

LET ME IN

Written by

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Short Film

*Part **two** of the "In His Hands" Anthology*

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LET ME IN (TITLE CARD)

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INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - EVENING

2

An assertive woman, ALEX HUNTER, answers the door of her warm home. Standing on the other side is her gentle sister MARISSA HUNTER and Marissa's new boyfriend JOSH DARBY.

The sisters squeal and hug.

MARISSA

They didn't have your favourite wine so we had to bring *my* favourite.

ALEX

Oh, sure. That's convenient.

MARISSA

Alex, this is Josh. The one you've heard *all* about.

ALEX

ALL about.

JOSH

It's nice to meet you Alex.

Alex shakes Josh's hand. She registers his strength.

ALEX

That's quite the grip you've got on you there.

JOSH

I could say the same for you.

ALEX

Muay Thai, would you believe?

JOSH

Ah nice. There's something about the confidence of a woman who knows she can take a hit, you know?

Alex flinches at the comment.

ALEX

Right. Come in.
(*taking the wine from her sister*)
Give me that, you menace.

3

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - EVENING

3

The sisters are laughing uncontrollably about a fond memory.

ALEX

And then we were late for the service because you left their ashes at McDonalds!

MARISSA

Hold up, it was your idea to take them into the restaurant with us!

ALEX

Well I wasn't going to leave them in the car! What if they got stolen?

MARISSA

Who is breaking into a car to steal our parents ashes Alex?!

ALEX

I don't know! I still really miss them.

MARISSA

Me too. Every day.

Alex pours herself some more wine and hovers the bottle over Marissa's glass. Josh covers the glass with his hand. They both look at him, surprised.

JOSH

Marissa is cutting back. She's a bit of an alcoholic.

MARISSA

(thinking he's joking)
What?

ALEX

This Marissa? The one who was always designated driver in college because hangovers are the "worst state she can wilfully put herself in?"

He's adamant. Marissa tries to save face.

MARISSA

Good thinking. Any more and I'll be nursing unnecessary pain tomorrow.

ALEX
...right?

Alex watches him move his hand off the glass and into Marissa's hand. The air is uncomfortably still.

4 INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING 4

Slipping gloves onto her hands by her free-standing boxing bag, Alex is talking to her sister on the phone.

ALEX
That was weird huh?

5 INT. MARISSA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING 5

Marissa is tending flowers on the phone to her sister.

MARISSA
Oh, no, he's just looking out for me.

INTERCUT ALEX/MARISSA

ALEX
If you say so. Are we still checking out the market on the weekend?

MARISSA
Sure. Josh wants to tag along if that's cool with you?

ALEX
Sure. I better leave my wine cooler at home or I'll be in trouble.

Alex laughs and hangs up. And sits in the silence.

6 EXT. PARK - DAY 6

All three walk through a park holding coffees. The girls have their arms linked together.

MARISSA
So, big news. Josh is moving in with me!

ALEX
Oh, wow! That's huge. And fast. How long have you been together now?

MARISSA

Ah four...

JOSH

Five months. Nearly six.

Josh grabs Marissa's hand, the girls de-link their arms.

ALEX

And you're jumping right in. Who's idea was this?

MARISSA

Well Josh's lease is up and finding a rental at the moment is pretty tough so we thought *why not?*

JOSH

It just makes sense. We're ready.

ALEX

I bet.

The couple seem pretty happy about this.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Well, congratulations! I can't wait to bring *my* favourite wine over.

7

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

7

Alex is watching TV and voice-noting her sister.

ALEX: Are you sure about this? It's your house.

MARISSA: Yes! Please just be happy for us.

ALEX: Okay, just doing the sisterly thing <3. Want to catch a movie tomorrow night?

MARISSA: I can't sorry. Josh and I have plans.

ALEX: Oh okay.

8

INT. MARISSA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

8

Alex sits on Marissa's kitchen bench while Josh brings in some moving boxes.

JOSH
(jokingly)
Are you girls going to help or
what?

ALEX
We are helping. Moral support right
here. Whoo! Go Josh.

MARISSA
You've got this babe! So strong and
manly carrying *all* those boxes by
yourself.

ALEX
He's very sweet.

MARISSA
Yeah, he really loves me. I've
never gotten this kind of princess
treatment before. I'm talking
flowers, fancy reservations, a
shiny smart watch, he writes me
notes every morning. I honestly
thought men like this didn't exist.

ALEX
Does he have a brother? Or hot best
friend?

Josh passes back through.

JOSH
Talking about me?

MARISSA
Sure are!

He kisses her on the cheek.

JOSH
Come help me with this one would
you?

Marissa scoots off and Alex helps herself to the pantry. She
can hear muffled talking and:

JOSH (CONT'D)
Would you shut the hell up, I don't
care about that.

Shocked, Alex slowly closes the cupboard. They carry boxes
back through. Josh annoyed and Marissa with her head down.

ALEX
(to Marissa)
Did he just tell you to shut up?

JOSH
That goes in the bedroom Marissa.

ALEX
Did you just tell my sister to shut up?

JOSH
It's none of your business Alex.

ALEX
Actually. It is.

Marissa shakes her head at her sister pleading for her not to antagonize him. They leave the room, Alex stands in shock.

9

EXT. PARK - MORNING

9

Alex is tying the shoelace of her sneaker on steps. Marissa walks up to her in active wear.

ALEX
You're late.

MARISSA
Yeah sorry. We just had to finish up some things at the house.

ALEX
Ew, I don't want to know.

They laugh and Alex notices bruising under Marissa's chin where the makeup is doing a terrible job at covering it.

ALEX (CONT'D)
What the hell is that?

MARISSA
(self conscious)
What?

Alex stands and grabs Marissa's face getting a look at the fingerprints on her sister's jawline.

ALEX
Are these fingerprints. Marissa what happened?

MARISSA
Nothing. I fell asleep on my
hand... at my desk.

ALEX
Bullshit.

MARISSA
I did!

ALEX
Marissa, if his hand did that to
you... accident or otherwise, it's
not okay.

MARISSA
He didn't! I don't need this. I'm
going home.

Marissa runs off.

ALEX
Marissa, wait. I'm sorry I'll drop
it!

10 INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT 10

Alex is laying in bed wide awake. She rolls over and checks
her phone. Some time has passed and her sister isn't replying
to any of her texts.

11 EXT. MARISSA'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY 11

Alex knocks on Marissa's door with a coffee in hand. Marissa
looks a little tired but is happy to see her sister.

ALEX
Coffee?

12A INT. MARISSA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 12A

The girls sit on the couch.

ALEX
Where's Josh?

MARISSA
At work.

ALEX
Are you off today?

MARISSA
Working from home.

ALEX
I didn't mean to upset you the other day. I just had a million thoughts racing through my head. But if you tell me you're okay then I'll leave it be. Are you okay?

Marissa forces a slow nod.

MARISSA
(tearing up)
No. Everything just feels so... awful at the moment.

Alex moves over to hug her sister.

ALEX
It's okay. Like what? Josh?

MARISSA
Just everything.

Josh comes through the door and interrupts.

JOSH
What's happening here? Everything okay?

MARISSA
Yeah a girl we went to school with passed away. Alex was just telling me.

Josh looks at Alex skeptically.

JOSH
I'm so sorry to hear that. Come here.

He sits next to Marissa and hugs her. Alex watches his gentle hands hold her face, wiping her tears.

ALEX
I'm just going to duck to the washroom. I'll be right back.

12B INT. MARISSA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SHORT TIME LATER. 12B

Alex returns to Josh and Marissa readying to go.

ALEX
What happened to the washroom door?

JOSH
The wind slammed it shut.

ALEX
Really? The door frame is
practically off the wall. Where are
you going?

JOSH
I'm just going to take Marissa for
a drive to get some air.

ALEX
Oh, can I come?

MARISSA
That's okay. I'd like to spend some
time with Josh.

ALEX
Okay.

Alex hugs her sister.

ALEX (CONT'D)
(whispering in her ear)
Let me help you. Please.

JOSH
Marissa!

13 INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 13

Alex sits on her lounge staring through the switched-off TV.
She checks her phone. No messages from Marissa.

ALEX: Please reply so I know you're alive.

MARISSA: I'm good :) sleep well xx

14 INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 14

Alex wakes and immediately checks her phone. Nothing. She
Google searches a hotline.

She gets up and paces. She checks her phone. She stretches.
She checks her phone. She brushes her hair, checks her phone.

15

INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - EVENING

15

Marissa and Josh enter the dining room where Alex is putting candles on her home-made birthday cake.

MARISSA

Happy birthday.

ALEX

So I have to cook my own birthday dinner just to get you two to come around these days?

JOSH

Work has been crazy. You know how it goes.

Marissa's limps over and places a pie down on the table. Alex spots the moon boot on her foot.

ALEX

Oh my God, what did you do you to your foot?

There's a pause.

MARISSA

I closed it in the car door. Stupid I know.

Josh looks at her lovingly as though he appreciates her lie. Alex tries to move toward her but Josh beats her to it and wraps his arm around Marissa territorially.

ALEX

Is it broken? When did this happen?

JOSH

Last week. I was inside and I heard it slam.

Josh takes a seat.

ALEX

Last week? You went to the hospital last week and didn't tell me?

MARISSA

I didn't want you to worry. And I've been pretty out of it with the pain medication.

Alex fights the urge to yell, but she doesn't.

ALEX

I've done that too, closed my foot in a car door. Not as bad as yours but it hurt so much. Sit down, I'll get you a drink.

(searching through the rack)

Oh damn, I'm out of my favourite wine. Josh, do you mind running across the road and getting me some? Pleeese. It's my birthday.

JOSH

Oh sure. Come on Marissa.

ALEX

Oh no, you should stay off that foot. I can fill you in on all the gym goss. You'll never guess what Taylor brought to class yesterday.

Josh resists but grabs her phone and leaves.

The door closes and Alex barrels over to her sister.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Tell me what happened. NOW.

MARISSA

We just had a fight. It got out of hand.

ALEX

Out of hand!? Marissa look at me. I saw the state of your house.

MARISSA

He doesn't know his own strength.

ALEX

And you seem to have forgotten yours.

(beat)

Marissa. I don't sleep. And when I do I'm waking constantly to check my phone in case you've sent an SOS.

MARISSA

I haven't asked you to do any of that.

ALEX

I carry my phone around on full volume in case a call comes in.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

In case THE call comes in. Do you have any idea what that's like? Waiting helplessly for a call like that? I'm relieved when I hear from you now just because it's some sign of life. This sounds dramatic but so does holes in walls and hospital X-rays. He's escalated this much in a year, what happens in 2, 3 years time? What if you don't make it to my next birthday? Picture me here, on my birthday, alone, bawling in the dark, because you aren't there. I've already lost Mom and Dad, I can't handle losing you too.

Marissa looks up at her sister.

MARISSA

He won't let me leave. He said he'd kill us both if I do. I can't come here he'll follow. No matter where I go, he'll find me. He said it himself.

ALEX

Well, what if I stay at yours and make him pack?

MARISSA

He had me add him to the lease.

ALEX

Whyyy would you do that?

MARISSA

I thought he was the one. He tricked me in the beginning and one day he turned.

ALEX

I know, I know. He had me fooled too.

Alex consoles her sister.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Just - call me. I'll be on standby. Ready to go. Day or night. As soon as you need me, I'm there. Got it? You just have to let me in.

They hear the front door and wipe each others' tears.

16 INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

16

Asleep in bed, Alex is woken by her ringtone.

She hesitantly checks, worried it's emergency services.

The incoming call is from: Marissa.

ALEX

Oh thank God.

She launches out of bed and grabs a bag and car keys.

17 INT. ALEX'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

17

Jacket on over her pyjamas, Alex flies out the front door.

TITLE CARD: LET ME IN.