

BEN  
I just assumed that once I told you, you  
would want me -- out.

JANINE  
Is that what you want?

BEN  
(almost a whisper)  
No.

JANINE  
OK.

She heads down the aisle with the cart. Ben follows,  
confused - that didn't go how he thought it would.

EXT. GRAMERCY MANSION - DAY

The lush grounds surrounding a beautiful turn-of-the-  
century mansion. The procession of a wedding has just  
begun. TWO ADORABLE FLOWER GIRLS start things off.

Then Beth's sister, Laura, processes down the aisle with  
her husband, STEVEN. Beth's sister Catherine and her  
husband GEORGE are next. Big smiles all around.

Then Beth appears at the end of the aisle with her escort  
- BUDDY, a 12 year old CHOCOLATE LAB, wearing a coral bow  
tie. Beth forces a smile as she processes with Buddy -  
who stops to piss on a chair leg. Beth is not happy.

INT. GRAMERCY MANSION - DAY

A lavish reception. Beth takes her seat next to DAN,  
40s. Dan looks over at Beth's place card.

DAN  
You must be Beth.

BETH  
Yep.

DAN  
I've heard a lot about you from Paige.  
I'd been lobbying for weeks to be seated  
next to her single sister.

BETH  
Oh, yeah? So you are -  
(looks at his placecard)  
Dan.

DAN

Uh, sort of.

BETH

Hmmm?

DAN

Well, I'm actually a wiccan. So I have a magickal name.

BETH

Really?

DAN

It's Brother Phoenix East-Horse. But I didn't know if that would fit on a card.

Beth slaps on a fake smile, and grabs for the wine.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A PARTY is in full swing. Typical affair for someone in their late 20's - mediocre food but decent alcohol.

Gigi stands, somewhat uncomfortably, near the Chex Mix. She tries smiling at a TALL GIRL, who ignores her. So Gigi continues absently and compulsively shoving handfuls of Chex Mix into her mouth.

NATHAN

It makes your breath stink.

GIGI

Pardon?

Gigi looks up to see Nathan and Bruce - Mary's gay coworkers who are now decked out in full-on Saturday night gay mode - standing next to her.

NATHAN

Chex Mix. I learned the hard way. I made out with a guy after eating like a bag of the stuff. He said my breath smelled like trout.

Gigi puts her handful of Chex Mix back.

GIGI

Thanks for the tip.

NATHAN

I'm sorry. That was rude. And that guy I made out with was a total asshole.

BRUCE  
You want me to smell you? I'm sure you  
don't smell like trout.

Gigi LAUGHS.

GIGI  
Thanks. I'm good.

She cups her hand and surreptitiously checks her breath.

NATHAN  
I'm Nathan. This is Bruce.

GIGI  
Gigi. How do you guys know Alex?

BRUCE  
We don't. Our friend Mary heard about it  
from some guy named Conor.

Gigi smiles in recognition.

NATHAN  
How do you know Alex?

GIGI  
I hope - I mean I'm pretty sure -  
something is about to happen between us.

NATHAN  
So, you're here as like a guest, or like  
his date?

BRUCE  
I hate that - when you don't know if  
you're a date - so you don't know if you  
should bring a friend, or if you're like  
co-hosting or if you should stay til the  
end to have alone time --

Suddenly, a look of DOUBT sweeps across Gigi's face.

GIGI  
He didn't really say.

She reflexively GRABS FOR THE CHEX MIX and starts gorging  
on it again. Nathan stops her.

GIGI (CONT'D)  
But I'm sure I'm more than just a guest.  
I mean - there have been signs.