

AUDITION

5.06 | MARKS THE SPOT

Written by

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CREATED BY:

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

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MAIN CAST

ALEX BERRETA JOSH HUTCHERSON
ALISHA HALL ALYSON STONER
ROSE BRAUN BRIDGIT MENDLER
MICHAEL BERRETA PATRICK DEMPSEY
PAULA SMITH AMY ADAMS

GUEST CAST

KELSEY MARKS KEKE PALMER
JEANIE MARKS NECE NASH
TIANA MARKS AMBER RILEY

FADE IN:

INT. MARKS HOUSEHOLD - KITCHEN - DAY

KELSEY walks through the door, a bag slung over her shoulder. An older woman stands cooking at the stove -- JEANIE, Kelsey's mother. Her hair is bouncing with curls, and her makeup is perfectly set.

JEANIE

Now where do you think you're goin'?

KELSEY

Mama, I need to run out.

JEANIE

Ummm, lunch is gonna be ready in twenty minutes.

KELSEY

I'll eat when I get back --

Jeanie bursts into laughter.

JEANIE

You think there's gonna be food here when you get back? Cute.

KELSEY

What?! Don't do that.

The mother and daughter share a laugh. Kelsey checks her cellphone, and Jeanie notices.

JEANIE

You been attached to that phone all day, girl.

KELSEY

No, I haven't --

JEANIE

Don't lie to me. What's goin' on?

KELSEY

(long pause)
It's Alisha.

JEANIE

Oh! I love that girl. She's so nice.

KELSEY

You've never met her.

JEANIE

No, but I went through every single one of her Facebook photos.

KELSEY

Mama!

JEANIE

(playful)

Whatever!

(beat)

So what about her? Thought you two were gonna try the friend route?

KELSEY

We're trying. She messaged me the other day and wants to get coffee.

JEANIE

Now, Kelsey, don't turn this into somethin' you're gonna regret. Don't do that to Tina.

KELSEY

I'm not!

TIANA (O.S.)

Why are y'all making so much noise?!

TIANA, Kelsey's cousin, comes walking in, clad in a fabulously sparkling dress.

TIANA (CONT'D)

I'm trying to rehearse my audition and all I hear is oil frying and mouths yappin'.

JEANIE

Kelsey's got girl troubles.

KELSEY

Hey!

TIANA

Oooh, what's up? Spill the tea, girl.

KELSEY

It's nothing, Tiana.

Tiana raises her eyebrow, obviously not believing her.

KELSEY (CONT'D)

(sighing)

I'm meeting with Alisha today. Not sure how it's gonna go.

TIANA

Well, how do you want it to go?

KELSEY

I wanna be friends with her, but I don't want it to be so *awkward* whenever we're in the same room.

TIANA

Then tell her that. If she really wants to be your friend, she'll get it.

Kelsey looks down, begins picking at her nails. She's anxious. Jeanie notices.

JEANIE

Kelsey, sweetie, tough conversations are a part of life. Now if you really wanna be friends with this girl - and I mean *just friends* - then you need to tell her that. You can't lead this girl on, especially not if you're serious about Tina.

(beat)

I know you want everyone to be happy. You're just like your daddy. But making hard decisions comes with livin'.

Jeanie rubs her daughter's shoulder, and Kelsey accepts this support. She understands. Ready.

JEANIE (CONT'D)

Now, hurry and go wash up. Food's almost ready and I am *not* waiting.

Laughter.

INT. BERRETA APARTMENT - ALEX'S ROOM - DAY

ROSE sits on top of ALEX, their lips locked in a passionate make-out session. Their bodies move against one another, as one, with rhythmic, fluid motions.

ROSE
 (pulling back, but not
 that far back)
 I thought you wanted to take me to
 lunch?

ALEX
 (smirking)
 We could be doing other things
before we eat.

Rose bites her lip and goes back to kiss Alex when --

ALISHA (O.S.)
OH MY JESUS CHRIST GOD!

Startled, Alex jumps up, KNOCKING Rose off of the bed, to see ALISHA standing in the doorway. She covers her eyes with a bathroom towel.

ROSE
 (standing)
 Okay ow...

ALEX
 (eyes wide)
 Alisha... can I help you with
 something?

ALISHA
 (from behind towel)
 I just wanted to tell you... that
 your laundry was finished.

ALEX
 Thank you. Please leave.

ALISHA
 Only if you promise to *lock the
 door next time.*

Alisha runs off. Rose laughs, and Alex still looks mortified.

ROSE
 Oh, come on, can't be the first
 time she's seen you making out with
 someone.

ALEX
 Yeah, with my thirteen lovers I had
 back home.

They share a chuckle. Rose playfully taps Alex's leg.

ROSE
Come on. I'm starving. And you're
driving.
(beat)
Oh, and paying.

She winks and runs off. Alex shakes his head and rolls his eyes but can't help smiling.

INT. BERRETA APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Alisha sits on the couch, fiddling with her phone. On the TV in front of her -- a show called "THE DANIELS" plays. Rose comes in, soon followed by Alex.

ROSE
(to Alisha)
So, what are you up to today?

ALISHA
Trying to sear the image I just saw
out of my mind.

ALEX
Besides that.

ALISHA
(deep breath)
I am meeting with Kelsey later. To
talk.

Rose and Alex's eyes both widen. Both thinking the same thing -- might not be the best idea.

ALEX
Kelsey.

ROSE
Tina's girlfriend...

ALISHA
It's not like that.

ALEX
Are you sure? I know you say that
now but...

ALISHA
I've got it under control. I
promise. I know what I'm doing.

ROSE

Well, just text one of us if you need anything.

ALISHA

Always.

(beat)

Have fun on your gross couple date.

They all three laugh. Rose and Alex exit, leaving Alisha to continue to nervously check her cellphone.

INT. SMITH APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

MICHAEL sits on the couch, typing away on his LAPTOP. He sighs with frustration as he slams his finger on the 'DELETE' button. PAULA approaches him from the kitchen.

PAULA

I hear the backspace button being abused.

MICHAEL

I'm really sorry, Backspace. I'll try and write something amazing.

PAULA

(chuckling)

You mean '*more amazing*'. So, this *isn't* the movie thing?

MICHAEL

Not really. Sort of. It's a short film. I'm trying to start small.

PAULA

No project is too small!

MICHAEL

Always my number one fan.

PAULA

Everyone needs a number one fan!

MICHAEL

Well, I'm glad mine is so awesome.

He looks up at her with a bright smile. Paula lingers on it, then quickly turns around.

PAULA

Uh, yeah. Thanks.

Paula quickly walks back over to the kitchen and opens a bottle of wine. She pours a full glass. Drinks.

MICHAEL
Everything okay?

PAULA
(gulping)
Yeah, yeah. Fine. Perfect.

MICHAEL
Are you sure? You've been acting weird lately. Weirder than usual, I mean.

PAULA
Gee, thanks.

MICHAEL
I never said weird was a bad thing. Just... *different* weird.

Paula sets her glass down, bites her lip, looks around.

PAULA
I don't know...

Michael stands up and walks over to her. He places his hand on top of her, comforting. A friend.

MICHAEL
Paula, what's wrong?

She looks up at him, their eyes locking. Paula's are glossed over with fear, while Michael's are honed in on helping.

PAULA
You know, I'm not getting any younger.
(long pause)
I've never been married. I don't have any kids. I'm barely successful at my job. It just gets hard, you know. Nobody likes going to sleep alone for their entire life.

MICHAEL
Paula...

PAULA
I don't... I'm sorry... I didn't mean to bring the whole bestie mood down.

MICHAEL

You didn't bring anything down.
It's my job to listen to whatever
you have to say, happy or sad.

Paula chuckles, a small smile forming.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

I don't know what to say to make
everything feel better. I met
Miranda right after college, and
the rest is history.

(beat)

But after she passed away, you
know, nights were especially hard.
I know it doesn't seem like it, but
you've got plenty of time to find
someone who will sleep beside you
every night. And trust me, when you
do, it'll be worth the wait.

PAULA

(hopeful smile)

Thanks, Michael.

MICHAEL

Anything else you wanted to talk
about?

Paula stares at him, contemplating. Wondering if she should
take the ultimate jump.

PAULA

Yeah.

MICHAEL

What is it?

PAULA

(long pause; thinking)

That you need to go back to writing
and I need to go back to cheering.

Michael chuckles, then goes back to the couch.

MICHAEL

Aye, aye, captain.

Paula soon follows him, her genuine smile slowly turning into
a complacent one.

INT. PARK - DAY

Rose and Alex sit on a PARK BENCH, sharing a to-go box of french fries and onion rings.

ROSE
Not trying to say 'I told you so,'
but...

ALEX
Yeah, yeah, yeah. We missed our
reservation.

ROSE
Oh well. I prefer eating fried
delicacies in a park.

Alex smiles, then goes back to eating his food.

ALEX
So, how's the band going?

ROSE
(laughing)
You know, we actually haven't even
had our first rehearsal yet. But,
I'm optimistic.

ALEX
It'll be fantastic. And I'm sure
you'll come up with a killer name.

ROSE
It's in progress.

A BUS stops behind the park bench at a bus stop. On it is an advertisement for 'WARFARE'. Rose turns and sees.

ROSE (CONT'D)
(exciting)
Alex, look!

She points, and Alex's vision follows. Once he sees, his excitement becomes clearly faked.

ALEX
Yep. There it is.

ROSE
(noticing)
What's wrong?

ALEX
Nothing.

ROSE
Well that's obviously not true.

ALEX
It's really nothing.

ROSE
You and Alisha, you're both
terrible liars. I don't know how
you're actors.

Rose chuckles, obviously thinking Alex would too. But he doesn't. His eyes are on the ground.

ROSE (CONT'D)
That was supposed to be a joke.
Sorry...

Alex becomes even more closed off. He turns his body away.

ROSE (CONT'D)
Alex, what's going on? I'm worried.

He bites the inside of his cheek and picks at a loose chip on the bench.

ALEX
It's just getting to the point
where I don't even wanna do this
anymore.

ROSE
Do what?

ALEX
Act. You know, go to these classes,
these auditions, and just end up
with nothing. I'm tired of it.
(beat)
I feel nothing ever works out for
me anymore.

ROSE
What happened? Last time we talked
about this you seemed excited to go
to another audition.

ALEX
Yeah, well then they threw me out
of the room before I could even say
'thank you'. Again.

ROSE

Oh.

(beat)

I'm sorry --

ALEX

It's not your fault. It's mine.

ROSE

Alex, how long have you been feeling like this?

ALEX

Seems like forever.

ROSE

Maybe you should... talk to somebody. Somebody who knows what they're doing.

ALEX

I've thought about it. I'd rather not get someone else's pity party.

ROSE

But if you need help, you might need to talk to someone, Alex.

ALEX

(long pause)

I know...

Rose grabs both of Alex's hands, scoots closer to him.

ROSE

But you don't have to figure that out right now if you don't want to. Tomorrow is another day to get back up again.

(beat)

And I'm here for you, and so are Alisha and Paula and David and your dad. Being sad is nothing to be embarrassed about. You taught me that.

Alex manages a small smile, the nods. Recognition, but not total acceptance.

ROSE (CONT'D)

Now, where were we?

Rose quickly picks up a fry and tosses it against Alex's face, causing a chuckle amongst the loving couple.

EXT. CRAZY LAZY CAFE - OUTSIDE SEATING - DAY

Kelsey sits at a table by herself. She looks around and then checks her phone. Swipes through apps. Bites her lip anxiously. No one else seems to be sitting outside.

Alisha approaches the table. The two ladies lock eyes.

KELSEY
(rising)
Hey.

ALISHA
How are you?

KELSEY
Good. You?

ALISHA
Can't complain.

KELSEY
(awkward pause)
Do you wanna sit down?

ALISHA
Sure.

They sit, letting more and more awkward tension settle down between them.

ALISHA (CONT'D)
So, how have you been?

KELSEY
Good. Good. You?

ALISHA
Better. I...
(pause)
I came out to Alex.

KELSEY
(genuine)
Oh my God, that's awesome. How did it go?

ALISHA
Really well. I feel like I can breathe a little better now.

KELSEY
It'll feel that way every single time you tell someone.

ALISHA
Hopefully I don't suffocate before
then.

A shared chuckle. Several beats.

ALISHA (CONT'D)
How's Tina?

KELSEY
Really good. I saw her last night.

ALISHA
Cool. I'm happy that you're...
happy.

KELSEY
Thank you.
(long pause; an eternity)
I'm sorry, Alisha.

ALISHA
About what?

KELSEY
You know, I thought that we
would... you know. I really did
like you, and... and, I don't know
what happened. I thought you just
kept pushing me away --

ALISHA
I did. I did keep pushing you away.

KELSEY
And then I met Tina. And she makes
me feel stuff I've never felt
before.

Alisha's eyes fill with tears, but she smiles anyway.

ALISHA
I'm really happy for you, Kelsey.

KELSEY
I feel so bad, Alisha. I know you
were so confused, and I was so
impatient.

ALISHA
Don't, Kelsey. You didn't do
anything wrong.

KELSEY

(tearing up)

But I feel like I did.

(beat)

And I really just wanted to come
and say that I'm sorry.

(off Alisha's silence)

Please say something...

ALISHA

I wanted to come and talk so that I
could thank you.

Kelsey tilts her head with confusion.

KELSEY

What?

ALISHA

You made me feel alive again when I
thought I was drowning. You made me
feel so...

(beginning to cry)

Sexy and funny and intelligent. And
I know we haven't known each other
for long, but I think that's why it
scared me so much. I didn't know
what was going on.

(beat)

And I'm not saying this to make you
feel bad or anything, I just really
need to know what you did for me.
You helped me accept a part of
myself that gave me nothing but
confusion and fear.

KELSEY

Alisha...

ALISHA

(struggling)

And I think that's why we shouldn't
be around other anymore.

Silence erupts. It feels like a lifetime. Kelsey stares,
stunned. Alisha looks back, tears rolling down, terrified.

ALISHA (CONT'D)

It's so hard to see you, Kelsey,
and not... be with you. I just need
time to sort these feelings out.

After a moment, Kelsey releases a sigh, and visible tension
escapes her body.

KELSEY

(hurts to say this)

Okay. If that's what you need to feel better, then that's perfectly fine. I want nothing but the best for you, Alisha. You will find someone who adores every part of you for you. And I'm sorry that's not me.

Alisha manages to nod. She wipes her tears, composes herself.

ALISHA

I'm gonna go before we get hounded by baristas with tissues.

And, perhaps for the last time, Kelsey and Alisha share a laugh. They lock eyes once again as Alisha stands.

ALISHA (CONT'D)

Until next time, Kelsey.

KELSEY

Until next time, Alisha.

Alisha goes, but we S

TAY ON Kelsey. ZOOMING IN on her. She closes her eyes to relax herself. Exhales, inhales. Opens her eyes. Content, yet sad. Another breath.

KELSEY (CONT'D)

Okay.

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - HALLWAY - DAY

Alisha stumbles down the hallway. Her tears have dried, but she's emotionally exhausted. She stops before rounding the corner, breathes.

ALISHA

(to herself)

Tomorrow's another day...

Tomorrow's another day...

(pause)

Tomorrow's another day...

She takes a step and STOPS immediately.

ALISHA (CONT'D)

What...

CUE MUSIC: Echoes - *The Rapture*

SWISH PAN to reveal ANGELA DAVIS, standing in front of the BERRETA APARTMENT. Relieved to see Alisha.

ANGELA

There you are. I thought I was gonna wait out here for hours.

Alisha's eyes flash wide as she attempts to take in the shocking return as we...

BLACKOUT.

END OF EPISODE