

WHEN WE FELL

Written by

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Phones ring all around the office.

ALEX, late 20s, black, artsy and petit, plays with a toy camera at his desk.

Above Alex, the LIGHT FLICKERS.

He gets a call.

ALEX

Greetings, patron, this is Alex.  
What can I help you with today?

The caller screams her grievances. Alex snatches the receiver from his ear. He moves to show his cubicle mate, JAMIE, early 20s, white, brunette and amiable, who wears jelly on her face and holds a donut carcass.

JAMIE

You got that old hag *again*?

ALEX

She's so damn rude. Like who-

Alex realizes he's not muted. DIAL TONE. They laugh it off.

JAMIE

That's the fourth time this week  
and it's only Wednesday. Shit. If  
you ask me, it sounds like she has  
a crush on you or something.

Alex stops laughing.

JAMIE (CONT'D)

Hey, no offense, bud, but why are  
you still working here? Don't you  
have an MBA you could be using?  
(to herself)  
Unlike some of us.

Jamie goes back to her computer. Alex pretends to work.

BIAN, late 20s, white, fit and handsome from head to toe, brushes past and bumps Alex with no apology then surprises Jamie. Alex eavesdrops.

JAMIE (CONT'D)

What are you doing down here?

BIAN

They just gave me top seller of the year. We're going out for drinks tonight. Invite anyone you want.

Bian quickly leaves. Jamie gets excited. Alex glances at Jamie and the picture on her desk.

2 INT. OBSCURE BEDROOM - UNDER SHEETS - DAY 2

Brown skin. Heavy breathing. Brown skin touching white skin.

3 INT. BAR - NIGHT 3

Alex grabs his drink. He turns around to a drowned out but noticeable voice calling his name. He sees Jamie's hand above the sea of coworkers.

They embrace in a hug.

JAMIE

Ally-Al! I'm so glad you came.

ALEX

You said drinks, so.

Bian turns and slinks his arms around Jamie's waist.

BIAN

Oh, sorry, Alexander. Almost didn't see you there.

Jamie love taps Bian. He and Alex shake. Bian walks away.

Alex winces and grabs his stomach.

ALEX

Oof. I don't know how else to tell you, James, but I don't think I can stay for too long.

JAMIE

Aw. Well thanks for coming. I hope you feel better.

Bian collects everyone's attention.

BIAN

Thank you all for coming out tonight.

(MORE)

BIAN (CONT'D)

Yes, I did win the top seller prize this year, but I wanted to gather you here to begin a new chapter in my life.

Alex finds for the door.

BIAN (CONT'D)

(to Jamie)

Will you marry me?

JAMIE

Yes!

Alex leaves.

4 INT. COLLEGE DORM ROOM - BIAN'S BED - DAY (8 YEARS PRIOR) 4

Bian and Alex cuddle.

Bian reads a book. Alex plays with his camera and listens to music. Alex sits up and takes his headphones off.

ALEX

Do you ever think about marriage?

BIAN

Look, Alex. Marriage is shit. And I'm not the marrying type anyway.

Alex storms out.

5 INT. CALL CENTER - ALEX'S CUBICLE - DAY 5

No phones ring.

Alex tears up at the picture of Bian.

6 INT. CALL CENTER - ALEX'S CUBICLE - DAY (2 MONTHS PRIOR) 6

Alex gets a call on his cell. It reads "Mum."

ALEX

Hello?

MUM (V.O.)

Hey, baby, how'd the interview go?

ALEX

I didn't go, ma.

MUM (V.O.)  
Why? I pulled a lot of strings.

ALEX  
I- I like it here.

MUM (V.O.)  
No you don't. How many times have you told me about this old lady that keeps getting on your nerves? And for what? A dollar above minimum wage? You know what? You grown. You make your own decisions. But don't ask me for another favor like that again.

Alex stares at the picture.

7 INT. CALL CENTER - ALEX'S CUBICLE - DAY 7

Alex sets the picture down.

ALEX  
Okay.

Above Alex, the LIGHT STOPS FLICKERING.

8 INT. CALL CENTER - ALEX'S CUBICLE - LATER 8

Jamie sits down. Alex packs up.

JAMIE  
Hey, buddy, how you feel- Oh.  
You're leaving.

ALEX  
Hey, Jamie, I'm fine and yeah. It's just my time.

JAMIE  
Okay.

ALEX  
Oh, and congrats on the engagement.  
I know you guys will be happy.

JAMIE  
Thanks. I'll send you an invite.

They hug.

Alex collects his belongings and leaves.