

The Sick Divine (Segment)

written by

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FADE IN:

**INT./EXT. ALICIA'S CAR - MORNING**

It's a rainy day as ALICIA TREACHER, 25, long brown hair haphazardly pinned in a claw clip, surrounded by badly masked anxiety, drives a beat-up brown Buick. She forces a smile and briefly glances at MIKA CAMERON, 23, who looks like she hasn't slept in months, slumped in the passenger seat, occasionally sniffing and coughing.

ALICIA  
I think this one will be  
different.

Mika stares straight ahead.

ALICIA (CONT'D)  
Dr. Patterson is supposed to be  
really good. Apparently, he got  
his degree at Harvard, which is  
the best medical school in the  
world, I looked it up... And he  
graduated top of his class, and  
has been a doctor for nearly  
twenty years.

They drive in silence for a beat.

ALICIA (CONT'D)  
Plus I heard he once treated  
Robert Downey Jr. for some skin -

MIKA  
Alicia! Enough already!

THUNDER RUMBLES outside. Alicia flinches. She risks a glance at Mika, who huffs out a disgruntled breath.

A beat.

Alicia uncomfortably pushes the radio on. "BEFORE HE CHEATS" by Carrie Underwood blasts through the speakers. Mika glares at Alicia. Alicia slowly turns off the radio.

ALICIA  
Sorry, just trying to lighten the  
mood.

MIKA  
I know.

SILENCE yet again.

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Mika sniffles and blows her nose. She peeks at the tissue, now filled with blood. Alicia notices but averts her eyes as Mika quickly shoves the tissue in her pocket.

ALICIA  
So... did you hear Jamie's getting married again?

MIKA  
Maybe we just shouldn't talk.

ALICIA  
Oh. Sure.

Awkward SILENCE envelops the car for what feels like the millionth time. The only movement is Alicia's hands on the wheel as she takes a left turn.

ALICIA  
It's just we still have another two hours left.

MIKA  
Mmhm.

Alicia glances at Mika again. She's staring out the window now.

ALICIA  
But yeah, silence is cool.

RAIN pours down outside the car. TAP, TAP, TAP.

ALICIA  
Mika?

MIKA  
(exasperated)  
Yes?

ALICIA  
I love you.

Mika nods. The rain turns into a DOWNPOUR.

#### **INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY**

CLOSE ON Mika's dejected face.

DR. PATTERSON (O.S.)  
We could try more tests but I'm not sure they would tell us what we're working with here.  
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DR. PATTERSON (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
At this point, it's not certain  
what else we can do -

Mika gives a sad smile.

**INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Multiple framed photos sit on a wooden end table near the couch as we hear RAIN still POURING outside. Each of the frames have a different picture of Mika and Alicia. The one in front shows them posing in front of the Niagara Falls. One shows the two in matching purple dresses at a wedding, with the bride in the middle. They're laughing so hard Alicia is being held up by the bride.

The last frame contains a reel taken from a photo booth. They both wear New Year's glasses that read "2019." In one photo they're smiling like normal. The picture below shows them doing a "Charlie's Angels" pose. The final two portray them kissing.

We PAN to Mika, sprawled out on the couch, three blankets on, humidifier going, tissues strewn across the coffee table, untouched chicken noodle soup, and *Gilmore Girls* PLAYING on the TV.

Alicia strides in, freshly made tea in hand. She sets the cup on the coffee table.

ALICIA  
Here you go, it's chamomile,  
supposed to be good for nausea.

Mika grabs the cup and takes a sip. She wrinkles her nose a bit.

MIKA  
Tastes weird.

ALICIA  
Oh, it- it shouldn't. Sorry I can-

She reaches for the cup, but Mika bats her hand away.

MIKA  
It's fine. It's my tastebuds, not  
the tea.

Alicia smiles sadly. She glances at the TV.

ALICIA  
Is this the one where Rory moves  
into college?

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MIKA

Yup.

Alicia squeezes herself unto the the other end of the couch, trying her best not to disturb Mika.

ALICIA

It's funny, I was the exact same way when I moved in, too. I did not want my mom to leave, but she said it was for the best, and didn't even stay to help me unpack.

MIKA

You dropped out after a month anyway.

ALICIA

I- yeah, I know

The two watch the show for a bit. Mika pays attention, but Alicia keeps glancing at her, gauging Mika's reactions.

ALICIA

It was a month and a half.

MIKA

What?

ALICIA

I went to college for a month and a half.

Mika puts her hand to her head, rubbing her temples. She grabs the remote and pauses the show.

MIKA

Does it matter?

Alicia stands.

ALCIA

You never acknowledge my accomplishments!

Mika sits up straighter, pulling off one of her many blankets and throwing it on the floor. She coughs and lightning STRIKES outside.

MIKA

What accomplishment? Not graduating college?

Alicia huffs and stomps out of the room.

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**INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Alicia steps into the bathroom and locks the door. She sits on the toilet as her breathing becomes ragged. Tears spill down her face. Alicia shakes her head, and shifts awkwardly within the small bathroom.

Alicia attempts to calm her breathing.

Shaking, she turns the sink on and leaves the WATER RUNNING as she pulls out a cigarette and lighter from her back pocket. She stands up, carefully hoists herself unto the top of the tub, and opens the small window above the shower as she lights the cigarette. Alicia takes a long drag and lets out a deep breath.

Mika SNEEZES O.S. and THUNDER RUMBLES right after.

Alicia jumps, nearly dropping the cigarette. She sighs and stamps it out on the windowsill then throws it out the window. She hops down from the tub and turns off the sink. She plasters on a smile before turning the door handle and walking back to the living room.