

AUDITION

5.03 | SOUTHERN COMFORT FOR THE HOLLYWOOD SOUL

Written by

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TheVPN (<http://www.vpn-tv.proboards.com>)

AUDITION

5.03 | Southern Comfort for the Hollywood Soul

MAIN CAST

ALEX BERRETA JOSH HUTCHERSON
ALISHA HALL ALYSON STONER
DAVID SULLIVAN ANSEL ELGORT
ROSE BRAUN BRIDGIT MENDLER

GUEST CAST

ROBBIE MEYERS JOE JONAS
KELSEY MARKS KEKE PALMER
FLYNN KEITH POWERS
MEI SULLIVAN YUNJIM KIM
SHANNON SULLIVAN SANDRA OH

FADE IN:

INT. NED'S BAR - NIGHT

CUE MUSIC: Confident - Demi Lovato (*Instrumental*)

ON a black-gloved hand, which snaps to the beat of the song. A heart TATTOO with flames behind it sits on the forearm, the name "ALEX" printed inside of it.

PULL AWAY to reveal ROSE, her hair bigger and blonder and curled into a long wave. A red ROSE sits in her hair. She wears a black and white checkered flannel, that's tucked into her waist-high, black pencil skirt. She also sports fishnets and holds onto an old-fashioned MICROPHONE. A BOMSBHELL.

ROBBIE and FLYNN, both wearing fedoras and suits, play their respected instruments behind her.

ROSE

(singing)

"It's time for me to take it. I'm a boss right now, not gonna fake it. Not when you go down, 'cause this is my game. And you better come to play."

As she continues to sing, DRIFT THROUGH the energetic, dancing crowd to find ALISHA, ALEX, and DAVID. They cheer on Rose as she whips her hair in a sassy manner.

DAVID

This place sure has become more dance oriented since Double R took up the stage!

ALEX

Double R?

DAVID

Rose and Robbie, duh!

ALEX

Oh, yeah, that... that would make sense. Why did I not think of that...

DAVID

I'm disappointed, bro!

Alisha lets out a chuckle, and David looks her way. A somewhat awkward interaction, but they both send another set of small, friendly smiles.

ALISHA
I'll go get us some more drinks.
What do you guys want?

DAVID
Something that tastes nothing like
alcohol.

ALISHA
I'll try my best.

ALEX
A blowjob.

Alisha and David STOP. Stunned.

ALISHA
What?

DAVID
Okay. One - from *whom?* Two - you're
usually supposed to tell us about
this kind of stuff *after* it already
happens in a sleazy bathroom or in
the back of an alley.

ALEX
It's a *drink*.

ALISHA
Oh.

DAVID
Ew.

ALISHA
(softer; leaning in)
Is it really called that?

ALEX
Yes!

ALISHA
Why?

ALEX
Because it's a shot that you drink
without your hands.

ALISHA
Oh my God.

Alex grows uncomfortable, stiffens.

ALEX
Please just go get the drink.

Alisha walks through the crowd. STAY ON Alex and David.

DAVID
Why?

ALEX
Look, they're sweet and fruity,
okay!

SNAP TO Alisha as she approaches the bar. The BARTENDER, a sexy, dark-skinned woman, has her back turned.

ALISHA
Excuse me, can I get --

The bartender turns around, and Alisha's eyes FLASH WIDE as KELSEY stares back at her, equally stunned.

KELSEY
Alisha?

ALISHA
(quick)
Kelsey.

KELSEY
Hey.

ALISHA
Hello.

KELSEY
(naturally playful)
You're definitely not twenty-one.

ALISHA
Uh...

KELSEY
I'm just kidding. I'm not gonna say
anything. We never card here
anyway.

Alisha forces out an awkward chuckle.

KELSEY (CONT'D)
How are you?

ALISHA
I'm fine. How are you and Tina? Or
just you. Either or.

KELSEY
We're good. Happy.

ALISHA
That's good.

An awkward silence looms over them until --

KELSEY
We should catch up soon.

ALISHA
(taken back)
Uh... Yeah. Yeah, okay.

KELSEY
I work the rest of the week, so
maybe next week?

ALISHA
Yeah, yeah. Whenever works for you.

KELSEY
I'll text you when I know for sure,
or you can just text me.

ALISHA
Definitely.

Kelsey musters up a small smile. Genuine.

KELSEY
Oh, did you need a drink?

Alisha is suddenly snapped back into reality.

ALISHA
Um... Uh, no. Not anymore. I'm
good.

KELSEY
Okay, just let me know if you need
anything.

In reply, Alisha nods, then she quickly sets off. FOLLOW HER.
She weaves through the crowd and makes it back to Alex.

ALISHA
I'll see you at home, Alex.

ALEX
What --

But she's already off towards the door, leaving Alex watching her with an extremely confused expression.

BACK ON the stage with Rose, Robbie, and Flynn

ROSE
 (singing)
*"What's wrong with being - what's
 wrong with being - what's wrong
 with being confident?"*
 (belting)
"Confident!"

She raises her hand in the air, and cocks her hip, then winks out at the crowd. Robbie and Flynn play their last note.

As the crowd erupts in applause, Rose breaks into a chuckling fit, satisfied with her performance. She turns and high-fives both Robbie and Flynn.

Alex comes running up to her. He quickly picks her up and twirls her, laughter erupting between the both of them. He sets her down and they KISS, their soft lips moving together.

ALEX
 Incredible job.

ROSE
 Well, I'd say my number one fan is
 a really good support system.
 Arguably the best.

ALEX
 Your sense of style is also very...
stylish.

ROSE
 (giggling)
 Incredible word usage.
 (beat)
 And David picked it out. He says
 I'm a Black Canary Bombshell.

DAVID (O.S.)
 And that you are!

David jumps towards them. He hugs Rose in a friendly embrace.

DAVID (CONT'D)
 Good job, Canary.

ROSE
 Thanks!

After they break apart, Rose looks around. Confused.

ROSE (CONT'D)
Where's Alisha?

ALEX
Oh, she had to run off. Didn't say why. I guess she didn't feel well.

ROSE
Well, go check up on her.

ALEX
Rose, I'm sure she's fine, and --

ROSE
Go check on your best friend.

ALEX
(smiling)
Okay. But call me when you're done.

ROSE
Of course.

Rose plants another kiss on Alex's lips, this one much more quick. A chuckle escapes her.

ALEX
Bye.

ROSE
See you, Number One Fan.

Alex turns and goes. Rose TURNS to David.

DAVID
I think I might head out too,
Canary.

ROSE
Oh, is that my new nickname?

DAVID
Yes, you must accept it now.

ROSE
I like it.
(beat)
But thanks for coming. I know it's late. I might need to call you up next time and pick out my outfit again.

DAVID
Trust me, I have plenty of comic-
inspired fashions.

ROSE
See you, David.

DAVID
Bye.

They embrace in a hug, and once they detach David heads out. Rose then goes back to Robbie and Flynn, who beginning to pack up their instruments.

ROSE
Good job tonight, guys.

ROBBIE
I think that might have been our
best one yet.

FLYNN
And everyone was so into it.

Robbie nods in reply, a smile creeping up on him.

ROSE
Yeah, definitely.
(beat; contemplating)
So, have you guys thought anymore
about what we talked about?

ROBBIE
The band thing?

ROSE
Yeah... the band thing...

FLYNN
I still think it's a great idea.

ROSE
(enthusiastic)
So do I!
(beat; hopeful)
What about you, Robbie?

Robbie begins to mull it over, a serious contemplating for his future. He bites the inside of his cheek, then sighs.

ROBBIE
Yeah, I've been thinking about it,
and...

ROSE
 (disappointed)
 You don't like the idea.

ROBBIE
 No, no. I mean... we did really
 good tonight. *By ourselves.*

ROSE
 But we can do better... right? With
 more people, that means more people
 to like. To be fans of. More fans
 equals more money.
 (beat)
 And I'm not trying to say that
 you're just in it for the money,
 but it's nice. I don't want to work
 at a café for the rest of my life.

Robbie mulls the idea over. Rose sees he's still not entirely
 convinced, then --

ROSE (CONT'D)
 Okay, look. Let's just try. If it
 doesn't work out, no harm done. It
 never hurts to try.

ROBBIE
 This could be insane, you know.

ROSE
 (smiling)
 When has sane ever gotten anyone
 noticed?

Robbie chuckles at the remembered line. He finally settles.

ROBBIE
 I still have reservations, but...
 but fine. Let's do it. Let's have
 auditions.

A shock of laughter slams into Rose, and she can barely
 contain it. Joy pours out.

ROSE
 Yes! Yeah! Let's do it! I'll set it
 up. How's next week?

Robbie and Flynn can't help but join Rose in her laughter,
 almost as if it's infectious.

FLYNN
 Cool with me.

ROBBIE

Next week works. We just gotta hope
people want in a band.

Rose extends her arms and pulls Robbie and Flynn into a group hug, her ecstatic energy causing her to shake up and down.

ROSE

We're gonna make a band!

INT. SULLIVAN APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

SHANNON and MEI sit together on the couch, their legs curled up into comfortable positions. Their faces, however, contrast with a worrisome expression.

Their front door opens, and David stumbles in. He sees his moms and quickly HALTS.

DAVID

You -- you guys are still awake?

MEI

Yes.

SHANNON

We need to talk to you, David.

DAVID

(horrified)

Oh God. What is it? Divorce?

MEI

What? No.

DAVID

Disease?!

SHANNON

David --

DAVID

I'm adopted?!

(realizing)

Oh, wait...

SHANNON

No, David, we need to talk about
the money that you received.

DAVID

(calming)

Oh. What about it?

MEI

Come sit down, Sweetie.

DAVID

Oh God. You Sweetie-d me.

David closes the door behind him and sits between his two mothers on their couch.

SHANNON

Do you have any plans for the money yet? It is yours, after all.

DAVID

No, I've kind of been trying not to think about it, actually.

SHANNON

That's why we want to talk to you about it. Why?

DAVID

I don't know. It's weird, having all this money because someone shot me.

SHANNON

David --

DAVID

No, I'm not trying to be morbid, I just... I don't get, and I don't know what to do with it.

(beat)

But why are you guys concerned?

MEI

We just... Okay, I looked up this exact situation on the internet, and some twenty-something won the lottery and spent all of that money on cocaine and illegal technology and he's been in jail for seven years, David! Seven years!

Mei's eyes bug out and she breaths heavy.

DAVID

Mom! Mom, calm down. I'm not going to buy either of those things. I haven't even thought of that, I swear! I've only bought collector editions of comics and fancy meals.

MEI
 (calming down)
 Okay... Okay...

SHANNON
 Look, all we wanted to tell you,
 David, was that you can spend this
 money for you. Don't worry about us
 or anyone else. Spend it how you
 want to.

Shannon wraps her arm around David, snuggling him beside her.

SHANNON (CONT'D)
 You've spent so much time looking
 out for other people, David. Go on
 a trip, buy a seventy inch TV, do
 whatever you want to do.

MEI
 Just let it be legal, please.

The Sullivan family share a laugh.

DAVID
 Thanks.
 (thinking)
 You know, I might actually have an
 idea for something pretty soon.

His moms look at him, curious, but Mei's expression slowly
 turns into concern.

DAVID (CONT'D)
 (noticing)
 Legal.

Mei exhales with relief.

INT. BERRETA APARTMENT - ALISHA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Alisha sits on her bed, legs curled under the blankets, tears
 slowly streaming down her face. She struggles to stop crying.

KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK.

Alisha SNAPS her head to her door, quickly silencing her
 breathing. Freezes.

ALEX (O.S.)
 (through door)
 Alisha?

She goes to reply, but stops herself. Bites her lip to silence herself.

ALEX (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 (through door)
 Alisha, are you awake? I'm sorry I didn't check on you when you left. I... I didn't even realize, and I'm awful for it, and...
 (beat)
 Are you okay?

Alisha simply stares at her door. At Alex's voice. A comforting sound.

INT. BERRETA APARTMENT - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Alex stands in front of the door, his expression solemn. Guilty and worried.

ALEX
 Alisha -- ?

The door opens, and Alisha stands there. Puffy eyed, crying.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 (concerned)
 Alisha?

Alisha runs into Alex's arms. They hug. Alisha cries into his shoulder, finally allowing every single, built up emotion to flood out of her.

Alex leads them back into the room and manages to close the door behind them. They sit down on the bed, not breaking their hug. Alex rubs his hand along Alisha's back, lays his head on top of hers.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 It's okay, Alisha. It's okay.

ALISHA
 It's not okay.

Alisha pulls her head away, looking at Alex.

ALEX
 What's wrong?

ALISHA
 I -- I ruin everything, Alex. I feel *like crap* all -- all of the time. And I just want it to *stop*.

ALEX

What are you talking about?

ALISHA

I thought everything was going to be better. I thought our talk, the acting class. Everything was getting back on track, and...

ALEX

Alisha, what is this about?

They LOCK EYES. Alisha opens her mouth to speak, ready to allow her best friend entrance into a new chapter of her life.

ALISHA

I'm bisexual, Alex.

Alex's eyes slightly widen, not out of bizarre shock but simply because he's seen a new page of his best friend's life being written right in front of him.

ALEX

What?

ALISHA

I'm sorry I didn't tell you --

Alex quickly grabs Alisha's hand in order to comfort her.

ALEX

No, no, Alisha, I didn't mean it like that. I just... didn't know, and you didn't need to tell me if you weren't ready.

(beat)

That's what's making you so sad?

ALISHA

I -- I don't know. Yes. No. I'm just so confused.

ALEX

Did something happen? You were fine earlier.

ALISHA

(nodding)

I ran into Kelsey, and... and all of those stupid, confused things came flooding back.

ALEX

Hey, hey, hey. Your feelings aren't stupid, Alisha. They're valid, always.

ALISHA

I just want to stop feeling so confused. I hate it so much, Alex.

(beat)

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to dump all of this on you.

ALEX

Alisha, stop. I'm glad you told me.

Alisha looks at him, almost surprised at his response.

ALISHA

Really?

ALEX

Of course I am. Did you think I wouldn't be?

ALISHA

I just know that you have a lot going on too, and I don't want to be a burden.

ALEX

Alisha Farah Hall, you will *never* be a burden to me as long as we are on this floating green and blue planet.

Alisha manages to muster up a genuine chuckle.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I love you. I always will. It doesn't matter if you're bisexual or if you accidentally spoil me on The Flash.

ALISHA

(smiling)

That was one time.

ALEX

I can't even begin to imagine what you're feeling. But I do know that I will always be here for you. I will always have a shoulder for you to cry on, and I will always have a hand for you to hold.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

We will always be more than best friends, Alisha.

(beat)

And regardless of whatever binary or non-binary individual you choose to have a relationship with, I will be by your side the entire way through. And I will *still* be your Best Man at your wedding.

ALISHA

I told you, I don't think it works that way.

ALEX

Well, I'm not being a Bridesmaid so you'll just have to live with it.

This time, the duo share a laugh. A comforting laugh. One that assures them both that everything will be okay.

ALISHA

Thank you, Alex.

ALEX

No thanks necessary. It's what I'm here for.

CUE MUSIC: Echoes - *The Rapture*

Alex tenderly grabs both sides of Alisha's face and KISSES her on the forehead, then extends his arms to bring her in for one last EMBRACE, this one more relaxed and reassuring.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I'll always be here for you, Alisha. Always.

ALISHA

And I'm here for you too, Alex.

ON Alex's face as he slowly begins to contemplate sharing his own hidden feelings...

ALEX

I know.

Before ultimately deciding against it.

BLACKOUT.

END OF EPISODE