

The Alter Ego Workshop Melodrama

Roles Chart:

	Participant 1	Participant 2
Act 1	ALEX	BOO
Act 2	CAM	ALEX
Act 3	BOO	CAM

Act One: Preamble

ALEX, BOO and CAM are in their mid twenties, struggling in the big city: working in the creative/hospitality industries; politically progressive; interested in the arts; given to introspection. ALEX is CAM's older sibling. BOO and CAM are a couple and have lived together for two years.

ALEX plays cello in a small string quartette that has been having some success -- playing concerts, recording -- although the members still need other jobs to make a living. Sophisticated and well-dressed, ALEX, is recovering from a difficult breakup with a domineering and emotionally abusive partner.

BOO is also a musician, singing with a rock band, dressing like a rock-star. Time is passing and the band has not broken through - hopelessness is setting in. To make money BOO tends bar. BOO's parent (last remaining parent) died three months ago. BOO is having a hard time with this: feeling lost and abandoned; trying desperately to get closer to CAM.

CAM is drifting: working in a coffee house: "playing" the cello plus a variety of noise instruments in ad hoc groups that come together in abandoned spaces to jam. CAM is feeling overwhelmed by BOO's neediness and, trying to maintain distance, gets frequent migraines. CAM also has conflicted feelings about ALEX, feeling both hero-worship and envy towards the older sibling perceived as faster, better-looking, smarter and more successful.

BOO and CAM usually move in very different circles than ALEX. But two weeks ago, realizing that ALEX needed cheering up, CAM and BOO invited ALEX for brunch. During the meal ALEX and BOO connected *very* strongly. CAM watched. Now, rather perversely, CAM has invited ALEX over for dinner.

ACT 1: STARTER SCRIPT

Character Descriptions

Participant 1 plays ALEX

You have always taken care of your younger sibling CAM. You perceive that CAM is distant with BOO (who you like very much). Their relationship seems

troubled. Your goal in this scene is to fix it. As you walk towards their house you received a text from CAM, “See you soon. BOO has bought all sorts of fancy food to impress you! I have a head-ache!”

Participant 2 plays BOO

You have a growing crush on ALEX. In the context of CAM’s indifference you are starting to believe ALEX is THE ONE. Your goal in this scene is to seduce ALEX. You are aware ALEX may reject you out of hand because of your relationship with CAM, you must go carefully.

INT. LIVING SPACE – EVENING

BOO and CAM’s living space, crammed with mannequins, drum-sets, amps, etc. There is a table in the middle with candles and two chairs set side by side. On the table are artfully arranged fruits, vegetables, salads, pâtés, crisp breads, bread sticks. A bottle of wine, two glasses.

BOO enters walking backwards in front of ALEX.

BOO

... crawled into bed with a migraine and doesn’t want anything to eat.
Total bummer!

ALEX

So CAM’s not going to eat with us? Shall I go and say hello?

BOO

(shakes head)

CAM’s a bit of a beast with a head-ache, doesn’t want any noise, no light,
just wants to be left alone. Said we should just have fun – quietly!

BOO takes ALEX’s jacket. There’s a joint awareness of closeness and being alone together. They sit down at the table. BOO pours the wine.

IMPROVISE TO FINISH THE SCENE