

CLAY GIBBONS

17.

EXT. U.C.L.A. TRACK - DAY

Sydney completes her run with CLAY GIBBONS, her good-looking "guy friend." He almost asked Sydney out years earlier... but didn't. A week later, she met Danny. His lifelong regret. Suffice it to say, Francie was right about this guy.

Both are wildly out of breath. They walk it off near the sprint track, where a couple of Runners practice hurdles.

Clay picks up a bottle of water, offers it to Sydney first.

SYDNEY

Thanks...

And she swigs. Then offers it to him. He drinks.

SYDNEY (CONT'D)

Hey, where were you last night? I called you.

CLAY

Oh, yeah. I don't wanna talk about it.

(just her look draws it out)

My sister set me up. I had a blind date.

SYDNEY

Was it good?

CLAY

Uh, I think for the date. Yes.

SYDNEY

You didn't like her?

CLAY

I didn't like her so much I don't like my sister anymore.

SYDNEY

What was the problem?

CLAY

Besides the fact that I work for a newspaper and she's never seen one?

SYDNEY

Stop it.

(CONTINUED)

1/3

GILMORE/MCCONNELL
CASTING
"ALIAS"

CONTINUED:

CLAY

Her favorite movie of all time -- you ready for this? Pretty Woman.

SYDNEY

(smiles)

So? I'm sure that's a lot of peoples' favorite movie.

CLAY

That's probably true. And I'm not dating any of those people. Of all time? That includes... every other movie ever made.

SYDNEY

Hey, d'you see Lawrence of Arabia's playing at the Egyptian?

CLAY

I know, you wanna go tonight? Dan works late, doesn't he?

SYDNEY

(a touch uneasy)

Yeah, I'd love to, but, uh, I can't. I'm gonna bring him dinner at the hospital.

CLAY

How about a late one? It's only playing until Friday.

SYDNEY

We're getting married.

A silence. Clay's stunned. It takes a beat to sink in. Now he's heartsick. But he fights it all the way. Doesn't reveal a thing.

CLAY

Look at that. You're wearing a... ring. God, I didn't even-- Syd, that's amazing, congratulations.

SYDNEY

... thanks...

CLAY

That's-- wow. Did-- so when's the wedding?

(CONTINUED)

2/3

CONTINUED: (2)

SYDNEY

(relieved, awkward)

We're thinking the spring.

CLAY

This-- next spring? So... soon.

SYDNEY

Pretty soon.

CLAY

Fantastic. That's so great. When...
two people-- God, I'm so happy for
you.

SYDNEY

Thank you.

An awkward beat. He's fighting, fighting, fighting.

CLAY

You want to, uh...? Couple more laps?

SYDNEY

No, I'm done.

CLAY

Okay, 'cause I'm gonna. Just a couple
more.

(sincere, sweet)

Congratulations.

Clay turns and runs off. We HOLD ON Sydney, watching him
go. SLOWLY PUSH IN on her... her concern for this
friendship crystal clear. And BETH ORTON starts to SING as
we CUT TO:~~INSERT DEMOTIC WRITING~~~~In a textbook on ancient Egyptian languages. And we're in:~~~~INT. SYDNEY'S APARTMENT - DAY~~~~The MUSIC coming from the stereo. Sydney, wearing
sweatpants and a t-shirt, sits cross-legged on her bed,
surrounded by college books. She just happens to be
reading up on Demotic. She looks up, to Danny, who sits on
the floor, reading a medical textbook.~~~~She watches him for a beat... so in love... but so
concerned. Then, as if he felt it, he looks up at her. He
smiles. She smiles back. That's all he needs to have to
the bed and start kissing her. Her mouth, her neck...~~

(CONTINUED)

3/3