

THE FINAL ACT

Written by

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EXT. REAR GARDEN, BRENTWOOD - DAY

An imperious, stunningly beautiful KATIE, stands beneath a weeping willow tree with DONNIE, devouring his surroundings like a black hole.

Katie (mid 30's) looks radiant in a crimson dress, while Donnie (late 20's) is dressed in black, hiding behind his baseball cap and shades.

KATIE

This is it. Where it all begins.

Her fingers tenderly roam the contours of his face.

KATIE (CONT'D)

I planted the seed. Watched it grow
inside of you.

They kiss. A GUY in a suit, enters the-fairy tale garden from the rear of the house. He navigates his way past elegant water features and wild flower beds.

GUY

So what do you guys think?

KATIE

It's perfect.

The Guy looks at Donnie.

GUY

So you're the writer, director?

Donnie nods.

GUY (CONT'D)

Who's the talent?

KATIE

He's an Oscar winner. Such an
inspirational figure. Wow, I'm
getting wet just thinking about
him.

INT. LIVING ROOM, BEVERLY HILLS - NIGHT

MATT (late 40s) sips his brandy while reading a script on his kindle.

His iPhone rings. He takes the video call. His wife, JEAN, appears on the screen sipping a Blue Hawaiian cocktail.

MATT
Working hard I see?

EXT. TERRACE OVERLOOKING THE PACIFIC, HAWAII - NIGHT

Jean sees the brandy glass in his hand.

JEAN
Cheers to that.

They laugh and drink to one another.

JEAN (CONT'D)
How are the kids?

MATT (V.O.)
Tod's killing Zombies and Kelly's honing her multitasking skills. Facebooking, Whatsapping, and Snapchatting, but I did get a hey out of her earlier, so things are looking up. How's it going over there?

JEAN
Great, it's really starting to take shape. Miss you guys.

MATT (V.O.)
We miss you too. Well I miss you, as for the other two, we could always stop paying the electric bills, see how that goes.

They laugh.

JEAN
Give them a kiss from me. I'll see you all the day after tomorrow. Got dinner with the Mayor.

MATT (V.O.)
Your documentary's giving him sleepless nights, huh?

JEAN
Every time I start digging in a cultural minefield, the locals get restless.

MATT (V.O.)
Maybe it's that uncanny ability of yours to find the hidden skeletons.

JEAN
Lucky for you, you don't have any.

MATT (V.O.)
Or maybe you've just met your
match.

They smile.

JEAN
I love you.

MATT (V.O.)
I love you too. Hurry home okay?

JEAN
Count on it.

She blows him a kiss. He sends one right back.

INT. PINNACLE PRODUCTIONS OFFICE - MORNING

ZOEY (late 30s) answers the phone.

ZOEY
Pinnacle productions, Zoey
speaking.

ZOEY (CONT'D)
He's not in yet. Can I take a
message?

She listens, throwing her eyes to the heavens.

ZOEY (CONT'D)
Are you for real?

Matt enters the office as Zoey finally loses it.

ZOEY (CONT'D)
Excuse me? We're done here.
(hanging up)
Asshole.

ERIC (20s), new intern, stumbles into the office looking like
he hitched a ride in a tornado.

ZOEY (CONT'D)
(off Matt's look)
Just another wasp buzzing in my
ear. So I swatted his ass.

Eric anxiously scans the room.

MATT
Looking for something?

ERIC
Huh? Yeah I'm allergic.

Zoey and Matt laugh.

ERIC (CONT'D)
Seriously. Wasps. Bees.

Eric rolls up a script he's carrying, preparing for battle.

ZOEY
A wasp is a wannabee screenwriter
pri..

Matt shoots her a look.

ZOEY (CONT'D)
I swear too much don't I? Fuck.

She clamps a hand over her mouth. Matt snatches the rolled up script from Eric's hand and reads the cover page: THE FINAL ACT BY DONNIE MOI.

MATT
Any good?

Eric's momentary pause speaks volumes to Matt, who tosses it into a wastepaper bin and marches into his office.

ZOEY
You forgotten already? On the
plains of hesitation bleach the
bones of countless millions who.

Eric turns to a framed quote hanging behind his desk.

ERIC
On the dawn of victory stopped to
rest and resting died. Got it.

INT. KOHALA VOLCANO, HAWAII - MORNING

Hawaiian NATIVES dance an ancient war dance, the Haka, on the mouth of the volcano, overlooking the crater.

Jean is busy Directing the shoot with her film CREW.

INT. PINNACLE PRODUCTIONS - MORNING

Eric hands Zoey a Starbucks cup.

ERIC
You'll never guess who I just
bumped into.

ZOEY
Star-struck at Starbucks huh?

Eric waves a business card at her. Zoey checks it out.

Between a picture of Alice in Wonderland and the Mad Hatter
is the name Alice Carroll and a contact number, in a Medieval
Gothic font.

INT. MATT'S OFFICE - MORNING

Matt studies the business card before eyeballing Eric.

MATT
This is a joke right?

ERIC
She was exactly how I imagined,
intense, kind of creepy, but a
total babe.

Matt sits up.

MATT
The most reclusive and elusive
author on the planet gives you her
business card, don't you think
that's odd?

ERIC
Yeah totally insane.

Eric points at his coffee stained shirt.

ERIC (CONT'D)
If she hadn't almost knocked me
over and spilt her double white
mocha, we wouldn't be having this
conversation.

Matt flips the business card between his fingers.

ERIC (CONT'D)
I told her I was working for you.
She wants to meet you, today.

MATT

You'd better pray that I'm holding
a royal flush here, because if this
turns out to be nothing but a
Joker, you'll pay for it.

ERIC

And if she's the real deal, will I
get a finders fee?

Matt hits a button on his office phone.

MATT

Zoey can you get me a table at the
Ivy please?

Eric shakes his head.

MATT (CONT'D)

Hold on. What is it?

ERIC

Alice said it's a beautiful day for
a picnic.

(taking out his phone)

Gave me an address.

MATT

Forget about the Ivy Zoey, looks
like I'm about to take a trip down
a rabbit hole.

EXT. BRENTWOOD HOME - DAY

Matt hops out of his Porsche 911 and sees a sign that reads:
CURIUSER AND CURIUSER! He grins and follows the arrow,
directing him around to the rear of the house.

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

Katie sits at a picnic table, under the weeping willow tree,
wearing a blue dress and an anonymous mask. The table is set
for a tea party.

Behind her are two statues, Alice and the Mad Hatter. Alice
has a camera, while the Mad Hatter holds a sound boom.

Matt appears around the side of the house and soaks up the
beautiful, yet surreal setting like a sponge. He smiles and
sits down opposite her.

MATT

I love it when reality exceeds even
your wildest dreams.

KATIE

I'll drink to that.

She picks up a tea pot and pours red wine into their tea
cups. Matt laughs. He points at the statues.

MATT

You filming this?

KATIE

Why? Got any skeletons with you?

EXT. GARDEN SHRUB - DAY

Donnie, with a black hoodie concealing his face, hunkers down
in a shrub, looking through the viewfinder of a Cannon XL2
video camera.

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

Matt studies her for a moment.

MATT

I'm not the one hiding behind a
mask.

Katie removes it, runs a hand through her long blonde hair,
and stares at Matt with her smoldering amber eyes. Her beauty
takes Matt by surprise.

KATIE

See now that's why I stay in the
shadows.

Matt lowers his gaze to the bizarre canapés and fairy cakes.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Usually when people stare at me I
feel like vomiting. But with you
I'm getting this strange tingling
sensation all over my body.

Matt looks up. He raises his cup.

MATT

I want to take your books to the
box office.

Katie lifts up her cup.

KATIE

The thought of you turning my prose
into photons is truly mind blowing.

She charges her cup into his. They drink.

MATT

How crazy are you?

KATIE

I'm crazy for you.

Katie caresses her double D cleavage. Matt remains composed.

MATT

Most writers avoid celebrity status
like the plague. But they do love
to be celebrated, acknowledgement
being their greatest aphrodisiac.

KATIE

I'm not hiding, just hibernating.
Humanity loves to tell tales. They
say I'm eccentric. A recluse. But
here's the irony, every day my
imagination takes me places I've
never been, where I meet incredible
characters who surprise me at every
turn.

Katie pops a canapé into her mouth.

MATT

While everyone else plods along
like a dog on a lead. Chain ganged
into trains and office blocks.

KATIE

I knew you were the one.

Matt grins. Katie refills Matt's cup. He selects a canapé,
unaware that Katie rotates the base of the Mad Hatter tea pot
before replenishing her own cup.

Something she did earlier, when she first poured the wine,
but this slight of hand went by unnoticed.

MATT

Here's to a long and prosperous
relationship.

They raise their cups and drink.

KATIE
How about we seal the deal with a
kiss?

Katie rises. Matt suddenly clutches his head.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Welcome to wonderland Matt.

MATT
Fuck you.

Matt stands before losing consciousness and dropping to the ground. Katie kneels down beside him and caresses his cheek.

KATIE
Not if I fuck you first.

She runs her hand down his chest, stopping at his groin.

KATIE (CONT'D)
So hard, shame to let it go to
waste.

She straddles him and rubs up against his pelvis.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Will you exceed even my widest
dreams Matt?

She kisses him on the cheek. Donnie appears by her side filming everything.

DONNIE
And cut.

KATIE
Good job Matt. You totally nailed
it.

Katie pulls out Matt's iPhone, places Matt's thumb on it to activate it, and hands it to Donnie.

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

Matt opens his eyes and sits bolt upright. A sheet of paper, stuck to the Alice statue, reads: WHO IN THE WORLD AM I? AH THAT'S THE GREAT PUZZLE!

Matt gets up. The Mad Hatter holds a USB key. Matt grabs it.

INT. PINNACLE PRODUCTION'S OFFICE - DAY

Matt slams the teapot down on Eric's desk, grabs him by the shirt collar, and hauls him to his feet.

MATT
Do I look like a God damn puppet to
you?

Zoey jumps to her feet.

ZOEY
Matt let him go.

Matt plucks two cups from a water fountain, pours wine into one of the mugs, then twists the base of the teapot a hundred and eighty degrees, and adds wine to the second mug.

MATT
Pick one.

Eric hesitates.

MATT (CONT'D)
Now God damn it.

Eric selects one. Zoey rushes over.

MATT (CONT'D)
Drink.

Eric raises the mug to his lips but Zoey grabs his arm.

ZOEY
Matt take it easy, what the hell is
going on?

Matt tosses the USB key onto Eric's desk.

EXT. PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY - DAY

Donnie and Katie sit on the hood of a black Mustang gazing out at the Pacific. Donnie's face is still obscured by his large hoodie.

Vader, a small black snake, slithers across Donnie's lap. He picks it up and kisses it on the head.

A burner cell phone, lying on the hood between them, rings. Katie grabs a camera. Donnie takes the call, on speakerphone.

DONNIE

Hey Matt, great to have you finally
on board.