

A BUMP BETWEEN FRIENDS

A ten-minute play

Written by

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## CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

MIA FRIEDLANDER, 33. She's the girl who lays her clothes out the night before and is best friends with her mother.

ALEXA SALTER (Lexi), 34, compulsive people pleaser.  
Recovering actress.

MIA is gingerly sipping a mint iced tea while checking her iPhone in a slightly upscale restaurant in LA. Lexi waltzes in with two Barney's shopping bags.

LEXI

Hiii! Can you believe I'm the one who's late?

MIA

I know, it's okay, hi sweetie.

LEXI

You look so amazing. You've been yoga-late-ing, no running, you look seriously amazing! Very dew-y!

MIA

You look really rested. Just, yeah, rested. I like your shirt. Is it new? I like it! No. I love it!

MIA (CONT'D)

Did you just buy that shirt?

LEXI

Yeah. Did you order?

MIA

No, just water.

LEXI

I went shopping. You know how you said it's nice to take the day off during the week if you work on Saturdays. I love it. (beat) Are you hungry?

MIA

Yeah, I'm gonna have soup.

LEXI

Are we sharing or are you flying solo?

MIA

It's sort of hard to share soup. (beat) I mean, we can, if you really want to--

LEXI

(tumbling out)

I love how we're doing lunch. We never do lunch. Honestly, I don't think I want to do another *hike* for the rest of my life.

(MORE)

LEXI (CONT'D)

I can't take running into all those annoying actresses with their big stupid racks bouncing up and down like big helium balls, talking about how they were the prettiest girl in their little shitbag town in Nebraska and they think Sonya Sotomayor is the new shoe designer at Fred Segal.

MIA

How happy are you that you're not acting anymore? I mean, you're really good, but-

LEXI

Yeah, *I know* I'm good. I just got so tired of being the bisexual girl with a problem.

MIA

You're not really bisexual.

LEXI

I HAD a girlfriend for a month! She was just TOO into me and I'm sorry but I don't want to hold hands with a *woman* over a bowl of *sad soba noodles* at Cafe Gratitude.

MIA

You're not a lesbian! You never went down on her!

LEXI

So? I know! But she read me the Marquis de Sade and we participated in gentle scissoring.

MIA

Ew. Do you know what you want? So... I have to tell you something.

LEXI

Oh my God. You're getting married!

MIA

No. I don't ever want to get married.

LEXI

Totally! It's such an antiquated, obsolete, subjugating institution and more importantly our gay brothers and sisters are still relegated to the status of lover or *partner* in a preponderance of states but they're supposed to wave their iridescent pinwheels around because they can rock out to The Village People on some really unstable float. (beat) Oh wait! That paper you wrote for "Art Forum" got accepted?

MIA

No, they actually rejected me months ago.

LEXI

Oh. I don't think I knew that. Did I know that? Did you tell me that?

Beat.

MIA

I'm, um, pregnant.

LEXI

(almost angry)  
Shut up!

MIA

Yeah. It's really, it really happened out of nowhere.

LEXI

Oh really? Like a small Jewish penis popped out of your crock pot?

MIA

Okay, well, obviously--

LEXI

I thought you wanted to adopt a little China man in your middle-to-late forties?

MIA

Yeah, I don't know... did you want to order some wine or--

LEXI

No, that's gonna make me hate myself.

MIA

So, yeah, I just wanted to tell you.

LEXI

I always worried that Peter was such a pot head that you guys might have problems.

MIA

He hasn't smoked pot in six months.

Beat.

LEXI

Oh, did he get help?

MIA

No. No. He just stopped.

LEXI

Well, does he play squash or something?

MIA

I don't know... I think he just gets up 10 minutes earlier in the morning.

LEXI

Well. CONGRATULATIONS!

Lexi comes around and gives her a hug but it's awkward.

MIA

Yeah, thank you. I'm really happy. You know there's this thing on Larchmont.

LEXI

Oh God, a new cupcake *palace*?

MIA

No, there's like, this secret club... I'm showing a little now--

LEXI

What club?

MIA

If I see another pregnant woman walking down Larchmont, we just sort of secretly nod and smile at each other.

LEXI

That's *literally* the grossest thing I've ever heard in my life! You're barely showing.

MIA

Look at my belly.

Mia lifts up her shirt. Then, Lexi lifts up HER shirt.

LEXI

Look at me. My *belly's* bigger than yours. I'm carrying around a *fart* baby.

Beat.

MIA

So, anyway, I've had a little bit of morning sickness.(beat) Are you sure you don't want one of your Coronas?

LEXI

I'm sorry, are we *fucking* after lunch? Why are you trying to get me to drink?

Mia takes out her phone and looks at it.

MIA

No, I mean, someone should, cause I can't anymore, along with a lot of other things.

LEXI

I mean, if you *really* want me to, I'll--

MIA

So, there's something else...

LEXI

You're gonna have an abortion!  
(beat) I'll go with you!

MIA

No. (beat) No. Just, don't tell anybody about this... even--

LEXI

What? You didn't tell Peter yet?

MIA

No no... so, you *really* can't say anything.

LEXI

I'm so confused, the cupcake losers on Larchmont know, but your boyfriend doesn't. What's going on with you?

MIA

I, um, this baby happened not with Peter.

LEXI

Oh my God! Your art school crush? What's his name? The one who had the face of Greg Louganis and the body of Boris Yeltsin?

MIA

No. He- it's someone you kinda know and--

LEXI

Not the deaf guy from my acting class?

MIA

No. But know that this was the most unplanned, unintentional thing.

LEXI

Did you fuck my brother? (beat) I bet he's good.

MIA

It's Shawn.

LEXI

Shawn who?

MIA

Shawn Shawn?

LEXI  
 (horrified)  
 My Shawn?

MIA  
 Well, *your* Shawn from college...  
 eight years ago.

LEXI  
 (blanching)  
 How the did you guys hook up? How  
 did you guys even meet? (beat)  
 Where was I? I don't understand.

MIA  
 So, it was *really* random, we just  
 ran into each other at LAX some  
 months back.

LEXI  
 LAX? Why? LAX!?

MIA  
 I was coming back from Passover-  
 Peter stayed behind in New York and  
 I ran into Shawn at the airport.

LEXI  
 Shawn was in LA?? Why was he in LA?

MIA  
 His job sends him here on business  
 some--

LEXI  
 My father got him that Bank of  
 America job and now he flies to LA  
 and *bangs* you with the job *my* Dad  
 got him.

MIA  
 Lex. You guys have been over for  
 SIX, no eight years. You've been  
 dating other peo--

LEXI  
 YEAH! I've been dating *losers* who  
 text things like, "what's up?" and  
 who never have a *headboard* for  
 their BED! They should all ask me  
 to blow them in *IKEA* before they  
 buy their *piece a shit bed*.

MIA

So, obviously I had to tell you--

LEXI

What do you want my blessing?  
I'm not your rabbi! I'm not  
your Baal Shem Tov.

MIA

I'm sorry. This was, I don't  
know why, and we're deciding  
about what to do--

LEXI

Can you do me a favor? Can you not  
say "we're deciding"? I have  
literally hundreds of handwritten  
letters from him in a shoebox,  
*before* there was e-mail.

MIA

Okay, sure. Sorry...

LEXI

He was MY boyfriend, he was the  
love of MY life. And yeah we  
basically just did coke together  
and napped... but now he's like  
fallen for you and you're gonna  
have a kid together? (beat) And,  
not to be all 'daughter of a  
therapist' here, but this is an  
incredibly *hostile* act. Like you  
obviously have *serious issues* with  
me that you would bang my ex-  
boyfriend in an airport!

MIA

He still cares about you.

LEXI

Oh my God. (beat) We loved each  
other and it was a little messed up  
but we *loved* each other. (beat) His  
stepmother *lived* for me and I would  
still be friends with her if  
society wasn't against it.

MIA

Lexi.

LEXI

I'm going by Alexa now. I e-mailed  
all you guys about that.

Beat.

MIA

Alexa?

LEXI

What?

MIA

Well, I just wanted you to hear it from me first... we have a long history.

LEXI

This isn't like when you borrowed my Marc Jacobs tank top and returned it with residual deoderant all over it. I'm sorry, do you get B.O. on your stomach?

MIA

(loudly protesting)  
I didn't--

LEXI

(very emotional)  
I can't even have my memory now. I can't even lie in bed at night and have my one memory of my ONE long term relationship because you had to go fuck my boyfriend - in the VIP lounge at Delta!

MIA

Oh my God, we didn't--

LEXI

STOP with the 'we" - he was my 'WE'! Are you guys, like, officially together now?

MIA

Well, I mean, I'm having his baby, Lex-Alexa!

Beat.

LEXI

Did you ever consider that maybe he fell for you because he's not over me and it's a way to, like... get to me...

MIA

That's really psycho. Maybe this is a good time to go back to therapy?

