

Scene Two.

A bit later.

Alice has a pretty nice living room.

Ethan has arrived unannounced.

ETHAN. They RUINED IT!

ALICE. They warned me.

ETHAN. They RUINED my proposal. Just because they're not endorsing me doesn't mean they get to blow up my campaign.

ALICE. "Campaign"? Really? That's the kind of language you want to use.

ETHAN. Look, I'm sorry you lost, but you need to know it was only partially your fault and by this point, people have pretty much accepted that they're going to live in a tube of shit for at least three years, so let's go to PARIS!

ALICE. Dude, seriously, can you take the circus elsewhere? I have to be up early.

ETHAN. Why?

ALICE. I volunteer now.

ETHAN. Oooooo. I work for free too.

ALICE. Yeah, but not by choice.

Ethan loops around her and goes back into the room and gets down on his knee.

ETHAN. Alice...

ALICE. You better be down there because you dropped something.

ETHAN. The Ancient Aztecs had a beautiful word for the union of two people called: "Ne-ne-pa-no—[lizt-li]."

ALICE. I'm not going to marry you.

ETHAN. (*Standing.*) Are you out of your mind?

Why?

ALICE. Because I'm not dating you right now?

ETHAN. That's the reason?

Shouldn't the reason be that you don't love me anymore?

ALICE. I don't love you anymore.

ETHAN. You don't love me anymore?

ALICE. I did once. But not now.

ETHAN. See, no offense, but I think you're a little mixed up.

ALICE. You don't even know me anymore.

ETHAN. What's changed? It's only been two years.

ALICE. What changes in two years? The whole world changes.

ETHAN. But *we* don't.

ALICE. Two years ago we were on a path...

ETHAN. I know!

ALICE. No. I mean. "We." The country. All of us.

ETHAN. *Some* of us. That's why I think you didn't win.

ALICE. People. Change. I'm not the same person I was when we were together.

ETHAN. Oh yeah. You're a whole new person. What's new?

ALICE. What's new? I'm an adult. I'm financially independent. I held a position on the senior staff of a pretty significant presidential campaign.

ETHAN. Until recently, but now your June is completely clear. Perfect!

ALICE. I'm different.

ETHAN. I am exactly the same!

ALICE. And I encourage you to seek help for that. But you know what I'm talking about. We evolve. We try new things. Travel...

ETHAN. Where?

ALICE. Where?

ETHAN. Where did you travel?

ALICE. Well... Last year I went to Eastern Europe—

ETHAN. What does Eastern Europe have to do with evolution—

ALICE. I don't know Ethan. I saw things.

ETHAN. What? The Lithuanian Zoo?

ALICE. You know what? I did see the Lithuanian Zoo and it was very nice.

ETHAN. They beat those animals.
ALICE. You don't know that.
ETHAN. They probably beat those animals.
ALICE. You're just lonely. You'll meet someone special.
ETHAN. I don't want someone special. I want you.
Look, for the very first time, I called myself on my own bullshit. I really thought about things. You and me. And then—BOOM—kind of like cleaning your sunglasses—I could finally see.

Silence.

ALICE. Are you on medications?
ETHAN. No.
ALICE. Are you off medications?
ETHAN. No.
ALICE. Did you discover religion or something?
ETHAN. Alice—
ALICE. Did you have a near-death experience—Oh no. Ethan. Do you have a cocaine problem?
ETHAN. I don't have a cocaine problem, I'm agnostic, and I'm having a near-life experience right now with you. You and me, Alice. It has to be.

Nelson enters.

ALICE. Nelson!
NELSON. Hi, uh—
ALICE. This is Ethan Siegel, my ex—
NELSON. Ethan Siegel. Your ex-boyfriend. I've seen him in pictures.
ETHAN. You keep pictures of me?
NELSON. On her computer.
ETHAN. Why the hell are you touching her computer?
NELSON. Over the shoulder—
ALICE. He knows what you look like! Ethan came over here because...

Silence.

NELSON. Because what?

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ALICE. He asked me to marry him.
Silence.
NELSON. Really?
ALICE. Yes.
NELSON. Really?
ETHAN. Yes.
NELSON. And what did you say?
ALICE. "No."
NELSON. Huh. He came over to ask you if you would marry him?
ETHAN. Bingo and kind of. I was going to say it, "Marry me!"
NELSON. Are you on drugs?
ETHAN. I am not on drugs.
ALICE. This isn't NORMAL.
ETHAN. "Normal" is a collection of life experiences and what you see on TV.
NELSON. I'd say that's a fair definition of "normal."
ETHAN. Thanks, Nelson. Sometimes normal is this. Here. You and me. This can be normal.
ALICE. Wow. Time to go.
ETHAN. You wanna throw me out of our future apartment?
NELSON. Is he going to be OK?
ALICE. He'll be fine.
ETHAN. I'm fine. Everyone just chill out. Nelson thinks this is normal.
NELSON. No I don't. But, I dunno, Alice. We have a responsibility here. Do you remember that seminar? Empathy Now. This is definitely a "conscience moment."
ALICE. I never should have gotten you that gift certificate.
NELSON. I mean, look at him.
ETHAN. I don't want your pity.
NELSON. Come to dinner with us.
ALICE. What?
NELSON. I like to be the cool guy

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