been  
saying that a lot.

TOM  
That's okay. It's pretty wow  
worthy.

Kira soaks in the view. Tom takes a moment, trying to determine how to attack this but then just dives in.

TOM (CONT'D)

So, look, I wanted to talk to you about selling the reserve.

KIRA

Okay.

TOM

(beat)

I was wondering if maybe you, you know... wouldn't?

KIRA

Wouldn't sell it? And do what with it? Keep it?

TOM

Why not?

KIRA

Because I'm a web designer with a job and a boyfriend and a life in Chicago. I can't run Ukuthula.

TOM

You don't have to. Lwazi and I take care of the day to day.

KIRA

Okay, but what about the rest of it? It needs a new marketing campaign. The website needs a complete overhaul. You said there's a bunch of stuff that needs work. How would I pay for all that? Unless you want to start up those elephant rides from the airport again...

TOM

I know it would be a risk...

KIRA

It would be insanity. Uncle Irving was the risk-taker, not me.

TOM

Everybody needs a little adventure in their life, don't you think?

KIRA

No. Everyone needs stability. Not worrying about whether or not I can afford enough bags of giraffe chow.

TOM

Giraffes eat leaves and...

KIRA

See?! I don't even know what giraffes eat!

TOM

But if you took some time to...

KIRA

Look, I understand Ukuthula is important to you, but me keeping it is not an option.

The two of them stand in silence for a moment.

KIRA (CONT'D)

Maybe we should go back to the lodge.

He nods and she heads back toward the vehicle. Tom takes a second.

TOM

(to himself)

And this was you being charming.

He shakes his head and follows.

35

INT. RANGER VEHICLE - DAY

35

Kira is already sitting in the ranger vehicle when Tom comes up, puts the picnic basket in the back, and gets behind the wheel.

TOM

Listen, I...

KIRA

Let's just go. Okay?

Tom nods and goes to start the vehicle. Just like before, it cranks but doesn't turn over. She looks at him.

KIRA (CONT'D)

You're kidding, right?

Tom tries it again. No luck.

TOM

It's okay. I'll just radio in for someone to come pick us up.

Tom pulls out his radio.

TOM (CONT'D)

(into radio)

Tom to base. Come in base.

(static replies)

Sometimes the hills interfere with the signal.

(tries again)

Tom to base. Come in base.

KIRA

And I'm guessing walking back is not an option because of all the, you know, hungry animals?

TOM

Okay. There's no need to panic. We followed procedure. People knew we were coming out here. When we don't come back they'll send someone to find us.

KIRA

In how long?

TOM

A few... hours. Hopefully.

KIRA

And what do we do until then?

Tom looks around, desperate to find some saving grace here.

TOM

Uh... well...

(tries to be charming)

I spy with my little eye...

Kira, decidedly not charmed, grabs the picnic basket from the back and gets out of the vehicle, marching back toward the rock lodge.

Tom sighs and then gets out to follow her.

**END ACT TWO**

ACT THREE

36

EXT. ROCK LODGE - DAY

36

It is later in the day, heading toward sunset, and Tom and Kira are sitting on opposite sides of the patio at Rock Lodge, looking out at the scenery. The picnic basket is by Kira who opens it, pulls out a cookie, and starts eating it.

TOM

So... you're a website designer?

KIRA

I'm not giving you a cookie.

TOM

I don't want a cookie.

KIRA

Yes, you do. They're really good.

TOM

I was just making conversation.

KIRA

(chews thoughtfully)  
Yes. I'm a web designer.

TOM

That's... interesting.

(beat)

Maybe that was the wrong topic of conversation, because I don't know anything about websites.

KIRA

Facebook's not big out here?

TOM

The zebras have a really hard time clicking the "like" button.

KIRA

(smiles, despite herself)  
Darn us and our opposable thumbs.

TOM

Do you like designing websites?

KIRA

I do. It's creative and technical at the same time. Left brain, right brain, you know?

(MORE)

KIRA (CONT'D)

But really at this point in my career I'm just pushing pixels.

TOM

That's... I'm presuming that's bad.

KIRA

I'm doing marketing websites for big corporations. Not very exciting. I really want to do my own thing. Find something I'm passionate about.

TOM

I think we're all trying to find that.

KIRA

(indicates the Savanna)  
I think you found yours.

TOM

(smiles)  
Yeah... Maybe a little too passionate sometimes.

Kira takes that as the apology it was meant to be.

KIRA

How did you get here from... where are you from?

TOM

Kansas. I grew up on a farm. Always loved the animals.

KIRA

A lot of lions on the farm?

TOM

(smiles)  
Those cows could be pretty dangerous. I studied zoology and got recruited out of college to come here. Now I get to take care of real lions and elephants and...

KIRA

The elephants were my favorite. I only came here a couple of times when I was a kid, but seeing them... There was one here. What was her name? Kimba?

TOM

Oh, she was the circus rescue,  
right? Yeah, she's still here.

KIRA

No! Really?

TOM

Yeah. If you'd like, I can take  
you out to see them while you're  
here. On one condition.

KIRA

What's that?

TOM

It involves cookies.

Kira smiles, reaches into the basket, and holds out a cookie.  
He comes over to take it and join her.

37

EXT. RANGERS' OFFICE - DAY

37

Overlooking the hippo pool, Lwazi comes up to Ally.

LWAZI

Oh, Ally. Have you seen Tom?

ALLY

No. Not since he and Kira went to  
lunch. They're not back?

LWAZI

I haven't seen them.

Ally pulls out her radio.

ALLY

(into radio)

Ally to Tom. Come in Tom.

She only gets static back.

ALLY (CONT'D)

They were heading to Rock Lodge.  
Reception isn't great out there.

LWAZI

Why was he taking her there?

ALLY

(innocent)

I don't know. It's scenic?

Lwazi arches an eyebrow.

ALLY (CONT'D)

You know, maybe I'll take a quick drive out there just to be safe.

Ally scurries out of eyebrow range and Lwazi watches her go, suspicious of what her and Tom might be up to.

38

EXT. ROCK LODGE - DAY

38

A bit later, Tom and Kira are sharing cookies.

TOM

It's been harder these last couple of years. I don't really feel like I'm having as much of an impact.

KIRA

Why not?

TOM

I'd better not say. Last time we got into this, you withheld cookies.

KIRA

(smiles - nods)

I will try to control myself.

TOM

Look, Irving was a great guy but over the last few years, as he got older, he spent more and more time away from Ukuthula and hadn't been investing in it as much as it needs. That has made my job a lot harder.

KIRA

That's too bad. When I was here as a kid...

TOM

How old were you?

KIRA

First time I was five or six and the last time I was ten or so. But he always made this place seem magical.

TOM  
Why haven't you come back sooner?

KIRA  
(shrugs)  
My mom passed away and my dad and I moved around a lot after that. I guess... when you spend so much time moving from place to place, it feels good to stay still, you know?

TOM  
Nothing wrong with that.  
(looks out)  
Then again... if you had stayed still, you wouldn't be seeing a sunset like that.

He points and she looks - the sun setting over the savanna is like a miracle in action. Kira is practically overwhelmed.

KIRA  
I... It's...

TOM  
You can say wow.

KIRA  
Thank you. Wow.

Tom looks at her and smiles, affection growing, then looks back out at the sunset. Kira looks at him, an affection growing for him as well - but they both shut it down.

TOM  
So... boyfriend back in Chicago?

KIRA  
Yes. Brad. He's great.  
(beat)  
And you? I mean you and...

Kira was going to say Ally but then Ally comes out onto the patio. Kira sees her.

KIRA (CONT'D)  
Ally!

ALLY  
So, you should have called a mechanic?

TOM  
Took you long enough to figure out  
we were missing.

ALLY  
Missing. So dramatic. Like he was  
carried off by gorillas.

TOM  
I could have been.

They head for the vehicles but Kira hangs back a minute.

KIRA  
Actually, guys? I was wondering...  
Could we maybe watch the sunset  
before we go back?

TOM  
(smiles)  
Sure.

They go join her and sit to watch the magnificent sunset - in  
the distance, a herd of elephants is moving across the  
savanna - Kira is obviously moved.

38A EXT. SAVANNA - NIGHT/DAY TRANSITION 38A

A transition shot from nighttime to a new day.

39 EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY 39

Traveling shot. The city of Johannesburg is on the horizon.

40 EXT. HARRINGTON HOTEL - DAY 40

One of the Ukuthula ranger vehicles pulls to a stop in front  
of a hotel, heavy on the African design motifs - it's like  
Disneyland without the roller coasters. Tom and Kira get out  
of the vehicle and look at the hotel.

KIRA  
It's... not subtle.

TOM  
Artie Harrington doesn't do subtle.

KIRA  
I really appreciate you driving me  
all the way into Johannesburg.  
(MORE)

KIRA (CONT'D)

Especially since I'm meeting with the guy that wants to buy the reserve.

TOM

I figure since I made you miss the meeting yesterday with the engine trouble it's the least I could do.

KIRA

I know how much you hate this...

TOM

I'm just the driver. The no pressure driver.

KIRA

(smiles)  
Okay. Thank you.

She starts toward the hotel.

TOM

Just, Kira... one thing.

Kira stops and turns back.

TOM (CONT'D)

An African proverb... Just because the water is calm, doesn't mean there are no crocodiles.

KIRA

Did you get that from Lwazi?

TOM

No. Lwazi makes hers up to win arguments.  
(beat)  
Just be careful.

Kira gets it, nods, and then turns to go into the hotel.

41

INT. HARRINGTON HOTEL - LOUNGE - DAY

41

ARTIE HARRINGTON JR. (30s, too slick) gets up from a table that is situated in the pool - Kira has to take her shoes off to get into it. He bounds up energetically to shake hands with Kira when he sees her, super friendly.

ARTIE  
Kira Slater. Welcome to The  
Harrington Johannesburg. I'm Artie  
Harrington.

KIRA  
Nice to meet you.

ARTIE  
(offering her a seat)  
What can I order for you?

KIRA  
Iced tea would be great.

Artie snaps his fingers at a nearby WAITER.

ARTIE  
Iced tea.

Kira notices how he treats his staff, and doesn't like it.

ARTIE (CONT'D)  
Are you enjoying your visit to  
South Africa?

KIRA  
Yes. It's beautiful here.

Artie takes that as a compliment to the hotel.

ARTIE  
Thank you. We are proud of it.  
But I want to hear more about you.  
(sympathizing)  
What was it like to find out that  
Irving had left Ukuthula to you?

KIRA  
Shock. Disbelief. Maybe a little  
bit of panic.

ARTIE  
I can only imagine. Did you know  
Irving well?

KIRA  
No, not really. I hadn't seen him  
or talked to him in years.

ARTIE

(nods sympathetically)  
Irving was a great man but he didn't always have the best head for business. Years ago, when my father ran Harrington Resorts, he tried to step in to help and I did the same. Irving was too proud.

KIRA

Help... how?

ARTIE

Well, to buy the place of course. To invest the kind of capital that it needed to thrive. We have the resources to do that. I'm presuming you have reviewed my offer.

KIRA

Yes, of course. I just want to make sure this is in the best interest of Ukuthula. It isn't just another hotel.

ARTIE

Kira, look, I know my family has a reputation for putting the bottom line before everything else. But I understand how special Ukuthula is, and I want to keep it that way.

KIRA

Okay... that's good. I'm sure it'll be fine, but I still need to go over the offer with the lawyers and the people at the reserve.

ARTIE

Of course! I totally understand. Take all the time you need.

Kira smiles back as the waiter brings her iced tea, but remember Tom's caution of crocodiles, she senses something about Artie that she doesn't quite trust.

42

EXT. HARRINGTON HOTEL - DAY

42

Kira comes out of the hotel and goes to Tom at the vehicle.

TOM

How did it go?

KIRA  
 (thinks)  
 The waters were very calm.

TOM  
 I hope I didn't overstep. I didn't  
 mean to color your opinion...

KIRA  
 (smiles)  
 Yes, you did. But it's okay. I  
 appreciate it.  
 (beat)  
 I just wish there was something  
 more I could do.

Tom nods, understanding, and they get in the vehicle.

TOM  
 Hey. Do you mind a detour on the  
 way back to the reserve?

KIRA  
 Are you going to strand us out in  
 the middle of nowhere again?  
 Because I didn't bring any cookies.

Tom laughs and they get in the vehicle.

43

EXT. ZULU VILLAGE - DAY

43

Off a local woman selling vegetables from a cart find Tom and Kira walking through the local village. Kira takes in the sights and sounds.

TOM  
 How much do you remember from when  
 you were here as a kid?

KIRA  
 Just bits and pieces. I don't  
 recognize the village at all.

TOM  
 I'm sure it's changed a lot since.

KIRA  
 (smiles)  
 Did you just call me old?

TOM  
 (laughs)  
 No.  
 (MORE)

TOM (CONT'D)

But this is an important part of Ukuthula. A lot of our staff lives here. We do what we can to support them but it's tough for any of the villages that aren't partnered with reserves.

KIRA

Partnered how?

TOM

It's pretty common for a village to own part of a reserve. They get invested in protecting the land and the animals and it becomes sense of pride for the entire village. It also opens the door to government assistance and tax breaks.

They HEAR CHILDREN SINGING, the sound emanating from a nearby school. She looks toward it, delighted.

TOM (CONT'D)

Your uncle Irv built this school.

KIRA

Really?

TOM

He knew that those kids were the future for Ukuthula.

Filled with wonder, Kira leads the way to the source.

44 INT./EXT. VILLAGE SCHOOL -- DAY

44

A GROUP OF VILLAGE CHILDREN sings a simple tune with complex harmony. The effect is magical. Kira and Tom enter and listen with rapt attention, charmed by what they're hearing. Kira glances to Tom. No words are necessary as they share a smile, and the magic of the moment.

45 INT. LODGE - KIRA'S ROOM - NIGHT

45

Kira comes into her room at the lodge, tosses down her stuff, and opens her computer. She clicks a couple of times and brings up the Ukuthula website. She looks at it for a moment, smiles, and gets to work.

**END ACT THREE**

**ACT FOUR**

46 EXT. LODGE - DAY 46

Establishing shot of the lodge.

47 INT. LODGE - KIRA'S ROOM - DAY 47

Kira is on a Skype call with Brad as she is packing items in a bag and getting ready to go out.

BRAD

I've gone over the offer. I think it's solid from a numbers perspective.

KIRA

That's what the lawyers say, too.

BRAD

Did you read it?

KIRA

Most of it. I've been busy. We went to a Zulu village yesterday and saw children at the school Uncle Irv built.

BRAD

That's nice.

KIRA

And then there's the website.

BRAD

What website?

KIRA

For Ukuthula. I'm redesigning it.

BRAD

I thought you were trying not to do work while you're there.

KIRA

I know. But I guess inspiration struck and I just had to.

BRAD

(concerned)  
Ukuthula inspired you?

KIRA  
 It's pretty great here.  
 (glances at watch)  
 Honey, I have to go. We're going  
 to see the elephants!

She blows him a kiss.

BRAD  
 (VERY concerned)  
 Wait... elepha...

But that's all he gets out as she shuts the computer.

48

EXT. WATERING HOLE - DAY

48

Tom and Kira drive up in a jeep. Tom stops a respectful distance from the wildlife surrounding the watering hole and the two of them climb out.

Kira sees Ukuthula's elephant herd, led by a large female - she takes out her phone to take a video of the experience.

KIRA  
 (awed)  
 They're... this is...

TOM  
 We're back to wow, huh?

KIRA  
 Wow doesn't even come close. Which one is Kimba?

TOM  
 (points)  
 The big one. The matriarch.

KIRA  
 (surprised)  
 Kimba's the matriarch now?

TOM  
 (nods)  
 She's pregnant, too. You said she was your favorite?

KIRA  
 Yes. When she came here she hadn't been socialized back into the herd yet so I got a chance to feed her.  
 (MORE)

KIRA (CONT'D)

I mean, I was this tiny little ten year old and she, you know, blocked out the sun. And I just marched right up to her and she was so gentle.

Tom smiles, charmed and moved by seeing the animals through her eyes.

The elephant matriarch, formerly know as Kimba, takes a few steps toward Kira, raising her trunk in a clear sign of recognition. Kira is even more awed.

KIRA (CONT'D)

I wonder if she remembers me.

TOM

They say an elephant never forgets.

Kira continues filming as Tom talks, getting both the elephants and him in the video.

TOM (CONT'D)

(with true affection)

You know, a hundred years ago, more than three million elephants roamed Africa. Now, there's fewer than half a million.

(pointing to Kimba)

Kimba is going to have a baby soon and her calf could live to seventy because it's lucky enough to be born at Ukuthula. That's why this place is so important. Not just for Kimba and her family but for all of the animals... everyone should see this.

Now it's Kira's turn to be moved. She shuts off the video.

TOM (CONT'D)

Sorry... too passionate again?

KIRA

No... no such thing.

Tom glances at her and smiles, a little embarrassed. It grows more and more obvious that genuine affection is growing between them.

A monkey runs along the verandah roof.

50

INT. LODGE - DINING ROOM - DAY

50

Ally enters and sees John and Evelyn Bagwell at a table, finishing their meal. She crosses to them.

ALLY  
Good afternoon.

EVELYN  
Good afternoon, Ally. John, look.  
It's Ally.

JOHN  
(to Ally)  
She thinks I don't pay attention.

EVELYN  
We've been married twenty-five  
years. I know you don't pay  
attention.

Ally laughs as Evelyn smiles and leans over to give John a kiss on the cheek - he smiles and kisses her back.

ALLY  
So, I'm your guide for your  
afternoon tour. We can go whenever  
you're done with lunch, okay?

EVELYN  
We are so excited. Aren't we John?

JOHN  
We'd be more excited if we were  
going to see lions today.

ALLY  
(smiles)  
Well, you might just be in luck. I  
heard from another ranger that the  
lions are out and about today...

JOHN  
Really?

ALLY  
Yep. Big ones.

JOHN  
How big?

ALLY  
Big. With the manes and the teeth.  
Don't get me started on the teeth.

JOHN

(beat)

I'll go get the camera.

He takes off. Evelyn looks at Ally, amazed.

ALLY

(shrugs)

Guys always like lions. Sports,  
big TVs, lions. That's all you  
need.

Evelyn laughs as Kira and Tom enter.

ALLY (CONT'D)

Oh hey. How were the elephants?

KIRA

I want to take one home.

ALLY

We generally frown on that.

KIRA

(shrugs)

Yeah, I figured. I couldn't fit it  
in my carry-on anyway.

ALLY

I have an idea. Why don't you join  
us on safari today?

KIRA

I'd love to. If it's okay with  
Mrs. Bagwell?

EVELYN

Please, call me Evelyn. The more  
the merrier.

KIRA

Tom?

TOM

I have some work...

ALLY

The lions are out.

TOM

(beat)

Don't leave without me.

He rushes off and Ally looks at Evelyn as if to say "See?"

51 EXT. LODGE - DAY 51

Ally drives a tour away from the lodge. Her only passengers in the vehicle are John and Evelyn in the back, Tom in the middle, and Kira in the front next to Ally.

52 EXT. SAVANNA - DAY 52

Ally pulls the vehicle to a stop.

ALLY

Okay, take a look over there...

JOHN

Is it lions?

ALLY

No, not yet. Those are African wild dogs.

ANGLE

We see the pack of African dogs.

BACK TO

John, for one, is a little disappointed.

JOHN

Dogs? If I wanted to see a dog I could go next door and look at Mrs. Miller's poodle.

ALLY

They also call these hunting dogs or painted wolves because of their colorful coats.

KIRA

They're beautiful.

Even John has to admit that they are, in fact, beautiful animals. He pulls out his camera to grab a few photos.

53 EXT. SAVANNA - DAY 53

The vehicle is trundling down a road when John calls out, pointing to a nearby knoll.

JOHN

Lions!

Ally brings the vehicle to a stop so they can all get a better look.

KIRA

Is it safe to be this close to them?

ALLY

They're pretty chill during the day. They typically hunt at night. We're fine as long as we stay in the vehicle and don't make sudden moves.

TOM

Besides, we aren't part of their food chain.

ANGLE

One of the lionesses gives an untroubled yawn.

BACK TO

Ally, Kira, Tom and The Bagnell's, in the vehicle.

JOHN

That's the life.

EVELYN

That's you on a Saturday afternoon.

John waves her off.

JOHN

Are they endangered?

TOM

They are definitely at risk. The lion population in Africa has fallen by almost half since the 1990s.

NEW ANGLE

On Ally and Kira in the front as Tom continues to talk about the lions in the back with John and Evelyn.

ALLY

(conspiratorially to Kira)  
We could be here all day.

KIRA  
(laughs)  
He's like a walking wikipedia page.

ALLY  
Okay, I'm totally getting him a t-shirt that says that.

KIRA  
It's good though, right? Being that invested in something?

ALLY  
Sure. I just wish he would stop thinking he could do it all himself. That's why I think the job in the States might be good for him.

KIRA  
What job?

ALLY  
Oh, he got an offer to head up a wildlife conservation group based out of New York.

KIRA  
Really? Is he going to take it?

ALLY  
(shrugs)  
He says he isn't. I mean, I can't imagine he'd leave Ukuthula but...

KIRA  
But if Harrington buys it...

ALLY  
Sorry, I didn't mean to bring that up. Look. Lions! Distraction!

KIRA  
(laughs)  
It's okay. I know that selling the reserve is a big deal it's just...

ALLY  
I understand. Listen, I'm here no matter what. You couldn't pry me off this land.

KIRA  
You wouldn't go with Tom?

ALLY  
Why would I?

KIRA  
Well, since you and he are...

ALLY  
(laughs)  
Oh, no. No, no. Tom is my  
brother. Well, step brother. His  
mom married my dad when were kids.

KIRA  
(abashed)  
I'm so sorry!

ALLY  
That's okay. Don't worry about it.

Kira steals a glance back at Tom, a little intrigued now.

KIRA  
So he's not... seeing anyone?

ALLY  
No. He's married to the savanna.

Kira glances back again.

ALLY (CONT'D)  
What about you? Do you have a  
boyfriend?

This brings Kira's attention back, a little guiltily.

KIRA  
Yes. I do. Brad.  
(beat)  
He's great. Very dependable.

Evelyn points out the opposite side of the vehicle from the  
lions.

EVELYN  
Giraffes!

ALLY  
Hold on. Let's go check them out.

Ally starts the engine. Kira takes one more complicated  
glance back at Tom who catches her eye and smiles. She  
smiles back then looks away as the vehicle drives off.

**END ACT FOUR**

**ACT FIVE**

54 EXT. LODGE - DAY 54

Establishing shot of the lodge.

55 EXT. LODGE - VERANDAH - DAY 55

Kira is the only person on the verandah, sitting with her laptop computer working on the website.

Tom, dressed casually and carrying a bottle of beer, comes out the verandah.

TOM

Hey. That's not work, is it?

KIRA

Sort of. I was...

(sees him)

I'm sorry, who are you?

TOM

(looks at himself)

I don't *always* wear the uniform.

KIRA

I was pretty sure you had pajamas that look like a uniform.

TOM

Oh, well, sure. Doesn't everyone?

(indicates a chair)

May I?

Kira nods. He sits and takes a sip of his beer.

TOM (CONT'D)

I should've asked. Do you want one?

Kira smiles and moves her computer a bit to reveal that she already has a beer.

TOM (CONT'D)

Great minds.

(indicates computer)

What are you working on?

KIRA

Oh, it's nothing. Just some ideas for the Ukuthula website.

TOM

Can I see?

KIRA

Okay, but, keep in mind this is just a work in progress.

TOM

Kira? Those zebras we talked about? They the use the Internet more than I do.

Kira takes a deep breath and turns the screen so he can see it. It's a new website for Ukuthula - a gorgeous, full-bleed photo of the sunset from Rock Lodge is front and center.

KIRA

It would have online reservations tied to inventory. And people could browse through all the different tours and excursions and book them ahead of time. And I was thinking you could set up cameras in places around the reserve so people could watch the Lion Cam or the Elephant Cam.

She clicks on something and the video of Tom talking about the elephants pops up.

TOM (V.O.)

(from the video)

That's why this place is so important. Not just for Kimba and her family but for all of the animals... everyone should see this.

KIRA

Sorry. That's just a placeholder.

TOM

I'm... blown away. You did this in a couple of days?

KIRA

Well, most of it isn't hooked up to anything yet, but I'm thinking maybe Artie Harrington will let me consult, you know? I can run the site from Chicago.

TOM  
 (beat)  
 Right. Of course.

There is an uncomfortable moment of silence.

TOM (CONT'D)  
 Well... I should probably let you  
 get back to it. Good night.

He stands and starts to leave.

KIRA  
 Tom...

He stops and turns back to her. Kira wants to say something  
 else but all she can manage is...

KIRA (CONT'D)  
 Good night.

He smiles and heads back into the lodge.

56 OMITTED 56

57 INT. LODGE - KIRA'S ROOM - NIGHT 57

Kira is still working on the website when there is a knock on  
 the door. She goes to answer it and finds Lwazi there.

LWAZI  
 Good evening. I'm leaving soon,  
 but I wanted to let you know that a  
 staff-member is on call to get you  
 whatever you may need tonight.

KIRA  
 (smiles)  
 You don't need to keep doing that,  
 Lwazi.

LWAZI  
 Doing what?

KIRA  
 Treating me like royalty. I  
 suspect it's about the sale of  
 reserve?

LWAZI  
 We simply want you to experience  
 everything Ukuthula has to offer.

KIRA

And I appreciate it. But you know that I can't keep it, right? I'd be totally lost here.

LWAZI

There is a proverb... To get lost is to learn the way.

KIRA

(smiles)

Tom thinks you make these proverbs up to win an argument.

LWAZI

(arched eyebrow, smile)

And it works every time.

KIRA

You and him... everybody that works here... it's like one big family.

LWAZI

It is, yes. I came here when I was very young. I was a housekeeper, which wasn't what I had planned.

KIRA

What did you want to be?

LWAZI

A singer.

KIRA

(warm memory)

I remember you would sing to get me to go to bed. What was the song?

Lwazi sings a small snippet of a lullaby like *Frere Jacques*.

KIRA (CONT'D)

Yes! That's it. You have a beautiful voice.

LWAZI

Thank you. But I have no regrets over the way my life turned out. If I had been a singer I may not have met my husband or had my children or my grandchildren. I wouldn't have the family I have here.

(beat)

(MORE)

LWAZI (CONT'D)

My point is, sometimes the universe shows us the way even when we don't know we're looking.

KIRA

Another proverb?

LWAZI

(smiles)

I just made that one up.

(beat)

Good night, Kira.

KIRA

Good night, Lwazi.

Lwazi leaves and Kira shuts the door, obviously thinking hard about what Lwazi has said.

58

EXT. RANGERS' OFFICE - DAY

58

On the knoll overlooking the hippo pond, Kira is showing Ally pictures on her phone.

KIRA

I think I'm going to make my phone melt from all the pictures I've been taking.

ALLY

I've always said we should get one of those photo apps to sponsor us.

KIRA

That's actually a great idea. I'm going to see if I can do that for the new Ukuthula website I'm working on.

ALLY

Does that mean I can call myself a website designer now?

KIRA

If I can call myself a ranger.

ALLY

You've been on, like, five safaris. So yeah, totally!

A text pops up her phone from Vicky - it has a wacky picture of her with the caption saying "Happy Pre-Birthday!" Ally sees this.

ALLY (CONT'D)  
Is it your birthday?

KIRA  
(embarrassed)  
Day after tomorrow. That's my friend Vicky from work. She likes to stretch birthdays out into an event and Tweet about it to the entire world.

ALLY  
Well, we need to have a party!

Lwazi happens by at this moment.

KIRA  
No. I don't need a party.

ALLY  
Why not?

KIRA  
Because I'm not six.

ALLY  
Everyone needs a birthday party. I promise we'll keep it dignified. What kind of blindfolds do you want to use for pin the tail on the donkey?

LWAZI  
Ally, if Kira says she doesn't want a birthday party, then we should respect that.  
(smile and wink to Kira)  
She's not royalty.

Kira smiles back, getting the joke. Lwazi walks off just as Tom runs up, excited.

TOM  
There you are. Come on, you have to see this.

KIRA  
What is it?

TOM  
Just come on!

The three of them rush toward a vehicle.

BHEKA, a ranger and guide, stands by his jeep, viewing something through binoculars. Tom, Kira and Ally drive up and get out of their vehicle.

TOM

Kira, this is Bheka, one of our most experienced rangers.

BHEKA

Good to meet you.

KIRA

You, too, Bheka.

TOM

(to Bheka)

Are they still there?

BHEKA

See for yourself.

He hands the binoculars to Tom who looks quickly, smiles, and then hands them to Kira.

TOM

Over there by the grove of trees.

Kira holds the binos to her eyes while Tom fetches another pair of binoculars from the vehicle to give to Ally.

BINOCULAR POV

The elephants are in a grove of trees. There is A NEW CALF among them.

BACK TO

Kira and Ally, both watching through binos. Kira is beside herself with excitement.

KIRA

There's a new calf!

Kira's eye shine with emotion as she turns to Tom.

KIRA (CONT'D)

Kimba had a baby!

Tom smiles and nods. Kira, overwhelmed, impulsively hugs him.

Ally sees this - most importantly sees Tom's reaction to this - which indicates that he welcomes the hug.

Kira releases him and goes back to looking through the binoculars. He can't stop looking at her.

60

EXT. LODGE - DAY

60

A range vehicle pulls up to the front and Tom and Kira get out and walk toward the front of the lodge.

KIRA

Thank you.

TOM

For what?

KIRA

For what?! For... elephants. Baby elephants!

She grabs him by the shoulders and shakes him a bit.

TOM

Well, Kimba did all the hard work.

KIRA

Yes, that is true. But I wouldn't have seen it if it weren't for you. I wouldn't have seen any of this. Just... thank you.

TOM

You're welcome.

There is a moment, as the two of them look at each other, where it is pretty obvious that this is about more than just an elephant.

TOM (CONT'D)

(hesitantly)

Kira...

At that moment, the front door of the lodge opens and BRAD comes out!!

BRAD

Kira!

KIRA

(total shock)

Brad?

BRAD

Surprise!

Off of Kira's shocked expression and Tom's disappointed one,  
we leave them there.

**END ACT FIVE**

ACT SIX

61 EXT. LODGE - DAY 61

Establishing shot of the lodge.

62 EXT. LODGE - VERANDAH - DAY 62

Kira and Brad come out onto the verandah, Brad fanning himself with a piece of paper.

BRAD

It's so hot. Please tell me the rooms have air conditioning.

KIRA

I can't believe you're here.

BRAD

It's part of your birthday surprise! I was going to fly out to Scottsdale but...

KIRA

But instead you hopped on a plane to Africa?

BRAD

You did. Why can't I? Aren't you happy to see me?

KIRA

Of course I am. I'm just...

BRAD

Surprised? That's the whole idea! Besides, I figured maybe you might need some help with the sale.

KIRA

Sale?

BRAD

Of the reserve. The last time we talked it seemed like you were, I don't know, confused about what to do with this place.

KIRA

I wouldn't say confused. Conflicted maybe.

(MORE)

KIRA (CONT'D)

But I really don't have a choice.  
I can't keep it.

BRAD

Have you signed the deal?

KIRA

Not yet, I just...

BRAD

What are you waiting for?

KIRA

I just want to make sure I'm doing  
the right thing.

BRAD

You are doing the right thing,  
trust me. I'm spreadsheet guy,  
remember?

Kira smiles but there's something there that tells us that  
maybe spreadsheet guy is not what she wants anymore.

BRAD (CONT'D)

It's like a billion degrees here.  
How can you stand it?

KIRA

I guess I've gotten used to it.  
Trust me. It's...  
(affectionate smile)  
This place changes your whole way  
of looking at things.

Brad sees the look on Kira's face and it concerns him.

KIRA (CONT'D)

Tomorrow morning we'll go on an  
excursion. I promise you'll see  
what I mean. You're going to love  
it here.

Brad forces a smile. He is not convinced.

Establishing that it's a new day on the savanna.

Tom, Kira, and Ally climb up the last few feet to the top of a hill with a breathtaking view of the savanna. Kira is awestruck all over again. Tom looks back down the hill.

TOM

How are you doing there, Brad?

BRAD (O.S.)

(sounds less than fine)

Fine!

Tom tries not to smile as Kira goes back to encourage him.

KIRA

It's going to be worth it, I promise. Wait until you see this view.

Brad comes into view, making the last few steps up the hill. He looks at the Fit Bit style device on his wrist.

BRAD

If nothing else, I'm getting in all my steps for the day.

KIRA

(smiles)

You should get extra for climbing up a hill in Africa.

BRAD

(looking at the device)

Is there a setting for that?

KIRA

(trying to get his attention)

Brad. Brad?

Brad looks up as Kira points out the view. At first, he is impressed.

KIRA (CONT'D)

Look! Isn't it beautiful? It's like... can you imagine waking up to this view every day?

That gets Brad's attention - is she changing her mind about selling this place?

BRAD

Sure, it is pretty. But, you know,  
so is Chicago on a summer morning.

KIRA

(laughs)  
Brad. Come on.  
(points)  
You can see giraffes!

BRAD

They have giraffes at the zoo.

KIRA

Zoos are not a good place for  
animals like these. They should be  
roaming free.

Tom looks at her appreciatively, proud of how far she's come.

ALLY

Careful, Kira. You're starting to  
sound like Tom.

That creates a beat of uncomfortable silence. They all look  
out at the view.

BRAD

Well... it is beautiful, I guess.

They look out and Tom steals a glance at Kira. There's  
something about the moment - Tom looking at Kira and the glow  
on her face. He isn't talking about the savanna.

TOM

It's breathtaking.

Once again Ally catches this moment between them. Luckily  
Brad does not.

65 OMITTED 65

65A EXT. LODGE - NIGHT 65A

Establishing shot of the lodge at night.

65B INT. LODGE - KIRA'S ROOM - NIGHT 65B

Kira is sitting in her room reviewing the offer contract that  
Harrington submitted when there is a knock on her door. She  
goes to answer it and finds Brad.

BRAD  
Hi. Just came to say good night.

KIRA  
Did you have fun today?

BRAD  
I did. I mean, I get why you like it here. But I have to admit I'm looking forward to getting back to civilization.

Kira forces a smile. Brad sees the offer contract.

BRAD (CONT'D)  
Is that the Harrington offer?

KIRA  
Yes. I was just going over it again, trying to make sure...

BRAD  
It's a good offer. The lawyers think so, too.

KIRA  
I know. But I need to know that Ukuthula is going to be protected. The animals... the people.

BRAD  
(nods)  
I get it. Tell you what... why don't I go through it one more time?

Kira is hesitant but he seems so helpful.

KIRA  
Okay. Thank you.

BRAD  
Of course. Good night.

He takes the contract from her and leaves.

65C EXT. LODGE - DAY

65C

Establishing shot of the lodge.

66

EXT. LODGE - VERANDAH - DAY

66

Tom is on the verandah looking at Kira who is sitting by the pool, dipping her legs in the water. He seems unsure as to whether or not he should go out there. Ally comes out from the great room.

ALLY

What are you doing?

TOM

Nothing.

ALLY

(sees Kira)

Oh. Just go talk to her.

TOM

About what?

ALLY

Tom. I've seen the way you look at her. When she hugged you the other day I thought your face was going to break you were smiling so big.

TOM

It was a happy moment. There was a baby elephant.

ALLY

(points)

Go talk to her.

TOM

She has a boyfriend. Here!

ALLY

I didn't say challenge him to a duel and carry her off on your shoulder. I said talk to her!

She gives him a little push and he sighs and he walks off.

67

EXT. LODGE - POOL - DAY

67

Tom comes out to the pool area and joins Kira.

TOM

Hi.

KIRA  
(smiles)  
Hi.

TOM  
Where's Brad?

KIRA  
In his room. Trying to stay cool.

TOM  
I guess it is a little warm. I  
don't even notice it anymore.

KIRA  
Yeah, me either.

TOM  
I get the feeling he doesn't like  
it here very much.

KIRA  
(shrugs)  
I didn't either when I first got  
here.

TOM  
(laughs)  
I remember.

KIRA  
We'll be back in Chicago soon.

TOM  
It was nice of him to come all this  
way. I don't have anybody  
traveling halfway across the world  
for me.

KIRA  
Nobody special in your life?

TOM  
Only the animals. I'm here...  
well, always, I guess. Doesn't  
leave much time for a social life.

KIRA  
But that's something you want?

TOM  
Yes. I'm not exactly the white  
picket fence kind of guy...

KIRA

They don't stop elephants.

TOM

No... but the rest of it...  
Marriage, kids, happily ever after.  
Sure. I want it all. I just need  
it with someone who loves this  
place as much as I do.

Tom and Kira steal glances at each other, a little awkward romantic tension between them. Kira tries to defuse it.

KIRA

This has been such a weird week.

TOM

Yeah. I get that. I guess the  
question is has it been weird good  
or weird bad?

Kira has to think about that for a moment.

KIRA

Good. I think. Really good. I  
never thought I'd get this far  
outside of my comfort zone.

TOM

I don't think you're outside of it.  
I think you just made it bigger.

KIRA

(nods)  
Maybe.

TOM

(beat)  
So when you get back to Chicago you  
can, I don't know, sign up for  
skydiving lessons or something.

KIRA

(forces a smile)  
Yeah. Chicago...

They look at each other for a moment and then turn to look out at the view.

68 EXT. LODGE - VERANDAH - DAY 68

Brad comes out on the verandah carrying the contract, looking for Kira. He looks out toward the pool and sees her sitting there talking to Tom.

Brad watches for a moment and then looks at the contract, making a decision.

An attendant walks by and Brad stops him.

BRAD  
Excuse me? Can you tell me how I  
might be able to get to  
Johannesburg?

The attendant nods and Brad follows him off.

69 OMITTED 69

69A EXT. HARRINGTON HOTEL - DAY 69A

Establishing shot of the Harrington hotel.

69B EXT. HARRINGTON HOTEL - LOUNGE - DAY 69B

Artie Harrington greets Brad, offering him a seat at his table.

ARTIE  
Mr. Wilson. Thanks for your call.

Brad takes in the lush pool and lounge area.

BRAD  
This is very nice.

ARTIE  
"Exceptional" is the Harrington  
brand. So, you're here  
representing Kira Slater?

BRAD  
(beat)  
Yes... I'm her financial advisor.

ARTIE  
And what's your advice?

BRAD

To get this deal done as soon as possible.

ARTIE

That's good to hear. I was getting concerned that we weren't moving forward.

BRAD

Oh no, we're definitely moving forward. It's just that Kira wants to add a few conditions.

ARTIE

What kind of conditions?

BRAD

Just a few negotiating points to do with continuing to care for the wildlife and the land. That sort of thing.

ARTIE

I'm all about preserving the wilderness experience.

Artie seems like such a reasonable guy. Brad smiles.

BRAD

That's good to know.

Off Brad, figuring he has this in the bag...

70

EXT. LODGE - NIGHT

70

Tom is behind the wheel of a range vehicle as Kira and Brad get out.

KIRA

Thanks, Tom. The tour was incredible.

(to Brad)

Wasn't it, Brad?

BRAD

(forcing it a bit)

Yes. It was great. I had a fantastic time.

TOM

Well, good. That's our goal here at Ukuthula. Have a good night.

KIRA

You, too.

Lwazi comes up just as they are getting ready to walk away.

LWAZI

Good evening.

KIRA

Oh, hey, Lwazi. I was having trouble connecting to the WiFi in my room. Is there someplace quiet I could work?

LWAZI

Certainly. You are more than welcome to use the office. Go on in, I'll be there in a minute to show you.

KIRA

Thank you. And thanks again, Tom.

BRAD

Yeah, thanks Tom!

Brad puts his arm around Kira as they head toward the hotel. Brad smiles.

KIRA

What's the smile for? Did you have a good time on the tour?

BRAD

Oh, it's not about the tour. It's just a... another surprise for your birthday tomorrow.

KIRA

Brad, you don't have to...

BRAD

I know. But I did anyway. Trust me, you're going to love it.

Kira and Brad go off toward the lodge.

71

INT. LODGE - OFFICE - NIGHT

71

Kira is in the office working on the website at a desk, which has papers and file folders on it. She sits back in the chair, thinking about her next move when she notices a photo album on a shelf nearby.

She gets up and goes to retrieve it, then takes it back to the desk to look at it.

Inside are photos of Ukuthula - everything from the lodge and the animals to photos of Lwazi, Tom, Ally, and S'bu - it really is a family.

Kira turns a page and finds the photo we saw earlier of her when she was a kid at Ukuthula. It makes her smile again.

She looks around, trying to figure out what she's going to do.

**END ACT SIX**

ACT SEVEN

72 OMITTED 72

73 EXT. LODGE - DAY 73

Lwazi is heading from the direction of the boma toward the lodge when she runs into Kira.

LWAZI

Good morning, Kira. Happy Birthday.

KIRA

Thank you. Listen, could I speak to you for a moment?

LWAZI

Of course.

KIRA

Well... I've been thinking a lot about what you said. About how the people here are one big family. It's obvious that this is more than just a job. Ukuthula is like home.

LWAZI

Yes. In many ways it is.

KIRA

So... what if I sell it to you? To all the employees. That way you and Tom and Ally can make sure it doesn't change.

LWAZI

That is a very kind thought, but I don't know how that would work. Even if everyone here pooled our resources, we wouldn't have enough.

KIRA

Then I'll give it to you. Or sell it to you for a dollar.

LWAZI

That is remarkably generous, Kira, but still. Running a reserve is an expensive proposition. With the way business has been...

KIRA  
I get it. I couldn't do it by  
myself either. Ukuthula needs  
someone with deep pockets.

LWAZI  
I'm afraid there is only one such  
person.

KIRA  
Artie Harrington.

Lwazi nods. Kira jaw sets.

KIRA (CONT'D)  
Do you know where Tom is?

Kira is obviously determined.

74 EXT. LODGE - VERANDAH - DAY

74

Kira comes into the room looking for Tom but finds Brad.

BRAD  
There you are. Happy Birthday!

He goes to hug and kiss her but her mind is elsewhere.

KIRA  
(distracted)  
Thanks. Have you seen Tom?

BRAD  
Tom? No. Why?

KIRA  
It's a long story. But I might  
have to go run an errand. Are you  
okay here by yourself?

BRAD  
I thought we were going to spend  
your birthday together.

KIRA  
We are. We will. I'm sorry, but  
this is really important.

BRAD  
Not as important as the surprise I  
have planned.

KIRA  
 (still distracted)  
 Okay. Great. I can't wait to find  
 out what it is. I'll be back soon.

BRAD  
 (firm)  
 Kira, wait. I don't know what has  
 happened with you since you've been  
 here but...

KIRA  
 Brad, please. This is about saving  
 Ukuthula.

BRAD  
 Until last week you had barely  
 thought about this place in  
 decades. Why do you care so much  
 now?

KIRA  
 (beat - realization)  
 When I was kid, I loved this place.  
 I loved how it made me feel. Free.  
 Empowered. Connected to something  
 bigger than myself. All of that  
 has come rushing back and I'm not  
 going to let it go without a fight.

She leans in to kiss him on the cheek and then leaves him,  
 more than a little stunned by this development.

75

EXT. SAVANNA - DAY

75

Tom is inspecting a section of the fence at the reserve when  
 a ranger vehicle pulls up nearby. He looks to see Kira get  
 out of the passenger side and head toward him.

TOM  
 Kira? What are you doing out here?

KIRA  
 I want to find a way to save  
 Ukuthula.

TOM  
 Okay. I was going to wish you a  
 happy birthday but we can talk  
 about your thing.

KIRA

I own Ukuthula. That's still sounds very weird to say but that's the way it is. So now it's my responsibility to make sure nothing bad happens to it. That's what Uncle Irv would have wanted.

TOM

So... You want to keep it?

KIRA

(realizes what she said)  
Well... I mean... keep it in the family, you know? Protect it.

TOM

Right. Sure. Because you keeping it would be...

KIRA

Crazy. And impossible. Even if I had the money to keep it going, what am I going to do? Give up my entire life and move to Africa to run a wildlife reserve?

She laughs at the sheer absurdity of it but Tom isn't laughing.

KIRA (CONT'D)

(laughter slowly fades)  
Why aren't you laughing? It's funny. The idea of it is funny. It's... It's...

Kira looks at Tom.

KIRA (CONT'D)

I need to go to Johannesburg.

Tom and Kira head toward the vehicles.

76 EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

76

Traveling establishing shot, just outside of Johannesburg.

77 EXT. HARRINGTON HOTEL - LOUNGE - DAY

77

Kira and Tom enter the lounge/pool area and find Artie Harrington climbing out of the pool after a swim. He takes a towel from a lounge chair and dries off.

ARTIE

Kira! I wasn't expecting you. And Tom Anderson. I *really* wasn't expecting you.

TOM

How are you Artie?

ARTIE

I guess that depends on why the two of you are here. Are you ganging up on me?

TOM

Nothing like that. Kira has a proposal she'd like you to hear.

Artie guides them to a nearby table. They sit.

KIRA

When we talked last time you said you understood how special Ukuthula is. How you want to protect that.

ARTIE

Absolutely. I mean, there needs to be some changes, of course, to fit in with the Harrington brand, but I'm confident we can strike a balance between progress and preservation.

KIRA

Good to hear. Because what I want to suggest is that instead of buying Ukuthula, you invest in it.

Poker-faced, Artie lets Kira talk.

KIRA (CONT'D)

Become a partner. With us. With me. Help us make Ukuthula the best it can possibly be.

ARTIE

Not to sound selfish, but what do I get out of this arrangement?

TOM

We could put your logo on all the vehicles and in the lodges. You'd be branding yourself as a corporation with a conscience.

(MORE)

TOM (CONT'D)

And what could be a better cause than preserving a threatened ecosystem like the savanna?

ARTIE

(beat)  
It's a good pitch.

KIRA

Then you're interested?

ARTIE

In investing? No. But it's a great marketing angle for the property once I buy it.

Kira and Tom's faces fall.

ARTIE (CONT'D)

Everyone knows Ukuthula is a sinking ship. That's why mine is the only offer out there because I'm the only one with the vision to see what it could be. So, I'm giving you two days - until noon on Saturday. Be here to sign the contracts or my offer is withdrawn.

Artie gets to his feet and starts away as Kira and Tom share a desperate look. Kira knows she's defeated.

KIRA

Artie.  
(he turns back)  
I'll sign.

TOM

Kira...

KIRA

What choice do we have, Tom?  
(to Artie)  
But I need a revised offer.

ARTHUR

Revised how?

KIRA

That puts protections in place for the staff... the animals.

ARTHUR

Your financial advisor already talked to me about that.

KIRA  
What financial advisor?

ARTHUR  
Brad Wilson. He came to see me  
yesterday. I told him that we  
don't need to put all that in a  
contract.  
(a winning smile)  
You can trust me. Two days...

Artie walks away a stunned Kira with few options.

78 EXT. LODGE - NIGHT 78

Establishing shot of the lodge.

79 OMITTED 79

80 EXT. LODGE - NIGHT 80

The ranger vehicle with Tom and Kira pulls up at the front of  
the lodge just as Ally is coming out. Kira and Tom get out.

ALLY  
Hey! There you are. Happy  
Birthday.

KIRA  
Thank you. Have you seen Brad?

ALLY  
Oh, uh... I think he might be in  
the boma for dinner.

Kira turns and heads for the boma.

ALLY (CONT'D)  
(to Tom)  
What's going on?

TOM  
It's a long story, but she's not  
very happy with him right now.

ALLY  
Uh-oh.

TOM  
Why uh-oh?

ALLY

Come on.

She grabs him and pulls him toward the boma.

81 EXT. BOMA - NIGHT

81

A fiercely determined Kira comes into the boma and stops suddenly. The space has been decorated for a surprise birthday party, with Lwazi, S'Bu, the Bagwells, and other staff and guests in attendance. At the center of all of it is Brad, smiling broadly.

BRAD

Happy Birthday, Kira!

Tom and Ally come up behind Kira as the staff, led by Lwazi, starts singing a traditional birthday song. Kira is led to a table in the center, trying to figure out how to enjoy this. The song ends to applause.

KIRA

That was beautiful. Thank you.

Ally hands Tom a gift-wrapped box and pushes him forward.

ALLY

Tom wants to make a toast.

Tom turns back to glare at Ally who smiles. Tom nervously turns back to the group and sees Kira looking at him with a smile - it gives him what he needs to be able to speak.

TOM

They say, "Judge not your beauty by the number of people who look at you, but rather by the number of people who smile at you." We don't know what will happen tomorrow, but this boma is full of smiles tonight because of you. Happy birthday, Kira.

Kira is very moved by that. Everyone toasts to her as Tom gives her the gift-wrapped box.

KIRA

You didn't need to...

She opens it and pulls out a safari whistle. She smiles.

TOM

It's not one of Irving's but...

KIRA  
I love it.

ALLY  
Speech! Speech!

Kira waves it off but the crowd won't let her. She stands.

KIRA  
Thank you. I really appreciate  
everything. Being here has been...  
life-changing. And it's not just  
because of the land and the  
animals, but because of the people.  
(looks at Tom)  
Thank you.

There is applause and warm wishes from the group.

BRAD  
(stands)  
Okay, my turn.

He takes Kira's hand and leads her to the center of the boma.

BRAD (CONT'D)  
Kira... I can't wait to get back to  
Chicago and only a little bit  
because of the heat. Mainly I  
can't wait to get back to my life  
with you. Africa has been an  
adventure, but it's nothing  
compared to the adventure our lives  
together have been.

Brad takes a napkin and puts it on the dirt floor of the boma  
then gets down on one knee. There are gasps from the  
collected audience. Kira is stunned.

Brad takes out a ring box and opens it.

BRAD (CONT'D)  
Kira Slater. Will you marry me?

Kira is stunned speechless by this.

Tom appears to be broken-hearted - Ally sees this and reaches  
out to touch his arm. He shakes his head and leaves the  
boma.

**END ACT SEVEN**

ACT EIGHT

82 OMITTED 82

83 EXT. LODGE - VERANDAH - NIGHT 83

Kira pulls Brad out onto the verandah.

BRAD

What's going on? Are you bringing me out here to tell me no?

KIRA

No, Brad...

BRAD

So you're saying yes?

KIRA

No!

BRAD

Is there some other answer to the "will you marry me?" question that I'm not aware of?

KIRA

Brad, how could you go see Artie Harrington without telling me?

BRAD

You asked for my help.

KIRA

To review the contract, not to negotiate it.

BRAD

Kira, you know I'm better at the numbers. I'm spreadsheet guy, remember?

KIRA

I don't want spreadsheet guy!

BRAD

(beat)

So you *are* saying no.

KIRA

I'm saying... You surprised me, is all.

BRAD

That's why they call them surprise proposals.

(beat)

Kira, we both want the same things. To get married, have children, get the nice house with the white picket fence, right?

KIRA

(beat)

Right.

Brad senses her hesitation and looks to salvage the moment.

BRAD

But I understand. I completely get you weren't expecting this and that there's been a lot of that this week. First your uncle and Africa and...

KIRA

...and surprise, you own a wildlife reserve!

BRAD

Exactly. And then I show up out of nowhere with a ring.

KIRA

It's a very nice ring.

BRAD

Thank you. But, it's a lot so, I don't expect an answer right now. Take your time. I'm not going anywhere... until we go back to Chicago, but...

KIRA

Right. Brad... thank you.

The two of them look out off the Verandah, perhaps searching for answers that aren't there.

Establishing shot of the lodge.

85

EXT. LODGE - DAY

85

Kira comes out of the front of the lodge to find Tom there just getting into a ranger vehicle.

KIRA

Good morning.

TOM

Hey. Good morning. How are you?

KIRA

I'm... is there an African word for feeling completely overwhelmed and unable to figure out what to do?

TOM

Dondege-ontella.

KIRA

Really?

TOM

(sly smile)

No.

KIRA

(laughs)

Thank you. I needed that.

TOM

So... what to do...

KIRA

Yeah. I mean, if I sign the deal with Harrington he could ruin this place. And if I don't, there's nobody else to buy it and I can't afford to keep it and...

TOM

I actually wasn't talking about Ukuthula, but...

KIRA

Oh. Right. Brad. We're putting a pin in that discussion.

TOM

You... didn't say yes?

KIRA  
 Not yet. Once Ukuthula is settled  
 and we're back in Chicago, then the  
 pin can come back out.

TOM  
 (hiding disappointment)  
 Right. Makes sense.

KIRA  
 Yes. Totally sensible.

They hold each other's eyes for a moment and then Tom finally  
 breaks the spell.

TOM  
 Right. Well, I better go.

KIRA  
 Okay. Bye.

Tom forces a smile. He gets in the vehicle and drives away.

85A EXT. RANGERS' OFFICE - DAY

85A

Tom pulls up to the rangers' office and gets out of the  
 vehicle as Ally comes out of the office. They walk down near  
 the hippo pool as they have this conversation.

ALLY  
 Did you talk to Kira?

TOM  
 Ally, leave it alone.

ALLY  
 Why are you being like this?

TOM  
 Being like what?

ALLY  
 Tom, you're the person that always  
 wants to fix things. To do it all  
 by him himself.

TOM  
 And you're the person who keeps  
 telling me not to do that.

ALLY

You've never listened to me before,  
why are you starting now? You like  
fixing things! Fix this.

TOM

I don't know how!

That's a huge admission for him and Ally knows it.

TOM (CONT'D)

The reserve, Kira... I don't know  
how to fix any of it. I've turned  
it all over in my head a billion  
times but...

ALLY

Tom...

TOM

I tried to get her to fall in love  
with this place and I think I did  
but I wasn't expecting...  
(trails off)

ALLY

(beat)

To fall in love with her?

TOM

All I did was make things more  
complicated... for everyone.

Tom walks off leaving Ally behind, feeling badly for him.

86

EXT. LODGE - BRIDGE - DAY

86

Kira is standing on a charming bridge overlooking the  
watering hole - a giraffe comes by and she is not at all  
skittish as she was the last time.

Lwazi comes out to join her, handing her a cup of coffee.

LWAZI

You look like you could use this.

KIRA

Thank you. Yeah, I didn't get a  
lot of sleep last night.

LWAZI

It was an... eventful evening.

KIRA  
 (chuckles)  
 That's one way of putting it. I don't suppose you have any insightful proverbs that could help me out with all of this, do you?

LWAZI  
 Not really. Just this... in the end it is up to you to decide what makes you happy.

Lwazi starts away but Kira stops her.

KIRA  
 Lwazi... could someone take me to the hilltop lookout?

LWAZI  
 I thought you already went there.

KIRA  
 I did but... I didn't get a chance to really see the view.

Lwazi holds out her arm and escorts Kira back to the lodge.

87 EXT. SAVANNA - HILLTOP LOOKOUT - DAY 87

Kira reaches the top of the lookout and takes in the vista.

From this vantage point it appears as if the savanna is endless and teeming with life - giraffes, elephants, gazelles, and more work their way across the landscape.

Kira is awestruck once again, a sense of wonder on her face. But it fades into something like contentment - as if she feels like this is the place she was meant to be.

88 EXT. LODGE - DAY 88

Establishing shot of the lodge.

89 EXT. LODGE - VERANDAH - DAY 89

Brad is sitting on the verandah reading a book when Kira comes out of the lodge. She sits beside him.

KIRA  
 Hey.

BRAD

Hi. I was looking for you.

KIRA

I went back to the hilltop lookout.

BRAD

Did you see anything interesting?

KIRA

I did... but it was what I didn't see that was the most interesting.

BRAD

What's that?

KIRA

No picket fences.

Kira looks at him and gives him a sad smile. Brad gets it.

BRAD

I thought we both wanted that.

KIRA

I thought we did, too.

BRAD

Is this because I went behind your back and talked to Artie Harrington? I'm sorry, but I really was just trying to help.

KIRA

I know. And it's not because of that.

BRAD

Then I have to ask... is it because of Tom?

KIRA

No. It's because of me. Brad, when I was a kid I loved adventure. I walked up to an elephant when I was ten years old! But I lost that and... I want to find it again.

BRAD

Are you going to stay here?

KIRA

I don't know. I have no idea what's going to happen.

(MORE)

KIRA (CONT'D)

A week ago that would have scared me to death but now...

BRAD

This place has changed you. And I don't mean that in a bad way.

KIRA

(smiles)

I don't think it changed me. I think it just made me remember who I was.

Brad nods and puts his arm around Kira. The two of them look off the verandah at the scenery, content in this ending.

90

INT. LODGE - GREAT ROOM - DAY

90

Kira comes into the great room where Lwazi is talking to S'bu and Ally. Kira approaches.

KIRA

Sorry to interrupt but two things. Lwazi... Brad is going to need a ride to the landing strip.

LWAZI

He's leaving?

KIRA

Yes.

ALLY

And you're staying?

KIRA

Yes.

ALLY

Are you okay?

KIRA

(beat)

Yes. I am.

LWAZI

(nods)

I will arrange transportation. What is the second thing?

KIRA

S'bu, can you put together some food and some coffee? Lots of coffee?

S'BU

Of course. Where do you want it to be set up?

KIRA

In the office. I have some work to do.

Kira marches off.

91 OMITTED 91

92 OMITTED 92

93 INT. LODGE - OFFICE - NIGHT 93

It's late and Kira is sitting at the desk working on the website for Ukuthula. From what we can see, it looks amazing. She picks up her phone and dials.

KIRA

Vicky? Hey, it's Kira. I need your help and all your Twitter followers... yes, it's time for me to get in the shark cage.

She smiles.

94 EXT. LODGE - DAYBREAK 94

The sun is coming up over the savanna. Kira is standing outside with her phone, looking at it.

We see the screen is showing "Ukuthula Reservations" and there is a big zero underneath it.

Kira looks defeated.

Lwazi comes out to join her.

LWAZI

You're up early.

KIRA

I've been up all night. I thought I had a solution. I redid the website and tried to get it to go viral but it's not working.

LWAZI

These things don't happen overnight.

KIRA

It does on the Internet. At least, it's supposed to.

Ally comes walking up to them carrying a piece of paper.

ALLY

Hey... Tom asked me to bring this over.

She hands Kira a piece of paper. She looks at it.

LWAZI

What is it?

KIRA

It's a letter of resignation.

Kira looks up at the group, heartbroken.

**END ACT EIGHT**

ACT NINE

95 EXT. LODGE - DAY 95

Establishing shot of the lodge.

96 INT. LODGE - KIRA'S ROOM - DAY 96

Kira is sitting on her bed, looking at the Ukuthula reservations page - it still says zero.

There is a knock at her door.

KIRA

Come in.

Ally opens the door and enters.

ALLY

Hey. Thought I'd stop by and see how you're doing.

KIRA

I'm okay. Disappointed. But hey, at least Ukuthula has a shiny new website.

Kira gets up and pulls out her suitcase to start packing.

ALLY

When are you going back home?

KIRA

Tomorrow. No reason for me to stay once I sign those papers at noon.

ALLY

Have you talked to Tom?

KIRA

(shakes her head)

I'm wouldn't know what to say. I feel... responsible.

ALLY

It's not your fault, Kira.

KIRA

I don't mean it that way. I mean, Ukuthula was my responsibility. This place was depending on me. The people were depending on me.

ALLY  
 And you feel like you let us down?  
 Like you let Tom down?

KIRA  
 A little.

Ally goes to Kira and takes her by the shoulders gently.

ALLY  
 (soft smile)  
 That's really... dumb.

KIRA  
 What?

ALLY  
 Kira, he likes you. And I think  
 you like him.  
 (beat)  
 I heard Brad went home yesterday...  
 But I don't know if Tom knows that  
 yet.

KIRA  
 Brad leaving didn't have anything  
 to do with Tom. And besides, it  
 doesn't matter. Tom is going to  
 take that new job. I'm going back  
 to Chicago. Ukuthula is being  
 sold. What difference does it make  
 whether Tom and I like each other?

ALLY  
 I think it makes a world of  
 difference. But at the very  
 least... you should say goodbye.

Ally hugs Kira and then leaves the room. Kira considers what  
 Ally has said.

97

EXT. RANGERS' OFFICE - DAY

97

Tom is outside the ranger's office, putting boxes into a  
 vehicle as Kira walks up. He sees her and stops.

KIRA  
 Packing up?

TOM  
 Yes. I'm leaving tonight. You?

KIRA

Tomorrow.

They nod at each other.

KIRA (CONT'D)

You know, Brad left yesterday.

TOM

He did?

(beat)

Will he picking you up at the airport?

KIRA

No. No, I'm going to be finding my own way home.

TOM

(gets it)

Oh. I'm sorry.

KIRA

I'm not. I mean, I am... a little. But it was time.

TOM

But you're still going back to Chicago.

KIRA

Yeah. I stayed up all night trying to find a way to make it work here, but... I guess I don't have any reason to stay. Do I?

TOM

(beat)

Not after you sell the place to Artie Harrington.

KIRA

So, you took that job in New York?

TOM

Not officially. But I'm going to call them on Monday. I don't really have any reason to stay here either... do I?

KIRA

Not after I sell.

TOM

(beat)

You know... New York and Chicago  
aren't that far apart.

KIRA

Certainly closer than Africa.

TOM

Much easier commute.

KIRA

Fewer elephants.

TOM

Some would argue whether that's a  
good thing.

KIRA

They'd have a point.

They smile at each other.

KIRA (CONT'D)

Well... I have to get down to  
Johannesburg. I just wanted to say  
goodbye.

She walks over and offers her hand. He hesitates and then  
shakes it.

TOM

Goodbye, Kira.

KIRA

Goodbye, Tom.

The handshake ends, they look at each other for a moment, and  
then Kira turns to walk away. Tom thinks for a moment.

TOM

Do you need a ride?

Kira stops and turns back. She smiles.

98 EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY 98

Traveling shot of Kira and Tom driving to Johannesburg.

99 EXT. HARRINGTON HOTEL - DAY 99

Establishing shot of the Harrington hotel in Johannesburg.

100

EXT. HARRINGTON HOTEL - LOUNGE - DAY

100

Kira, Artie, and Tom are seated at a table near the pool with the papers spread out in front of them. Kira is looking them over.

KIRA

Everything appears to be in order.

ARTIE

Wonderful! Let's get this done.

Artie hands Kira a pen. She takes it.

KIRA

I have your word that you're going to do everything in your power to protect Ukuthula, right? The animals, the people...

ARTIE

(sharky smile)

Like I said... trust me.

That less than enthusiastic response doesn't do much for the general mood around the table.

KIRA

Tom?

TOM

(a gentle smile)

It's okay.

Kira takes a deep breath and is about to sign - the pen hovering right above the proverbial dotted line - when her phone "dings." She looks at it and it says "Ukuthula Reservations - 1." Then it changes to 2... Then 3.

TOM (CONT'D)

What's going on?

KIRA

The new website... it looks like it's starting to work.

TOM

That's great.

KIRA

Yeah... but it's not enough.

Tom nods his understanding.

Nearby, a group of children near the pool start to sing.

Tom hears this. It's the same song she heard in the village earlier. He listens - an idea starting to take shape.

ARTIE

Kira, if you'll just sign...

TOM

Wait.

The song continues and the idea gets bigger.

KIRA

Tom? What's going on?

Tom turns to her, smiling.

TOM

I have an idea on how to fix this...

He stands and holds out his hand.

TOM (CONT'D)

But I'm going to need your help.

Kira smiles and takes his hand, standing. They start to leave.

ARTIE

Wait. Where are you going? You can't walk away from this offer.

KIRA

(smiles)

Oh, yes I can... trust me.

Kira and Tom smile and leave Artie to fume.

101 EXT. LODGE - NIGHT 101

Establishing shot of the lodge.

102 EXT. BOMA - NIGHT 102

A large crowd of people has gathered in the boma - Kira, Tom, Ally, Lwazi, S'bu, and Bheka leading the contingent of staff from Ukuthula from rangers to housekeepers and waiters and beyond.

There are also people from the village - men, women, children. A village elder is standing at a table where a document awaits signing. A banner reads "UKUTHULA VILLAGE PARTNERSHIP."

Kira looks at Tom.

KIRA

I can't believe you got all this done so quickly.

TOM

We did it... together.

ALLY

How did you come up with this?

TOM

There was a group of kids singing a song at the hotel. It reminded me of the village partnership idea. It'll give us tax breaks and grants from the government... but it wouldn't have worked without all the new revenue coming from Kira and her website.

ALLY

How many reservations are we up to?

Kira looks at her phone.

KIRA

Over two hundred! Including this one...

She shows the phone to Ally.

ALLY

(reads)

Can't wait to come back. Make sure the lions are out. John and Eveyln Bagwell!

Everyone smiles appreciatively at that.

LWAZI

Kira, you're sure about this? Sharing Ukuthula with the staff?

KIRA

Ukuthula is a family, remember? It should belong to all of us.

Kira smiles and turns to the document on the table. She signs it then hands the pen to Tom. Tom signs it and hands the pen to Lwazi. She takes it, reverently, with tears in her eyes, signs the document. A cheer goes up and music starts playing as Lwazi passes the pen to Ally and so on.

Kira looks around at the crowd, smiles, and goes toward the exit of the boma. Tom sees her and follows.

103

EXT. LODGE - NIGHT

103

Just outside the boma with the lights and music framing the background, Kira is standing, the smile still in place. Tom comes up to join her.

TOM  
Congratulations, partner.

KIRA  
Same to you, partner.

They shake on it.

TOM  
So... Was it worth the risk?

KIRA  
Definitely.

TOM  
Good. Because there's one more risk I was hoping you might take.

KIRA  
I'm listening.

He pulls her close and they kiss. After a moment they pull apart and she looks at him.

TOM  
What do you say?

KIRA  
(smiles)  
Wow.

She kisses him again and on that we...

FADE TO BLACK.

**THE END**