

Fighting Love
By
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PLAY BREAKDOWN

CHARACTERS

JAXSON TREALY

JAXSON is an underground boxer who's adopted. He's got a photographic memory and he is very protective and caring but he's cold and unreachable. He's been through a lot and his trust has been compromised time and time again.

ALEX HERNANDEZ

ALEX is a teenager who lives her life based on lies because she is scared to face the truth. She's Stubborn and has one hell of an attitude with a smart mouth to match it. She wants to learn to box in hopes it'll save her and her mother from her abusive father.

HERMOINE HERNANDEZ

ALEX'S mother. She's a woman who fell in love with a man who knew how to keep up appearances. She's kind and loving and untrusting. She is however traumatized. Overall she loves her daughter so much which is why they ran from the only home they've ever known. In hopes to get away from the abusive man she married.

LORREN HERNANDEZ

ALEX'S dad. He's a man who knows how to keep up appearances, and don't show his true self until it's a tad bit too late. For the other person who's stuck with him of course. He's a man who wears many hats, one of them being the abuser to his wife and recently his only daughter.

ELIJAH "ELI" FREDRI

He's also a teenager haunted by his past. He is one of the 2 best friends of JAXSON. Him and JAXSON knew each other since the 4th grade while they met MICHAEL in the 6th.

SETTING

JAXSON'S RESIDENCE, JAXSON'S BOXING GYM, MONETARY HIGH SCHOOL, ALEX'S RESIDENCE.

TIME

21st Century starting from Oct 2019. (No COVID).

ACT 1

SCENE 1

LIGHTS UP on ALEX -- 17 year old girl with a steely gaze and a bright red headband -- and JAXSON -- 18 year-old dude with big muscles and an angry look -- Jaxson comes walking out of the gym he practices boxing in. It's his biological father's gym that was given after his death.

ALEX

You're Jaxson right?

JAXSON

Who's asking? How did you know I was here-

ALEX

I saw you boxing the other day and this is the only gym in town that- it doesn't matter.

JAXSON

Like hell it doesn't...

Walks past her.

ALEX

I'm not done talking to you. Don't walk away from me...

JAXSON

Oh yeah? Well it sure looks like I'm done talking to you.

ALEX

What- yo- stop-

Runs to grab his wrist.

walking when I'm talking to you. That's so damn rude.

JAXSON

looks at wrist where ALEX hand is, then looks at ALEX and steps close.

You have 5 seconds to tell me why you think it's okay to interrupt my evening and put your hands on me.

snatches away wrist from ALEX grasp.

ALEX

Well uhm... see thing is... I kind of- I just... I sort of need you to teach me ... boxing...
awkwardly smiles

JAXSON

stares at ALEX and blinks.
I don't box love, sorry. You're asking the wrong one.
continues to walk away

ALEX

no I'm not. I know I didn't drive 30 minutes for the "wrong one".

JAXSON

Shrugs shoulder...
Sorry, sweetheart. I don't box...

ALEX

So that wasn't you boxing last night? That wasn't you that knocked that dude out, that damn bodybuilder?

Jaxson stops in his tracks and walks toward her.

JAXON

What if I said it wasn't? Hmm? How did you even find me?

ALEX

Well-

JAXSON

Don't even answer that. it's a million instructors in this area alone. Why me?

ALEX

Because I haven't seen one instructor knock someone out as swiftly as you. I want to learn that. I need to learn to take somebody down the same way you took that ... creature down.

JAXSON

Why would- who would you even-

ALEX

Does it matter? Look . Are you going to help me or not? I've wasted enough time.

JAXSON

steps very close to ALEX

And why should I help you? I'm sure the wave of your mothers checkbook can get you the best coach in the state.

ALEX

steps closer to JAXSON

You Know what?

tries to smack JAXSON catches her by her wrist with one hand. uses his other hand to grab her shoulder with brute force. ALEX flinches; reminiscences because she knows the feeling all too well

JAXSON

notice her flinching. stares at her

Rule 1. Never show fear to your opponent. They will use that as their advantage.

ALEX

She opens her eyes. straightens posture and nods. removes hand from JAXSON grasp while gulping and shaking her head in a NO notion.

Sorry.

JAXSON

let's go of ALEX...

Be here at 4:30 sharp. Don't be late.

starts to walk away

ALEX

But I have to-

JAXSON

NOT MY PROBLEM. You wanted a teacher, you got it.

ALEX

Fucking asshole.

SCENE 2

LIGHTS UP on ALEX and JAXSON ...

*NEXT WEEK WEDNESDAY 6TH PERIOD
ADVISORY IN THE SCHOOL HALLWAYS
AFTER A WEEK OF BOXING PRACTICE
ALEX is walking down the hall carrying
books and a notebook...ELI bumps into
ALEX knocking her stuff over...*

ELI

Yo watch where you're going... if you're able to fall, you're able to get up and pick up my shit.

ALEX is experiencing anxiety... terrified. starts to breathe a bit heavy. ELI takes attention to ALEX terrified look

Hey look... I'm just playing.

He reaches out hand to help ALEX up. She is hyperventilating. flinches and screams. starts to panic

ELI

YO ... Alex... Chill.

ALEX starts to cry. engaging in a fully blown panic attack...ELI Starts to shake ALEX...

ALEX! Snap out of it!

calls out for help...

Yo I need help, she is shaking!

JAXSON

runs to ALEX. holds her and whispers...

It's okay. It's okay- stop shaking- Ale- shh shh shh I'm here now.

He's not going to hurt you. He's not going to harm you. Okay? Calm down for me, love. Please.

ALEX

calming down... crying still. ...

I- I can't- I can't breathe...

JAXSON

YES you can, you have to. Tell yourself you can breathe, okay? Start to believe it. Step 2 of boxing is breathing. You gotta take control of your breathing, Alex. Here sit up...

sits ALEX up, cups ALEX face...

ALEX

sits up. looks at JAXSON and nods...

JAXSON

nods. looks ALEX...

Repeat everything I do okay?

ALEX

nods...

Okay.

JAXSON

Closes eyes and then inhale and exhale...

See? Count to 3 while breathing in.

ALEX

breathes in, counts to three out loud...

Uno... Dos... Tres

breathes out...

JAXSON

nodding. continuing eye contact with ALEX

Yes, there you go. Do it once more for me, love.

ALEX

breathe in, count to three out loud...

Un... deux... trois...

going back to normal

JAXSON

nods. helps ALEX up.

Come on, I'll drop you off at home.

ALEX

shakes head no. looking at JAXSON'S...

No , we got boxing today, remember? This is my second week.

JAXSON

makes eye contact, stays silent for a few seconds...

I'm taking you home, get your stuff and let's go.

ALEX

shakes head no...

No. I'm not going home. I need to learn boxing. You can't do that.

JAXSON

Get your shit, and walk toward the door. This is my last time telling you, Alex. Don't test me.

ALEX

shakes her head no while making a disagreeing noise...

Unmph unmph... NO HOW! And you CAN'T make me. You can have your way with anybody else, but it's not me.

JAXSON

Snarls and talks in a deep monotone voice...

Get your stuff, and let's go.

ALEX

N- O. I'm not leaving this damn building Jaxson. Take no for an answer for once.

JAXSON

blinks then takes a step back. stares at ALEX

Have it your way.

ALEX

stares and blink...

JAXSON

Picks up ALEX'S books and stuff it in his locker and then returns to

ALEX...

This right here will teach you to never test me.

ALEX

scoffs...

Jaxson, I'm not afraid of-

JAXSON

swoops ALEX up and throws her over shoulder.

You don't have to be.

ALEX

Put me down , JAXSON! This is my first and last time telling you.

hits JAXSON on his back...

JAXSON:

Unmph unmph... NO HOW! And you CAN'T make me. You can have your way with anybody else, but it's not me. Sounds familiar?

ALEX

growls

I just got done panicking now it feels like I'm on a bumpy road. I can feel EVERY WALK YOU TAKE. PUT ME DOWN BEFORE I RELEASE MY STOMACH ALL OVER YOUR SHOULDER. I'm NAUSEOUS DAMNIT!

JAXSON

scoffs...

The day you do that, whatever you need to learn boxing for will be the least of your worries.

ALEX

tenses and squirm...

JAXSON

Would you relax? I'm only kidding. If you do , however, spill your contents on my new shirt. You will buy a new one, no questions asked.

ALEX

gags...

I- I didn't- I wasn't tense because-

JAXSON

Alex?! Why the hell is your stomach contracting-

ALEX

retches all over JAXSON'S back feeling weak and embarrassed...

JAXSON

reaches his car, stops walking cringing under the feeling of ALEX vomit sliding down his shirt...

Damnit Alex.

opens his car door, lays ALEX in the passenger seat...

Wait here.

runs to grab a bottle of ginger ale from his trunk and brings it back to ALEX...

Here love. Drink this.

ALEX

looks at him with guilt and tries to grab ginger ale. speaks

weakly...

Thanks.

JAXSON

holds ginger ale bottle for her while she drinks...

I got you, just drink for me.

ALEX

takes a sip of ginger ale...

I'm sorry.

JAXSON

stares at ALEX with intensity. shakes head and buckles ALEX up. closes the passenger side door and go to drivers side and get into the car....

Just get some rest, Alex.

Replaces shirt with jacket and then drives off

Shit. Where do she live?

takes a glimpse at ALEX. reaches out to wake up but retracts hand. turn the steering wheel...

Fuck it. We're going to my house.

SCENE 3

LIGHTS UP on ALEX and JAXSON ... JAXSON pulls up at his house after ALEX passes out from retching

JAXSON

Goes to scoops ALEX up and walks into his house. walks to his room and lays ALEX down on his bed while sitting next to her checking her temperature...

What's your secret? What are you so afraid of? Why do you need my help?

moves closer to ALEX...

who's trying to hurt you... Most importantly why do I care?

gets up and walks toward the dresser. grabs clothes for ALEX to change into and grabs clothes for his shower and walks into bathroom to take shower....

SCENE 4

LIGHTS UP on ALEX and JAXSON... ALEX wakes up and finds herself at JAXSON'S house on his bed.

ALEX

wakes up and looks around until she spots a pair of boxing gloves embroidered with "JAX". sees a note on top of folded clothes next to her and reads the note...

Put these on and don't trip. Come find me when you wake up, love. P.S try not to throw up anymore. P.S.S, you can put your other clothes into my hamper, I'll wash them" From Jaxson. Wow, what a real hero

rolls eyes and chuckles starts to change into clothes JAXSON left for her. then goes looking for JAXSON. To find him cooking and dancing. laughs...

So he dances, cooks, and boxes. Nice.

JAXSON

turns around. stops and stares when he sees ALEX dressed in his clothes...

ALEX

What??! Do I got something on my face?

JAXSON

No... I'm just. No you're good.

ALEX

Okay? Uhm... so what're you cooking ?

JAXSON

stares then turns around to food. fixes ALEX plates...

I'm cooking various different foods...

lays plate on kitchen island table...

... for you.

looks at her and motions for her to sit down with head movement...

Come sit down and eat.

ALEX

chuckles halfheartedly...

Okay... for what may I ask?

sits down...

JAXSON

face turns cold and serious...

Because you passed out after you Threw up on my shirt.

ALEX

raises eyebrows...

Hmm that explains why you cooked. That doesn't explain why you cooked this much.

JAXSON

looks at ALEX then turns to fix his plate...

You passed out after you threw up. That was a bit off to me. So stop asking questions and eat, Alex.

ALEX

crosses arms...

Wh- what the HELL does that have to do with ANYTHING?!

JAXSON

turns back around and looks at her...

So you can sit here and tell me you've been eating properly?! That you haven't skipped a meal recently?! BECAUSE NOBODY IS SUPPOSED TO PASS OUT AFTER THROWING THE LITTLE AMOUNT YOU DID! HMM?! So you can sit there and look me in my eye and tell me you aren't malnourished?

ALEX

NO! I- I HAVE BEEN EATING- I Haven't -

JAXSON

frowns...

STOP FUCKING LYING TO ME! THIS IS YOUR SECOND TIME LYING TO ME AND YOU STILL HAVEN'T CAUGHT ON?! I CAN'T BE LIED TO, SWEETHEART. SO YOU BEST TAKE THE OTHER ROAD AND TELL ME THE TRUTH WHILE YOU ARE EATING.

Hands ALEX a fork...

ALEX

takes the fork embarrassed and says to self softly...

that was kind of... sexy as hell.

looks up to see if she had been heard whispering to herself...

FINE. NO! I haven't been eating. Is that what you wanted to hear?

JAXSON

starts to eat while looking at ALEX...

We established that Captain Obvious...

ALEX

scoffs...

Whatever.

JAXSON

MY question now is why? Why haven't you been eating... and before you lie, Alex. Just know I can't teach you boxing if we don't establish a relationship of trust. I hate liars.

looks ALEX in the eye...

ALEX

looks at JAXSON then slices her pancake...

I haven't been hungry. Like I have no appetite.

JAXSON

looks at her and nods. then eats a slice of pancake...

Hmm...

ALEX

You know what Jax, cut it out with the sound effects. Okay? It's evident you're disappointed. I don't need your disappointing moaning and groaning.

JAXSON

looks at ALEX confused...

GIRL- LOOK AROUND. Do you see the earth? Is it Revolving around you? Hmm? I don't see one. I'm sure as hell you don't. The only reason you were graced to hear my moaning and groaning is because I can cook. Let me tell you sweetheart , these pancakes fye.

ALEX

looks at JAXSON and smiles, preparing to taste but stops when she hears...

JAXSON

looks at ALEX and smiles...

You would know if you had tasted it...

laughs...

...instead of imaging me moaning and groaning.

ALEX

blushes. tosses a blueberry from pancake at him...

I was- I WAS NOT...

JAXSON

catches blueberry with mouth. laughs then guides ALEX fork into her mouth...

ALEX

eats pancake slice and then moans...

Oh my- oh my goodness. Holy Mary Mother of God. This Pancake has no business being this damn good. Oh My.. Jax.. this is...

looks up at JAXSON...

.. what? Do I have syrup on my face?

chuckles...

Jax?

JAXSON

stares at ALEX, mesmerized by her laugh and moan...

Ye- yeah. It's good right?

laughs...

see? I'm good at this cooking shit huh? The best you ever had huh? Lol you don't have to admit it. I see pride is a thing with you.

ALEX

scoffs...

I wouldn't go thaaat far, but you're up there.

laughs then starts to eat...

JAXSON

PRIDE. It's a crazy thing ain't IT?

continues to eat...

ALEX

talking with her mouth full...

NO! Wanna know what's crazy?

JAXSON

What's crazy, love? Indulge me.

ALEX

The missing bacon off your plate.

takes a strip of bacon off JAXSON'S plate...

hmm... hmmm... you need to be praised for this.

looks up at JAXSON

Jax?

JAXSON

mouth open....

I'm just Astonished at the robbery that just unfolded before my eyes.

ALEX

I'm sorry.

laughs...

It's like you said I haven't been eating.

JAXSON

looks at ALEX with intensity and nods...

ALEX

What's wrong, Jax? What did I do now?

JAXSON

Can you make me a promise? A real promise. That you won't break? Cause when I find out, it won't be good for you Alex.

ALEX

I'm going to choose to ignore the threat at the end of your favor asking. What is it?

JAXSON

Promise me you won't get back malnourished after I help you out? Promise me you'll eat properly...

ALEX

whips head up at the speed of light

UGHHH JAXSON..

JAXSON

Look I want to make sure you're okay. I can't have you passing out on me again. Okay? Rule 3. Keep your body nourished. Or else you won't make it if someone steals off of you In boxing. That could be fatal.

ALEX

Stares at JAXSON...

Fine. I promise.

JAXSON

Thank you. If you ever need anything to eat or just want me to use my God given skills to cook you food. Don't hesitate to ask. Okay?

ALEX

nods...

Okay.

JAXSON

Okay, finish eating. I'll drop you off at home.

ALEX

Continues to eat...

Mhmm

gives JAXSON a thumbs up...

JAXSON

goes to room...

I'll be in my room, come get me when you are done.

SCENE 5

*LIGHTS UP on ALEX eating and
chilling when the doorbell rings*

JAXSON

walks downstairs to answer the door...

I got it. Hey, Are you done eating?

ALEX

Yeah. I'm done.

JAXSON

Okay. Give me a minute and be chill.

sends ALEX a knowingly expecting look...

TALL GUY WALKS IN; ELI

ALEX

notice that ELI was the one who knocked her down today...

JAXSON

greet him...

Yeah I just got to get her home... give me a second.

turns to ALEX...

Hey listen, love. I'm going to get you an Uber home. Get your stuff together.

ALEX

frowns...

Ub- no! I'm not about to take no Uber home. You brought me here, now take me home. At least take me to my car.

JAXSON

frowns...

I'm getting you an Uber. No debate. Get your shit together. Now.

ALEX

no, I'd rather walk. The fuck. Don't waste your money. And I won't waste my time coming back here again.

ELI

tenses...

ALEX

Listen to m-

JAXSON

Eli, can you go upstairs? I'll be up there in a few.

ELI:

Sure.

walks to JAXSON'S room upstairs...

JAXSON

walks closely to ALEX...

Alex.

ALEX

you know what? I'll walk. Don't got time for your foolishness. Don't even bother.
grabs belongings and walks towards the door to leave...

JAXSON

grabs ALEX arm and turns her around...

Alex, stop fucking playing with me and stop talking back to me. You lost your rabbit ass mind if you THINK I'm going to let you walk home at this time of night. What's your address-

ALEX

scoffs...

listen.. I don't know where you get the notion that you run shit with me and I'm sorry to have to be the one to break it to you but you're not running shit but your mouth. And you're smoking DICK if you think I'm getting into an Uber at...

air quotes...

...this time of night.

JAXSON

tightens grasp on ALEX and steps closer to her...

Perhaps you've mistaken my niceness earlier. But don't get it twisted. I'm nothing to be trifled with.

ALEX

snatches wrist from JAXSON'S grasp and steps back...

Perhaps. Or perhaps you took my weakness for weakness earlier. Don't be confused, darling. You're not going to boss me around.

JAXSON

Get your shit, and go wait in the car. I'll be out momentarily.

tosses car keys at ALEX...

ALEX

catches keys but tosses keys back to JAXSON.

hmm.. NO thanks. I think I'll walk. I don't feel like being around you right now.

JAXSON

catches keys and storms up to ALEX...

Get these keys and walk to my car, ALEX. Or so God help me I'll throw you in there myself.

pulls ALEX hand out and slams keys in it...

Now!

ALEX

rolls eyes then walks toward JAXSON'S

car. gets in and waits for JAXSON...

I can't stand him.

JAXSON

rolls eyes...

Stubborn ass crybaby.

yells out to ELI ,,,

YO I'LL BE BACK!

grab a jacket and walk towards the door...

ELI

runs down the stairs...

Where you going dude? I just got here.

JAXSON

Would you relax?

ELI

looks at JAXSON...

So... you taking yo girl home?

JAXSON

scoffs...

Don't start...

sends him a frowned face...

Do it sound like she my girl?

ELI

laughs...

ELI

YEAH! It kind of does... then you're calling her "Love" "Sweetheart"...

JAXSON

Okay, let me rephrase that. Do it look like I believe in love?

ELI

silently stares at JAXSON...

JAXSON

That's what I thought. I'll be back. Don't wreck my house.

ELI

Okay. Okay dude sure.

JAXSON

walking out the door...

I won't be long.

closes the door...

ELI

he's so whipped. He doesn't even know it yet.

SCENE 6

LIGHTS UP on ALEX and JAXSON getting in his car to drop ALEX off

JAXSON

gets in the driver's side of the car.

What's your address?

ALEX

rolls eyes...

101 e Sycamore street.

JAXSON

pulls off...

ALEX

I think you should take me to my car.

JAXSON

Sighs...

SCENE 7

*LIGHTS UP on ALEX and JAXSON in JAXSON car
outside of the school where ALEX left her car*

JAXSON

We're here.

looks at Alex and wakes her...

ALEX!

ALEX

wakes up startled...

Gee, you want to say my name a little louder. I don't think the people in the next state heard you clearly.

JAXSON

Get out, we're here.

ALEX

scoffs...

We've established that Nancy Drew.

goes to grab the door handle...

JAXSON

locks doors...

ALEX

What the hell are you doing? Unlock the door and let me out Jaxson.

JAXSON

turns to face ALEX...

Your mouth is too smart for me.

ALEX

Ohkay? And? Sounds like a personal problem.

JAXSON

Maybe, but now I'm making it OUR problem. So the truth of the matter is I need you to stop talking to me like that.

ALEX

OR what?

scoffs with laughter...

what're you going to do? Hmm? Tell me Jaxson. Please indulge me on whatever you think it is that-

JAXSON

You have no idea.

looks ALEX in the eye...

ALEX

What do you want Jax? Unlock the doors and let me out.

JAXSON

bites lip and reaches for the lock switch...

Before you go, we will start your back boxing Monday.

ALEX

WHY THE HEL-

JAXSON

You have to recover from passing out fully, and I want you to eat. Don't eat sloppily. Eat smart. Drink shakes. Nourish your body.

ALEX

That sounds... dandy and all but Where would I get a smoothie from? Hmm? Where would I get all of these nourishments from? Hmm?

JAXSON

I'm sure you know where I live. Also... give me your phone.

ALEX

Why?

JAXSON

Alex, what did I just say about the back talking at the house? Give it to me...

ALEX

Fine.

hands JAXSON her phone...

JAXSON

looks at ALEX with "really?" plastered on his face...

Unlocked, Alex.

ALEX

grab phone and unlocks it...

Okay. Okay. But could you stop saying my name?

hands JAXSON back her phone...

JAXSON

Huh? What would you prefer I called you?

saves his phone number in ALEX phone...

ALEX

I don't know. Anything but Alex. Okay? You're wearing it out.

JAXSON

frowns...

Whatever.

JAXSON

hands ALEX back her phone...

ALEX
examines her phone...

What did you do?

JAXSON

The world may never know.

ALEX
What did you do? I'm not going to ask you again.

JAXSON
glances at ALEX lips...

I don't know, figure it out. Come to my house before school in time enough to eat. ROSA PARKS.

unlocks car doors...

ALEX
looks at JAXSON...

Fucking asshole.

opens the car door and gets out...

JAXSON
Starts the car engine...

See you later, love.

ALEX
Sure Jax.

closes JAXSON'S car door and walks toward her car. starts car and drives off...

JAXSON
Watches ALEX drives off and starts to get angry...
Why did I want to kiss her?

SCENE 7

*LIGHTS UP on ALEX and
JAXSON practicing boxing in
JAXSON'S inherited gym on
MONDAY*

JAXSON

Jab! Jab! Right hand! Slip! Slip! Come on Alex! I need more power! Come on! Jab! Jab! Ja-
what the hell was that? Where's your energy?! I said JAB not fist bump.

pulling punching bag away from ALEX...

ALEX

I've been boxing for a bit over 2 week, and all I've been doing is "JAB! JAB! Right hand! Slip!"
This isn't going to help me BEAT him. Not at this rate! I need to practice on a person. Not a
damn taped up bag of sand!

JAXSON

gets closer to ALEX...

Oh, so you're trying to beat someone? Who? Who is it that you're freaking out over Alex?
Hmm?

*ALEX looks at JAXSON then quickly averts, looking everywhere but
ahead. shakes head and stays silent...*

I'm not letting you box with anyone. So get back to hitting that "bag of sand"...

scoffs and rolls eyes...

There's no way in hell.

ALEX

averts gaze to JAXSON...

And why is that? I bet I could take you down without blinking. Stop wasting my damn time,
Jaxson!

JAXSON

scoffs...

Since you're Muhammad Ali now, fight me! Since you're the hottest boxer walking, take me
down. "BEAT" me "without blinking" since you "bet".

grabs boxing gloves from back pocket and puts them on

I'd love to see you try!

ALEX

taken aback...

Don't test me Jaxson.

JAXSON

gets in boxing position...

Test me! Let's go, Mik Tyson! Fucking fight me.

ALEX

gets irritated and throws the first punch...

JAXSON

dodges and throws 2 lefts and one right combo...

Come on, hotshot! I'm giving you a chance to "beat" me. Cause once I start, I promise you won't stand a chance.

ALEX

starts boxing JAXSON with full speed and energy...

JAXSON

swiftly dodges all hits...

ALEX

notices JAXSON'S dodge pattern and smiles...

I got you now.

jabs JAXSON on his left rib and punches his left cheek while giving him a right hook in his right lower abdomen...

JAXSON

momentarily stunned with slow movements...

Fuck...

jabs ALEX at full speed and half force. jabs ALEX at her lower abdomen three times then gives her 2 right hooks with a left hook and a right uppercut...

ALEX

stumbles back, planning her next attacks...

It's not going to be that easy...

starts her chain of attacks and jabs...

JAXSON

dodging all jabs while jabbing ALEX in her right rib cage once, punching her left jaw, jabs her right rib cage twice and strikes her left jaw...

Predictable.

ALEX

Shit *stumbles and falls on mat but quickly stands up...*

JAXSON
delivers the final blow, a right swift kick to ALEX side...
You're out.

ALEX
What the- What in the actual-
stands up...

JAXSON
And here I was thinking you'll beat me... you're not ready! Now stop second guessing everything I say and just do it, Alex! Whoever the hell you're afraid of is making you angry and nearsighted. Rule number fou-

ALEX
Afraid?!

scoffs...
Who said I was- I'm not afraid of a single soul walking this earth... don't get it twisted, Oh Righteous One!

JAXSON
Steps close to ALEX...
Oh Yeah? Tell that to your flinching whenever i raise my arm...
stares at ALEX...
Who hurt you, love?
steps a bit closer and stares at ALEX'S lips...
Tell me.

ALEX
gets nervous, whispers...
No one, I'm not afraid of no one.
looks at JAXSON...

JAXSON
Don't lie to me... I can protect you, if you just be honest, Alex. Please, I don't like the thought of someone harming you.
rests hand on ALEX elbow...

ALEX

I know. *nods, starts to cry a bit. leans head on JAXSON'S forehead...*

I know. *puts head In the nook of JAXSON'S neck while crying...*

JAXSON
wraps arms around ALEX and rubs her back...
I'm here, love. You don't have to talk right this second.
kisses ALEX forehead...

You don't ever have to put on a facade for me. Be real with me. I like that version of you better.

ALEX
looks up at JAXSON, then his lips...

JAXSON
stares at ALEX and wipes her tears with his thumb...
ALEX...

ALEX
kisses JAXSON passionately...

JAXSON
kisses ALEX back...

SCENE 8

lights up on ALEX, JAXSON, ELI 2 weeks later IN A STORE INSIDE THE MALL...

JAXSON
Ugh... hurry up. We've been here for 2 hours already. I'm starving, Alex. Pleaaaassee, beautiful, can we go eat?

ALEX
chuckles...
Fine, let me pay for this and we can go support the charity that is your stomach.
walks toward the cash register with clothing...

JAXSON
shouts...
Thank GOD!
grabbing everyone in the store attention...

ELI

laughs and puts head in hands ...

Dude, you want to say that a little louder? I don't think the people on the other side of this mall heard you clearly.

JAXSON

scoffs...

WHATEVER.

laughs and grips stomach...

I'm going to die if she doesn't come on. ALEX LETS GO! IM DYING!

ALEX

returning...

How civilized of you... yelling in a mall full of people. Now everyone knows my name.

JAXSON

Yeah, well... it's just practice.

ALEX

Huh?

JAXSON

shakes head...

Nothing. Let's go eat. I'm starving... I want to eat some pizza but I also want-

ALEX

looking at a familiar looking lady and speaks...

Mom?

HERMOINE

looks around...

Alex?

ALEX

Mom, hey- fancy seeing you here.

HERMOINE

Hmm... I could say the same..

Looks at JAXSON and ELI

And with company.

looks at ALEX..

Well don't just stand there, introduce me.

ALEX

Oh yeah... Mom, this is my idiot of a friend, ELI.

ELI

Oh, thanks Alex. I'm really feeling the love.

greet's HERMOINE

Hi, i'm her rather dashing bestie... nice to meet you?

HERMOINE

You can call me Hermoine... nice to meet you Eli. Alex speaks about you, just never had the chance to put a face to her stories.

looks at JAXSON...

And you must be the infamous Jaxson... it's so nice to finally meet you.

JAXSON

chuckles...

How did you know?

HERMOINE

Well, the way Alex speaks highly and giddy, and your close proximity is confirming.

ALEX

MOM!

JAXSON

Well... color me shocked. I didn't know I was a subject... learn something new everyday.

looks at ALEX sarcastically smiling...

I am so honored.

HERMOINE

I know right? I never knew that my Alex had boys on her mind. Not to mention good looking ones...

ALEX

MOM... I think you've accomplished your goal.

HERMOINE

Laughs...

I'm just teasing. I would however like to have you and ELI over for dinner tonight. Is that alright with you all.

ELI & JAXSON

Uhm YES...

HERMOINE

Great! Alex have them at the house at 8pm sharp. Don't lolligag. Jaxson, would you mind walking me out? I've a dinner to prepare for.

JAXSON

Of course.

Walks with HERMOINE to door...

HERMOINE

Thanks, son. Before you go, I just want to say I see the way you look at ALEX and I see the way she looks at you, those are looks that makes time stop ticking doesn't it?

JAXSON

Uhm- I don't- Me and Alex aren't-

HERMOINE

You can lie to yourself but you can't lie to me. I know that look, i've worn that look when I was dating Alex's father, Lorren.

JAXSON

Her father? I wasn't aware he was around. She doesn't talk about him.

HERMOINE

tenses...

No, he's not around... Anyways, son. See you tonight.

JAXSON

See you tonight, Hermoine.

walks back over to ELI & ALEX...

Your mom is... interesting. I suppose that runs in the family.

ALEX

Oh Lord, what did she say? Break it to me slowly, doc.

JAXSON

chuckles...

Nothing embarrassing, love. She just talked about your father, Lorren. How come you never speak about him?

ALEX

Lorren... isn't my father. He's my parent. Just a means for me to be born that's all and he's not worth the calories I burn talking about him.

JAXSON

But-

ALEX

Just drop it, Jaxson. Let's go, we have 2 ½ hours before 8pm and i sure as hell don't want to waste it speaking about him.

JAXSON

Alright, where to next?

ELI

Uhm.. i'm sorry, I was promised some time on the VR. That's next. Let's go... now.

ALEX

SO. You want to spend another 2 hours screaming your lungs out, shooting virtual people in an augmented reality? I'm down..

ELI & ALEX high fives...

ELI

And that's why you're my bestie... come on.

wraps arm around ALEX neck...

Let's go kill these mofos.

JAXSON

You guys can, i'll just watch.

ELI

You okay dude.

JAXSON

Yeah I'm fine.

ALEX

You sure?

JAXSON

No, I'm Jaxson.

ELI

Comedy Gold...

laughs...

ALEX

Hahaha- he aint comedy nothing. Hush.

EVERYONE laughs...

SCENE 9

*LIGHTS up ON ALEX, ELI, and JAXSON in the
HERNANDEZ household about to eat dinner...*

ELI

Hermoine, can I just say that this dinner is so good...

looks at JAXSON...

Dude, you have competition.

HERMOINE

Oh- Jaxson I forgot you cooked. When Alex came home one night and told me she was full when I offered her food, I was confused. She said some Jerk Chef named Jax made her some food, and I didn't put two and two together until now. You really have to cook for me one day. Because if Alex glorifies your food, then you must be good. She's hard to please.

JAXSON

smirks at ALEX...

I'll be happy to change that.

ALEX

widens eyes...

Uhm- Anyways mama i've tri-

HERMOINE

I'm sorry, Jaxson would you mind answering the door?

JAXSON

Yeah, of course.

walks to and answers door...

Good evening, How may I help- Oh.

sees and grabs box on the ground then walks back in and reads tag...

Hey, Alex, it's for you. I didnt realize mail was delivered at this time at night.

ALEX

What? That's weird cause it usually isn't. Let me see.

grabs and opens box and sees letter...

All of this for a damn letter. I swear people are dramatic like Jaxson these days.

JAXSON

Oh hush, you love it.

ALEX

Keep telling yourself that

opens and reads letter...

I found you...

gasps...

Lorren. Oh my-

HERMOINE

Who did you just say?

Snatches paper from ALEX'S hand and read...

This isn't possible. How in the world-

ELI

Is everything okay, Hermoine?

HERMOINE

Yes, everything is fine. It's getting pretty late. Let's clean up. Alex would you mind grabbing the plates?

ALEX

Mom, you can't just ignore-

HERMOINE

Alex... don't.

JAXSON

I'm not getting the feeling that everything is alright, what's happening?

ELI

looks at phone...

I've to go, my sister needs me. See you guys later and thanks for the delicious food Hermoine. I personally believe you surpassed Jaxson and before you say anything Jaxson, ill catch you tomorrow. I'M late to my sister. Bye Alex, see your tomorrow. Don't miss me too much.

ALEX

Bye Eli, please please be safe and let one of us know when you've made it home.

ELI

Okay, sure. Night!

exits...

HERMOINE

THANK YOU! I ENJOYED YOU TONIGHT! BE SAFE!

looks at ALEX...

I thought i told you to get the plates...

ALEX

You can't just ignore this and take it out on me. You need to face the facts, and the facts are he found us, not only did he find the city we ran to, he found our address... i'm not ignoring this- you can't ignore this mom. We are in danger and you want me to collect plates. No, we need to take initiative.

JAXSON

What- first of all. Who found you? What did the letter say. Someone needs to start providing me with answers...

looks at HERMOINE then ALEX...

Now.

HERMOINE

Jaxson-

ALEX

Mom- don't. Drop it Jaxson.

JAXSON

I'm sorry if I gave you the impression that I take orders from you. I dropped it at the mall. I'm not dropping it anymore. And you must be out of your damn mind if you think I'm going to drop it after you said "danger". Now either you explain it to me, Alex. Or you be quiet and let your mother explain.

ALEX

Jaxson... so God help me if you ever tal-

HERMOINE

Cut it out, Alex. He's concerned because he cares about you. Don't take our your anger or fear on him. He's not the one who hurt us...

Looks at JAXSON

The letter is from Lorren, Alex's father. My husband. I hate that i'm still married to him. Alex wasn't lying when she said he's dangerous. I married Lorren when he was a different person, so sweet and protective. Until he started to get angry and terrorize me in our own home. I felt that he was wrong to do so, so one day i stood up to him... and that was the first day he laid his hands on me. He beat me until my face was covered in blood. I soon realized he'd been drinking. A man with a bottle and abstruse anger is a dangerous combination. After that I was in a place where I didn't have the guts to defend myself whenever Lorren would put his hands on me for something completely idiotic like wearing a color he don't like. I let him beat me, for years I lived with that. But I drew the line when he put his hands on Alex one night. I know how it goes, he will get tired of hitting you and then will try to kill you. I wasn't going to give him the chance to do that to me or Alex. So that night when he fell asleep, I made Alex pack light and fast, because we were leaving and we never looked back. I withdrew the money from our bank account and we moved here. We haven't heard from him ... until now.

ALEX

I can't listen to this. I'm out.

goes to room...

JAXSON

You never went to the police?

HERMOINE

No, Lorren knew the police. I couldn't take that risk.

JAXSON

With all due respect, Hermoine, that was then. This is now. You're living in a whole new jurisdiction. There's nothing stopping now. You need to do something because I will not sit by and let this man hurt Alex.

HERMOINE

No offense taken, dear. I know that you are protective of Alex. I see that you challenge her because if any one else had put her in her place the way that you did a few minutes ago, it would've been the murder she wrote. I see that you keep her grounded. I also see the way you look at her and the way she looks at you isn't the same way she looks at other guys.

JAXSON

The way that I look at-

HERMOINE

Jaxson, you're smart. Which is how i know you know that i know exactly what i'm talking about. Which is also why i'm going to do something this time about Lorren. I'm not going to give him a chance to mess up our lives again. I want Alex to live with you by her side. I now know that she's safe with you. Which is also why I need you to stay with her and take her to homecoming. Now that she knows Lorren is back, she'll put her life on hold. I don't want that. Only you can change that. Help me, help her. Jaxson, please. I'm going to the police station tonight and I'm going to nip this in the bud. Can you please stay with her until I return?

JAXSON

Yeah. I'll take her to homecoming. I won't let harm or danger touch Alex. You have my word. Yes, i'll stay with her until you get back. The only thing you have to focus on tonight's finally telling the authorities your story and getting ahead on this. From what you told me, you telling the police is the least Lorren would expect.

HERMOINE

I sure as hell hope so because right now, that's looking like our only advantage. Okay, I'm leaving now. Ill return soon

exits and drives to the police station...

SCENE 10

LIGHTS UP on ALEX and
JAXSON ALEX'S ROOM...

JAXSON

Alex, talk to me. Please don't shut me out.

ALEX

I'm not shutting you out, Jaxson. I don't want to talk. Because if I start talking that means that everything that happened tonight is true. That means that Lorren found us and I'm scared as hell Jaxson.

JAXSON

Hey, Hey look at me. What have we been doing since we met? What've we been practicing for I what I believe is this very moment now? Boxing, love. And you're very much good at it. Your dad isn't expecting that, babe I promise you. You have this advantage let's utilize it if need be. Okay? It shouldn't even get that far. Your mother is working on it.

ALEX

My mama is WHAT?! Working on what? What is she doing Jaxson?

JAXSON

Relax, Alex. She's doing what she should've done the first time around. She's getting the police involved. An action that your father wouldn't expect. Ease up on her. She was abused by him as well, okay?

ALEX

The police? I'm surprised but it makes sense considering we are in a different jurisdiction. Lorren can't sweep the police off their feet here.

JAXSON

Yeah. Alex how come you didn't tell me about your father? How come you didn't tell me he was the reason you flinch whenever I lift my hands?

ALEX

Tell you that the man who was supposed to love me and my mom no matter what abuses me and get off on it? Tell you that my mother didn't have the guts to leave him before it even got as far as to him putting his hands on me? Because it SUCKS Jaxson.

JAXSON

Ease up on your mom. I wish my mother was still here. But she's not. You and Eli are the closest thing to what I'd call my loved ones. Be grateful that she got you out, because my mom never

would have. Also you never ever have to feel embarrassed with me, Alex. I will never judge you. I care about you too much for that.

Cups ALEX face...

I'm here for you, no matter what the situation is. Don't ever forget that.

ALEX

I'm sorry, I forgot you lost your parents. You never talk much about them but now I understand. I'm always here for you. The feeling is always mutual, Jax. I care about you too...

leans into JAXSON and kisses him...

JAXSON

Kisses ALEX back...

Nice to know you've wanted to kiss me just as much as I've wanted to kiss you, Princess. I'm glad we got that out of the way because now i can tell you... you're sort of going to homecoming... with me. I promised your mom... don't hit me.

ALEX

Of course you did. Only Jaxson makes crazy decisions like that. My mom is just worried. I'm sorry she made you promise.

JAXSON

Yes, she made me promise, but I wanted to go with you anyways. She just gave me the initiative. Also i'm very tired...

ALEX

AWN was the great Jaxson scared to ask me to homecoming?

walks to dresser and pulls out male pajama bottoms and throw them at JAXSON...

Here, you can sleep in these..

JAXSON

First of all... I wasn't scared. Second why do you have boy pajamas? And third, sleep? Are you asking me to sleep with you?

ALEX

Yes you were. I have them because I brought them at the mall today. Yes sleep. Can you please stay the night? To sleep with me... not sleep with.. Me. You know what? That sounded different in my head but you know what I mean.

JAXSON

OH how convenient

Laughs...

Yes, Ill spend the night and sleep with you..

Winks...

I kid, I kid. Turn around and let me change.

ALEX

HAha- such a comedian, you should start you own show and call it “I’m not funny and I never will be”

JAXSON

You can turn around now. Also i'm sorry am i detecting sarcasm? It's too late for that, honey. I'm all dashed out. Wait until tomorrow to be sarcastic again. Now scoot over. I need sleep.

ALEX

Whatever... just invite yourself into my bed why don't you?

scoots to the far right of her bed...

JAXSON

gets into ALEX'S bed...

Don't mind if I do, I knew you'd understand. Hey what colors are we going to wear for homecoming? I think it should be blue.

ALEX

Why blue?

Laughs...

JAXSON

Cause blue makes your eyes look beautiful and I don't mind staring. Hope you don't mind. Goodnight.

drifts off into sleep...

ALEX

Goodnight.

SCENE 11

LIGHTS UP on ALEX, JAXSON and ELI at HOMECOMING in the school's lunchroom.

JAXSON

This is a really nice turnout, huh?

ALEX

Yeah... if you say so.

JAXSON

If I did... which I did... say so myself. Now hush and dance with me?

ALEX

I don't want to third wheel Eli.

JAXSON

Eli? Eli where? You talking about the same Eli dancing with those 3 girls?

ALEX

Yeaaahhhh so lets dance.

JAXSON

There you go...

Dances with ALEX...

Have you heard from your father since?

ALEX

No, which means he's planning Jaxson. We shouldnt have my mom alone.

JAXSON

She'll be safe, love. I promise. Just trust me.

ALEX

Yeah, I do trust you. I also trust my bladder when it tells me to go to the bathroom. I'll be back

JAXSON

laughs...

Okay, Well don't take forever.

ALEX

Aye Aye captain.

walks out of lunchroom to bathroom but stops mid track...

SCENE 12

LIGHTS UP on ALEX and LORREN in school hallway

LORREN

Alex, long time, no see baby girl.

ALEX

The devil himself. Why are you at my fucking homecoming?

LORREN

I'm just fulfilling the promise I made to you on the last night we saw each other. Remember? I told you that one day, i'll give you a night to remember. Well time's up bitch. I'm taking you and your mother back home TONIGHT and there's not a damn thing you can do about it. If I were you, I would do as i'm told. Especially if i'm as pathetic and weak as you are.

ALEX

You know. There's this saying that goes like- you've lost your rabbit ass mind if you think i'm going with you. So since you're not me, I'd suggest you stop talking. And if you want an example of "weak and pathetic" i'd suggest you look in the mirror. Leave Now Lorren.

LORREN

AH, and she grew balls 3 times that day. I see your mother is rubbing off on you. Or perhaps it's that punk boy. Yeah, I see the way you look at him. I see the amount of time you're spending with him and judging from the terrified look on your face I see how much you care about and to my surprise love him. I thought I broke that in you a long time ago. I won't fail this time. Would be a shame if something happened to the kid. Wouldn't you say, Alex?

ALEX

You got one more time to reference him and i'll snap your neck. You're bitchmade. You're weak now and you know it. You know you no longer have the power you used to concerning me and my mom. You're losing. That's why you're here. It's an act of desperation. How does it feel to know you're no longer in power?

LORREN

That it bitch. I'm going to kill you and then i'm going to kill everyone that you hold dear. Starting with Hermoine and ending with that boy. You weak pathetic nobody

ALEX

Over my dead body, Lorren.

LORREN

That's exactly whats going to hapoen

lunges and tackles ALEX while punching her ...

I'll be sure to tell your mom that your death was swfit.

ALEX

laughs...

Funny, I was about to say thing.

Pushes LORREN off and stand up quickly...

LORREN

stands up and throws punch...

ALEX

*swiftly dodges punch and then right jabs into his right rib cage twice
jabs left twice striking jaw once and super kicks his knee joint then
uppercuts with a fist to his face...*

This is for the years of abuse...

kicks LORREN in the lower area...

and mistreatment.

goes to punch but misses...

LORREN

stands up and lunges toward ALEX but gets thrown back from behind...

JAXSON

throws LORREN back behind him...

I've heard about you. The male who calls himself a man

kicks LORREN in face...

When in reality he's just a punk and a high punk because that's exactly what you are if you think I'm going to let you lay another hand on Alex. I wish I could kill you. But what's a punishment for a man who beats on women? A fate worse than death? Something worse than dying... ending the pain fast is a mercy I won't be granting to you. You will rot in prison and I've already called the cops. They're coming.

pulls out brass knuckles and puts them on...

Let me show you percentage of what you've done to your family.

punches LORREN repeatedly with brass knuckles...

If i ever see you around Alex or her family and I will kill you.

OFFICERS

Arrests LORREN and bring both ALEX and JAXSON to the station...

Lets go, you got to give your statements.

ALEX

Okay, officer, we are right behind you. I need to call my mom.

OFFICERS

Okay. Be brief.

JAXSON

Alex, i've already called Hermoine when I called the police. She's at the station by now.

ALEX

cries...

Is it really over?

JAXSON

Yes, it's overy and It's okay. You're safe now. He will never bother you again, Alex. Over my dead body.

Hugs ALEX...

I got you, I got us.

ALEX

Thank you so much. For everything.

looks up at JAXSON...

JAXSON

looks down at ALEX...

You don't have to thank me Alex because as long as I draw breath it'll be dedicated towards you. Because I lo-

ALEX

kisses JAXSON...

Blue never looked better on anyone else like it does on you.

JAXSON

Except you, love. Come on, lets go to the station.

SCENE 13

LIGHTS UP on ALEX, JAXSON, ELI after a boxing match 2 weeks later...

ELI

ALEX! When you punched her, I literally saw spit flying out of her mouth. Jaxson is the best teacher if he taught you to fight like that. You won literally against every opponent tonight. I believe this calls for celebration.

ALEX

You're right. I did learn from the best.

looks at JAXSON...

JAXSON

Damn right you did.

looks at ALEX...

I'm so proud of you. I've had the pleasure of watching you grow and bloom. I know the events that went down with your father could have strongly impacted you. Yet you didn't let it. I've never met anyone like you, Alex.

ALEX

Damn straight, and you never will.

JAXSON

You're right and that's why i'm in love with you and everything concerning you.

ALEX

Kisses JAXSON...

I love you too, Jaxson.

ELI

AAWWNN you guys love each other. Now that's a reason to celebrate. Portillos, on me! Lets go. I am STARVING!

ALEX

laughs...

I'm starving too... lets not waste anymore time.

JAXSON

I second that!

