

LOGGIE LAKE

By Geordie Crawley

Draft 8.17 - Final Draft

Alex Carpenter

CHARACTERS

MICHAEL SOMERSET (M, 26) After a messy, secret relationship in high school with Alex, Michael never truly came out of the closet. Either to himself, or to anyone else. Instead, he started dating Carrie. Deep down, he knows he doesn't truly love Carrie. Michael yearns to be able to come out, but feels as if doing so would be a betrayal.

ALEX CARPENTER (M, 26) After a messy, secret relationship in high school with Michael, Alex has spent the past few years partying on-and-off, and seeing a series of guys, none of whom have stuck. Subconsciously, Alex yearns for that relationship he shared with Michael, but has yet to admit to himself that he's still in love with his best friend. Wants to be in an authentic relationship with Michael.

REAGAN SOMERSET (F, 34) Reagan is Michael's sister. Cares deeply for Michael. Got out of a pretty awful relationship a few years ago and hasn't dated since then, but has found herself reading a number of local conspiracy theory publications. Was deeply scarred by her father's coming out.

CARRIE PALMER (F, 28) Carrie cares deeply for Michael. Carrie doesn't have many friends outside of her relationship, and so fears being alone. Yearns to be made to feel whole by the person with whom she's in a relationship.

HUGH (M) Hugh is a hiker.

ANDRE & JOANNA Radio show hosts.

RADIO DJ Another radio DJ

BEACON The voice from the radio distress beacon.

PRE-SHOW ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRE-SHOW FM RADIO TRANSITIONS

- MICHAEL: You're listening to Logue Lake FM; Tune into the frequency of your subconscious. Don't forget, if you ever want to change channel, just use the M+ and M- buttons on your radio. And now, here's another little song I just know you're going to enjoy...
- MICHAEL: You're tuned into Logue Lake FM; The Sound of Authenticity. Don't forget to switch those phones off, and if you're having trouble with your radio just find a front of house staff member to help you out. And now, another little tune from the collection...
- MICHAEL: This is Logue Lake FM; The Truth in the Transmissions. Just remember, there's going to be a complete lock out, so don't forget to check your bag and go to the toilet before the show begins. Now, let's put on another audience favourite track.
- ALEX: You're tuned into Logue Lake FM; Your Inner-World On Air. Community Service Announcement: If you're facing technical problems with your headphones or radio, just find a front of house staff member, and they'll be happy to help you out. And now, this is one of my favourites...
- ALEX: You're listening in to Logue Lake FM; Broadcasting the Unspoken. A little info for you, if you ever need to change channels just use the M+and M- Buttons on your radio. With that, let's listen to another...
- ALEX: This is Logue Lake FM; The Frequency of the Self. A bit of advice, don't forget to check your bag and go to the bathroom before the show begins as there will be a total lock out. And now, let's put on a song everyone will enjoy...
- REAGAN: Logue Lake FM; Dive Deep, Listen Close. A word of warning, the show has a complete lock out. So don't forget to head to the bathroom before the show begins. With that out of the way, let's listen to another fan favourite.
- REAGAN: Logue Lake FM; Tune into your true self. If you're wondering how to switch stations, just use the M+ and M- buttons in the centre of your radio. And now, let's hear another classic track.
- REAGAN: Logue Lake FM; Authentic Airwaves. If you're having any troubles with your radio, just let a front of house staff member know and they'll give you a hand. Beyond that, let's tune in and listen to another great song...
- CARRIE: Broadcasting from the surface to the depths, you're listening to Logue Lake FM. You can always change the channel you're listening to by using the M+ and M- buttons in the middle of your radio. Stayed tuned to hear more like this next one coming up...

CARRIE: The Noise Between Your Ears; This is Logue Lake FM. Take note: before the show starts, switch your phones off, and head to the bathroom as there will be a complete lock out. Coming up next, a listener favourite tune.

CARRIE: The Radio Route to Realisation, the is Logue Lake FM. Quick PSA: If you're having trouble with your radio, just find a front of house staff member and they'll be happy to help you out. Beyond that, let's enjoy another of these classic tunes.

PRE-SHOW INDUCTION SPEECH

Acknowledgement of Country plays.

PRESHOW: Hello everyone, and welcome to Logue Lake, presented by Geordie Crawley and Elise Wilson, as part of Perth Festival. I'm *Elise*, the *director*, and we're so excited you're here, and that you get to play with us for the show.

First, please turn off your mobile phones. Off. Not silent or on airplane mode, but completely off. They mess with the FM signals we use in the show. So, phones off. No escape.

Now, I want you to look at the small FM radio receiver in your hands. Think of this radio as the remote control for this performance. The long slender button on the right controls the volume. And on the left the middle two buttons – the M+ and M- Buttons – change the channel. Each of the five channels connects to a character. You won't need to click any other buttons throughout the performance, so please, only the volume and channel changing buttons.

Any issues with your radio or headphones? Go to the help desk at the bottom of the stairs as you walk in.

For viewing, the ground floor is where the magic happens, but you can also watch from the balcony, and you're free to move between them as you see fit. You can walk around the perimeter of the house but, you cannot enter.

The performers won't be interacting with you, so please don't interact with them. The rules are simple, for both the performers and your fellow audience members: no touching, no talking.

We encourage you to follow your nose and change channels as you please. In this show, embrace the excitement of choice. Each channel offers a unique experience, and while you're tuned into one, remember the thrill lies in what you're discovering, not what you're missing.

Alright, let's do one last thing together before we begin our journey. I invite you to close your eyes. Take a moment, and imagine a small, timber cabin that sits beside a vast lake, surrounded by a dense forest. You can hear the lake, the insects, the calling birds. You can smell the woods, the earth, and the air is brisk and biting. And all together, we're going to breathe in... and out... in... and out... in...

HUGH: ...and out. When you're ready, open your eyes, doors are now open, and make your way towards the cabin.

Take a moment to consider the voice inside your head. Not mine, although I am here now too. But the other one. Your own conscious voice. Make it say hello. Whose voice did you just hear? Whose voice did you just make say hello? Is that you? Maybe.

How do we envision the self that exists within us? Are we an ecosystem with its own landscapes and weather patterns? Or maybe we're best described as a piece of metaphysical architecture, where a genetic blueprint lays the foundation for the construction of our personalities? Others say our brains are like a computer. Imagine it. The thing in your head being the same as one of those rooms filled with silicone and wires and flashing lights. Of course the brain is not a computer. Not even close. Not even close.

And what about when you dream? Your conscious self is the one experiencing this altered state. So who is producing the content of the dream? A different you. A silent you. One that remains largely unseen. This version of you is pure consciousness, sitting just below the surface of the lake.

I am clay and dirt and spirit and breath and dream and denial and desire and rage and hope all rolled into one unknowable mass, lying in wait to bestow up on you a gift. A realisation. An anxiety. A truth undeniable. All rendered without language in pure, intangible thought.

What would you do, dear listener, if the truth came knocking at your door? Would you accept the truth with open, loving arms; or would you die fighting for for a lie?

ACT ONE - SURFACE

We're at a beautiful old wooden cabin that sits by Logue Lake. It should feel like the play is set in a memory of the late 1970's // early 1980's. The cabin has been renovated a number of times over the years. But the foundations are historic. It's late-afternoon.

Scene 1.01

In the living room ALEX, REAGAN, and CARRIE are gathered together. MICHAEL wanders in from outside.

MICHAEL: It looks like the roads are totally flooded out.

REAGAN: Heaviest rain I've ever seen here. I was scared the lake was going to flood.

CARRIE: I was saying to Reagan earlier I love the rain, it's the wind that scared me last night.

ALEX: We should play a game.

CARRIE: A game?

ALEX: Yeah, it's our last night and we haven't played a game yet. Get the party started. What else are we gonna do?

REAGAN: What sort of game?

ALEX: A drinking game. We could play Up-Cup, or Driver Anything, or Glass of No Return.

CARRIE: We have to drive home tomorrow.

MICHAEL: I don't know if the roads are gonna be safe to drive on, kiddo.

ALEX: Whirlpool is a fun game.

REAGAN: Do you guys know the rules to Drink Parade?

ALEX: Okay okay. What about truth or dare? With a twist.

MICHAEL: Twist?

ALEX: A twist. If you don't complete the dare, or if you lie... there's a punishment.

REAGAN: What sort of punishment?

ALEX: A punishment.

ALEX mimes slitting his throat.

I'll go first. Someone ask me.

CARRIE: Truth or dare?

ALEX: Truth.

MICHAEL: Okay... truth about Alex...

CARRIE: Whats the weirdest thing that's happened to you during sex?

REAGAN: Oh, we're there already? We're not gonna play a warm-up round or something?

CARRIE: Three, two, one...

ALEX: Oh. Oh! I was once hooking up with a guy while his housemates were home, and he was loud, a real moaner. And so I tell him to bite my hand to stop him from moaning. And so I offer my hand, and he bites down and... My god. It's like a Rottweiler has sunk it's teeth into my fist. And then I look down, and that's when I see blood dripping down onto the sheets. Fast forward to the hospital, I have to get six stitches put into my hand.

CARRIE: Talk about rough sex.

MICHAEL: Wait, did you go to the hospital before or after you finished?

Silence.

ALEX: You're next.

REAGAN: Truth or dare?

MICHAEL: This is dumb.

ALEX: Play the game.

MICHAEL: Fine. Dare. I pick dare.

REAGAN: Okay, I dare you... I dare you to pick truth. Now—

MICHAEL: That's against the rules.

REAGAN: No it's not.

MICHAEL: Yes it is.

REAGAN: No it's not.

MICHAEL: Yes it is.

REAGAN: No it's not against the rules

CARRIE: Alex?

ALEX: I'm fine with it.

MICHAEL: Fine! Whatever! I pick truth.

CARRIE: Can I? Michael, you gave up smoking now, what? Four years ago? In that time have you ever smoked another cigarette? Three, two, one...

MICHAEL: No. Not since I quit.

REAGAN: Come on. Not even drunk at a party, or a puff inside a bar?

MICHAEL: Nothing. Four years smoke free.

REAGAN: Alex, Carrie? What do you think?

ALEX: Well... I don't know. I haven't seen him smoke.

REAGAN: Carrie?

CARRIE: Sometimes I think I smell something, but it's probably just secondhand.

ALEX: Wait wait wait. Let's do a test. We're gonna be a lie detector. Come over here, and between us we're going to be able to tell if he's lying. Now, Michael, look us in the eyes, tell us the truth. Have you smoked since you quit?

ALEX/
CARRIE:

Three, two, one...

MICHAEL: No. Nothing in four years.

ALEX and CARRIE look at MICHAEL in the eye.

ALEX: /He's lying.

CARRIE: He's telling the truth.

MICHAEL: Fuck off.

ALEX: And that means / you must be punished.

MICHAEL: I'm not lying. Carrie said I wasn't lying.

CARRIE: I don't think he's lying. People smoke. The smell sticks.

ALEX: Fine! Fine. We'll punish you later if we find out you're lying though. Okay, Carrie, truth or dare?

CARRIE: Dare. But I want a real dare!

ALEX: Okay. Okay. A real dare? I dare you to go out back, walk into the woods, count to twenty, and then... then you can come back.

CARRIE: That's it?

ALEX: That's it.

CARRIE: Oh. That's easy. See you all in a minute.

CARRIE exits out the backdoor.

Scene 1.02

MICHAEL, ALEX, and REAGAN together in the living room.

MICHAEL: That's it?

ALEX: Shh.

We see ALEX silently step outside the front door.

Scene 1.04

We see ALEX silently sneak around the house. He watches – and can hear – CARRIE counting out loud.

CARRIE: This is it, guys?! This is all you wanted me to do?! Come on! This is easy! One... two... three... four... five... six... seven... eight... nine... ten... eleven... twelve... thirteen... fourteen... fifteen... sixteen... seventeen... eighteen... nineteen... twenty. Okay! Coming back in!

As CARRIE heads back inside ALEX follows her.

Scene 1.06

CARRIE comes in through the backdoor, and back into the living room and rejoins MICHAEL and REAGAN. ALEX follows behind her.

CARRIE: I asked for a real dare, you know? Not just going–

ALEX: BOO!

CARRIE *screams*.

CARRIE: Jesus!

REAGAN: Alex!

ALEX: Got ya!

CARRIE: Hah-Hah. Very funny.

ALEX: Who wants a drink?

MICHAEL: I'll have a beer.

ALEX *walks over to the kitchen and pulls out a bottle of tequila.*

ALEX: What about a shot? I brought tequila.

Nobody answers.

Come on! It's our last night here! Reagan?

REAGAN: I'll do one.

ALEX: Michael? C'mon.

MICHAEL *looks to CARRIE. ALEX pours everyone a shot.*

CARRIE: You have to drive home tomorrow. And you haven't had anything to eat yet.

MICHAEL: I can have one.

CARRIE *says nothing.*

It's tequila. You know it's my favourite.

REAGAN *puts some music on. ALEX comes around with the shots.*

ALEX: We ready?

MICHAEL: Three, Two, one!

They shoot it down. It's awful.

MICHAEL: You know, first time Alex and I got drunk was on tequila.

ALEX: When we were boarders. Stole it from the teacher's lounge.

CARRIE: What teacher's lounge has tequila?

MICHAEL: Nobody tell you this, but the teachers lounge is brimming with secrets.

ALEX: Turn this one up!

ALEX turns up the music and they dance for a minute.

ALEX: No, Carrie, with the rhythm, like this.

ALEX dances.

CARRIE: What do you mean? I've got moves.

CARRIE does a really dumb dance move.

And this...

CARRIE does another really bad dance move.

Come and dance, Michael.

MICHAEL shrugs her off.

Come on!

REAGAN: Just do it.

CARRIE does a final bad dance move. CARRIE realises the whole room is watching her, and MICHAEL isn't saving her.

CARRIE: I think I'm gonna go get some air.

CARRIE exits. REAGAN follows.

Scene 1.08

MICHAEL and ALEX are left inside the house.

MICHAEL: I just fucked up, didn't I?

ALEX: Maybe.

MICHAEL: I'll have to apologise later.

ALEX: I didn't realise she was such an awkward mover.

MICHAEL: Dude. You have no idea. At work parties it's...

ALEX: How are things with Carrie at the moment?

MICHAEL: Yeah. Good. Stable. Stability's good. How about you? How are things with Calvin?

ALEX: Oh, I broke it off with him. His vibe was off.

MICHAEL: Damn. As long as you're happy, right?

ALEX: Definitely.

MICHAEL: Sometimes I miss being single.

ALEX: Nah. You're better off. So what's the plan?

MICHAEL: Few drinks, head to bed? I don't know if we'll be able to drive home tomorrow, but good to be prepared.

ALEX: I have those mushrooms in my bag.

MICHAEL: I'm not doing shrooms tonight.

ALEX: C'mon. It'll be fun.

MICHAEL: Carrie would freak. I would freak.

ALEX: Fuck Carrie. Have some fun.

MICHAEL: Alex—

ALEX: She doesn't need to know. Our little secret.

MICHAEL: I think I'm gonna go check the roads again.

ALEX: Okay. Okay.

MICHAEL grabs his jacket from one of the chairs in the front room and heads out the front door, and heads into the woods a little way.

Scene 1.09

ALEX is left alone inside the house. He walks over to the hi-fi player and flicks through some tracks before putting on some nice music.

For a minute ALEX is allowed to just sit there and vibe.

ALEX: *(internally) Should I go join him? No. Just leave it alone Alex. Maybe you can do shrooms tonight alone. Not tell anyone and just vibe out. Shake off this funk and let the good vibes flow..*

From outside we see HUGH approach. HUGH is a hiker, in full gear set up, except with no shoes or socks. He arrives at the front door, and knocks. HUGH is drenched. HUGH is shivering, and scared.

HUGH *knocks at the door.*

ALEX *switches off the music, walks over, unsure.*

HUGH *knocks again, spooking ALEX.*

ALEX *opens the door, and is immediately taken aback by HUGH. HUGH looks like a scared, wet, orphaned puppy. Or maybe like a baby that's just been birthed.*

ALEX: Hello?

HUGH: Hello.

ALEX: Are you okay?

HUGH: Yes.

ALEX: Do you need help?

HUGH: Yes.

ALEX: Okay. Okay. Let's get you inside. What is going on? How can I help?

HUGH: Are you alone?

ALEX: No, I'm here with friends.

HUGH: Great.

ALEX: Do you need a map? Actually, let me get you a towel. Let's start there. Come and sit down. I don't know if I would have answered the door if it was much darker. Here.

ALEX *hands him the towel.*

HUGH: Thanks.

ALEX: So... Where are you coming from?

HUGH *gives him nothing.*

Mount Baxter? Klondike Creek? St Augustine?

HUGH: Mount Baxter. Heading to St Augustine.

ALEX: Right. And the rains got you. You must be freezing.

HUGH *gives him nothing.*

You're lucky you found us. It's been really cold these past few nights. Be prepared. That's what they say in beaver scouts. Were you a beaver scout?

HUGH: No.

ALEX: Ah see, that explains why you weren't prepared. Can I get you a drink? I'm Alex, by the way. Alex Carpenter. Sorry, I didn't grab your name.

HUGH: Hugh. My name is Hugh.

ALEX: Let's get you out of that wet jacket, and get a blanket around you.

HUGH: Wait, Alex— Eyelash.

HUGH *delicately picks it from ALEX's cheek.*

Wish.

ALEX: I wish that—

HUGH: Not out loud. Inside. Really mean it.

ALEX: *(internally) I wish... I wish Michael could just be himself.*

ALEX *blows the eyelash from HUGH's fingers.*

Scene 1.11

CARRIE and REAGAN *come back through the backdoor and interrupt ALEX and HUGH.*

ALEX: Hey guys.

REAGAN: Who's this?

ALEX: Hugh.

REAGAN: The guy right there.

ALEX: No, his *name* is Hugh.

HUGH: Hugh.

Nothing.

ALEX: Hugh is a hiker. Got lost in the big rains. This is Reagan.

REAGAN: Hey.

CARRIE: Hey Hugh, Carrie. Sorry, let me – Alex, who is this?

REAGAN: Hugh.

ALEX: It's Hugh.

HUGH: I'm Hugh.

CARRIE: Right. Hugh. Got that.

ALEX: He got soaked through in the storm. He was shivering, hypothermia. He needs somewhere to stay tonight, and probably just a feed and a drink. What was I meant to do? Leave him out there to freeze to death.

CARRIE: Alex.

ALEX: He needs out help, Carrie. We shouldn't turn him away. Look at him.

CARRIE: Alex, can we talk about this? A stranger in the house–

HUGH: I'll stay out on the deck.

CARRIE *says nothing.*

Search my stuff.

CARRIE: Right. No, I hear you. Can you maybe step out for a second so we can talk about this?

HUGH: No definitely. I'll just be– yeah.

HUGH *heads out the front door, but leaves his stuff inside.*

Scene 1.12

CARRIE, ALEX, and REAGAN *are left inside.*

CARRIE: Alex, I don't know about this.

REAGAN: I'm with Carrie.

CARRIE: He's not staying. He's a stranger in the woods. Red flag.

REAGAN: And he's not wearing shoes.

CARRIE: Red flag.

ALEX: You didn't see him. He was in shock when he arrived; could hardly speak. What was I meant to do?

CARRIE: Don't let him in.

ALEX: We'll dry his clothes out, give him a feed, and he can set up outside.

CARRIE: Alex, I don't think so.

ALEX: Come on! A nice guy comes knocking and you want to kick him to the curb.

CARRIE: You don't know that he's nice.

ALEX: He is literally just a hiker going from Mount Baxter to St Augustine.

REAGAN: Alex. Hugh is fine to stay the night, but he's your responsibility, okay?

CARRIE: I don't know, Reagan.

REAGAN: Carrie, hopefully now you and Michael can have a little chat.

ALEX: What?

CARRIE: Oh.

REAGAN: Alex, you take care of Hugh, feed and water him, search his stuff, and set him up outside.

ALEX: Done.

Scene 1.14

MICHAEL *and* HUGH *enter through the front door.*

MICHAEL: I just met Hugh outside.

CARRIE: Hugh, it's fine for you to stay the night I think I was just a bit thrown. You know. Stranger in the house.

HUGH: Sounds fine by me.

MICHAEL: By the way, I just heard on the radio that the roads are definitely all flooded out. We won't be able to drive home until tomorrow afternoon at the earliest.

CARRIE: But I have my meeting tomorrow morning.

MICHAEL: Too bad, kiddo. We're trapped.

REAGAN: So... anyone want another drink?

ALEX: I'm good thanks.

MICHAEL: Ahhh, yeah. Yeah okay. I'll have one.

REAGAN: Hugh?

HUGH: Ahhh, yeah. Yeah okay. I'll have one.

MICHAEL: Just a tequila thanks.

HUGH: Tequila?

MICHAEL: Love it.

HUGH: Love it.

REAGAN: Hugh, sit down and have a drink. You must be tired.

ALEX: Do we know where the rope for the line is?

MICHAEL: In the trunk, I think.

HUGH: Oh, I'll help.

MICHAEL: Take a load off, dude.

REAGAN: I used to play cowboys with it. Try and turn it into a lasso to tie up the cattle rustlers.

MICHAEL: I didn't like being tied up.

ALEX opens up the trunk that, until now, has been posing as a coffee table.

ALEX: Oh man, look at all of this stuff!

CARRIE: Hugh do you smoke? I swear I can smell cigarettes.

HUGH: Uhhh, yeah, that's me.

REAGAN: There should be a rope at the bottom somewhere.

ALEX pulls out a wig, along with the rope.

ALEX Look at this!

ALEX tries it on.

ALEX: What do we think?

MICHAEL: Where did that thing even come from?

ALEX shows off the wig.

ALEX: I love a wig.

REAGAN: Alex, take that off.

CARRIE: No! It's fun!

ALEX runs his hands through the follicles of the wig.

ALEX: Oohhhh, feels good between my fingers. Soothing.

CARRIE: I want to see what it looks like on Michael.

MICHAEL: Fuck off.

ALEX: Come on. Try it on. Then you can your fingers through it. Relax yourself a bit.

MICHAEL: No, I'd rather not.

ALEX: You want a go?

HUGH: Thanks, but no. Not for me.

ALEX grabs the bag and the rope.

 Let me help.

ALEX: Nah, you relax. I'll be back before you know it.

ALEX takes the rope and the bag of wet clothes and heads outside.

Scene 1.16

ALEX is outside hanging up the washing.

ALEX: *(internally) I should not have come out here. What was I thinking? Came out here to prove that I'm longer in love with him. Idiot. Idiot.*

I bet Hugh isn't even flirting with me. I'm just misreading signals. Is this pathetic? I can't believe I'm putting a stranger's washing out because I think it'll make him want to sleep with me. And of course he doesn't have any weapons on him. He's a hiker. He's just a lost hiker in need of somewhere to stay. Michael and I are friends. Only friends. Really remember that, Alex. You're just friends.

I wonder if they're talking about me. I bet they're talking about me while I'm not there.

MICHAEL: *Oh, Alex? Yeah, I've known him since high school. Great guy.*

REAGAN: *Oh come on, Michael you can be honest. I've known Alex for a while now, and I keep waiting for him to really... show his worth.*

ALEX: *Michael would say something.*

MICHAEL: *Why are you all being so mean to him?*

REAGAN: *That's not what I mean. It's more like with Alex... is that all there is? Is he... a dud?*

MICHAEL: *No.*

REAGAN: *Maybe.*

MICHAEL: *He's not a dud. Alex is a good guy.*

CARRIE: *D-d-d-d-d-dud.*

ALEX: *Okay, Alex. just... Nobody talks like that. They're your friends. They like you. Nobody talks about their friends like that. Why would I be invited if they thought I was a dud? That's not what friends do. Unless they felt sorry for me. Which is also a possibility. I wonder what Hugh thinks of me. I bet here's not even thinking about me. Which is worse? To be thought about or not be thought about?*

CARRIE: *Yeah, Alex's boyfriends have all been bad eggs if you ask me.*

ALL: *Red flag.*

CARRIE: *Bingo.*

ALEX: *Carrie would never say bingo.*

CARRIE: *Maybe he's doomed to be alone.*

ALEX: *I need to stop thinking like this. It's not realistic. Nobody talks like this. They're probably just –*

CARRIE: *But you can see it right, Hugh? What we mean about Alex?*

MICHAEL: *Okay. Let's go easy on the guy.*

HUGH: *I mean, I hardly know the guy. But... He doesn't have it. And I don't know what it is, but he doesn't have it. Which is fine. Not everyone does. Nice of him to let me in, don't get me wrong but...*

ALEX: *But he can do a lot better than me. Look at him. Look at him and look at me. No. NO! Alex. Just. Okay that's enough. Remember what the councillor said... focus in on your breathing. You're going to be fine. In... and out... in... and out...*

GROUP: *In... out... out.. out... get out... leave... fuck off... out...*

ALEX: *You're fine. Alex. You're fine. If anyone asks... you're fine. Play the game. Play the game. Five things you can see... umm... the grass, the rocking chair, the trees, my shoes, and... the path. Four things you can hear... the insects, the lake, the music from inside, your voice. Three things you can touch... Your shirt, the deck, and... and... the wig. That felt good to touch. Two things you can smell... the smell of the rain just past, and the citronella coil. One more... one thing you can taste. The tequila shot. So gross.*

MICHAEL *enters from outside.*

Scene 1.17

MICHAEL *finds ALEX outside in the middle of an anxiety spiral.*

MICHAEL: *Whoa whoa whoa. Everything okay?*

ALEX: *Yeah– No – I mean, I just need a... a minute – just give me a minute.*

MICHAEL *grabs ALEX's hand and holds it. For a minute ALEX and MICHAEL sit on the front porch together, facing away from the house, just holding hands.*

MICHAEL: *All good?*

ALEX: *All good. I was going through old stuff at home. Found this.*

ALEX *pulls out a piece of paper from his jacket pocket, and unfurls it to show a really detailed double portrait of ALEX and MICHAEL holding hands.*

MICHAEL: *Oh wow.*

ALEX: *Year twelve art class. You drew this for me.*

MICHAEL: Right. I mean, I drew it. I didn't draw it for you, but yeah. I drew it.

ALEX: I've always loved this.

MICHAEL: We look so young.

ALEX: I want you to have it. First it was a gift from you to me. Now it's a gift. From me to you.

MICHAEL: Alex—

ALEX: Please. Take it. It would mean a lot to me if you did.

MICHAEL: Okay.

ALEX: I thought it was just going to be us two.

MICHAEL: I know. But Carrie insisted she see the house. We'll come down alone some other time.

They sit there together for a while longer.

ALEX gives a big exhale.

ALEX: Okay.

MICHAEL: Let's head back in.

ALEX and MICHAEL get up and head back inside. MICHAEL pockets the drawing.

Scene 1.21

ALEX and MICHAEL join CARRIE and HUGH inside.

HUGH: All good?

ALEX: I just needed a second.

CARRIE: Hey Michael, can I—

HUGH: So what's everyone's plans for the night?

ALEX: I'm still keen to have a good night if you all are. Michael?

MICHAEL: I mean... I could party.

HUGH: I could party.

CARRIE: Michael. Can we have a quick chat outside?

MICHAEL: Yeah... sure.

MICHAEL *and* CARRIE *exit out the back.*

Scene 1.22

ALEX *and* HUGH *are left alone in the living room together.*

HUGH: Hey.

ALEX: Hey.

HUGH: You okay?

ALEX: Yeah, I'm fine. I doubt your clothes will be dry by tomorrow. What did you say you did again?

HUGH: I'm an architect.

ALEX: Oh, with which firm?

HUGH: McCann Douglas. I was talking with Michael before, he works in the St Augustine office, I'm out in Mount Baxter. He seems like a nice guy. Michael.

ALEX: Yeah, he is.

HUGH: You know, if I didn't know better... I would have assumed Michael was gay.

ALEX: I don't think you're the only one to have had that thought.

HUGH: And there was never anything there?

ALEX: Maybe once upon a time.

Neither of them move. HUGH puts his hand on ALEX.

HUGH: It really is a beautiful cabin. I love old buildings like this.

ALEX: This one is pretty damn old. Almost as old as the lake.

HUGH: I remember, I was away on Beaver Scout camp –

ALEX: I thought you said you weren't a beaver scout.

HUGH: No, I said I *was*. My dad signed me up. Always said *Hugh, idle hands are the devil's playthings*. Anyway, I was out in this little country town, McAllister, a few hours outside of Mount Baxter and I remember seeing this amazing abandoned opera house. I walked in, and I smelled the peeling paint, and rotting wood. It was sublime. That's the word. Sublime. And one day this kid got injured. And so—

ALEX: How was he hurt?

HUGH: He cut two of his little piggies off with the tree-planting tool. Blood everywhere. Really awful. And so the kid is rushed to hospital, and of course the tree planting is called off. But I remember getting to sneak off while the parents all dealt with the ambulance and the hospitals and stuff, and I got to explore and spend time inside that beautiful old opera house. Staring up at that faded mural I knew subconsciously, in that moment, that I wanted to become an architect.

You know, I think Michael really cares about you.

ALEX: Okay?

HUGH: Some guys... struggle to work out how to express it.

ALEX: I reckon there are far more of us out there than we realise. Even now. So many people in hiding because something inside of them, some voice in their head is telling them not to.

HUGH: That's assuming they know how to put what they're feeling into words. For a lot of men it's just a feeling, and even that they deny.

ALEX: Why is that?

HUGH: The risk of being outcast. I mean, I had a friend in high school who came out and he was really bullied for it.

ALEX: Same thing happened to me.

HUGH: And I did nothing. Never stepped in. Never said a word. Because... Because I don't know.

ALEX: Did he forgive you?

HUGH: We stayed close. But we never spoke about it.

ALEX: You're welcome to stay indoors tonight.

HUGH: Where would I sleep?

ALEX: On the couch. With me.

HUGH *and* ALEX *snuggle up on the couch.* HUGH *holds* ALEX.

HUGH: There's something special between you and Michael.

I think we all just want to love. And be loved in return.

And we have to be willing to do whatever it takes to get it.

Whatever it takes.

ALEX *leans into* HUGH's *arms.*

Scene 1.27

CARRIE *enters through the hallway knocking on* REAGAN's *door as she goes.* *She gathers everyone in the living room.*

REAGAN: What happened? Is everything okay?

CARRIE: I have an announcement. Outside, as the sun was setting, I asked Michael if he would marry me.

REAGAN: And?

Big pause.

CARRIE: He said yes!

REAGAN: Congratulations!

ALEX *doesn't speak to* MICHAEL *yet, instead* ALEX *busies himself.*

How do you –

CARRIE: I feel amazing! Don't you feel amazing?

MICHAEL: Happiest day of my life.

CARRIE: I'm going to get a drink. Anyone want a drink?

MICHAEL: Yeah, drinks all round. Tequila?

REAGAN: I have bubbly left over from the other night.

CARRIE: I'll pour!

CARRIE *exits to the kitchen.*

Scene 1.29

ALEX *walks over to* MICHAEL, *and* REAGAN.

ALEX: Hey, congratulations.

They hug.

MICHAEL: Thanks, bro.

ALEX: Bro?

MICHAEL: Hey, I think I wanna take those mushrooms.

ALEX: What about Carrie?

MICHAEL: She'll be fine. Let's have some fun. You and me. Like the old days.

ALEX: I dunno.

MICHAEL: This was your idea.

REAGAN: Really? Tonight?

MICHAEL: You're not gonna pussy out on me are you?

ALEX: No no. Let's do it, bro.

REAGAN: Your funeral.

Scene 1.30

HUGH *and* CARRIE *enter from the kitchen.*

CARRIE: Michael you are going to look so dashing in what I brought down for you.

HUGH: Michael, your girlfriend—

ALEX: Fiancé.

MICHAEL: My fiancé?

CARRIE: Fiancé!

MICHAEL: Fiancé.

HUGH: Your fiancé couldn't have picked a more beautiful place to propose. Great name. Logue Lake.

CARRIE: Named after a woman who came here on a sort of pilgrimage.

MICHAEL: Story goes, around three hundred and fifty years ago the lake was formed when a star fell to Earth.

CARRIE: And the impact crater from the collision became this lake.

MICHAEL: The night sky was lit up as if it was daytime.

CARRIE: And when the dust had settled only one woman was brave enough to visit the crater. Her name was Florence Logue. And Florence was a deeply unhappy woman.

MICHAEL: She hated her body. It's folds, it's wrinkles, it's lines.

CARRIE: When she saw the star fall to Earth, she felt a calling deep inside of her, and so she hiked the three days and three nights from St Augustine, and when she arrived she saw that the crater was now filled with water. Logue Lake. And when she arrived at the lake, she camped by its shores and – as people always do in these stories – she met–

ALEX: Michael, you want a drink?

MICHAEL: The Devil

MICHAEL *and* ALEX *exit*.

Scene 1.32

ALEX and MICHAEL are in one of the bedrooms about to take the mushrooms.

MICHAEL and ALEX eat the mushrooms.

ALEX: Feels like old times. Sneaking away to do sneaky things.

MICHAEL: We're not being sneaky. It's just that Carrie doesn't need to know.

ALEX: Right. Right.

MICHAEL: Don't say it like that. You're gonna make me feel bad.

ALEX: Sorry. I'm really happy for you two.

MICHAEL: Thank you.

ALEX: Really happy.

BOTH: Ready? Ready.

MICHAEL: I expected these to taste of something. Like, they should be bitter or gross.

ALEX: You've never done mushrooms before?

MICHAEL: No.

ALEX: Oh.

MICHAEL: What?

ALEX: These are just quite strong. I found them in the woods.

MICHAEL: What?! So they could be poisonous?

ALEX: No, I'm pretty sure they're Echocaps. Strong. Fast acting. Real rollercoaster ride.

MICHAEL: So I'm just eating random mushrooms that you've found?

ALEX: I mean, they looked right. I guess we'll find out.

MICHAEL: That's not what I wanted to hear.

ALEX: It'll be fine.

MICHAEL: I guess we're in for a big night.

ALEX: You were already in for a big night. These are just gonna... blow it up.

MICHAEL: Right.

ALEX: It's gonna be great though. Lots of emotions. Just stay in the moment.

MICHAEL: I can do that. Stay in the moment.

ALEX: And don't let anything harsh your vibe. You don't want to have a bad trip.

MICHAEL: Oh.

ALEX: Yeah, that can happen sometimes. A bad trip is... really intense.

MICHAEL: Maybe this wasn't a good idea.

ALEX: No going back now. Tune in and enjoy the flow.

MICHAEL: Together.

ALEX: We are going to feel absolutely glistening.

CARRIE: *(calling out)* Can you two come over here?

Scene 1.33

MICHAEL *and* ALEX *join the group, they pick up their champagne glasses.*

ALEX: Sorry! Sorry! Just congratulating Michael.

CARRIE: Everyone, I'm so thankful that I get to spend this time with you all. Reagan, I'm so glad I'm getting to know you better this weekend. Alex, I think we're going to be in each other's lives for a long time. Michael. You're the love of my life. And Hugh... I don't know you at all. Cheers!

ALL: Cheers!

Everybody goes to relax.

ALEX: Actually, can I? Michael. You're my best friend. And... and I'm glad I was here for this. If not for anyone else then for myself. I'm glad you found Carrie and... I'll always love you... bro. And thank you Reagan for hosting us down here.

HUGH: To Logue Lake!

ALL: To Logue Lake!

They all take a drink. REAGAN pulls MICHAEL aside into her bedroom.

Scene 1.35

ALEX, CARRIE, *and* HUGH *are left in the living room.*

ALEX: Congratulations, Carrie. You locked him down.

CARRIE: He's mine now.

ALEX: Have you thought much about the wedding?

CARRIE: You have no idea.

ALEX: What do you think you'll wear?

CARRIE: I was thinking white.

ALEX: Yeah, white's a good choice.

HUGH: Have you thought much about names? Whether you'll take his?

CARRIE: Carrie Somerset.

ALEX: He could always take your last name. Become Michael Palmer.

CARRIE: Don't be stupid, Alex.

HUGH: Yeah, don't be stupid.

ALEX: Okay, Hugh. Let's get you into some dry clothes.

CARRIE: Whose?

ALEX: All mine are dirty.

HUGH: I could wear Michael's. We're about the same size.

ALEX: Perfect.

ALEX *exits*.

Scene 1.37

ALEX *ducks in MICHAEL's room and grabs some of MICHAEL's dry clothes*.

ALEX: *(internally) Let's see... what will look good on Hugh. These pants, and then this shirt, maybe? It'll be good to get him out of his wet clothes.*

Oh, these are nice. Michael will look great at the very least. Let's make sure Hugh looks good too. I wonder when the mushrooms are going to hit. Michael's never done them before. He's really getting dropped in the deep end. I should keep an eye on him. This'll do great!

ALEX *re-enters the living room*.

Scene 1.38

ALEX *enters the main room*.

ALEX: You are going to be so busy, Carrie. Planning a wedding sounds so stressful.

HUGH: Don't be silly Alex. It'll be fun! Who are you going to invite? Picked out a flavour for the wedding cake? I've heard you've got moves, what's the song for the first dance?

CARRIE: You boys don't get it. It's not the wedding. I'm excited for Michael and I to commit.

ALEX: Hugh, let's get you changed.

ALEX and HUGH enter into the bathroom. CARRIE goes to find MICHAEL and REAGAN.

Scene 1.40

Inside the bathroom, ALEX and HUGH are getting HUGH changed into a new set of clothes.

HUGH: And you're sure Michael won't mind?

ALEX: He'll be fine.

ALEX turns away while HUGH gets changed.

HUGH: You can look if you want.

ALEX: Oh... okay.

HUGH: That friend from high school, who I had kind of a thing with, and whenever we were in the dorm alone he would look at himself in the mirror and just point out all the parts of himself that he thought were flaws. His legs, his arms—

ALEX: My torso—

HUGH: Looking back, I wish I said something. Are you gonna help me with these buttons? What are you going to wear?

ALEX: I didn't bring anything.

HUGH: So? Someone must have something fun you can wear.

ALEX: At home sometimes, for a party, I'll sometimes wear a dress.

HUGH: That's fun.

ALEX: But I'd have to get one from one of the girls, and it would be a whole thing.

HUGH: So then make it a whole thing.

ALEX: It's Carrie's night.

HUGH: Who cares? Let's have fun while we're down here together.

ALEX: I dunno.

HUGH: Come on. You only live once.

ALEX: Fine. Fine! I'll go ask Carrie if I can borrow one of her dresses.

HUGH: No! Don't ask. Make it a surprise. They'll die.

ALEX: Okay. Fine. We'll make it a surprise.

HUGH: You're gonna look great. Trust me.

Scene 1.41

REAGAN, CARRIE, and MICHAEL *enter the living room.*

MICHAEL: Sorry, Hugh. Are you wearing my shirt... and my jeans?

Everybody looks at HUGH. HUGH goes to answer.

ALEX: His are soaked. You're the same size.

HUGH: Alex said you wouldn't mind.

ALEX: It was actually Carrie's idea.

MICHAEL: Right.

ALEX: Michael, it's fine.

HUGH: All good?

MICHAEL: No problem. It's fine.

ALEX: I just thought, you know, Carrie's special night.

CARRIE: And Michael's.

MICHAEL: As I said, it's fine.

REAGAN: You sound fine.

MICHAEL: I'm fine!

A lull.

HUGH: It's a beautiful house, Reagan.

REAGAN: Everyone says that.

HUGH: Michael, did you do any work on this place?

MICHAEL: No, I haven't been down here since I was a kid.

HUGH: What a shame. This place is beautiful. Not just the views and the house, but there's something else going on.

Scene 1.46

ALEX *listening to HUGH's story.*

HUGH: This house is one of a kind. Unique. You couldn't pay me enough money to knock a place like this down.

HUGH's story slowly becomes distorted as the music and HUGH's voice become affected, remixed, and distorted by the mushrooms that ALEX took.

ALEX: *(internally) I wonder if Hugh will sleep indoors with me tonight. I know it's just a fold up couch but still. Better than an outside. Am I going to need to like... finagle a way to make this happen or is it just gonna be chill? I bet Reagan will comment on it in the morning.*

Hugh has big vibes coming off of him. Viiiiiiiiibes. I swear when I look at his face it's like he's changing. Wasn't his hair lighter when he arrived?

He is good looking though. And him and Michael... it's uncanny. Just go with the flow, Alex. Breathe. You're gonna be okay. Hugh is good. I can hook up with Hugh and then drop him off later. Get his number. But tonight will be fun. I can feel it. The vibe.

ALEX *tunes back into HUGH.*

HUGH: But out here by the lake? You can breathe easy, be your true self. What do you think, Michael?

Scene 1.47

MICHAEL: Sorry, what?

HUGH: About the house? Architecturally.

Pause.

MICHAEL: Couldn't have said it better myself.

CARRIE: So Hugh, do you have a partner?

HUGH: Nah, flying solo at the mo.

CARRIE: And you're sure you two hadn't met before tonight?

HUGH: I don't think so. I think I'd remember someone like Alex. Why?

CARRIE: Weird. Mount Baxter and St Augustine are already so small. I just kind of assumed all the gay people in the area would know each other at this point.

HUGH: Yeah, I guess I do know most of them.

ALEX: Maybe we've been like ships in the night.

CARRIE: So then... if you don't know each other, how do you know? That the other is gay.

HUGH *and* ALEX *look at each other.*

ALEX: There's... a vibe.

MICHAEL: A vibe?

CARRIE: Like a secret handshake?

HUGH: Yes.

CARRIE: Really?

HUGH: No. And even if there was—

ALEX: We wouldn't tell you.

REAGAN: So then what is it?

ALEX: I think there's just... a vibe.

HUGH: Right. I get that. Big vibe.

REAGAN: What are you all talking about?

CARRIE: I'm sorry... a vibe? Is that like gaydar?

HUGH: Kinda. I don't know how else to describe it. It's... Like... a vibe.

REAGAN: You keep saying *the vibe* but it doesn't actually help me understand exactly what it is.

HUGH: Maybe you gotta be in the club to know the signal.

MICHAEL: Right. So you just knew? That you were both gay. Without saying anything.

HUGH: I guess so. It's subconscious.

MICHAEL: Bullshit.

ALEX: Somewhere between a mindreader and a metal-detector.

HUGH: Have you ever felt it before, Michael?

MICHAEL: Of course I've felt sexual attraction.

HUGH: But a vibe between you and another guy?

MICHAEL: No, I just meant—

REAGAN: What even is this vibe?

HUGH: You must have had a gay vibe at some point.

MICHAEL: Nope.

HUGH: C'monn... you went to boarding school didn't you?

REAGAN: What does that have to do with anything?

HUGH: Do I really have to say it?

ALEX: Or even a footballer on TV. Michael, it's fine if you have. No shame in it.

MICHAEL: I haven't—

HUGH: You and Alex were pretty close in high school right?

MICHAEL: Not *that* close.

HUGH: What about the picture you drew of the two of you? Didn't feel anything then?

MICHAEL *pulls out the portrait from before, scrunches it up, and carelessly throws it back at*
ALEX.

MICHAEL: This? This means nothing to me. Jesus, Alex can keep it for all I care. I don't even fucking remember drawing it. And all this gay shit? No. The answer is no.

ALEX: But—

MICHAEL *exits. CARRIE follows.*

Scene 1.48

ALEX, REAGAN, and HUGH are left inside.

REAGAN: What the fuck was that all about?

HUGH: Was I rude? I thought I was just asking questions.

REAGAN: What are you doing Hugh? Carrie's with Michael.

HUGH: So?

REAGAN: What's with these questions?

ALEX: He can be sensitive sometimes.

HUGH: I'll apologise when he comes back in.

ALEX: It was just a bit of fun that accidentally went sour.

REAGAN: No, something else just happened.

ALEX: He'll apologise. It's fine.

REAGAN: Hugh, I've been meaning to ask. Where are your shoes? You rocked up barefoot.

HUGH: Oh. In the rains, they got wet and I noticed some mould on them. And I didn't want to get a fungus and so I left them behind.

REAGAN: Right. You didn't think you'd need them later?

HUGH: Thought I'd be in town by now.

REAGAN: Right.

There's a lull.

ALEX: So Hugh. Truth or dare?

HUGH: This is dumb.

ALEX: Come on.

HUGH: Fine. Truth. I pick truth.

REAGAN: Make it a good one.

ALEX: Okay... What's a secret skill you have?

HUGH: A secret skill?

ALEX: C'mon. Everyone has one. When fast forwarding through a cassette I'm always able to guess when to stop it to get to the right track.

HUGH: I don't know if I have a secret skill.

REAGAN: What do you have to hide?

HUGH: Nothing.

REAGAN: Then answer the question.

HUGH: A secret skill? Okay, how about this? I'm really good at reading people. Like... scary good. I pick up on things they don't even know they're putting down.

ALEX: Oh really?

REAGAN: What do you think they're talking about?

HUGH: I bet you a million dollars they're not talking about anything.

ALEX: I remember once Michael got rinsed on a night out, and said some really hurtful things to Carrie in front of everyone. Felt... cruel. And when I spoke to Michael about it a few weeks later they said that they hadn't talked about it.

REAGAN: Not even in private?

ALEX: According to Michael she never brought it up. And even if she did he was just going to pretend he didn't remember.

HUGH: What about you, Alex? Truth or dare.

ALEX: Truth.

HUGH: You ever fallen in love with someone that didn't love you back?

ALEX: Of course. Of course I have. It happens to everyone eventually, right? Some straight guy comes into your life and they are perfect, absolutely perfect for you in every which way bar one.

HUGH: And deep down. Right at the core of who you are. You wish that it could be different. That you could change things.

ALEX: Right. But even worse is the guy that you know is queer. You know it you know it you know it. And yet... they can't bring themselves to ever say it out loud.

HUGH: Is there a name for that? When you can't bring yourself to say something?

ALEX: There must be.

HUGH: What about you Reagan? Is there anything you can't bring yourself to say?

REAGAN: Well... if there was I wouldn't be able to say it. You?

HUGH: I was home alone one night. My sister would have been at boarding school, and Mum was at choir practice. I had the place to myself. I was in my room, and I heard Dad come home, and voices from the kitchen, and wondering who he was talking to, so I sat myself at the top of the stairs - like a little spy - and he was chatting with this guy he worked with at the university. I remember he was wearing this shirt. A button up. And it had this Japanese print on it. Little cranes.

I probably should have gone back to my room. But I kept watching. And then they kissed. This man and my dad. They kissed. So quick. Casual. Familiar. And then I remember, the guy, looks up the stairs. And he spots me. And I feel this bolt of something through me. Terror, and recognition, and—

I ran straight to my room. And in that moment. Running away from this stranger and into my room... I knew it. We were the same. Subconsciously. Even if I didn't know I knew it. I knew it.|

I never told him. My Dad. That I saw.

ALEX: Parapraxis.

REAGAN: What?

ALEX: I think that's what it's called. When you can't bring yourself to say something.

CARRIE *and* MICHAEL *re-enter*.

Scene 1.50

CARRIE *and* MICHAEL *reenter the living room*.

MICHAEL: Sorry everyone.

HUGH: Michael, I just wanted to apologise for my behaviour before. I think I pushed it a bit far.

REAGAN: Yeah, you do that.

HUGH: Do I?

REAGAN: Frankly, I don't see how your Dad kissing a guy - some guy with cranes on his shirt - is something anyone needs to hear.

CARRIE: Sorry. What was that?

REAGAN: Hugh just told this story about his dad. I don't know.

HUGH: The same night I realised my dad was gay, was also - whether I registered it at the time - the night I realised that I was gay. It's not that I've never felt anything for a woman. I reckon I have. Once. Or thought I had.

We met at university while my friend was in Europe. This was before I came out.

This girl and I went to the Aquarium. The air was ocean and chlorine. We explored that place from gill to tail. Squid. Fishies. Seals. And as I was walking I thought "I *could* build a life like this. I'm not... unhappy. You know?"

HUGH *is now standing behind* MICHAEL. *They could almost be twins. Similar clothes. Similar hair. Everything.*

But in that moment I made a choice. I could've gone on a second date, but in the end I broke it off. Because deep down, I knew. That this wasn't me. Not really. That if I was to go down this path I would be simply lying to the person I'm dating. To my friends. And to myself.

HUGH *claps his hands and suddenly everyone's channels go to static except for* MICHAEL *and* HUGH. *Everyone else just seems confused for a second, like a shockwave went through them, but the static quickly fades.*

HUGH: *(V/O) Michael, there's something inside you. Writhing and jerking to get out.*

MICHAEL: What?

HUGH: *(V/O) And it will come out. It will win, or you will die.*

CARRIE *begins aggressively shepherding* HUGH *out of the house. The lines overlap.*

HUGH: Alex, are you okay?

CARRIE: Hugh! Out! Now!

HUGH: Out? Why? What did I do? Carrie, is this about Michael being on mushrooms?

ALEX: Where is this all coming from?

CARRIE: Just go!

HUGH: Carrie, what are you talking about?

CARRIE: Go! Leave! Fuck off!

MICHAEL: Alex, everything I say and do... he's... He knows stuff about me. He's talking to me inside my fucking head!

ALEX: Are you hallucinating or something?

CARRIE and MICHAEL *exit into the living room.*

Scene 1.52

HUGH and ALEX *out the back. They just look at each other. Sadly vibin'.*

ALEX: What was that?

HUGH: I think things just got a bit out of control.

ALEX: Clearly. So what are you going to do now?

HUGH: I guess I'll hike in the direction of St Augustine and try and find a way station I can stop in at.

ALEX: When will I see you again?

HUGH: It's a small world.

ALEX: When?

HUGH *shrugs.*

HUGH: We'll see each other again soon.

ALEX: I don't know what it is... but it really feels like I've known you all my life.

A lull.

HUGH: I guess that's me.

ALEX and HUGH *hug.*

HUGH: Bye.

ALEX: Bye.

HUGH *exits into the woods. ALEX is left alone out the back of the cabin.*

Scene 1.53

ALEX *has been left alone outside.*

ALEX: *(internally) What just happened? This is typical Carrie... typical typical typical. What do I do now? Damn! I was so close to locking it down with Hugh. so close.*

Screw Carrie! And Michael. That drawing. How dare he? How dare he? In front of everyone like that. I am trying to reach out to him, and this is what I get.

Scene 1.55

MICHAEL *joins* ALEX.

They just sit there for a moment.

MICHAEL: You good?

ALEX: What was that? Back there?

MICHAEL: It was Carrie that did it. It was her idea, she was the one that kicked him out.

ALEX *isn't convinced*.

He was inside my head, Alex. He... He knew things about me that I hadn't told anyone.

ALEX: You didn't think maybe you're hallucinating? That it's the mushrooms? Cause I don't know about you, but for me? They're really kicking in.

MICHAEL: Yeah... I can feel them. Like...

MICHAEL *gesticulates with his whole body to indicate where he feels them*.

Let's go for a walk. Fresh air filling the lungs. That's what we need.

MICHAEL *helps ALEX up*. MICHAEL *closes his eyes*. *They're both buzzing. They breathe in sync.*

****The sound design starts getting weird... maybe voices go out of sync with them as they're saying them? How much of this can be done live?****

ALEX: I can really feel it when our skin touches.

They remain holding hands.

MICHAEL: Yeah, like this... hidden electric current that runs through my body is suddenly able to be felt.

ALEX: I can feel it. It feels so real. Like... more real than real life.

MICHAEL: Adventure. I can feel myself vibrating and I want adventure.

ALEX: It's dark.

MICHAEL *grabs a torch and lights their way. MICHAEL and ALEX step off into the crowd. They walk for a bit before ALEX grabs the torch and shines it on MICHAEL.*

MICHAEL: What do you see?

ALEX: Like the layers of a painting. You're the foreground, and then the mid ground is the house, and the background is the forest. And the lake... I can't see it. But I can feel it you know?

MICHAEL: Let me try.

MICHAEL *grabs the torch and shines it on ALEX.*

ALEX: What do you see?

MICHAEL: Whoa.

ALEX: What?

MICHAEL: When I look at you... it's like you're surrounded by a sea of people. Each tree is a person, and you're... you're like, part tree part person. And the lake. I can feel it too.

ALEX: Whoa.

MICHAEL *switches off the light and spoons ALEX standing up.*

MICHAEL: It's amazing.

ALEX: What is?

MICHAEL: That we're out here together.

ALEX: I know. I don't want to go back inside.

MICHAEL: No, I mean out here. In the middle of nowhere. Vibrating together. In a forest. Next to a lake. The beauty of this moment... It's overwhelming me.

ALEX: This moment. *This* moment, Michael. Forever.

MICHAEL *and ALEX embrace the moment.*

MICHAEL: I guess we should head back. Carrie will be wondering where we are.

ALEX: No no no.

MICHAEL: Come on. Time's up.

ALEX *and MICHAEL head back inside.*

Scene 1.56

MICHAEL *and* ALEX *join* REAGAN *and* CARRIE *in the living room.*

There's an awkward vibe before someone talks.

CARRIE: Okay. So... how are we all feeling?

Nobody answers.

Right. Yeah. I get that. But... okay, so here's where I'm at. Hugh's out, and the night is young. So... Fuck it. Fuck it! I'm gonna have fun. I'm gonna go get changed into something nice, and y'all can do whatever you want. And when we're ready... we party.

Nobody answers.

Right?

Nobody answers.

MICHAEL: Carrie's right. Come on. It's our last night, let's try and have a good time.

CARRIE *grabs the bottle of tequila, and offers it to the group.*

CARRIE: Who's in?

CARRIE *takes a swig.*

REAGAN: I'm in.

REAGAN *takes a swig.*

MICHAEL: Yeah yeah.

MICHAEL *takes a swig.*

ALEX: Fine. Let's party.

ALEX *takes a swig.*

INTERLUDE

A kind of montage set to music. Different for each channel.

*What happens during the scene exactly should be devised by the team.
But we must see the following, not necessarily in this order:*

We see ALEX, MICHAEL, REAGAN, and CARRIE begin to party, dance, drink. We also see them all get changed into their respective semi-formal outfits.

CARRIE goes into her room, and looks at trying on two different dresses. She ultimately picks one over the other, and then gets changed into it. She finds MICHAEL and lures him into their room, where she tries to get him to make out with her. He's not into it, and goes along with it for a bit before pulling away for whatever reason.

HUGH returns. HUGH should look as identical as possible to MICHAEL at this point.

The sequence should end with the following characters together:

MICHAEL and REAGAN.

HUGH and CARRIE.

ALEX alone, in the dress, applying makeup in the bathroom.

ACT TWO - DEPTHS

Scene 2.03

ALEX is alone in the bathroom, applying makeup, listening to music on a little portable FM radio with speaker. He's not yet in the full outfit – wig, heels, etc. But he's part way there.

ALEX: *(internal) Oh man. Intense. The shrooms. Wait... every time I blink my face changes. Happy. Sad. Evil. Good. Versions of me.*

Freaky. I look great. Is this a look? It's a look. Almost. I wish Hugh was here to see it. We connected. We vibed. He felt... familiar. I'm cooked. Burnt. He reads people. Hugh reads people. I wonder what my body language says about me.

I'm going to have fun tonight. I will. I'm gonna drink, and party, and let these shrooms run their course.

ALEX exits the bathroom and goes into the main room where he find HUGH.

Scene 2.06

ALEX finds HUGH in the living room.

ALEX: Michael.

HUGH: You look great.

ALEX: Thanks.

HUGH: Can we...?

HUGH starts walking around the house. ALEX is reluctant to join, but HUGH cajoles him to come.

Come on. Just for a minute. Come on.

I realise I've been giving you muddled signals for the past little while.

ALEX: I think it's been more than a little while.

HUGH: Right. I get that.

ALEX: Actually, some of the signals have't been muddled at all. I'd say some have been clear as day.

HUGH: I don't think I have an answer to that... and I also realise that this is in-and-of-itself a mixed signal. But... yeah. There's a lot going on, and this weekend has forced me to confront some things.

ALEX: Maybe it's the shrooms.

HUGH: That probably has something to do with it.

ALEX: Or the tequila.

HUGH: That night in high school, Alex. The one where we snuck into the teacher's lounge and stole that bottle of tequila. And I remember being nervous, and my body being tight and my hands shaking. I was just afraid.

ALEX: That's not what I remember from that night.

HUGH: What do you remember?

ALEX: What came after.

HUGH: We went down to the tennis courts.

ALEX: After that. Why did you invite me here this weekend?

HUGH: I thought it would be just us.

ALEX: You know, I came here to prove to myself that I'm over it. You.

HUGH: And?

ALEX: I think I've been living in denial for some time.

HUGH: I get that. I really get that. Before we go inside, I'm sorry, I should never have...

HUGH *pulls out the portrait of MICHAEL and ALEX.*

ALEX: You went back for it...

HUGH: Of course.

ALEX *pulls HUGH in for a hug.*

ALEX: Michael. What's going on tonight? Is everything okay?

HUGH: I don't know Alex. The stuff with Hugh before really threw me. For a second there it felt like the earth beneath me could have opened up and swallowed me whole. Like a whole new world could dawn. But- I'm okay. I think I'm okay. Are you okay?

ALEX: I'm fine.

HUGH: So what's left of the outfit.

ALEX: Finishing touches.

HUGH: Can't wait.

ALEX and HUGH enter through the front door to a waiting CARRIE, REAGAN and MICHAEL.

Scene 2.13

HUGH and ALEX enter through the front door. REAGAN and CARRIE go into action. CARRIE holds HUGH up at knife point while REAGAN ties him up with the rope.

CARRIE: Hugh! Back up! Back up!

ALEX: Whoa whoa whoa. What's going on?

HUGH: What are you doing?

CARRIE: I know who you are.

ALEX: Is that a knife?

MICHAEL: Alex, that's not who you think it is. I'm Michael.

ALEX: Michael? Michael. Michael!

CARRIE: Alex, that's not Michael. That's Hugh. They're identical.

HUGH: You've got it all backwards.

CARRIE: Alex, he's been lying to us.

ALEX: Oh no. No no no.

HUGH: I'm not him. I'm Michael. *I'm* the real one.

REAGAN: Fuck!

MICHAEL/

HUGH: That's not me, Alex.

HUGH: I'm the real Michael.

ALEX: Put the knife down, Carrie.

CARRIE: Not until we tie him up.

ALEX: Tie him up?

CARRIE: And then call the authorities, yeah.

ALEX: You're not tying anyone up.

CARRIE: Reagan, the rope.

HUGH: Just put the knife down, kiddo.

CARRIE: Reagan!

They sit HUGH down and tie him up.

ALEX: How do we know that guy over there isn't the fake?

CARRIE: Because— Because I know.

HUGH: I'm not—

CARRIE: Everyone shut up!

Everyone shuts up.

HUGH: What do you want from me?

CARRIE: Answers. We want answers.

HUGH: Carrie, babe. Please just let me go.

CARRIE: No! There's weird shit going on tonight and I'm going to get to the bottom of it. Who are you? Why do you look just like my boyfriend?

HUGH: Fiancé. I'm telling you, you've got us the wrong way round, kiddo. He's the fake. Not me.

MICHAEL: No.

HUGH: I drove us down together. You napped while I listened to the radio.

MICHAEL: No. No.

HUGH: During the storm, when we were in bed, you leant over and said how much you love the sound of rain on the roof.

MICHAEL: NO! Stop! That isn't — That's me!

CARRIE: How do you know this?

MICHAEL: I did those things! Not you!

HUGH: Listen. I don't know who you are, or what you're doing here, or how you convinced everyone that you're the real one/ but you need to stop.

MICHAEL: /I am the real one!

HUGH: Just go back to where-ever you hiked from.

MICHAEL: This is unbelievable.

CARRIE: This is fucked,

HUGH: Kiddo, you have no idea how fucked this is for me.

MICHAEL: Stop talking to her.

HUGH: She's my fiancé. Of course you're saying all this. It's exactly what I'd say if I was standing where he is, and this was happening to me.

MICHAEL: Except this is happening to me.

There's a pause as the conversation runs out.

ALEX: Which one do we think is the doppelgänger?

REAGAN: The echo?

CARRIE: The reflection.

HUGH: I'm not– I don't know how many times I have to say it. I'm Michael. Michael Somerset.

REAGAN: Did you know my dad?

HUGH: A treadmill.

MICHAEL: And roses. I got you a treadmill, and roses. It's what you said you wanted.

REAGAN: Oh Michael. A treadmill?

ALEX: Wait wait wait, we should be testing both of them. It's no good just asking this one.

REAGAN: I'll go next. Michael, you once told me you can't cry.

MICHAEL: It's true.

REAGAN: At the same time. Is that true? Both of you... Three, two, one...

MICHAEL: I haven't cried—/

HUGH: I cry. I cried when mum first confused me with dad. I cried realising she might never remember me again.

ALEX: Right. So... different answers. Tells us something.

MICHAEL: That didn't happen.

CARRIE: Actually, I want to go again. Michael, do you still smoke? Really. Tell me. Three, two, one...

MICHAEL: I don't—

HUGH: Sometimes when I'm stressed. When there's a lot going on I'll have one.

MICHAEL: That's... That's not true. I don't know what to say. It's not... Carrie.

CARRIE: Right. So... you lied earlier?

MICHAEL: I'm not... that's not me. I don't smoke.

CARRIE: Sure.

ALEX: My turn. Back in high school.

MICHAEL: Alex.

ALEX: Back in high school. After class, and before heading back to the boarding rooms, we'd go around behind the manual arts offices.

MICHAEL: Alex, no.

ALEX: Behind the woodworking shed. What did we do there?

HUGH: Are you sure you want me to answer?

ALEX: I'm sure.

CARRIE: Just answer!

ALEX: Three, two, one.

HUGH: We'd make out. After school. Behind the manual arts building.

REAGAN: Is that true?

CARRIE: Michael?

MICHAEL: That's not what happened. Don't... that's now how the game is meant to be played. It's about truth.

HUGH: Hugh, you don't get to change the rules just because—

MICHAEL: No, no, no. I'm Michael.

HUGH: Reagan, you need to—

CARRIE: Is this something we should talk about privately?

MICHAEL: No. Because it never happened. Right, Alex?

ALEX says nothing.

CARRIE: Michael. Did you?

HUGH: It was—

CARRIE: Not you. Him. Did you kiss Alex? Even in high school.

It feels like the walls are closing in on MICHAEL.

MICHAEL: No.

MICHAEL exits out the front door.

A beat. Nobody's quite sure what to do.

ALEX follows.

Scene 2.15

MICHAEL *exits out the front door.*

ALEX *follows a moment later. MICHAEL is really frustrated. He doesn't know what to do with his emotions. You can see him trying to work out what he should do.*

MICHAEL: AAARRRGHHH!!!!

ALEX *stands behind MICHAEL. MICHAEL's breaths are getting shallower.*

ALEX: Michael.

MICHAEL: Why did you do that? Why did you have to do that?

ALEX: Do what?

MICHAEL: That! That!

ALEX: Are you okay?

MICHAEL: I don't know... I feel... I feel... I need a cigarette. I need a cigarette...

ALEX: I thought you said you didn't smoke.

MICHAEL: ... I can't... Alex... I can't. I don't...

ALEX: Whoa whoa whoa. Michael. Take a beat.

MICHAEL: I don't know what – He's in there with them, Alex. And he's... and you spoke...

ALEX *grabs the radio and headphones.*

I just need... I just need... I can't go back in there...

ALEX *slides the headphones over MICHAEL's ears. We hear the trail end of the DJ, and then the start of the song.*

DJ: ... on St Augustine FM.

On Michael's station only, we hear something beautiful. Soft rock?

ALEX: Okay, there we go. You're all good.

MICHAEL's *breathing slows. They're holding hands.*

You can hardly hear ALEX's voice on MICHAEL's channel. And similarly, you can only just hear the music on ALEX's.

ALEX: I don't know why you never managed to say it out loud. But Michael, there is something between you and me. An energy, or a... an effervescence. A vibe. A vibe. And I need you know that it means so much to me.

MICHAEL *leans in close.*

And I really hope that if you're going to marry Carrie that you're doing it for the right reasons. Because... to live your life in monochrome, when there's a world of polychromatic kaleidoscopic technicolour waiting for you would be such a waste. Such a waste. And I care about you so—

MICHAEL *kisses ALEX. ALEX holds the moment before MICHAEL wakes up to himself. He takes off the headphones.*

MICHAEL: I shouldn't have done that. I shouldn't have done that.

ALEX: Michael.

MICHAEL: No no no. That was a bad idea. I'm sorry, Alex. I need to... Umm.

ALEX: Michael. This isn't fair. It's not fair on me. It's not fair on Carrie.

MICHAEL: I know. I know. I'm like... trying to work out who I am. And... and I just don't know anymore.

ALEX: You're Michael. Michael Somerset.

MICHAEL: And who is that?

ALEX: Why don't you go and ask the guy in there? He seems pretty sure.

MICHAEL: I can't.

ALEX: You can't bury this dude.

MICHAEL: It feels like the earth beneath me could open up, right now, and swallow me whole.

ALEX *laughs to himself.*

What?

ALEX: He said that earlier. Or you did. I don't know anymore. Michael. You have to fix this. Tonight.

MICHAEL: Right. Right.

MICHAEL *exits indoors.*

Scene 2.22

ALEX *alone outdoors.*

ALEX: *(internally) Oh my god. Alex. You can't get wrapped up in this again. Not with Michael. Not after last time. God, I hope he's okay. I should do something practical. This beacon. I should get that up and running. Nobody has actually called for help yet. Reagan said they store it under the deck. What is this energy tonight? Between Hugh and the proposal and this... this double. And now this? And now Michael - if it is Michael - kissing you. And so close to Carrie. Okay, let's have a look... Jesus. This is like... military tech or something. What am I even going to tell them? If I tell them what's going on they'll think I'm insane, or on drugs. I guess I am on drugs. No, just get them to bring help and they can sort it out from there.*

Okay... switch on. What? Come on. Switch on! On!

ALEX *gives the beacon a good bang.*

There we go. I guess I need to find a signal now. Okay, let's set which station we're broadcasting to... and then, hopefully get some sort of a signal. Do I need to go up to the lip of the crater to get a signal?

ALEX *joins CARRIE and REAGAN out the back.*

Scene 2.25

ALEX *wanders around to the other side of the house, joining REAGAN and CARRIE.*

REAGAN: You got it working—

CARRIE: What game are you playing tonight, Alex? I saw something earlier. Through the window. You and Michael.

ALEX: He was having a panic attack. I was helping.

REAGAN: We need to stay focused.

ALEX: Why are you marrying Michael? You could have anyone.

REAGAN: We need a plan.

CARRIE: Because I love him.

ALEX: Come on, Carrie. That's the only reason? This cabin alone has to be worth a small fortune.

REAGAN: Alex. Stop. Not now.

CARRIE: Fuck you, Alex.

ALEX: Sorry, who's on guard duty with Hugh?

REAGAN: Michael.

ALEX: Right. I'm gonna go in and check on them.

REAGAN: No. You stay here. I'll check. And just... keep it together.

REAGAN *heads inside.*

Scene 2.27

CARRIE *and ALEX are left alone outside.*

CARRIE: Fuck you, Alex. I saw you kiss him.

ALEX: You didn't see anything.

CARRIE: Yes I did! Stop lying to me!

ALEX: You have no idea what you're talking about.

CARRIE: You think you're this ultimate example of openness. Telling everyone about the guys you're seeing. But you're full of it. Admit it.

ALEX: What?

CARRIE: Admit it. That you love him. All this time. You've loved him.

ALEX *says nothing.*

What makes you so special, huh? Why do you think you can come into my relationship and do whatever the fuck you want?

Michael is mine. Okay? Mine. I don't care what you had in high school, but right now? It's me and him.

Scene 2.28

REAGAN *joins ALEX and CARRIE.*

REAGAN: Alex, you need to go in there and keep them both in there. I need to talk with Carrie for a moment.

ALEX: Okay?

REAGAN: Go. GO!

Scene 2.29

ALEX *enters, interrupting* MICHAEL *and* HUGH.

ALEX: What are you two up to?

MICHAEL: Nothing.

ALEX: Wait–

MICHAEL *exits*.

Scene 2.31

ALEX *and* HUGH *are left alone*.

ALEX: I was meant to make sure you two stayed together.

HUGH: Mission failed. Alex, I realise that it's been a big night, but soon it's all going to be over.

ALEX: What do you mean?

HUGH: You'll see. I spoke with the other one. Hugh. Michael. And he's going to sit down with Carrie, and once he says what he need to say, I think this is whole awful night is going to come to a close.

ALEX: Right.

HUGH: And then we all get to go home.

ALEX: Tells Carrie what? Sorry, I'm confused.

HUGH: Hugh told me - he looked me at with his eyes identical to mine - and he told me that if I could just surface the truth deep within me –

ALEX: What does that mean?

HUGH: It means once Carrie knows it's done.

CARRIE *enters from outside*.

Scene 2.33

CARRIE *walks in*.

HUGH: What? Where's... where's the other one?

CARRIE: Oh, he and I were gonna talk but, I dunno, Reagan cut him off. Made a big deal of it.

HUGH: Oh no. No no no. Alex, you need to let me out. I need to get out of this room so I can go... I just need to go help. Right now.

CARRIE: We can't let you go.

HUGH: Then go and interrupt them. Stop them. there is a very volatile situation going on outside. Please, Alex.

ALEX: Two seconds ago you were saying this was all going to be okay.

HUGH: Things have changed. Alex, look at me. Really look at me.

ALEX *looks.*

It's me. It's Michael. I want to protect you.

ALEX: Protect me?

CARRIE: Him?

HUGH: Protect you. Like I should have done in high school. Look at me. Really look. It's me. You know it is.

CARRIE: Alex!

ALEX: Carrie, I know. This is Michael. I know it. I know it.

HUGH: We need to stick together. If we can lure him in, and then once we're sure we're all safe we... We need to... kill him. The double. The reflection. Hugh. We can't let him live.

CARRIE: Michael.

ALEX: No. He's right. We need to finish this once and for all.

HUGH: But whatever we do we do as a group.

CARRIE *looks at ALEX and HUGH, and realises.*

CARRIE: No. No no no.

CARRIE *exits.*

Scene 2.35

ALEX and HUGH are together. ALEX pauses.

ALEX: So we're gonna... kill him... This is crazy.

They release the tension.

 Nothing tonight has felt real.

HUGH: I know. The proposal, Hugh...

ALEX: It's unreal.

HUGH: I know this. I know I'm real. And I know how I feel about you. It may have been muddy. But, right now? Right now. Crystal clear.

ALEX: Crystal clear.

HUGH: For now, we need to get Reagan and Carrie in here so we can finish this.

ALEX: What should I do?

HUGH: Just stay here. Don't move. You're safe here.

HUGH *hands ALEX the knife.*

 Trust your instincts. I'll take the rope, and when we come back... We finish him once and for all.

HUGH *is at the door.*

 Be safe, Alex. I love you.

HUGH *exits.*

Scene 2.38

MICHAEL *enters the house, finding ALEX.*

ALEX *thinks that this is the version of MICHAEL (HUGH) that just exited.*

ALEX: You're back?

MICHAEL: Where's Carrie?

ALEX: Michael, what you said before. I just wanted to say I've been feeling it for a long time too, and for whatever reason I just haven't been able to admit it to myself.

MICHAEL: Okay. Okay. I'm gonna go find Carrie.

ALEX: No, wait. Stay here.

ALEX takes MICHAEL's hand.

I need to know that you're going to be okay.

MICHAEL: I don't have time, Alex.

ALEX: Michael! Stop for one second. Carrie will be fine out there. Just calm down for a minute. Take a breath. I heard what you said before. We're going to get through this.

MICHAEL: We will be. I promise.

ALEX: We just need to stay calm, and stick together

ALEX leans in and kisses. MICHAEL opens his eyes and forcefully pushes ALEX away.

MICHAEL: What are you doing?

ALEX: You just said—

MICHAEL: Alex, what the fuck do you think you're doing?

MICHAEL pushes ALEX again.

ALEX: I thought —

MICHAEL: You thought. I am not like you, Alex.

I'm not some lonely faggot with no one else to turn to. I know you thought you could come down here and play some fucking mind game, try to turn me or whatever but that's not happening.

ALEX: But we kissed.

MICHAEL: That wasn't me. It was never me. It was always the double. Always.

ALEX: You're not him.

MICHAEL: I don't love you, Alex. I never have, and I never will.

MICHAEL exits.

Scene 2.42

MICHAEL has just rejected ALEX.

ALEX: *(internally) What the fuck? What the fuck was that? I heard him say it. Before. He said he loved me. This is Michael. And endless torrent of bullshit, and lies, and half-truths. But why would he say it unless... It's the double. The one I just saw, just now must be the double. Maybe it doesn't matter which one the double is. Maybe we should just pick one and go from there, and if we're going to pick one, they should at least be happy.*

The distress beacon gets a signal. ALEX speaks into the attached microphone.

ALEX: Hello? Hello. Is anyone there? This is Alex Carpenter. I'm staying at the cabin that sits by Logue Lake. We need help. Send help. Is anyone out there? Is anyone listening?

ALEX: *(internally) I guess I've done all that I can do. I should go—*

BEACON: Hello? This is the St Augustine FM Radio Emergency Broadcast Relay Service. Are you still there? Over.

ALEX: Yes! Yes we're still here. Over.

BEACON: Can you please confirm your name and location? Over.

ALEX: My name is Alex Carpenter, and I'm staying by Logue Lake. Over.

BEACON: Is anyone in need of medical attention? Over.

ALEX: No. The roads are closed, and we've been attacked. Send immediate help. Over.

BEACON: We'll be sending help ASAP. Please get yourself to a safe location. Is there anything else? Over.

ALEX: That's it. Over.

BEACON: Over and out.

ALEX: Roger that. Over and out. Okay... okay... They're on their way...

ALEX gets up and moves around the house looking for people to gather.

ALEX: *(internally) Okay, I need to gather everyone and then just stick together. Even if there's two Michaels. It should all be fine from here on out. Where the fuck is everybody?*

ALEX spots REAGAN's corpse.

ALEX: No no no... MICHAEL?! MICHAEL?!

ALEX: *(Internally) Wait... which one will come? Michael or...? Oh fuck.*

ALEX runs straight into the bathroom, closing the door and locking himself inside. His thoughts are going at a million miles per minutes. They overlap, internally.

ALEX: *(internally) Just stay calm. Just stay calm. Just make it through the night, yeah? Just make it through the night and you'll be fine. Fuck, I can feel it I can feel it I can feel it. A panic attack and a fucking panic attack. Just... jussssst... what would Michael get you to do. What would Michael do? Just stay calm. Distract yourself. The wig, sensory input. Distract yourself. Touch the wig. Feel the wig. Soothing. Soothing. Put the wig on. And... and deep breaths Alex. That's what Michael always said. Deep breathes... just...*

ALEX: *(internally) Count backwards from one hundred... 100, 98, 97, 94, 91, 90, 86, 85, 81, 80, she's dead, she's dead, she's fucking dead. Fuckkkkk.*

Okay, umm... Let's see... name five things you can see... the toilet, the shower, the wig, the taps, the... tiles. Four things you can hear... Nothing. I can't hear anything.

He did this. He fucking did this. The double. And he could do it to me too. We need to kill him. Kill the double and get the fuck out of Logue Lake.

The lights switch off.

ALEX: Fuck.

ALEX: *(internally) I should get the knife. I need a weapon.*

ALEX opens the door of the bathroom and begins moving through the house, grabbing a torch on the way.

Hello? Hello? Fuck... fuck fuck fuck fuck... Just breathe. Just breathe.

ALEX gets down on his haunches in the corner of the room.

Scene 2.46

ALEX is in the corner of the room, wearing his dress, his wig, and on his haunches, breathing shallow breaths – having a panic attack, but holding the knife close to his chest.

MICHAEL enters through the front door, and takes a moment for himself before noticing ALEX. MICHAEL moves towards ALEX.

MICHAEL: Reagan's dead. Reagan's dead.

ALEX says nothing. He just listens to what MICHAEL has to say.

Listen, I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. For everything. You deserve better. The way I've treated you has been pathetic. I'm pathetic. I see it all so clearly now.

I'm pathetic. But when you're around all of that changes. I need you. I don't deserve you.

I'm sorry. For the way I've treated you. The way others have treated you. I'm sorry that I brought you to this awful cabin. And...

And I need you. I love you. I've loved you since the moment we met. We need to make it out of this alive. No one else matters. You and me, Carrie. Carrie, *you and me*.

ALEX *says nothing*.

ALEX: *(quietly, to himself)* I love you, Michael.

MICHAEL: What?

ALEX: I love you.

MICHAEL: Alex?

MICHAEL *puts his hand on ALEX's back*.

ALEX *turns around and faces MICHAEL*. MICHAEL *is taken aback*.

MICHAEL: I'm sorry... without my glasses, and the shrooms...

ALEX *looks at MICHAEL quizzically*...

ALEX: You're not... You're not Michael.

MICHAEL: What?

ALEX: You're not Michael. I can tell. You're the reflection.

MICHAEL: No, I am.

ALEX: My Michael – the authentic Michael – doesn't look like you. He wouldn't kill his own sister.

MICHAEL: Alex, I didn't–

ALEX: You're not the real thing; you're just a cheap replica. Synthetic silk.

ALEX *swipes at MICHAEL with the knife*.

Faux Fur.

Swipe.

Mock Meat.

Swipe.

MICHAEL: Please—

ALEX: I wanna hear you say it to my face. Just look me in the eyes and honestly tell me you love me.

MICHAEL: Alex, I can't—

Swipe. ALEX nicks MICHAEL's face.

MICHAEL: Alex!

ALEX: You can do it. *I love you.* It's as easy as that.

MICHAEL: Alex—

ALEX swipes at MICHAEL with the knife again. ALEX has got MICHAEL cornered.

ALEX: Final chance. Just say it. Show me the real you.

MICHAEL: Alex—

ALEX swipes and slices open MICHAEL's throat. MICHAEL collapses on the floor.

ALEX: I loved you.

MICHAEL: *(barely audible through the bleeding)* I love you too.

MICHAEL *dies, bleeding out on the floor.*

ALEX goes into shutdown mode as he realises what he's done. He just sits on the couch breathing deeply.

Scene 2.48

HUGH enters into the living room, as he does so he picks up the glasses that MICHAEL lost before. HUGH hugs ALEX. They breathe together. ALEX is still in shock.

ALEX: I did it. I... I killed him. The double. I killed him.

HUGH: Alex—

ALEX: I called them. The emergency services. They'll be here soon.

HUGH: You did the right thing, Alex. We're safe.

ALEX: You mean it's over?

HUGH: I get to go home. At last. With you. We're free, Alex. We're finally free.

They kiss.

THE END.