CHANGE OF PLANS

Written by

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First Draft

FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

AMANDA, 29, a bright and determined marketing professional, sits on her living room couch typing away on her laptop. She's entranced in her work completely unaware of her surroundings.

KYLE, 30s, a win-at-all-costs yuppie, sits on the other end of the couch mindlessly scrolling through his phone. Eventually, he sets his phone down and starts looking around for something to do.

KYLE
What are you working on?

Amanda doesn't even register Kyle's voice. She's still typing away, fixated on her laptop.

KYLE (cont'd)
Babe, are you there?

Amanda senses Kyle waving his hands trying to get her attention. She stops typing and turns to Kyle looking slightly confused.

AMANDA
Huh? Did you say something?

KYLE
Just wondering what you're working on...

Amanda takes a second to process the question. She tries her best to mask her annoyance and gets back to her laptop.

AMANDA
Marketing.

KYLE
I figured that much... I was just trying to be nice.

Amanda sighs. She lowers her laptop screen halfway and turns back to Kyle.

AMANDA
I'm working on a presentation for a client.

KYLE
Oh, okay then. Good talk.

Kyle backs off. He lets the silence simmer and waits until Amanda gets back to work.

KYLE (cont'd)
You know I don't like it when you get like this...

AMANDA
What am I getting like?

KYLE
You know...

Amanda lowers her laptop screen once again and turns to Kyle with a frustrated intensity.

AMANDA
No, I don't know. Please Kyle, tell me, what am I getting like?

KYLE
You're just being really moody... I don't get why you have to be so difficult all the time.

AMANDA
I'm difficult?
(beat)
Never mind. I honestly don't care right now.

KYLE
Why don't you like me?

AMANDA
Are you being serious right now?

KYLE
Sometimes you make me feel like you don't like me at all. I just don't think that's fair. I do a lot for you.

Amanda sighs loudly.

AMANDA
Of course I like you. I wouldn't be here if I didn't. I'm sorry... I'm just stressed about work. I really don't mean to take it out on you.

Amanda gets back to her work and Kyle gets back on his phone. A few moments into a somewhat tense pause, Kyle gets a text notification.

KYLE
Holy shit. Apparently Ian just made partner.

AMANDA
That sounds super exciting for Ian.

KYLE
This is great news, babe.

AMANDA
Is it?

KYLE
I'm basically Ian's favorite. Now that he's partner, I can use that to my advantage. I think I can really work this so that I'm next in line.

AMANDA
That's the plan...

KYLE
I think I'm gonna hit the sack. Now I have a lot to do tomorrow.

Kyle gets up and starts walking to the bedroom. As he's about to leave the living room, he stops and turns around to talk to Amanda.

KYLE (cont'd)
Don't forget we're doing taco night with Alex and Cathy on Thursday.

AMANDA
I won't. Same time. Same place. Same people.

KYLE
You're getting all the stuff for that right?

AMANDA
Always do. Same ingredients. Same amount. Same *exact* bottle of wine. I think I know the drill by now.

KYLE
Okay, cool. Don't stay up too late.

INT. APARTMENT - ANOTHER NIGHT

Amanda opens her front door to find REBECCA, 30s, a doctor who makes it a point to always seem optimistic, holding a bottle of wine in each hand with a big smile on her face.

REBECCA
Missed me!? It's okay you don't have to answer.

Rebecca helps herself in and sets down the bottles on the kitchen counter. She opens the kitchen cabinet, grabs two glasses and starts opening a bottle.

Amanda stands there watching.

REBECCA (cont'd)
Claire's not gonna make it. So we're gonna have to drink for her.

Rebecca pours two glasses of wine. She hands one to Amanda.

AMANDA
Is everything alright?

REBECCA
Everything's amazing! It's great. Really great. Cheers!

They clink their glasses together. Amanda takes a sip of her wine. She looks back at Rebecca and stares as Rebecca chugs the entire glass.

Rebecca sets her glass down and pours herself another.

REBECCA (cont'd)
I wanna talk about you. How's work going? Chuck's still a douche?

AMANDA
Yeah, but that's how all bosses are.

REBECCA
It might be the wine, but I can't tell if you're being serious.

AMANDA
I feel like work is going really well. I have the best ideas there, and I put in an ungodly amount of hours.

REBECCA
That's really nice... What about Chuck?

AMANDA
What about him?

REBECCA
C'mon Amanda... Do you spend time with him outside of work? Do you guys have non work related conversations? Do you ever compliment him?

AMANDA
Gross. Of course not.

REBECCA
This wine must be stronger than I thought, 'cause I still can't tell if you're being serious.

Amanda stares at Rebecca, almost looking through her, completely unable to understand what's going on.

AMANDA
Why in the the world would I do those things?

REBECCA
Sweetie, you wanna get promoted to director, right?

AMANDA
Yes.

REBECCA
And your boss is a total douche?

AMANDA
Yes.

REBECCA
And you're actively going out of your way to NOT kiss his ass?

AMANDA
Yes. Why does that even matter? My work speaks for itself. I'm the most qualified person there, and he has an obligation to promote the most capable candidate.

Rebecca takes a huge gulp of her wine.

REBECCA
I wanna help you here, Amanda. I really do. But I don't have the emotional bandwidth to open that can of worms right now. Something happened the other day.

AMANDA
I had a feeling...

REBECCA
Dave proposed.

AMANDA
Oh my God! That's really exciting!

Amanda glances at Rebecca's hand.

AMANDA (cont'd)
What happened to the ring?

REBECCA
I told him I had to think about it. I'm thinking about it. Should I be thinking about it? I mean is there even anything to think about?

Rebecca chugs most of the wine in her glass.

AMANDA
How long has it been? It's gotta be at least four years by now.

REBECCA
Six. It's been six years, Amanda. It's the smart thing to do at this point. That's always been the plan, hasn't it?

Rebecca finishes her wine and anxiously pours herself another.

AMANDA
Do you wanna talk about something else?

REBECCA
He's a great guy. Really great. We're gonna get a really big mortgage -- house. We're gonna get a really big house. Have kids. Who wouldn't wanna marry Dave?
(MORE)

REBECCA (cont'd)
(beat)
Right?

AMANDA
Bex, look at me. You're forgetting to breathe.

Rebecca closes her eyes and takes a deep breath. She slowly opens her eyes seeming a little more grounded.

AMANDA (cont'd)
You love him, right?

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

CARLOS, 29, a tech startup CEO, sits at the conference room table with a MARKETING BRIEF in front of him.

Amanda is in the middle of her presentation. She's standing next to the screen and bringing attention to the different charts on her slideshow.

AMANDA
Our proposed strategy is based on the expectations from your latest funding round and your product development timeline. We believe aggressively targeting early adopters will be the most effective approach at this time.

Amanda moves on to the next slide. She points to the customer analysis to bring attention to it.

AMANDA (cont'd)
As you can see here, we have segmented your market for...

Amanda looks over at Carlos and notices him staring intensely at her. He is paying no attention to what's on the screen. Amanda is rattled by this but keeps her composure.

AMANDA (cont'd)
Early adopters. This is how we will ensure...

Amanda starts hearing a faint but noticeable high pitched ringing. She's disoriented but powering through.

AMANDA (cont'd)
We ensure... The approach is effective... Umm...

Amanda accidentally jumps ahead a few slides. She tries to get back to where she was. The ringing in her ears becomes overwhelming. She's disoriented, but still standing and trying to speak.

AMANDA (cont'd)
The segments... We, umm... The market is... I...

The ringing in her ears suddenly disappears and she's back to her five senses.

CARLOS
You can stop now.

Amanda sighs. She's visibly disappointed with herself.

Carlos reaches for the marketing brief and holds it up.

CARLOS (cont'd)
Did you write this?

AMANDA
I did.

CARLOS
Front to back. Everything's original and written by you?

AMANDA
Yes, of course.

CARLOS
I read the whole thing. It's pretty good... Honestly, it's perfect. Which actually puts me in a difficult position.

AMANDA
I'm sorry. I don't follow.

CARLOS
Right now I'm paying some agency a criminal amount of money for what's effectively just you working.

AMANDA
All our clients see an outstanding ROI. I can assure you that all of our services end up paying for themselves.

CARLOS
That's not what I'm getting at. This booklet here tells me you're C-suite material. I think you should be running your own show. How would you like to come work with us?

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Amanda enters the apartment. She sets down her purse and computer bag.

Amanda walks to the living room where Kyle is sitting on the couch scrolling through his phone.

AMANDA
The craziest thing happened today.

KYLE
Yeah?

AMANDA
A client made me an offer to be his CMO.

Kyle puts down his phone, gets up from the couch, and walks to Amanda to hug her.

KYLE
That's incredible news! Congratulations! I'm really happy you're getting the recognition you deserve.

AMANDA
There is a catch, though...
(beat)
The job's in California.

KYLE
Oh, I'm really sorry about that. I'm sure there's gonna be other opportunities.

AMANDA
What is happening.

KYLE
You're obviously not taking the job. You definitely seem flattered by the offer and it sucks that it won't work out.

AMANDA
Obviously not taking the job?

KYLE
Babe we've had a plan for a long time. I'm almost partner, and soon enough you'll be a director. Then we can start a life together properly. It would be pretty absurd for you to move to California at this point.

AMANDA
Of course. When you say it like that it makes sense. I'm sorry it took me so long to understand.

KYLE
Don't sweat it. I'm gonna order some dinner. Chinese?

AMANDA
Sure.

KYLE
The usual?

AMANDA
The usual.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Kyle walks into the apartment carrying his briefcase. He notices a note on the kitchen counter. He walks up to the counter and picks up the note.

It simply reads "Change of Plans".

FADE OUT

THE END