

FORGOTTEN

A Short Screenplay

by

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Note (July 29, 2005): This was written to be filmed in one continuous shot, so the CAMERA is (on occasion) treated like a character that follows the cast around. I am aware of the stigma of directing the camera, but this is more for me than to sell. - George

INT. HOUSE - EARLY EVENING

MOVE IN on NATALYA, twenties, sleeping in her bed, fully clothed. It appears she may have dozed off after doing some housework, perhaps.

CLOSE on Natalya's sleeping face.

Suddenly, she is being shaken gently by an unknown force. MOVE OUT to reveal her friend, JILL MOORE, twenties, gently shaking her awake.

JILL

NATALYA? Natalya. Come on, now, it's time to get ready for the get together tonight. Everyone'll be arriving soon.

Natalya slowly pulls herself up, and looks around.

NATALYA

Hm. I'm sorry, JILL, I didn't mean to fall asleep like that.

JILL

Don't worry about it. You've been working all day trying to spruce this place up, and I think you succeeded.

Natalya lies back down, and covers her face with a pillow.

NATALYA

Still, did we really need to call everyone over here?

JILL

Yes, I think we did. We haven't seen WALLY and MONA in a few weeks. It's been even longer since BO'S been over with anyone else here. And who was that friend of yours I called earlier?

NATALYA

ALICE. You conned me out of her number. Why are we doing this?

JILL

Because you are terrible at keeping up with people, that's why.

NATALYA

Don't get me wrong; I love my friends, but sometimes, they are so hard to keep track of.

JILL

Well, don't discount their value so easily. Someday, you'll wake up and wonder where all your friends went.

There is a knock at the FRONT DOOR.

JILL

Someone's here already. Are you ready?

NATALYA

Yeah. I just want to get the sleep off of me before going out there.

JILL

Don't be long.

NATALYA

I won't.

Jill EXITS. The CAMERA FOLLOWS.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Jill goes to the front door, and opens it to find WALLY and MONA standing outside.

JILL

Hi!

WALLY

Hey Jill, how's it all going?

JILL

Great, Wally. Mona, how are you doing?

MONA

Good. I've been better, but I'm fine at the moment.

JILL

What's up?

WALLY

Oh, she's been bellyaching over every little thing that comes up. I try reassuring her, but it's no use.

MONA

I can't help it. Look, TINY'S been sick so often lately, that we just wonder is she's going to make it. I almost didn't come.

JILL

And Tiny is...?

WALLY

Come on, Jill, you remember Tiny. Our Chihuahua?

JILL

Oh, that Tiny.

MONA

How many Tinys do you know?

JILL

Only the one.

MONA

Ah.

JILL

Yeah. Won't you come in?
How rude of me!

Wally and Mona enter the house and Jill begins to shut the door when someone knocks on it, keeping it open.

BO

Hey! You just gonna keep me
locked out?

JILL

Hi honey!

Jill gives her boyfriend a mighty hug. He does the same, lifting her off the ground.

WALLY

How're you doing Bo? Still
working over there at Lorisco?

BO

Yup. Still making cookies with
the best of them.

JILL

When are you going to get a
real job, anyway?

BO

When the fake one stops paying
me.

WALLY

Making cookies is not a fake
job. I mean, without you, we'd
have nothing to eat here. See?
We have Lorisco on the table
here.

BO

So where's your roommate?

JILL

Good question.

Jill EXITS the living room and walks back to the bedroom.

INT. HALLWAY

JILL

Natalya?

She opens the door and Natalya isn't in there. She hears the toilet flush in the bathroom behind and looks somewhat embarrassed. She RETURNS to the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM

JILL

She'll be out in a moment.

WALLY

Good. Someone's gotta start serving some food here.

MONA

You behave.

JILL

Everything's right there on the table, guys, so just help yourselves.

WALLY

What about drinks?

JILL

I can get you something, Wally.

Natalya ENTERS the living room.

NATALYA

It's ok, Jill, I can get it.
What do you want Wally?

WALLY

What do you got?

NATALYA

Same stuff we always have.

WALLY
Southern Comfort.

MONA
Wally, you know they never
have any of that.

NATALYA
Seriously.

BO
Well, I'll take a Coke, if
you have one.

NATALYA
We do. Mona?

MONA
Just water for me.

NATALYA
You sure?

MONA
Yeah. I can't handle
carbonation too well.

NATALYA
We have milk.

MONA
Maybe later.

NATALYA
Wally?

There is a shy knock at the door.

JILL
I'll get it.

WALLY
Do you have any beer?

NATALYA
Can't stand the stuff, sorry.

MONA

And neither can you for that matter.

Jill opens the front door to reveal a timid looking girl, Alice. She looks younger than Natalya and Jill, rather timid, and she is holding a bag of CHIPS.

JILL

Hi Alice. Thanks for coming.

ALICE

Thank you for inviting me.
I brought some chips.

JILL

Oh, you didn't have to do that; we have plenty.

ALICE

Well, I would've felt bad.

BO

If I'd brought those, I'd've gotten the scolding of my life.

JILL

No, you wouldn't've.

ALICE

I'm sorry.

BO

I would've.

JILL

Don't be sorry, Alice. He doesn't know what he's talking about. Thank you.

BO

She says that, but you watch.

Jill allows Alice to ENTER and swats Bo on the arm as she takes the chips to the dining area.

WALLY

Well, what's the strongest stuff you have then?

NATALYA

We have Coke.

WALLY

Can't get drunk off of Coke.

BO

So Alice, how's school treating you?

ALICE

Pretty well. I'm passing all right.

JILL

We forced her to take a night off of studying to come over and be with some friends.

MONA

Will you stop with the party thing? We're not here to get drunk, not that you've ever been drunk.

WALLY

Come on, babe, that's what a good party is for.

NATALYA

Well, then you're at the wrong party, because no one can get drunk off of anything we have. Unless of course, you want rubbing alcohol, but that's a stretch.

WALLY

It's been done.

MONA

But not by you tonight, it's not.

WALLY

I'll have a Coke, then.

NATALYA

I can do that. Hey, is that Alice coming in?

BO

Sure is.

Natalya comes out of the kitchen over to Alice and gives her a hug.

NATALYA

Alice. Thanks for coming. It's good to see you outside of class.

ALICE

Well, it's good to be here.

MONA

Hello, Alice, I'm Mona Billingsly, and this is my husband, Wally.

JILL

Wally thinks he's a party animal.

BO

But he's not.

WALLY

Sure I am. I've partied harder than all of you put together.

MONA

I don't believe they count hours of solo Nintendo.

WALLY

It should count. Hey! Where's the music? Shouldn't there be music playing?

NATALYA

Oh, I totally forgot. I'll be right back.

Natalya moves TO EXIT the living room.

JILL

Where're you going?

NATALYA

I left my stuff in the rumpus room.

JILL

Oh.

ALICE

Can I help you with anything?

NATALYA

Sure.

Natalya and Alice EXIT the living room and ENTER the GARAGE ROOM.

INT. GARAGE ROOM

Natalya looks over the CD'S. Alice looks over her shoulder.

ALICE

Is there something I can do?

NATALYA

Oh yeah. The boom box is over there. Just unplug it and hold onto it.

ALICE

Ok.

Alice goes over to take care of the BOOM BOX. Natalya locates a couple discs she wants to listen to. Alice returns to where Natalya is, holding the boom box. Natalya stands and moves to leave, but Alice halts her.

NATALYA

What is it, Alice? Is something wrong?

ALICE

I was wondering if I could talk to you for a moment.

Natalya sighs to herself and looks to Alice.

NATALYA

Sure. What's up?

ALICE

Well, it's about my parents.

NATALYA

What is it? Are they okay?

ALICE

No. They're getting divorced. They seemed happy the last time I saw them, but now... I don't know.

NATALYA

I'm so sorry. What happened? Do you know?

ALICE

Apparently, they started fighting about something or another, and they just decided to end it all. Why? I mean, why would they just arbitrarily call it quits after 25 years? It doesn't make sense.

NATALYA

Have they gone to counseling, or even to see their pastor about it?

ALICE

Dad won't have anything to do with a shrink, as he calls them, and they stopped going to church years ago.

NATALYA

I'm so sorry. I can't relate,
but I'm sorry.

Natalya gives Alice a hug.

NATALYA

I'm glad you came tonight, then,
given the circumstances.

ALICE

I thought it would help me to
get out of the house for while.

NATALYA

Well, if you need to get away
again, you can always consider
our door open to you.

ALICE

I will. Thank you.

NATALYA

Now come on. Let's get the
music going on out there before
Wally kills everyone with cheesy
jokes.

ALICE

He tells jokes?

NATALYA

Let me say that he tries to
tell jokes.

Natalya and Alice EXIT the garage room and ENTER the living room
where Wally is indeed relating a joke.

INT. LIVING ROOM

WALLY

...So I was at this resort and
found out I had bedbugs.

BO

Did they bite?

Everyone laughs.

WALLY

No, but I told the management right away. So, about a month later, after I got back home, I got a real nice letter from them telling me how sorry they were, and thanked me for calling it to their attention and asked me to accept their apology.

JILL

And did you accept it?

WALLY

Well, I would have... Except that attached to this letter was a little post-it that said, "Send this character the bedbug letter."

Mona rolls her eyes.

MONA

If I've heard that once, I've heard it a million times... Actually, I think I have heard it a million times.

BO

But still priceless. Hey, you guys're back.

WALLY

What took you so long? I'm out of Coke.

NATALYA

Oh, we just had to pick out something good.

JILL

Why didn't you just tell me you needed more Coke?

WALLY

I didn't say I needed more; I just wanted to tell her I was out.

Mona gives Wally a look. Natalya plugs in the boom box, and pops in a CD. It plays.

WALLY

So what do you have for us?

NATALYA

Just some stray music I had lying around.

JILL

Are you listening to that one Swedish disc again?

NATALYA

Well, it's cool. I like it.

ALICE

It is rather easy on the ears, isn't it?

WALLY

Don't you have any Metallica or Black Sabbath or something?

MONA

Please, honey, I wouldn't want that stuff playing right now anyway. We're supposed to be enjoying the company of our friends.

NATALYA

I figured you'd want something a little easy.

WALLY

You got nothing like it?

JILL

I have Pain of Salvation, but that's about as close as it gets.

ALICE

Kind of. I don't want to think about it right now, really.

WALLY

What's that?

JILL

Better than Metallica.

WALLY

I see.

BO

I introduced her to it. It's pretty awesome.

MONA

Just give me a glass of milk and Michael W. Smith, and I'm set for the night.

WALLY

You and Michael W. Smith. I swear. Him and... Who's the other guy you listen to?

MONA

Keith Green.

WALLY

Yeah, you'd marry Keith Green if you could.

NATALYA

Uh, he died in '82, Wally.

WALLY

I guess he's no competition for me, then.

MONA

Honey, there's never any competition for you. You're the only one for me.

JILL

God only knows why.

WALLY

I knows why.

BO

She goes for ugly guys?

WALLY

No!

MONA

Well, I do like my men to be a little funny looking.

WALLY

Hey!

Everyone laughs.

BO

Remember old Mr. Cranky, who lived across the street from me when I was a kid?

JILL

Oh yeah.

NATALYA

Now he was funny looking.

MONA

How funny looking?

BO

Well, he's got Wally beat, that's for sure.

MONA

Sounds like you have some
competition, hon.

WALLY

Huh?

BO

Of course, he's like about 100
now or something...

WALLY

You like 'em old, do you?

MONA

Ew, no.

ALICE

Natalya?

NATALYA

Yes?

ALICE

Do you mind if I use your
bathroom?

NATALYA

No, go ahead.

JILL

I had this dog, once, who was,
like, some kind of bulldog, I
think.

WALLY

Now, they're funny looking.

MONA

Great, Wally, that topic is so
over by now.

WALLY

Oh.

ALICE

Where is it?

NATALYA

Straight back the hall there
at the end.

ALICE

Thanks.

Alice EXITS to restroom.

JILL

No, this bulldog was so funny.
He'd chase after butterflies.

BO

You've never told me this story
before.

JILL

You never asked.

NATALYA

I've heard it.

WALLY

Well, you live here.

NATALYA

Yeah.

MONA

Well, for me, there was this
one time...

WALLY

Hey, can we get some of them
finger foods?

MONA

Wally, don't interrupt me.

NATALYA

They're all on the table over
there.

JILL

Help yourself.

WALLY

I think I will.

BO

Me too. I love them cocktail
weenies.

NATALYA

I'll listen to you Mona.

JILL

Yeah, we're still here. We
girls have to stick together.

MONA

Well...

CAMERA MOVES TO Bo and Wally filling up their plates with finger
foods.

INT. DINING AREA

BO

You see, now this is heaven.
Cocktail weenies with
barbeque sauce.

WALLY

Ugh. Can't stand the things.

Wally stabs a weenie with his fork, dips it in the sauce and
eats it.

WALLY

Mmm. Disgusting.

He does it again.

BO

Well, if you don't like them,
why do you keep eating them?

WALLY

Because, she never lets me have any of them, and I really don't like them, if you know what I mean.

He winks in a big way at Bo.

BO

I don't get it.

WALLY

Come on, man. Let me tell you something, man, don't ever get married. They'll just start controlling you until you can't even have your cocktail weenies anymore.

BO

Jill made the cocktail weenies for me.

WALLY

It'll stop. Mark my words.

BO

I don't follow that. Maybe you just have a bad outlook on your marriage. It can't be that bad...

CAMERA MOVES BACK to the living room. Mona is telling her own side of the same story.

INT. LIVING ROOM

MONA

I don't know what I'm doing wrong. He thinks I won't let him do anything. Did you see him taking those little hot dogs and trying to hide it from me? He think I'll get mad at him for eating them, but I only want him to be happy.

NATALYA

Maybe you guys need to talk about it. Maybe he thinks you control him.

MONA

How could he think that? He'll do what he wants no matter what I'd say.

JILL

I agree that you need to talk about it. After all, if I'm ever going to get Bo to marry me, I don't need Wally trying to talk him out of it.

MONA

Well... He's just so difficult.

CAMERA MOVES BACK to Bo and Wally

INT. DINING AREA

BO

I think your viewpoint may be a little skewed, my good man.

WALLY

You'd think so, wouldn't you?

They walk back to the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM

WALLY

You just watch. When you least expect it, bam! Your freedom's gone.

Mona stands at his approach.

MONA

Now, Wally, you just tell me one way you think your freedom's all gone.

WALLY

Uh-oh. She heard me.

BO

I'm over here... Away from
the peril.

MONA

I'm waiting.

WALLY

Well, I never get to go to
the Sci-fi Store anymore.

MONA

You never ask.

WALLY

Why should I have to ask?

MONA

Why don't you just go?

WALLY

Because... I... I don't know.

MONA

Anything else?

WALLY

I never get to go out with
my friends anymore.

MONA

You mean out clubbing to pick
up chicks?

WALLY

Uh...

MONA

Is that what you want?

WALLY

No...

MONA

Than what's the problem?

WALLY

Um...

MONA

Come on, now, you've given poor Bo, here, the impression that you're in a controlling relationship. How am I so controlling?

WALLY

You're making me answer questions.

MONA

I'm trying to work out a problem, Wally. Why do think everyone's getting a divorce as it is? They won't work out their problems.

NATALYA

Um, speaking of which, Alice is taking while, isn't she?

WALLY

Maybe she had to go number 2.

JILL

I don't believe I've heard that phrase in quite some time.

MONA

Oh, he's full of those. He has actually "beseeched" me before.

BO

Seriously?

WALLY

Yes, and I beseech you to finish this interrogation. My head is headaching, and I can't take it anymore.

MONA

You started it.

WALLY

I never.

MONA

You did.

NATALYA

I'll be right back.

CAMERA FOLLOWS Natalya as she heads toward the bathroom door. The conversation of Wally, Mona, and the others fade into the background.

INT. HALLWAY

Upon reaching the door, Natalya knocks.

NATALYA

Alice? Alice, is everything all right in there? ... Alice?

Natalya tries the knob, and finds the door unlocked. She slowly pushes it open, ready to close at the first site of Alice on the inside. Seeing nothing, she fully opens the door to find the bathroom completely empty. She walks in, confused.

INT. BATHROOM

NATALYA

Alice?

She looks around the bathroom. She notes the toilet paper still has a little triangle folded into the end of it. Natalya walks back out of the bathroom and back into the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM

There, she notices that Wally and Mona have made up and are cuddled together.

BO

That's what I keep saying.
You gotta be flexible to make
a marriage work.

JILL

What do you know about marriage?

BO

What I see them do.

JILL

That hardly counts.

Jill glances to Natalya. Jill notices Natalya's face.

JILL

Natalya? What's wrong?

NATALYA

It's Alice. She wasn't in the
bathroom. It's like she was
never in there. The toilet
paper still had that little
triangle folded in the last
sheet.

WALLY

You do that too?

JILL

Quiet, Wally. Natalya? Who's
Alice?

NATALYA

What?

JILL

Alice. Who's Alice?

NATALYA

The girl who came in last? She went with me to get the CD's? You called her over. She went to the bathroom right before Wally and Bo went for their food.

Everyone looks at her like she's crazy.

NATALYA

She was just here; she couldn't have left!

WALLY

I hate to break this to you, babe, but we're the only ones here.

MONA

When you left, I thought you needed to go.

NATALYA

No, no, no. It was Alice. Alice came in and was telling me about her parents. She was real. I'm not making her up.

JILL

You know I'm always with you and wouldn't ever pull any kind of cruel prank, but I honestly don't know who you're talking about.

NATALYA

Seriously?

JILL

Sorry.

NATALYA

No, she was here. Look. Look over here; she brought these chips...

Natalya goes over to the table and picks up the bag of chips brought in by Alice.

NATALYA

These here. She brought in this bag of chips.

JILL

Natalya, Bo brought those. I set them on the table when he got here.

NATALYA

What? No, that's not right...

BO

I'm afraid it is. I brought those chips.

NATALYA

But you know we always have enough when we get prepared. Why did you bring them?

JILL

Because he wanted to, Natalya. Is there all of a sudden a problem with that?

MONA

Jill, I'm sure she didn't mean anything by that. But Natalya, they're right.

WALLY

Yeah, I clearly remember Jill giving him a slight scolding because he should know you always have enough.

NATALYA

But...

BO

Maybe you're tired. You probably spent all day getting ready for us to come over, huh?

NATALYA

Yeah.

JILL

She did. She was so tired that she took a really long nap afterwards. She woke up right before Wally and Mona got here.

NATALYA

Look, I'm not crazy, and I wasn't hallucinating. Alice was here. I talked to her. You all saw her. I introduced you myself.

WALLY

Sorry, I've never seen her.

MONA

Really, Natalya. You should probably lie down.

JILL

Come on, now. We can make it without you for a few minutes. Let's just rest for a bit.

Jill begins leading her to the bedroom. Mona accompanies.

NATALYA

Ok, fine. I'll lie down for a little bit. But I feel so bad leaving everyone like this.

MONA

Don't worry about it.

JILL

We'll make it.

INT. BEDROOM

Upon reaching the bedroom, Natalya sits on the bed, and then lies back on top of the covers. Mona and Jill stand there for a moment.

NATALYA

I'll be all right, guys, really.
Just get back to Bo and Wally.

JILL

You're sure?

NATALYA

Yeah, I'm sure.

Jill and Mona EXIT the bedroom. The CAMERA FOLLOWS them. Jill shuts the door behind her and turns to Mona.

INT. HALLWAY

JILL

What do you think?

MONA

I don't know. I've never seen
anyone act like this before.

JILL

Come on, you've had psychology,
right. What makes someone do
that?

MONA

I had one class my freshman year.
It's some kind of hallucination,
I guess. Could be a type of
schizophrenia, I don't know.
She certainly believes she knew
someone called Alice.

JILL

I've never heard of anyone called
Alice before, have you?

MONA

Only my great aunt. My grandpa's sister on my dad's side. Her name was Alice, but I've never known anyone our age by that name.

JILL

Me either.

MONA

Well, let's get back to the guys. They'll want to know what's going on.

JILL

How're we supposed to tell them what's going on? We don't even know.

MONA

Of course we do... She's resting.

As they walk back towards the living room, the CAMERA TURNS back toward the bedroom and goes through the door to find Natalya standing at the window.

INT. BEDROOM

NATALYA

She WAS here. I know she was. Jill and I both know her from school. I know I didn't make her up. No matter what they say, she was real.

Natalya suddenly stands very straight and smiles.

NATALYA

It's her car. Her car is still here. She was here. She was! I can prove it.

Natalya EXITS the bedroom and goes to the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Everyone looks up from their conversations, and seems surprised to see her.

MONA

Natalya, you're supposed to be resting.

NATALYA

I know, but I can prove Alice was here. Her car is still out front.

JILL

Natalya, we know you think you knew someone called Alice, but really, this is going too far.

NATALYA

Jill, she was here, and I know it. I told you, her car is sitting right out in front of our house. It's out there by the road.

WALLY

If we go out there and look for it, will you let all this go?

NATALYA

Yes, I'll let it go. If her car isn't out there, I'll give in and call myself crazy, but I tell you. I was looking out the window of my room not five minutes ago and I saw it out there. You guys will have to believe me.

MONA

And call ourselves crazy?

BO

Do you know what you're asking us to do?

NATALYA

I'm asking you to believe me.

JILL

Natalya, no one in this room saw this Alice you keep talking about.

NATALYA

Come on, how couldn't you have seen her. She was cute and petite. Wally, you had to have seen her.

WALLY

It sound like someone I would have noticed, granted.

MONA

Wally!

WALLY

Honestly, Mona, I would have at least noticed her.

(to Natalya)

But I never saw her. I mean it.

BO

Me either, and I'm still single.

JILL

You think you are.

BO

You know what I mean, Jill.

NATALYA

Well, all of you just come on outside and I can show you her car.

JILL

Ok, Natalya. Whatever...

Natalya leads all four of them outside. The CAMERA FOLLOWS.

EXT. HOUSE - DUSK

Once outside, Natalya freezes, looking about. CAMERA CLOSES IN ON HER AND CIRCLES.

NATALYA

It was here. I know it was here.

She runs over to where she saw the car. She circles in its space.

NATALYA

I know it was here.

JILL

Natalya, let's go in. You're really beginning to creep me out here. How could I not be creeped out with your telling me I've forgotten a friend? I just don't do that.

NATALYA

But you have. All of you have...

Natalya suddenly looks scared, whips around and counts the cars. She turns back around and looks over her friends. She looks back at the cars and back again.

WALLY

What is it now?

NATALYA

Where's Bo?

JILL

Who?

NATALYA

Bo. Your boyfriend, Bo.

JILL

Natalya, that's just mean. You know I don't even have a boyfriend. Haven't since high school.

NATALYA

But Jill, he was here. He just came outside with us, I swear! What's going on?

MONA

You're having a nervous breakdown, that's what's going on.

WALLY

Let's go inside. She's really beginning to freak me out.

Everyone begins to file back inside the house. Natalya is near hysterics trying to keep them where they were.

NATALYA

No, we have to stay where we are. We have to find out what happened to Bo.

JILL

Natalya, I don't know anyone by the name of Bo. I never have. I have no boyfriend right now, either.

Natalya quickly follows Jill back inside after everyone else. The camera follows.

INT. LIVING ROOM

NATALYA

Come on, you have to remember him. I mean, why did you make the cocktail weenies with barbeque sauce?

JILL

I don't know. I figured Wally'd like them.

NATALYA

You didn't know Wally would eat them. He thought Mona didn't want him eating them, remember?

WALLY

Let's not get back into that topic, please?

NATALYA

But honestly, you were telling Bo about that earlier.

MONA

Maybe Wally mentioned to Jill that he liked them. I don't listen to all his phone calls.

JILL

I figured someone would like them. I made them, didn't I?

NATALYA

Yes, but why?

JILL

Because I eat them, that's why. Maybe I was selfish and decided to make an entire dish for myself. Is there anything wrong with that?

NATALYA

No, I'm sorry.

WALLY

Maybe she needs to be put down again.

NATALYA

No! I'm not going to bed. I'm not going anywhere. I don't want to wake up and have all of you missing on me and not have anybody remember you.

MONA

Seriously, Natalya. Things like that just don't happen.

NATALYA

They do. They've happened tonight.

JILL

No, you've lost your mind tonight.

WALLY

Well, all this excitement has aggravated my bladder. I've gotta hit the head.

NATALYA

Wally, don't! Don't go in there alone.

WALLY

What do you want me to do? Take one of you girls with me? I don't think so.

NATALYA

You could take your wife.

MONA

Natalya, that's just weird, ok? He's a big boy now, he can handle himself.

NATALYA

But- Ok...

Camera remains fixed looking down the hall at the bathroom door. Wally walks down the hall and goes into the bathroom.

MONA

Now Natalya, what's wrong? What is setting you off like this?

JILL

Yeah, I've never seen you act this way. You've always been so levelheaded.

NATALYA

I don't know. I'm telling you guys something is very wrong here.

JILL

You keep telling us that, but you know there are two of us here who have never heard of these people you're talking about.

MONA

Have you been under a lot of stress lately? More than just preparing for this get together?

NATALYA

Not really. School's been easy enough. I'm not having any troubles with my grades. I get along great with my professors.

MONA

Nothing that would cause you to hallucinate or anything?

NATALYA

No.

JILL

Didn't you tell me once that your Uncle Carter schized out once and had to be committed?

NATALYA

Is this what you're asking me?
Are you trying to tell me I'm
crazy? I'm wacko? I'm nuts?
Well, maybe I am, but at least
I didn't forget two of my best
friends.

MONA

Well, granted we're here for you,
but...

NATALYA

I mean the two you've both
forgotten. Alice and Bo.

JILL

But Natalya, as we've said, the
vote is two to one on the
existence of these mysterious
people.

NATALYA

Don't you mean three to one?

MONA

Three?

JILL

Natalya, there are only two of
us here.

NATALYA

What about Wally?

JILL

What?

MONA

Who's Wally? You've added
someone else to your strange
little story?

NATALYA

What do you mean "added"? He's
your husband, Mona!

MONA

Husband? Ah, now that'd be nice.
I'd like to be married someday.

NATALYA

Someday? He came with you. He's
in the bathroom right now!

JILL

There's nobody in the bathroom,
Natalya.

NATALYA

Then why is the door shut?

JILL

You shut it earlier when you
were going on about Alice.

NATALYA

But Wally went in there!

MONA

Who did you say Wally was?

NATALYA

Your husband! He's gotta be
in there. I've been sitting
here watching the door since he
went in.

Natalya gets up and goes to the bathroom door and knocks.

INT. HALLWAY

NATALYA

(quietly)

Wally? Wally, are you in there.

(near hysterical)

Wally? Please, Wally, don't be
playing games with me now.

JILL

I tell you, no one's in there.

Natalya tries the knob and, of course, it's unlocked.

INT. BATHROOM

She walks into the bathroom and no one is there. The camera follows her in and pans around behind her as Natalya turns the opposite direction.

NATALYA

I don't believe it.

MONA

What don't you believe? That we were telling you the truth?

NATALYA

I'm telling you, Mona, your husband, Wally, went into this room only a few minutes ago.

MONA

And you watched the door the whole time?

NATALYA

Yes.

MONA

Then where is he? People don't just vanish.

NATALYA

Well, they have tonight.

Natalya pushes past Jill and Mona and heads back into the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM

She sits, thinking. Jill and Mona follow her.

NATALYA

We were getting together, the six of us were. The three of us, Alice, Wally, and Bo. Mona, you came with him.

MONA

I didn't come with anyone. If I did, I'd certainly know it.

NATALYA

How can you not remember your own husband?

JILL

Natalya, no one here has a husband or boyfriend or anything. It's just us girls getting together for an evening of talking.

NATALYA

But we had your husband, your boyfriend, and Alice with us, too.

MONA

If we had husbands and boyfriends, I think we'd rather be out with them than hanging around here.

NATALYA

But you were here with them. We hadn't gotten together in awhile, and I had hoped we'd have a nice, quiet evening to catch up with each other.

JILL

And that's a great idea. If we ever do get husbands and boyfriends, maybe we'll do it someday.

NATALYA

But we were doing it today. Tonight, that is.

MONA

You sound delirious. Maybe we should call someone.

JILL

Who? I mean, who would even believe this?

MONA

Someone might. I know we can't exactly call the cops.

NATALYA

Yes, the cops. We can call the cops. We can get them out here to investigate. They're sure to find something.

Natalya grabs the phone and dials 911 when Jill takes the phone from her and hangs it up.

NATALYA

Give me the phone, Jill. I've got to tell someone. I can't be the only person who remembers Wally, Bo, and Alice. Let me... I know, let me call their parents. We know the number of Alice's dad; we can call him. Go ahead. Call him.

Jill sighs.

JILL

Ok. What's the number?

NATALYA

But you called it just today-

She rolls her eyes, also sighing.

NATALYA

555-6673

Jill dials the number and waits. After a moment, Jill nods, brings the phone down and hangs it up.

NATALYA

What? What was it?

JILL

That's not a real number.

NATALYA

Of course it's a real number,
you called it just today.

MONA

When you called "Alice" right?

NATALYA

No, when Jill called Alice.

JILL

I didn't call anyone called
Alice.

NATALYA

But you did!

JILL

Isn't all this cluing you in
to anything?

NATALYA

Like what?

MONA

That you might be delirious?

NATALYA

That's nonsense. She was real.
Just like Bo and Wally were
real.

MONA

Bo was supposed to be her
boyfriend, and Wally was who
again...?

JILL

Your husband.

MONA

Oh, that's right. Was he cute?

NATALYA

You're mocking me.

MONA

Well, what do you expect us to do, Natalya? You've accused us of forgetting close friends and even my own husband. How can we react to that?

NATALYA

I see what you're saying, but conversely, you're accusing me of making people up. I can describe them to you in detail, and you'll still say they can't be real because you don't remember them.

JILL

Natalya, why don't you go get something to eat? We have all that food on the table, there, eat something. Maybe it'll make you feel better.

NATALYA

Perhaps... Fine, I'll give in and eat something. I'm not all that hungry, but I'll take your word for it.

MONA

Good.

NATALYA

You guys haven't eaten anything either. Don't you want to come with me?

JILL

Actually, we did eat.

NATALYA

You did?

MONA

We have our plates right here.

NATALYA

But those are..

JILL

Don't tell me. These were Bo
and Wally's plates, right?

NATALYA

Yeah, but you don't believe me,
do you?

JILL

Sorry, Natalya. I guess I could
go for a refill though. Mona?

MONA

Sure. If everyone is disappearing,
I sure don't want to be forgotten
next.

JILL

Yeah, me either.

NATALYA

Please, guys. This isn't funny
to me. I've lost people tonight,
and you guys don't even remember
them.

MONA

I'm sorry, Natalya, but this all
sounds like a big joke to us.

JILL

I love you and all, but she's
right. You're trying to
convince us of something that
just can't happen. Come back to
reality.

NATALYA

I am in reality. I've never been more here than I am right now.

MONA

Ok...

INT. DINING AREA

Natalya reaches the table, takes a plate and begins to pick at the food and putting some on it. Jill joins her, using Bo's leftover plate.

NATALYA

I tell you. I'm not hungry.

JILL

You still have to eat. You've been going on and on about this all night, and I'm hungrier than I thought I was.

NATALYA

I'm sorry. It's just that... Well, maybe you guys are right. Maybe I am going crazy...

JILL

Guys?

NATALYA

Yeah. Maybe I did work too hard. Maybe I didn't sleep long enough. Maybe I am hungry. I don't know. It's all very confusing for me, you know?

JILL

I can imagine. I'm about to commit you, personally. I'm not sure what else to do. Tonight's just been weird.

NATALYA

I suppose a girl's night in isn't so bad. Maybe we did all get together for the three of us to talk about guys and stuff.

JILL

Three?

NATALYA

Yeah, me, you, and... Mona!

Natalya looks around and Mona is gone.

JILL

Ok, now who's Mona?

Natalya drops her plate, and puts her hands to her face. She looks fearfully around.

NATALYA

It's just you and me?

JILL

It's been you and I all night. What are you going on about now?

NATALYA

But... Her plate. Her plate is right here. It was sitting here before we got up and it's sitting here now. How do you explain that?

JILL

Natalya, that's my plate. I'm coming for seconds and you told me to get a clean plate. It's mine.

NATALYA

No, this was hers. Mona's. She was here, I tell you.

Jill sighs heavily and puts her hand to her head as if she has a headache.

JILL

Natalya... It's been you and me
all night.

NATALYA

But we were talking with her
just a moment ago.

JILL

No, you and I were talking a
moment ago. We've been the
only ones here all evening.

NATALYA

So, you don't remember Alice?

JILL

No.

NATALYA

Wally?

JILL

No.

NATALYA

Mona? Bo?

JILL

I'm sorry, Natalya, but I've
never known any of these people.
They were never here, and they
were never in our lives. Either
one of our lives.

NATALYA

But we've known Mona since grade
school. We all grew up together.
She got married first. How do
you explain my talking about
Wally earlier?

JILL

You said Wally was your
boyfriend.

NATALYA

He wasn't my boyfriend; he was
Mona's husband.

JILL

No, you just made Mona up. She
wasn't a part of this until just
now.

Natalya staggers a bit, then goes into the living room, sits
down, and cries. Jill follows her, and gently touches her
shoulder.

INT. LIVING ROOM

JILL

Natalya, I don't understand what
you're going through. I don't
know who these people are or who
you think they are. All I know
is what I know, and I don't know
any of them.

NATALYA

Jill... You're the only friend
I have left now. I'm so bad at
keeping in touch with people, I
guess I deserve this.

JILL

Deserve what?

NATALYA

Losing everyone I've ever known.
I never call. I never write. I
never pay attention. As soon as
I get used to someone, I just
start pulling away. Even this
party was your idea. I jumped
on it because I didn't want to
totally lose touch with my
friends of the past. But in truth,
I guess I had. Poor Alice. I
feel like I was using her. Using
her to fill up the hole I had made

(MORE)

NATALYA (CONT'D)

myself because I had just let everyone go. I should have paid more attention. I should treasure the friends I have, not just let them go into oblivion, so they're just forgotten. It isn't fair to them. And now I know, it isn't fair to me, either. I need them. And Jill, I need you, too...

Natalya looks up and around. Jill is gone.

NATALYA

Jill! JILL! Where are you?

ORIGINAL ENDING

Natalya looks around. Where the hall used to be is a wall. She walks over to it, and touches it. She pounds on it.

NATALYA

What's happening to me? What's going on?

She backs away from the wall, stunned. She turns to the front door, and opens it. Where the opening should have been was another wall.

INT. KITCHEN / DINING AREA

She runs through the house to the back door. She opens it to find a wall.

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM

She runs through the house to the laundry room, which has an outside door. She pulls open the door, and only finds another wall.

She backs out of the laundry room, and turns to the kitchen, only to find yet another wall.

INT. GARAGE ROOM

She walks into the garage room to the windows there. She pulls open the shade on one, and sees a wall. She walks to the other window and pulls open that shade, and another wall is there.

She turns around and sees a wall has blocked her exit out of the garage room. She begins backing away from nothing in particular.

NATALYA

I'm sorry. To whoever is out there, I'm sorry. I won't forget those who are closest to me. I'll remember them.

Suddenly the lights go out.

NATALYA

My friends, you'll never be
forgotten...

FADE OUT.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Natalya is seen lying down, curled up on her bed. A hand touches her shoulder and gently shakes her.

JILL

Natalya... Natalya, it's time to
get up. It's almost time for
people to start getting here...

NATALYA starts awake. She looks around and sees JILL standing beside her bed. She jumps out of bed and gives her friend a hug.

NATALYA

Oh, Jill, I had the most hideous
dream. I dreamt I lost everyone
closest to me, and no one
remembered them except me.

JILL

Weird.

NATALYA

I know. Needless to say, I'm
very happy to see you.

JILL

Well come on, lazybones, let's
get ready for everyone to show
up.

NATALYA

I can't wait... It'll be nice to
see how Alice is really doing...

JILL

Who's Alice?

Natalya freezes, and Jill exits.

FADE OUT.

THE END

REVISITED ENDING

Natalya frantically searches through the rooms of the house, one by one. Each is empty. Finally, she collapses in the hallway across from the bathroom.

NATALYA

I'm sorry. To whoever is out there, I'm sorry. I won't forget those who are closest to me. I'll remember them.

She bows her head. A tear falls down her face.

NATALYA

My friends, you'll never be forgotten...

The bathroom door opens. Light falls onto Natalya. She cranes her head upward. A shadow stands before her in the light of the bathroom.

ALICE

Natalya?

Natalya looks at her closely. Her face lights up. Natalya jumps to her feet.

NATALYA

Alice!

ALICE

Yes?

The muffle sounds of voices trickle in from the living room. Natalya runs into the living room.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Wally and Mona are cuddled together on the couch. Jill and Bo sit off to one side.

BO

That's what I keep saying. You gotta be flexible to make a marriage work.

JILL

What do you know about marriage?

BO

What I see them do.

JILL

That hardly counts.

Jill glances to Natalya. She notices her brightly-lit face.

JILL

Natalya, are you ok?

NATALYA

I'm fine. Everything is fine.

Alice walks past her and sits on the couch. Natalya joins her friends at the party as the conversation silently continues.

THE END