

The Alter Ego Workshop Melodrama

Roles Chart:

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

Act Two: Preamble

Between Act 1 and Act 2, 6 years have passed. Very soon after the events in Act 1, BOO and CAM break up and ALEX and BOO become partners. They get married about two years later.

Other events in these years:

Around the time of the marriage, ALEX's string quartette breaks up. ALEX has suffered with depression for many years and now struggles with a loss of confidence. Unable to find work as a musician ALEX finally gives up the cello and becomes an assistant in a community legal clinic. Worsening depression, aggravated by difficulties in the marriage, mean ALEX is often absent from work and increasingly unreliable.

BOO gives up the rock band, spends two years as a care worker, then starts working in a management training company. Rising swiftly in the company, BOO currently travels a lot organizing team building exercises. BOO enjoys work and the relative affluence it brings. BOO and ALEX have just bought a condo.

CAM continues drifting for a few years, then enrolls as a music composition student in grad school. CAM lives with other graduate students in a run-down apartment. It is nearly the end of the semester, CAM is working hard on a composition that is due in a few days.

ACT 2: STARTER SCRIPT

Character Descriptions

Participant 1 plays CAM

You are completely absorbed in your work and feel driven to finish it. Your goal in this scene is to get back to work. You need to be alone.

Participant 2 plays ALEX

You are feeling completely lost and suicidal, desperately needing someone to listen to you and to take care of you. Your goal in the scene is to persuade CAM to let you stay.

INT. CAM'S ROOM – EARLY EVENING

CAM's room is small and tidy. Under the platform bed is a work station: keyboards, laptop, monitors, speakers, a cello on a stand. A book-shelf takes up the entire opposite wall. There is a bicycle on a hook behind the door. There are no chairs, the sitting area is a rug on the floor.

CAM is sitting at the workstation, absorbed in the composition. There is a KNOCK on the door. CAM takes a minute to register the KNOCK, then goes to open the door.

ALEX moves into the room so CAM has to back up. ALEX says nothing.

CAM
(surprised)
Hallo! What are you doing here?

ALEX continues to say nothing. ALEX's face is red, blotchy and tense.

CAM
What's the matter? Are you alright?

CAM reaches out to touch ALEX's shoulder. The two sit on the rug.

ALEX
(despairing)
BOO's been cheating on me. I just found out. I've left! I've nowhere to go. Can I stay here with you?

IMPROVISE TO FINISH THE SCENE