INT. NEUTRAL SPACE - DAY

ALEX RILEY (40), speaks directly to camera.

MID-LIFE ALEX
My name is Alex Riley. And this is
the story of my life.

(then)
Now, in order for you to get the
complete picture, I should probably
start with...

As he talks, Mid-Life Alex’s voice and face seamlessly MORPH
into those of a 14-year-old boy. This is YOUNG ALEX.

YOUNG ALEX
... the day that changed everything.

INT. CHICAGO APARTMENT (1991) - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

CHYRON: 1991, AGE 14

The CAMERA FOLLOWS A DOG as it crosses to an empty food bowl.

YOUNG ALEX (V.O.)
As an only child growing up in
Chicago, I had two major obsessions.
One was inventing stuff.

The dog taps a button with his snout, activating a Rube
Goldberg contraption that dispenses a single serving of food.
As the dog happily digs in, the CAMERA CONTINUES into...

INT. CHICAGO APARTMENT (1991) - ALEX’S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dressed from head-to-toe in Chicago Bulls gear, Young Alex
watches a basketball game on a small TV.

YOUNG ALEX (V.O.)
The other was Michael Jordan.

ANNOUNCER (ON TV)
Three seconds left, Jordan has the ball.

Jordan makes the fallaway buzzer-beater -- Bulls win! Alex
jumps up and down in celebration.

YOUNG ALEX (V.O.)
But, like I said, all that was about
to change.

Alex’s mom, MAGGIE (35), enters. She wears an airline uniform.
MAGGIE
Hey, honey. You know that pilot I’ve been seeing?

YOUNG ALEX
The one from LA? Yeah, what about him?

MAGGIE
He asked me to marry him.

YOUNG ALEX
(immediately concerned)
And what did you say?

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE (1991) - DAY

A station wagon -- with Illinois plates and luggage strapped to the roof -- pulls up to a modest Studio City home.

Maggie’s new fiancé, RON (40, a man’s man), escorts Alex, Maggie and the dog from the car to the front door.

YOUNG ALEX (V.O.)
Just like that, I was forced to live in a house full of complete strangers. A house that happens to be smack dab in the middle of...

Ron’s son, JUSTIN (14), steps out from the house. He’s wearing a MAGIC JOHNSON JERSEY.

YOUNG ALEX (V.O.)
... Laker Country.

As Young Alex seethes, he MORPHS back into MID-LIFE ALEX..

MID-LIFE ALEX (V.O.)
Turns out, that wouldn’t be the worst day of my life. Not by a long shot.

EXT. SCHOOL (2017) - MORNING

CHYRON: 2017, AGE 40

Mid-Life Alex stands beside a minivan at morning drop-off with ABBY (8). (Note: There’s a stick-figure family sticker on the minivan’s rear window -- Dad, Mom, Daughter.)

Alex bends down and hugs Abby goodbye.

MID-LIFE ALEX
I love you. Learn a lot today, okay?
ABBY
Dad, where’s my lunch?

MID-LIFE ALEX
Crap.

INT. MINIVAN (2017) - MOMENTS LATER
Mid-Life Alex is behind the wheel of the minivan.

MID-LIFE ALEX (V.O.)
Leaving my daughter’s lunch on the kitchen table isn’t the bad thing I was talking about....

EXT. LOS FELIZ HOUSE (2017) - CONTINUOUS
The minivan pulls up to Alex’s Los Feliz home.

MID-LIFE ALEX (V.O.)
This is.

REVEAL that there’s an AMBULANCE parked in the driveway.

INT. LOS FELIZ HOUSE (2017) - FOYER - CONTINUOUS
The front door flies open and Alex rushes inside.

MID-LIFE ALEX
Sarah, oh my God! Please tell me you’re ok--

Alex stops in his tracks. Strewn about his feet are a mixture of WOMEN'S UNDERGARMENTS and a PARAMEDIC’S UNIFORM. When he looks off to the living room, his face drops.

MID-LIFE ALEX (V.O.)
Well, at least when your life hits rock bottom, things can’t get any worse, right?

As Mid-Life Alex begins to process the end of his marriage, he MORPHS into a 65-year-old man. This is OLDER ALEX.

OLDER ALEX (V.O.)
Wrong.

EXT. NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE (2042) - DAY

CHYRON: 2042, AGE 65

Flanked by applauding businesspeople, Older Alex rings the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange. The flatscreen behind him reads: RILEY INDUSTRIES.
OLDER ALEX (V.O.)
When you’re ranking life-changing
days, it’s hard to top the one where
you almost die.

Alex’s face contorts in pain and he grabs his chest. As the
businesspeople continue to applaud, Alex drops OUT OF FRAME.

INT. BEDROOM / EXT. HOUSE / INT. HOSPITAL - SPLIT-SCREEN

In a three-way SPLIT-SCREEN, we see:

1991. Lakers posters cover the walls of Justin’s bedroom.
Justin snores loudly from the bottom bunk. Young Alex is
wide awake and miserable on top.

2017. Mid-Life Alex walks out of the house, stunned. He
glares at the ambulance still in his driveway.

2042. A hospital orderly pushes Older Alex in a wheelchair.

OLDER ALEX (V.O.)
But, our life stories aren’t defined
by the bad things that happen to us.

YOUNG ALEX (V.O.)
They’re defined by how we choose to
deal with them.

INT. BEDROOM (1991) - NIGHT

Young Alex tapes a Michael Jordan trading card to a small, un-
Lakered section of wall. He smiles with satisfaction.

INT. HOSPITAL ENTRANCE (2042) - DAY

Older Alex rises from the wheelchair and determinedly walks
out of the hospital. He smiles with satisfaction.

EXT. HOUSE (2017) - DAY

Mid-Life Alex still glares at the ambulance in the driveway.

MID-LIFE ALEX (V.O.)
I’ll admit, I’ve dealt with some
things better than others.

Alex takes a cinderblock and smashes it through the
ambulance’s windshield. As he smiles with satisfaction, we...

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES
FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM (1991) - MORNING

OPEN ON: Justin’s blurry face, slowly coming into focus.

JUSTIN
Wake up, little bro. Rise and shine.

WIDEN. Young Alex lies in the top bunk, barely awake. Justin stands on the ladder, his face just inches away.

JUSTIN (CONT’D)
Don’t want to be late for your first day of school, little bro.

YOUNG ALEX
Could you stop calling me that?

JUSTIN
Why? When my dad marries your mom, we’re legally gonna be bros.

YOUNG ALEX
Step-bros. But, I’m actually talking about the word “little.” We’re in the same grade.

JUSTIN
But I’m 39 days older. And that’s a responsibility I don’t take lightly.

(holds pre-pasted toothbrush)
Now let’s go get those teeth brushed, slugger.

INT. KITCHEN (1991) - MORNING

Maggie places some food in front of Ron at the kitchen table.

MAGGIE
Hope it tastes okay. In Chicago, we mostly did take out.

Ron takes a bite and immediately GAGS.

MAGGIE (CONT’D)
And by “mostly” I mean every single meal.

RON
It’s okay, Maggie. All I need for breakfast is my morning coffee... served with a little sugar.
Ron pats his lap. Maggie happily takes a seat and they kiss. Alex and Justin enter to witness the PDA.

JUSTIN
Ech, I’ll take my breakfast to go.

YOUNG ALEX
I just lost my appetite forever.

As Alex grabs his backpack from the kitchen table, he notices it has a severe wobble.

RON
Yeah, this sucker’s always been a little wobbly. Just slip that napkin back under the leg, would ya?

YOUNG ALEX
I’ve actually got something better.

Alex removes a device from his backpack and proudly shows it.

YOUNG ALEX (CONT’D)
The Alex Riley Adjustable Table Wedge, patent pending.

(then, bitterly)
As soon as Mom gives me the money for the patent application.

Alex drops down to the ground and starts to fix the table.

YOUNG ALEX (CONT’D)
It works on the same principle as a car jack. Okay, give her a try.

Justin pushes down on the table. It doesn’t wobble.

JUSTIN
Sweet!

MAGGIE
You should bring your wedge to school, honey. It’s a great conversation starter.

JUSTIN
(game show noise)
Aaaaahhh... wrong. Your school identity’s locked in during the first week. And we can’t let little bro’s identity be “Inventor Nerd.” No offense.

YOUNG ALEX
Some taken.
RON
Well, I for one, am happy to have a
nerd living under my roof.

YOUNG ALEX
Again, kinda offended.

RON
It’s a compliment. Nerds are taking
over the world. Who knows, maybe
someday you’ll become a famous inventor
like that dweeb who started Microsoft.

YOUNG ALEX
Bill Gates? When I grow up, I’m going to
be a way bigger inventor. I’m gonna come
up with an idea that’ll change the world.

Off Young Alex’s idealistic face, we MORPH TO...

INT. OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM (2017) - DAY

Mid-Life Alex is in the middle of a new product pitch.

MID-LIFE ALEX
The following occurs every day in
Japanese restaurants across America.

Alex and his CFO, DARYL (37), are on one side of a conference
table. Three JAPANESE INVESTORS are on the other. Alex holds
a plate of sushi while fumbling with a set of chopsticks.

MID-LIFE ALEX (CONT’D)
Mmmm, this sushi looks so good... Oh,
no! I’ve dropped another expensive
piece of sushi onto the floor!
(then, confident)
But, that’s all a thing of the past,
thanks to... the Fork-Chop!

Alex reveals his latest invention -- a utensil with
chopsticks on one side and a fork on the other. He spear
the sushi with the fork and pops it into his mouth.

MID-LIFE ALEX (CONT’D)
Arigato, Fork-Chop.

Alex bows, then gauges the investors’ response. They scowl.

JAPANESE INVESTOR
(in Japanese, with subtitles)
He has brought dishonor to everyone in
this room.
EXT. DINER (2017) - A LITTLE LATER

Alex and Darryl sit in a booth at a Du-par’s-style diner.

MID-LIFE ALEX
So it wasn’t the idea that’ll change the world. We’ll get ‘em next time.

A WAITRESS places two plates of food down. Alex uses the Fork-Chop to spear some fries off of Darryl’s plate.

DARRYL
What the hell’s wrong with you?

MID-LIFE ALEX
I want to eat healthy, so I order salad. But when my food comes, I instantly regret it and take your fries. It’s our thing.

DARRYL
I’m not talking about-- OK, tough love time. First, I’m gonna put on my CFO hat. (puts on invisible hat)
In the past year, Riley Industries has gone from an annual revenue of 2.3 million, to pretty much zero.

MID-LIFE ALEX
Define “pretty much”?

DARRYL
Zero.

MID-LIFE ALEX
Ah.

DARRYL
Now I’m putting on my best friend hat. (puts on new invisible hat)
Your life’s a mess.

MID-LIFE ALEX
Define “mess.”

DARRYL
Let’s see... Sarah got the house.

MID-LIFE ALEX
But I kept my patents.

DARRYL
You live in my garage.
MID-LIFE ALEX
Rent-free.

DARRYL
So I no longer have a man cave.

MID-LIFE ALEX
For that I am sorry.

DARRYL
And now you only see Abby twice a week.

This one lands with Alex. It’s like a punch in the gut.

DARRYL (CONT’D)
Look, I know it’s only been six months since the divorce, but you gotta get it together.

MID-LIFE ALEX
I have inventor’s block, okay? It’s not that easy to get over.

DARRYL
Sure it is, you just gotta get your mind right. Try what I do: Every night before bed, I visualize my future.
   (closes eyes)
   Jasmine will be grown, so Wendy and I’ll move to a secluded island where our only worry is keeping the Caribbean sand out of our piña coladas.

Alex starts to reach his Fork-Chop toward his fries.

MID-LIFE ALEX
Vivid imagery, man. Keep describing it with your eyes firmly closed.

Darryl opens his eyes. Busted, Alex steals a fry anyway.

DARRYL
Seriously, Alex. What’s your life gonna look like 25 years from now?

As Mid-Life Alex considers this, he MORPHS INTO OLDER ALEX.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING LOBBY (2042) - DAY

Older Alex stands at an elevator bank with his CFO, JASMINE (35). As they wait, Alex plays an imaginary game of hoops.
OLDER ALEX
Three seconds left, Jordan passes the ball to Riley. Riley throws up an impossible shot and...

The elevator doors open. A PASSENGER inside stares at the awkward tableau of Alex in mid-hook shot.

PASSenger
Welcome back, Mr Riley.

OLDER ALEX
(dignified, still mid-shot)
Morning.

The passenger quickly exits.

JASMINE
Aren’t you gonna finish your shot?

Alex flicks his wrist and completes his hook shot.

OLDER ALEX
Swish. Bulls win.

Jasmine smiles. She and Jasmine step onto the elevator.

INT. ELEVATOR (2042) – CONTINUOUS

The elevator doors close. Jasmine hands Alex an envelope.

JASMINE
Dad couldn’t make it for your first day back, so he sent this instead.

Alex pours the envelope contents into his hand. It’s sand.

OLDER ALEX
Hope he’s enjoying his piña colada.

JASMINE
When he called he already sounded wasted.

OLDER ALEX
Hey, Jasmine, at some point today could you gather the staff? I have a pretty big announcement to make.

JASMINE
Gather the staff? Dang, why didn’t I think of doing something like that?

Ding. The doors open.
INT. OFFICE (2042) - CONTINUOUS

Alex and Jasmine step off the elevator and are greeted by a large group of OFFICE WORKERS in party hats. Multiple flatscreens on the walls spell out “Welcome Back, Alex.”

OLDER ALEX
Wow. Jasmine you really outdid-- Abby?!

ADULT ABBY (33), emerges from the crowd and gives Alex a big hug.

OLDER ALEX (CONT’D)
What are you doing here? I thought the Bulls have a game tonight.

ADULT ABBY
We do. I just flew in for an hour before I head up to Sacramento.

OLDER ALEX
Are you sure that’s okay? I don’t want you to get in trouble.

ADULT ABBY
I’m the GM, Dad. I can do whatever I want.
(anticipating his response)
Except make you head coach.

OLDER ALEX
Fine. Keep running a stagnant offense, see if I care.

JASMINE
Okay, Alex, your staff’s gathered, your daughter’s here. What’s your big announcement?

Alex composes himself, then announces to the assembled:

OLDER ALEX
I’m retiring. Effective immediately. Surprise!

Jasmine and Abby stare at him in disbelief. Pleased with himself, Older Alex starts to WHISTLE, as we MORPH TO...

EXT. BUS STOP (1991) - MORNING

Young Alex WHISTLES a little tune as he stands with Justin at the bus stop. He notices Justin writing in a composition book.
YOUNG ALEX
Hey, I have a notebook like that for my invention ideas.

He pulls out a well-worn composition book from his backpack.

YOUNG ALEX (CONT’D)
This is Volume 36.

JUSTIN
(re: his pristine notebook)
I got this in kindergarten.

YOUNG ALEX
So, what are you working on?

JUSTIN
Ideas for your identity-creating moment. It can be anything, so long as it’s big and memorable. How comfortable are you with public nudity?

YOUNG ALEX
Justin, I know you want me to be popular, but I’m not really into the whole having-a-ton-of-friends thing.

JUSTIN
Who doesn’t want to have a ton of friends?

YOUNG ALEX
Me. As explicitly expressed in my last sentence. Look, I really appreciate all--

ALEX’S POV: As “THERE SHE GOES” by THE LA’S plays, the most beautiful girl in the world walks toward the bus stop in SLO-MO and impossibly BACKLIT. This is NORI STERLING.

BACK ON: Alex, thunderstruck.

YOUNG ALEX (CONT’D)
Did everything just go slo-mo for a second there?

JUSTIN
Nori Sterling. Yeah, she has that effect on guys at first, but you’ll get over it.

YOUNG ALEX
And I’m going to see her every morning at this bus stop?
JUSTIN
You’ll see her, but that’s as far as
it’ll go. She only dates high school
guys. She’s never gonna actually speak--

NORI (O.S.)
Hi, Justin.

Nori stands right in front of them, casually applying some lip
gloss. Both boys are tongue-tied.

ALEX AND JUSTIN
Uhhhhh....

NORI
You must be Justin’s step-brother. My
parents told me there’s a new kid in
the neighborhood.

YOUNG ALEX
Yup, I’m new. Just moved in yesterday.
Completely new. Could not be newer.

NORI
Well, welcome to the bus stop.

As she extends her hand, she accidentally drops her lip gloss.

YOUNG ALEX
Here, let me get that for you.
(removes device from pocket)
The Extendo-Grab 5000. Patent pending.

JUSTIN
Aaand... he’s the Inventor Nerd.

Alex extends the Extendo-Grab with a flick of his wrist. He
uses the claw at the end to pick up the lip gloss, then drops
it back into Nori’s hand. She’s impressed.

NORI
I’m Nori.

YOUNG ALEX
Alex.

As their hands touch in a handshake, Alex looks like he’s seen
God. “THERE SHE GOES” plays again, as Young Alex MORPHS INTO...

INT. MINIVAN (2017) - NIGHT

Mid-Life Alex is behind the wheel. ABBY is in the passenger
seat wearing a Chicago Bulls jersey. “THERE SHE GOES” is now
playing on the car stereo.
MID-LIFE ALEX
Whenever I hear this song, it makes me think of a girl.

ABBY
Mommy?

MID-LIFE ALEX
No, I have a different song for Mommy.
(then, to self)
Psycho Killer.

ABBY
Dad, can I ask you something important?

MID-LIFE ALEX
Abby, you can talk to me about anything.

ABBY
Are you 100% positive Michael Jordan was the best player ever?

MID-LIFE ALEX
Absolutely. Why do you even need to ask?

ABBY
Kids at school were saying Kobe was better.

MID-LIFE ALEX
And this is why... say it with me:

ABBY
Lakers fans are stupid.

MID-LIFE ALEX (CONT’D)
Lakers fans are stupid.

They share a smile. Then Alex notices something up ahead.

MID-LIFE ALEX (CONT’D)
Why’s there a “for sale” sign in front of the house?

EXT. HOUSE (2017) - CONTINUOUS

The minivan pulls into the driveway of the house we saw in the cold open. (NOTE: On the minivan, the woman from the stick-figure family has been scratched off.)

Alex and Abby get out of the van. As Alex examines the “for sale” sign on the lawn, his ex-wife, SARAH, approaches.

SARAH
Abby, why don’t you go inside and play?

ABBY
I don’t want to.
MID-LIFE ALEX
What your mother is trying to say is that
Mommy and I are about to yell at each other.

ABBY
I’ll be inside.

Abby quickly rushes off. Alex points to the “for sale” sign.

MID-LIFE ALEX
Care to explain?

SARAH
You know that chef I’ve been seeing?

MID-LIFE ALEX
The one with that place on Melrose?
Yeah, what about him?

SARAH
He asked me to marry him.

MID-LIFE ALEX
(instantly concerned)
And what did you say?

She shows him the engagement ring on her finger.

SARAH
He’s opening a second location. In San Francisco. We’re moving in a week.

MID-LIFE ALEX
Are you crazy? You barely know this guy.

SARAH
I only knew you for three months before we got married.

MID-LIFE ALEX
And look how that turned out. Honestly, Sarah, I can’t believe you’re willing to leave Abby behind for some random chef.

SARAH
Alex, I’m not leaving her.
(then)
Abby’s coming to San Francisco with me.

Off Alex’s stunned look, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

EXT. HOUSE (2017) - DAY

Mid-Life Alex and Sarah are as before.

MID-LIFE ALEX
You’re crazy if you think I’m letting you move Abby 400 miles away.

SARAH
Believe me, I don’t want to pull her out of school and away from her friends, but what’s the alternative? Alex, you live in a garage.

MID-LIFE ALEX
You make it sound so pathetic. It happens to be a two-car garage.

SARAH
It’s just an hour flight. And we’re only going to be gone six months, just until he gets the staff up to speed. Consider it a mental health break.

MID-LIFE ALEX
I don’t want a break.

SARAH
Yeah, but maybe you could use one.
(then, seriously)
Abby showed me the Fork-Chop.

MID-LIFE ALEX
It’s called inventor’s block!

SARAH
Ordinarily, I’d be okay leaving Abby with you, Alex. You’re a great dad. But, the way your life is these days? I mean, how are you going to take care of her full-time when you can’t even take care of yourself? No offense.

MID-LIFE ALEX
Some taken.
(then)
Look, I admit things haven’t been great recently. But, I’m telling you, one sale and everything’ll turn around. It’s like in--
SARAH
Please tell me you’re not going to use a basketball metaphor.

A beat. Alex considers changing tack, but presses on.

MID-LIFE ALEX
It’s like in basketball. When a player isn’t hitting from outside, a coach’ll draw up a play to get him a layup. Just seeing the ball go through the hoop gets him his confidence back and, next thing you know, his shots start falling again.

SARAH
What’s a layup?

MID-LIFE ALEX
See, this is why we didn’t work. That and your complete disregard for the sanctity of our vows.

SARAH
So, you really think you’re close to turning it around?

MID-LIFE ALEX
So close. Just gotta hit a layup. It’ll be a piece of cake.

Off Mid-Life Alex’s feigned confidence, we MORPH TO...

INT. DINER (1991) - NIGHT

Young Alex sits in a booth with Maggie, Ron and Justin at the same diner we saw Mid-Life Alex and Darryl.

YOUNG ALEX
Can I have a piece of cake for dessert?

MAGGIE
Sure, but you need to order a salad with your burger instead of fries.

YOUNG ALEX
Oh, come on, Mom.

JUSTIN
(sotto)
You can sneak some of my fries, Li’l B. It’ll be our thing.
YOUNG ALEX
I don’t want a thing, I just want--

ALEX’S POV: “THERE SHE GOES” plays as Nori sits in a booth with her parents. Again, she’s in SLO-MO and BACKLIT.

YOUNG ALEX (CONT’D)
(thunderstruck)
Nori.

JUSTIN
You’re still seeing her in slo-mo? Dude, I told you, she’s never gonna-- Oh man, she’s waving to you!

Alex looks over to see Nori waving from across the diner.

YOUNG ALEX
She is waving. What do I do?

MAGGIE
You could try waving back.

Alex very enthusiastically waves back.

MAGGIE (CONT’D)
Dial it back a bit, sweetie.

Alex dials it back into an acceptable wave.

JUSTIN
Do you realize how huge this is? First a bus stop hello, now a public wave? That can only mean one thing: Nori Sterling’s into Alex.

RON
I thought she only dated high school boys.

JUSTIN
Lightbulb. I just figured out what your school identity’s gonna be. There’s a school dance on Friday night. Everyone will be there. It’s perfect.

YOUNG ALEX
Perfect for what?

Justin pulls Alex close, speaking with hushed intensity.

JUSTIN
The birth of a legend. Friday night, in front of the whole school, you’re gonna kiss Nori Sterling.
As YOUNG ALEX’S EYES widen, we MORPH TO...

INT. CAR (2042) - DAY

OLDER ALEX’S EYES are focused on the road as he drives. Adult Abby looks at him from the passenger seat, confused.

ADULT ABBY
Why are you acting like this is some vintage car?

OLDER ALEX
Sorry, old habit.

He removes his hands from the wheel. For the rest of the scene, the car drives itself.

OLDER ALEX (CONT’D)
The self-driving car’s one invention the world could’ve done without.
(then, hearing himself)
Whoa, I’ve only been retired a couple hours and I already got the cranky old man thing down.

ADULT ABBY
Speaking of retirement, Dad, what the hell?

OLDER ALEX
You know that old saying: “No one ever says on their deathbed they wished they’d spent more time at the office”?

ADULT ABBY
Yeah.

OLDER ALEX
Well, riding in that ambulance after my heart attack, convinced it was my last day on earth, know what I was thinking about?

ADULT ABBY
(touched)
Me?

OLDER ALEX
No, the office.

ADULT ABBY
Damn, that’s messed up.
OLDER ALEX
I know, it’s way messed up. That’s why I need to make a change.

ADULT ABBY
So, what are you planning on doing?

OLDER ALEX
All the stuff I’ve missed out on over the past 25 years.

ADULT ABBY
Like?

OLDER ALEX
I don’t know... Sleeping till noon. Growing a beard. Falling in love.

ADULT ABBY
Noon, beard, love? What?! Dad, you just described the life of a college stoner.

OLDER ALEX
I know, sounds pretty awesome, huh?

ADULT ABBY
It kinda does.

OLDER ALEX
Look, I know this all seems sudden. But one thing I’ve learned from being an inventor is, if the path you’re going down isn’t working, you’ve gotta get off it as fast as possible. Sometimes, the best things in life happen when you take a left turn.

Suddenly, the wheel automatically spins to the left and the car starts to turn.

OLDER ALEX (CONT’D)
Uch, stupid car.

OLDER ALEX SHAKES HIS HEAD, as we MORPH TO...

INT. SCHOOL GYM (1991) – NIGHT

Young Alex SHAKES HIS HEAD, standing with Justin as they look out at all the kids at the dance.

MUSIC: DEEE-LITE’S “GROOVE IS IN THE HEART”
YOUNG ALEX
This is not going to end well.

JUSTIN
Why? It’s the perfect plan. When I give the DJ the signal, he’ll play a slow song. You ask Nori to dance, she’ll say yes. Then, out on that dance floor, with the whole school watching... it’s legend time.

YOUNG ALEX
I have issues with every part of that plan.

JUSTIN
I hear you. I’m ignoring what you’re saying, but I hear you.

Justin yanks Alex’s arm and leads him over to where Nori talks with a couple of GIRLFRIENDS.

JUSTIN (CONT’D)
Ladies. How are you this fine evening?

NORI
(flat)
Hey, Justin.
(then, warmer)
Hey, Alex.

YOUNG ALEX
Hi, Nori. So, are you having a good--

Justin SNEEZES. “GROOVE IS IN THE HEART” abruptly switches to a slow song -- BRYAN ADAMS’ “(EVERYTHING I DO) I DO IT FOR YOU”.

Panicked, Alex pulls Justin aside.

YOUNG ALEX (CONT’D)
Did you just give the signal?

JUSTIN
Yes and no. The signal is a sneeze, but that was an actual sneeze.

YOUNG ALEX
I can’t ask her to slow dance. I’ve barely even spoken to--

Nori taps Alex on the shoulder.

NORI
Wanna dance?
Nori extends her hand. Tongue-tied, Alex nods and takes it. As he WALKS with Nori onto the dance floor, we MORPH TO...

INT. GARAGE (2017) - NIGHT

Mid-Life Alex PACES around Darryl’s man cave/garage. There’s a drafting board, two La-Z-Boys, a flat-screen and a single twin bed. Darryl enters.

DARRYL
How’s it coming?

MID-LIFE ALEX
Terrible. I thought the threat of losing Abby would be the kick in the ass I needed, but somehow my ideas have gotten even worse.

DARRYL
Come on, dude, I’m sure they’re not that bad.

Alex hands Darryl his composition book.

DARRYL (CONT’D)
(re: sketch in book)
Is that a wheel?

MID-LIFE ALEX
I was trying to re-invent it. Turns out you can’t.

DARRYL
Okay, I’m taking your book away. And you’re not getting it back until we get your mind right once and for all.

MID-LIFE ALEX
And how do you suggest “we” do that?

Darryl smiles confidently.

DARRYL
I got an idea or two.

INT. YOGA STUDIO (2017) — MONTAGE

Mid-Life Alex and Darryl sit in the lotus position, eyes closed. A TEACHER guides them through a visualization.

TEACHER
Your happy place can be anything.
Just pick somewhere nice and peaceful.
ON DARRYL: As the camera slowly PUSHES IN, we hear the sound of STEEL DRUMS and the CARIBBEAN SEA.

ON ALEX: As the camera slowly PUSHES IN, we hear his hysterical INNER VOICE.

**MID-LIFE ALEX (V.O.)**

I NEED AN IDEA I NEED AN IDEA I NEED AN IDEA I NEED AN IDEA I NEED AN IDEA!!!

Alex’s eyes pop open and he turns to Darryl.

**MID-LIFE ALEX**

Next.

**INT. CONFESSIONAL - MONTAGE**

Mid-Life Alex sits in a confessional. The sliding window opens, indicating the priest is ready to hear his confession.

**MID-LIFE ALEX**

Hey, Father, how’s it goin’? Let’s see, it’s been, well, forever since my last confession because I’m not Catholic. (then) Anyway, is there some prayer I can say that’ll get Jesus to give me an awesome idea that I can turn around and sell for a ton of money?

The sliding window slams shut.

**INT. GARAGE (2017) - DAY**

Mid-Life Alex and Darryl each sit in a La-Z-Boy.

**DARRYL**

Meditation didn’t work. Religion didn’t work. That leaves one last option. Drugs.

Darryl holds out a plate of pot brownies.

**MID-LIFE ALEX**

Now you’re talking. Okay great ideas, start flowing.

They clink brownies, then each take a bite.

**FLIP TO:**

**INT. GARAGE (2017) - AN HOUR LATER**

Alex and Darryl -- chocolate rings around their mouths -- have their EYES CLOSED, fast asleep. And we MORPH TO...
INT. SCHOOL GYM (1991) - NIGHT

Young Alex has his EYES CLOSED as he and Nori slow dance. After a beat, he accidentally stomps on Nori’s foot.

YOUNG ALEX
Sorry, was that your toe again?

NORI
Maybe you should let me lead.

YOUNG ALEX
Wait, I was supposed to be leading?

Nori smiles, then takes Alex’s hands from her shoulders and moves them to her hips.

NORI
Better, right?

YOUNG ALEX
(freaking out)
Mmm-hmm!

Alex looks over to Justin, who makes an imploring kissy face. Alex shakes his head. Frustrated, Justin approaches them.

JUSTIN
‘Scuse me, Nori, just need to borrow my little bro for a sec.

Justin pulls Alex away.

JUSTIN (CONT’D)
Come on, everyone’s watching. It’s now or never.

YOUNG ALEX
In that case, I absolutely choose nev--

JUSTIN
Here, eat these mints. Legends have fresh breath.

Justin shoves a handful of breath mints into Alex’s mouth, then pushes Alex back to Nori.

NORI
Everything okay?

Alex nods and GRUNTS while furiously chewing up the mints. They start to slow dance again.
NORI (CONT'D)
Look, I don’t know if you’ve heard, but there’s a rumor going around that I date high school boys.

YOUNG ALEX
(feigning ignorance)
Whaaat?

NORI
It isn’t true. Just because I don’t date anyone in our school, people make up mean stories about me.

YOUNG ALEX
How come you don’t date anyone in our school?

NORI
Because, until now, there hasn’t been anyone I liked.

YOUNG ALEX
Until now?

Nori closes her eyes and starts to move her mouth towards his. Alex takes a quick look around -- Justin and the entire school watch with bated breath.

Alex again looks to Nori. Her mouth moves even closer. Oh shit, this is really happening. Alex steels himself and swallows hard. But, immediately after swallowing, his eyes bulge and his face starts to turn red.

A BOY turns to Justin.

BOY
He’s choking.

JUSTIN
(bummed)
You’re telling me.

BOY
No, he’s literally choking.

JUSTIN
Little bro!

Justin rushes over to Alex and assumes the Heimlich position. He gives a couple of thrusts, but nothing. Nori watches with alarm, mouth agape. As Justin gives one final thrust, we go TIGHT ON Alex’s face and switch to...
SLO-MO, as a mint flies out of Alex’s mouth. It sails through the air in a majestic, saliva-encrusted arc, landing with a wet thud... right in Nori’s mouth.

REAL TIME. Nori gags, completely grossed out. Alex turns to see the entire school wince as one.

   YOUNG ALEX
   Nori, I’m so sorry. I--

   GIRL
   Just leave her alone, Chokey.

Nori and Alex share a brief, helpless look before Nori’s friends protectively surround her and whisk her away.

   YOUNG ALEX
   Chokey?
   (then, realizing)
   Uh-oh.

Immediately, the entire gym starts to CHANT.

   ENTIRE SCHOOL
   Chokey! Chokey! Chokey!

Justin approaches Alex. Alex turns to him, pleading.

   YOUNG ALEX
   I don’t want to be Chokey.

   JUSTIN
   Sorry, little bro. The mob has spoken.

Justin puts a consoling arm around Alex as the chant continues. Off the two step-brothers standing SIDE-BY-SIDE, we MORPH TO...

INT. DINER (2042) - DAY

Older Alex and Adult Abby sit SIDE-BY-SIDE in a booth at the diner we’ve seen in the other time periods. A WAITRESS takes their order.

   OLDER ALEX
   I’ll have a cheeseburger, dry bun, and as many fries as you can throw on the plate.

   ADULT ABBY
   He just had a heart attack, so he’ll have a salad instead of fries. Thanks.

The waitress walks away. Abby checks her watch.
I should really get going if I’m gonna get to Sacramento by tip-off.

(then)
Hey, why don’t you come on the road trip with me?

Nah, I have a bunch of transition stuff to go over with Jasmine. Plus, I’ve got that side salad coming.

Abby takes a hold of her dad’s hand.

So, you’re really going to be okay?

Have I ever not been?

Well, there was that time you were super-depressed and lived in a garage.

It was a two-car garage!

Look, Abby, I’d be lying if I said I wasn’t a little scared. But, this is something I need to do. I may be entering life’s fourth quarter, but--

Seriously, did you come out of the womb speaking in basketball metaphors?

Nope, it’s something I picked up as a kid.

Older Alex NODS SLIGHTLY at the memory, as we MORPH TO...

INT. ALEX’S BOYHOOD HOME (1991) - NIGHT

Young Alex, in the same clothes he wore at the dance, SHAKES HIS HEAD SLIGHTLY, then opens the front door. As he starts for the stairs, Ron appears in the hallway.

Hey, I want to show you something.

I really just want to go to bed.
RON
It’ll only take a minute.
(then)
Justin told me what happened at the dance.

YOUNG ALEX
Fine.

Alex sighs a teenage sigh, then joins Ron in the DEN.

RON
Now watch carefully.

Ron presses play on a remote.

ON TV: Grainy, heavily-edited VCR footage of Bulls games. Michael Jordan takes a shot and... misses. Another shot, another miss. And another and another.

YOUNG ALEX
I get it, this is Laker Country. Sorry, but I’m not really in the mood to hear how overrated Michael Jordan is.

RON
Overrated? Last season he scored 33.6 points per game and shot 52% from the field.

YOUNG ALEX
Then why are you showing me this?

RON
That also means he missed 48% of his shots -- almost half. In just one season, the greatest basketball player on the planet missed 1,036 shots.
(then, meaningfully)
We all miss shots, Alex. The great ones keep shooting.

Alex nods; he gets it. He and Ron share their first father-son moment. After a beat, Young Alex turns and heads upstairs.

While still on Ron, we hear a DOOR KNOCK. Ron suddenly MORPHS into the 65-YEAR-OLD VERSION OF HIMSELF (played by the same actor).

Ron crosses to the front door and opens it to reveal Mid-Life Alex. He looks absolutely terrible.

MID-LIFE ALEX
I need your help.
INT. KITCHEN (2017) - NIGHT

Mid-Life Alex sits at the kitchen table. Ron places a slice of pie in front of him and takes a seat at the table. Alex eats a bite of pie and immediately spits it out.

MID-LIFE ALEX
Oh my God, that’s the worst thing I ever tasted.

RON
Your mom made it. Pretty sure she accidentally substituted salt for sugar.

A beat. Alex looks at Ron with utter seriousness.

MID-LIFE ALEX
I think I’m having a nervous breakdown.

RON
You look like you’re having a nervous breakdown.

MID-LIFE ALEX
All my life, I’ve been able to look into the future and figure out what people need. But, now it’s like that well’s dried up. I look into the future, and I don’t see anything.

RON
Well, when a strategy isn’t working, sometimes it helps to do the exact opposite.

MID-LIFE ALEX
The opposite of looking into the future is looking into the past. Not a great strategy for an inventor.

Alex absentmindedly takes a bite of pie, then immediately spits it out.

MID-LIFE ALEX (CONT’D)
Please take this away from me.

He pushes the pie across the table to Ron.

RON
Alex, you’re almost there. You just need to get back in touch with that kid I met 25 years ago. That kid was bursting with ideas and optimism. That kid was going to change the world.
MID-LIFE ALEX
Yeah, well that kid doesn’t exist anymore. He was killed by adulthood.

A beat. Ron sees Alex’s deep sadness. As he reaches for Alex’s hand, he accidentally knocks his fork off the table.

RON
Shoot, could you get that? Bending isn’t so easy for me these days.

MID-LIFE ALEX
No problem.

LOW ANGLE: Alex gets on his hands and knees. As he reaches for the fork under the table, something catches his eye. It’s the WEDGE he placed under the table leg 25 years ago.

MID-LIFE ALEX (CONT’D)
You dropped that fork on purpose.

RON (O.S.)
Yup.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. NEUTRAL SPACE - DAY

Mid-Life Alex, the WEDGE in his hands, talks to camera.

MID-LIFE ALEX
The Alex Riley Adjustable Table Wedge was my layup. And unlike Michael Jordan 48% of the time, I didn’t miss.

INT. OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM (2017)

With Darryl by his side, Mid-Life Alex watches the Japanese investors examine the Adjustable Wedge. They’re impressed.

JAPANESE INVESTOR
(in Japanese, with subtitles)
Never again will I place a folded napkin under a wobbly table leg!

The investors shake Alex’s hand. It’s a sale.

MID-LIFE ALEX (V.O.)
And while it clearly isn’t the world-changing idea I’ve been searching for, it gave me what I needed: A new beginning.
INT. GARAGE (2017) - THAT NIGHT

Alex writes feverishly in his composition book. It’s clear he’s re-discovered his passion.

MID-LIFE ALEX (V.O.)
And you know what new beginnings lead to? Happily-ever-afters.

Alex takes a garage door opener and clicks it. The garage door opens to reveal Abby, standing beside a large suitcase. She runs inside and plops her suitcase onto one of the TWO TWIN BEDS that are now in the garage.

Mid-Life Alex beams. After a beat, his SMILE turns into a SCOWL as he MORPHS INTO YOUNG ALEX.

YOUNG ALEX (V.O.)
There was no new beginning for me and Nori.

EXT. BUS STOP (1991) - DAY

Young Alex and Justin stand at the bus stop.

YOUNG ALEX (V.O.)
Know how I said that our lives are defined by how we deal with bad stuff? Well, the way I dealt with Nori after the mint disaster was simple: I totally avoided her.

Nori stands some distance away. She looks over to Alex and smiles, but he quickly averts his eyes, embarrassed.

YOUNG ALEX (V.O.)
And she dealt with it by getting a new boyfriend.

A car pulls to a stop in front of Nori. Nori opens the passenger door and hops in.

YOUNG ALEX (V.O.)
He’s in high school.

As Young Alex watches Nori peel out with a teenage boy behind the wheel, he MORPHS INTO OLDER ALEX.

OLDER ALEX (V.O.)
But here’s the thing about new beginnings...

As Young Alex watches the car drive off, we MORPH TO...
INT. DINER (2042) - DAY

Older Alex pays his bill at the front of the diner. A 60-something female CASHIER works the cash register.

OLDER ALEX (V.O.)
They don’t always start on page one.

The cashier hands Alex his receipt on a plastic tray with a mint.

CASHIER
Here you go.

OLDER ALEX
Thanks, but you can keep the mint. Believe it or not, one of these things cost me the love of my life fifty years ago.

The cashier stares at Alex, stunned.

CASHIER
Alex?

Alex looks at the cashier’s name tag. It reads: “ELEANOR.”

OLDER ALEX
(confused)
Eleanor?
(then, realizing)
Nori.

ALEX’S POV: Everything goes into SLO-MO. Eleanor is beautifully BACKLIT and “THERE SHE GOES” starts to play. Eleanor’s face MORPHS into Nori’s.

Off Alex’s thunderstruck look, we...

INT. DINER (2042) - A LITTLE LATER

Eleanor sits in a booth with Older Alex. They share a big plate of fries.

OLDER ALEX (V.O.)
Turns out, Nori -- I mean Eleanor -- owns the diner. She bought it two years ago after her husband died.

ELEANOR
So, the love of your life, huh?
OLDER ALEX
I was exaggerating for dramatic effect.
(then, looks around diner)
Man, it’s crazy. This place hasn’t changed in over fifty years.

ELEANOR
That’s what I love about it. Outside, the world’s all modernized. But, in here, it’s 1991 and I’m still that 14-year-old girl.

OLDER ALEX
Like a time machine. Which is one thing I haven’t managed to invent.

ELEANOR
That, and the non-choking mint.

OLDER ALEX
Hey, too soon. That happened to be one of the worst days of my life.

ELEANOR
It wasn’t so great for me, either.

They share a smile. Alex stands up.

OLDER ALEX
Well, I better get going. I’ve gotta go home and figure out what to do with the rest of my life.

ELEANOR
It was so nice seeing you again, Alex.

Eleanor gets up and gives Alex a goodbye hug.

ELEANOR (CONT’D)
(whispers in his ear)
Let me know how if you make any progress with that time machine.

OLDER ALEX
Will do.

They end their hug. Alex stands there awkwardly for a beat, then turns to go. The CAMERA FOLLOWS him as he walks through the diner and out the door.

EXT. DINER (2042) – CONTINUOUS

Alex exits the diner. After a couple steps, he stops cold.
The CAMERA ZOOMS IN INCREDIBLY FAST on his face, as we see...

A KALEIDOSCOPE OF IMAGES from all three phases of Alex’s life. Driving up to the Studio City house; his retirement announcement; laughing with 8-year old Abby; shaking Nori’s hand for the first time; watching the video of Jordan’s missed shots with Ron; the mint flying out of his mouth.

The CAMERA ZOOMS OUT OF HIS HEAD, focusing on his face.

OLDER ALEX
Keep shooting.

Determined, Alex desperately rushes back into...

INT. DINER (2042) - CONTINUOUS

Alex makes a bee-line for Eleanor. He meets her in the middle of the diner, takes her in his arms and, finally after fifty years...

They kiss.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. NEUTRAL SPACE - DAY

Mid-Life Alex smiles at the camera.

MID-LIFE ALEX
Keep shooting. That’s exactly what I intend on doing.

EXT. GARAGE (2017) - DAY

With Abby watching, Mid-Life Alex shoots a basketball at a hoop hanging above Darryl’s garage. He misses badly.

ABBY
Dad, that’s ten misses in a row. Can I have a turn?

MID-LIFE ALEX
Of course, honey.

Alex passes the ball to Abby. She dribbles a couple of times, takes a mid-range jumper and... SWISH.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW