

Fate or Fortune?

Revised

By

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EXT.CITY STREETS - DAY

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A girl in her early 20s, ALEECIA, and her two friends, NICOLE and JEREMY, walk down the street. Aleecia looks effortlessly cool and is dressed like she just stepped out of a free people ad. She is the type of person who doesn't follow trends...she starts them.

Aleecia's friend Nicole is on her right. Nicole is "preppy." She buys all of her clothes exclusively at J.Crew. No outfit is complete without her pearl earrings. Nicole wears a cute messenger bag and is carrying heavy scienc-y text books in her arms.

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Jeremy is on Aleecia's right. If Aleecia starts trends, Jeremy follows them. He is dressed like he just stepped off the runway. A little innappropriately for a day studying at the library. But he doesn't care. If he isn't the best dressed in any given room, there is no point in leaving his own room.

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Nicole stops. Looks up. Sees sign that says "PSYCHIC READINGS HERE" in a second floor window of an abandoned-looking building.

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NICOLE

Guys, look! A psychic...let's go check it out!

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ALEECIA

Psychics are a rip off...the biggest waste of money. Plus this place looks creepy. There is probably a serial killer waiting in there for us, not a psychic.

NICOLE

You don't know until you've tried! Come on! If anything, it will be a fun adventure and maybe it will give me some inspiration for this research paper.

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JEREMY

I'll go! I need to find out how I'm going to meet my prince charming.

ALEECIA

I don't know what you guys expect to get out of this.

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NICOLE

Oh don't be such a buzz kill. Just be a good friend and come with us!

ALEECIA

Oh fine. I can't wait to say I told you so.

INT. PSYCHIC'S OFFICE WAITING ROOM - DAY

They enter a tiny room with mood lighting, decorated in flowy fabrics and jewel tones. A handmade sign on a table reads: "Palm Readings: \$15, Psychic Energy Reading: \$30, Full In-Depth Psychic Readings: \$60."

Jeremy makes a face and sniffs the air.

JEREMY

MMM...Lavender. With a hint of patchouli.

A tiny yorkshire terrier with a bow in its hair runs out from a back room and starts to yap at them.

The dog is followed by a small woman, MISS CHRISTINE, wearing a magenta tunic, turquoise leggings, and cat-eye glasses. She looks at her three visitors, gives them a serene smile, and opens up her arms.

MISS CHRISTINE

Welcome to my special space. I had a feeling you three would be stopping by. What can I do for you today?

NICOLE

We want to get palm readings.

JEREMY

To find out what the future holds for us!

MISS CHRISTINE

That will be \$15 each cash only. You will come in one at a time. Make yourselves comfortable while you wait.

Aleecia sits down on the couch and watches as Jeremy and Nicole race to pull the cash from their wallets.

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Nicole finds her money first and pushes Jeremy out of her way to Miss Christine. Jeremy sulks to where Aleecia is sitting.

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ALEECIA

Maybe that lady isn't a psycho
murderer...but she is still
definitely not a psychic.

JEREMY

Lighten up! Getting your palm read
by a cute old woman will not hurt
you. You don't even have to believe
what she says if you don't want to.

ALEECIA

Oh I can tell you now that I will
not be.

JEREMY

I can't wait to hear about what the
future has in store for me. Maybe
I'll finally know what career path
I should follow. And where I should
start looking for men!

ALEECIA

Your life is meant to go the way
it's meant to go...and the only way
you can change that is by working a
little harder...not by going to a
psychic.

Nicole bursts out of the back room looking confused. Jeremy jumps up and skips into the back room.

ALEECIA

Well? I told you so?

NICOLE

Shh! Don't talk to me. I'm
thinking.

ALEECIA

I told you so.

Nicole sits silently and unmoving with a determined look on her face. Aleecia puts her headphones on and starts to play on her phone.

Jeremy sulks out of the back room looking disappointed.

Aleecia looks at him, then back at Nicole who is still in deep concentration, rolls her eyes, and strolls into the back room.

INT. MISS CHRISTINE'S PSYCHIC ROOM - DAY

Aleecia walks into an even smaller room decorated with the same color scheme and style as the waiting room but decorated with only two chairs and a table with a crystal ball on it. Some type of spiritual music is playing quietly in the background.

Aleecia looks around, sniffs the air, and crinkles her nose.

ALEECIA

Okay, let's get this over with.

MISS CHRISTINE

Give me your palm and let me look into your mind...

INT. PSYCHIC'S OFFICE WAITING ROOM - DAY

Nicole and Jeremy sit on the couch. Jeremy still looks disappointed. Nicole looks triumphant as if she finally solved a very difficult puzzle.

JEREMY

UGH. I don't want to be a cab driver. I don't even have my license!

NICOLE

What are you talking about...

JEREMY

Miss. Christine told me she saw a future in cab driving for me...she didn't even say anything about my prince charming...does that mean I am destined to be forever alone?!

NICOLE

Okay you need to stop. That lady in there is no psychic. Everything she told me about myself were things that anyone would pick up just be looking at me closely like that I'm in school at Columbia. Duh, I came in here with books in my arms and I

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NICOLE (cont'd)
dress like a put together
person...not like those "free
spirit" hobo looking kids who go to
NYU. And then she even had the
nerve to tell me that she thinks I
need to go to a ophthamalogist. I
have 20/20 vision thank you very
much!

JEREMY
Okay but what about the cab driver
thing?

NICOLE
She probably said that because of
that stupid hat you're wearing.

JEREMY
It's not stupid! It's cool and
vintage...get your eyes checked.

NICOLE
Whatever. Aleecia will be happy to
hear that we're finally on her side
about this...

Aleecia bursts into the waiting room with an excited look on
her face.

ALEECIA
Guys I take back everything I said.
That was awesome!

NICOLE
What...?

JEREMY
Awesome?

ALEECIA
Yeah! She knew so much about me
just by looking at my hand. Then
she told me all these great things
like that I have a career in
fashion or photography...which you
guys know is my dream...and THEN
she told me that I am gonig to
meet my true love in SEVEN DAYS.

Nicole and Jeremy exchange a look.

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They don't know whether they should break the news to Aleecia that they think psychics are one big joke now that she is so happy. *

They silently agree to humor her and put big smiles on their faces. This could be fun.

ALEECIA

Anyways, what did Miss Christine tell you guys?

NICOLE

Oh nothing as exciting as your news.

JEREMY

Yeah, come on girl! If you're going to meet your true love in seven days you better start setting up some dates!

The three friends disappear into the hallway and down the stairs leaving the psychic waiting room empty.

EXT.CITY STREETS - DAY *

Aleecia, Nicole, and Jeremy walk down the street they were walking down before they made their detour to visit Miss Christine. *

Aleecia is walking with a new pep in her step. *

NICOLE

So what do you want to do to pass the time until your true love walks into your life?

ALEECIA

Well I definitely don't want to go to the library anymore. The only guy I'll find there is a nerdy dud. I want a fun and exciting man. Someone who has better things to do on a beautiful afternoon than go to the library. *

Just then a cab stops a few buildings in front of them and A BEAUTIFUL MAN steps out. Aleecia points excitedly at him. *

ALEECIA

I want to go on a date with him! He could be the one! What are the

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ALEECIA (cont'd)

chances that he just stepped out of the car right in front of me like that?! Quick one of you go ask him on a date for me...but don't tell him I told you to..go!

JEREMY

Fine. I got this one. *

Jeremy approaches a guy who is the definition of tall, dark, and handsome. He is fashionable in a laid-back way and rivals Jeremy as the best dressed man in the vicinity. *

Jeremy talks animatedly to the guy for a few moments. *

The guy smiles, nods, and walks into his building.

Jeremy heads back to where Nicole and Aleecia were watching from around the corner. *

JEREMY

Why do all the good ones have to be straight? You're meeting Taylor tonight at Mio's Pasta Cuisine at 8. You're welcome.

ALEECIA

Thank you thank you thank you! Hopefully finding five more dates is as easy as that was! *

NICOLE

Well where do you think you are going to find those? *

ALEECIA

I texted some girls I know from class asking if they knew any hot, single guys. Four of them have already texted me back! I have dates for the next four days. Now I just need one more. *

JEREMY

I'm starving. Can we get some lunch and talk about this then? *

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

The three friends pay for their food and sit down at a table in the corner of a busy and bright sandwich shop. They eat silently and people watch as people enter and exit the restaurant.

A HOT GUY IN SCRUBS walks in and Aleecia drops her sandwich. *

ALEECIA

Him. I want to go on a date with him. He is hot and a doctor. That's so sexy.

NICOLE

Hey...wait...he looks familiar. I think he's in med school with me. I've definitely seen him around.

ALEECIA

Well go ask him out for me!

NICOLE

Fine.

Nicole walks up to the man in scrubs who is waiting in line.

NICOLE

Hey! You look really familiar. Do you take classes at Columbia? *

MILES

Oh hey...yeah I do. I have definitely seen you around before. *

NICOLE

So...this is really awkward but my friend thinks you're hot and wanted me to ask you if you wanted to go out with her. *

Miles gives Nicole a knowing look, raises his eyebrows, and laughs. *

MILES

Oh your friend? *

NICOLE

No, actually, my friend. Shes right over there. *

Nicole gestures over to where Aleecia and Jeremy are sitting watching. *

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Aleecia sees them both look over at her and she ducks her head over her phone. She has never been shy before but feels a new nervousness that she might be looking at her future husband.

MILES

Oh...yeah, okay! She's cute. I have work every night this week. How about Thursday?

NICOLE

Perfect, here's her number.

Nicole grabs a napkins and pulls a pen out of her bag, scribbles a number on it, and hands it back to Miles.

MILES

Thanks. Hopefully I see you around.

Nicole smiles and returns to where Aleecia and Jeremy are waiting excitedly.

NICOLE

Miles said he would love to go out with you. You have a date next Thursday night...if you haven't already met your prince charming or whatever by then. You are crazy.

ALEECIA

Call me crazy...but I'm soon to be crazy in love! While you were chatting up hot doctor for me I made a Tinder account. I've already gotten 4 matches!

JEREMY

Oh please. Kill me now.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Nicole and Jeremy watch through the upstairs window of Aleecia's apartment. They are waiting for her to return home from her first date.

Aleecia walks up to her apartment with Taylor.

They are standing a foot apart from each other. Aleecia takes a step closer and is about to go in for a kiss when Taylor puts his hands out to stop her.

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Nicole and Jeremy watch as Aleecia and Taylor have a conversation with what looks like a lot of awkward laughing. *

Taylor then hands her a card and gives her an clearly platonic hug complete with a sympathy pat on the back. *

When Taylor turns to walk away the smile disappears from Aleecias face, her shoulders slump, and she enters the building. *

As soon as Aleecia walks through the door of her apartment she is attached by Nicole and Jeremy. *

JEREMY

Well...what happened? How did it go? Are you in love?

NICOLE

It didn't look like you were when he dropped you off. Not that we were spying on you or anything... *

ALEECIA

He's gay...Jeremy, he told me to tell you to call him. I have his card for you. *

JEREMY

Seriously?! Score! Oh wait, I'm so sorry it didn't work out for you.

ALEECIA

It's okay...I still have five more dates to go on. The psychic did say seven days after all. Not just one. *

MONTAGE BEGINS - FOUR DATES *

INT.CLUB - NIGHT *

GUY IN ALL BLACK WEARING EYELINER takes Aleecia to punk concert. Aleecia looks uncomfortable and out of place. Guy doesn't notice because he is too busy jumping around like a maniac and banging his head to the music. Everyone around Aleecia is dressed in all black like her date and is just as enthusiastic as he is. *

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

NERDY GUY takes Aleecia to dinner...at his parents house. He shows Aleecia his room where he still sleeps in a twin bed and plays with legos. His parents are clearly thrilled that he has brought a girl home...maybe because she is the first one...ever.

INT. HOCKEY ARENA - NIGHT

BIG, BEEFY, ATHLETIC GUY takes Aleecia to a hockey game. Aleecia isn't into sports but tries to cheer at the appropriate times. Her date is really into the game and gets in a screaming match with an elderly woman sitting in front of them.

EXT. OUTDOOR MOVIE LAWN - NIGHT

COOL, TRENDY, HIPSTER GUY takes Aleecia to see a movie at an outdoor movie theater. They look like they are having a great time. They are laughing and talking animatedly. Throwing popcorn at each other. Sparks are flying.

EXT. ALEECIA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Guy in all black drops her off in front of her apartment. He leans in like he is about to kiss her, but instead goes for her neck. He starts sucking on it like he is a vampire and is clearly very into it. Aleecia looks uncomfortable, disgusted, and in pain.

Nerdy guy drops Aleecia off in front of her apartment. He takes out his retainer and leans in to kiss Aleecia. Then proceeds to lick her whole face. As he is walking away he calls his mom to tell her about his first kiss.

Big, beefy, athletic guy drops Aleecia off in front of her apartment. He picks her up off the ground, squeezes her tightly, and starts passionately making out with her. Aleecia's eyes are open and bug-eyed. She is having trouble breathing and is clearly not enjoying it.

MONTAGE ENDS

EXT. ALEECIA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Cool, trendy, hipster guy, Mike, stands with Aleecia outside her apartment. They make a great looking couple. Everything about them together says match made in heaven. *

He leans into kiss her. They bump noses, fumble, he somehow bites her lip. *

She emerges bleeding. *

MIKE *

Oh! I'm so sorry! Are you okay? *

ALEECIA *

Oh yeah...I'll be fine. I should probably go inside and get this cleaned up though... *

MIKE *

Do you need help? I could come in... *

ALEECIA *

No, that's okay. Thanks though. *

Mike gives her an awkward hug to avoid getting blood on himself and then walks away. *

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Aleecia, Nicole, and Jeremy sit in Aleecia's apartment after her most recent date with Mike. *

Aleecia is holding a tissue up to her lip and is visibly upset. *

ALEECIA *

Why did I ever listen to that psycho psychic. True love in a week? That's a joke. This city is filled with duds. I really thought Drew could have been the one though... *

NICOLE *

Why can't he be? So you had a bad first kiss. Give him a chance to redeem himself! *

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ALEECIA

Even if he hadn't mauled my face it
wouldn't have worked out. I didn't
feel butterflies when he kissed me.
I didn't feel butterflies with any
of them.

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Jeremy giggles. He is looking down at his phone with a smile
on his face. Nicole gives him a look and clears his throat.

JEREMY

Oh sorry! Taylor just texted me the
cutest thing...you'll find your
true love Aleecia! I found mine. It
was fate that he stepped out of
that cab right in front of us. And
it was fate that you wanted to go
on a date with him and he was gay!

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NICOLE

Yeah don't lose hope. Your date
with Miles is tomorrow night and
he's a great guy. Smart too.

ALEECIA

True. He seems perfect. Hopefully
he's the one.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

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Aleecia and Miles sit at a table at a restaurant bar. Miles
is talking excitedly and Aleecia is looking around
uninterested.

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MILES

Sorry! It's just that once I get
started talking about working in
the hospital I just can't stop.
Anyways, tell me about you.

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ALEECIA

Well I love fashion. Photography.
Music. Old movies...like the
classics. I could go on about those
forever!

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MILES

Oh like the first James Bond? That
movie is a classic!

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ALEECIA

Uh yeah...like that...

Aleecia and Miles sit at the table in an uncomfortable silence. They are both looking around trying to avoid eye contact.

MILES

So...this is a cool restaurant...

Aleecia stifles a yawn. Looks at her watch.

ALEECIA

Oh wow! It's getting late! This has been fun, but I should probably be going.

MILES

Oh, you're right. I should be getting to the library, I have a huge exam tomorrow. I'll walk you home. It's on the way.

EXT. ALEECIA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

MILES

It was really nice to meet you. I had a great time.

Miles leans in. Kisses Aleecia. They both move apart avoiding eye contact. There was no spark on either end. It is awkward.

Aleecia is tired of pretending that she had a great time. She already did that throughout her entire date with Miles.

ALEECIA

Goodbye Miles.

INT. ALEECIA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Aleecia sits on the couch with Jeremy. She is clearly upset and he is doing his best to console her.

ALEECIA

Day seven is almost over. It has been a week and I still haven't met my true love. What is wrong with me?!

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JEREMY

What happened with hot doctor Miles last night?

Nicole walks through the door with a big smile on her face and rushes over to Aleecia and Jeremy. When she sees the look on Aleecia's face she becomes uncomfortable.

NICOLE

So...Aleecia...I have something to tell you...After your date with Miles last night we ran into each other at the library. We got to talking and I really like him. We've been texting ever since. Please don't be mad.

ALEECIA

It's fine. I'm not. He's more your type anyways...He was so boring. All he went on about the whole time was about how he was going to be an eye doctor and how much he loved eyes blah blah blah. I just don't understand. You guys found your Mr. Rights...where's mine?

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NICOLE

Aleecia. You said it yourself. Psychics are not real.

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JEREMY

Yeah! Psychics aren't a thing! Like she told me I was going to drive a cab or something. Me..drive a cab? Yeah right. I don't even have my license.

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NICOLE

And she told me a bunch of outrageous random things like that I needed to get my eyes checked...um I have perfect vision. You would think a psychic would know that.

ALEECIA

You know what...I was right all along. I told you guys! Psychics the biggest waste of money...and time. I wasted this whole week going on dates with the biggest duds in the city. I don't need a

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ALEECIA (cont'd)
wannabe psychic to tell me that one
day I will meet the love of my
life. Fate is fate and what's
meant to be will be. Fortune
tellers are full of crap.

Nicole and Jeremy are nodding their heads.

ALEECIA
Wanna stay in and watch a movie
tonight? I'm tired out from all of
those dates. I need a night in. I
ordered a pizza like an hour
ago...I don't know why it isn't
here yet.

There is a knock on the door. Aleecia gets up and goes to
answer the door.

ALEECIA
IT'S ABOUT TIME.

Aleecia quickly realizes the guy at the door is not the
pizza delivery man. Instead it is a cute guy, DREW, wearing
a baseball cap and tshirt covered in heart that say, "Love
Happens." He gives Aleecia a confused smile.

DREW
Sorry...I've been trying to
introduce myself all week...I've
stopped by every night but you
haven't been home...

ALEECIA
Oh I'm so sorry I didn't mean to
snap at you! I expected you to be
the pizza delivery guy...

DREW
Unfortunately I'm not your pizza
guy. I'm Drew, I'm your new
neighbor from across the hall. If
you're hungry we could go get some
pizza. I just need to go change. I
was just at some promotional party
for my buddy's new company..."Love
Happens" an online dating site.
Ruins the idea of fate and true
love if you ask me. So...pizza?

With one look at Aleecia it is obvious that he is THE ONE.

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ALEECIA

I would love to!

DREW

Great. Just give me 10 minutes.
I'll be right back.

Drew turns away and for the first time in a week Aleecia's smile isn't fake. Aleecia closes the door and turns to Nicole and Jeremy who were listening to the whole thing.

ALEECIA

It's day seven and I have a feeling
this guy is the one...fate or
fortune?

CUT TO BLACK.