

JUMP OVER THE DEADMAN PASS

By

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Based on a true story by Milena Yefimenko

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FADE IN:

EXT. LAS VEGAS, USA - EVENING

Las Vegas is shown as it's decorated to celebrate New Year Eve. Streets are crowded. People are joying their time in Las Vegas: walking, dancing, drinking, playing at casino.

INT. STARBUCKS CAFE IN LAS VEGAS, USA - EVENING

ALEX (late 30s, dressed in business suite) sits at a Starbucks cafe. He has a cup of coffee.

Alex hardly tries to read through some business paperwork. A group of young people laughs loud, disturbing Alex. He has a look of disgust at them. Then he glances at his watches and puts his paperwork into a briefcase.

Alex takes two short sips of coffee and dials a number on his iPhone.

ALEX  
(screaming)  
Hello? Hello?.. Bella?.. Do you  
hear me?

Alex has another look of disgust at laughing people.

ALEX (CONT'D)  
Bella? Do... you... hear... me?

INT. LAW FIRM OFFICE, VANCOUVER CANADA - EVENING

A secretary, BELLA (late 20s, pretty, dressed in business suite) sits behind her desk, talking on the phone. Her legs are on the table. She smiles and plays with a phone cord, cheating it on her finger.

BELLA  
Yes, Alex, yes. Speak up. I can  
hear you pretty well... Having fun  
in Vegas?

ALEX (O.S.)  
You wish! I'm working here, you  
know.

INTERCUT -- PHONE CONVERSATION

The group of young people walk away. Alex signs heavily.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Thank God.

BELLA

I'm not as powerful as God, Alex.  
But if you wish you can call me  
Your Majesty.

ALEX

I didn't mean you, Bella. Vegas  
drives me crazy.

BELLA

Vegas drives everyone crazy. I wish  
to be there instead of--

ALEX

Hey, back to business. Are you  
going to get me out here?

BELLA

You're too bored, Alex... Well,  
here is the situation. There is no  
way out Vegas until the... umm,  
next year!

ALEX

What?!

(pause)

Common, Bella! I want to be home by  
tomorrow. I miss my own bed...

BELLA

It's a holiday... Christmas time!  
You know...

(pause, singing)

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle  
all the way. Oh! What fun it is to  
ride in a one-horse open sleigh..  
Hey!

(pause, laughing)

Millions of people are ready to  
kill for spending a New Year Eve in  
Vegas.

ALEX

But not me! I told you million  
times, Bella, I hate staying at  
hotels... even it's Vegas at the  
Christmas time. Bring me back home!

(CONTINUED)

BELLA

(laughing)

Relax! I'm an experienced secretary... So, I found one way out for you. It's Mi Joo Tour.

ALEX

Speak English.

BELLA

This is the travel agency, called Mi Joo Tour and Travel. Their bus's gonna to travel back to Vancouver tonight. All other passengers than you are reportedly South Korean tourists on a casino outing. Seems to me, they don't care about New Year Eve in Vegas as the same as you do.

ALEX

South Korean tourists? For sure?

BELLA

Exactly! It's a way better than travel with Russian tourists, Americans or even Canadians. Your trip will be--

ALEX

Alright, alright. Book it.

BELLA

I can find you a flight. It's less hours on a way back home, than a tour by bus.

ALEX

This is absolutely not funny, Bella. You know I have a fear of flying.

BELLA

Okay, okay, never mind. Of course I know you're yellow-belly... If you want I can meet you at the bus terminal upon your arriving to Vancouver... and give you a ride to your home.

ALEX

Thanks, but no. Don't worry about it. I'll take a cab.

(CONTINUED)

BELLA

Then... Umm... Happy New Year,  
Alex. I'll see you Wednesday.

ALEX

Happy New Year, Bella.

Alex disconnects his phone and puts it on the table.

INT. STARBUCKS CAFE IN LAS VEGAS, USA - EVENING

Alex takes his cup of coffee, going to drink.

The phone beeps as it receives a message. Alex takes a look  
at the screen.

SUBTEXT: "BELLA: Mi Joo Tour & Travel. Dep.Time 10:30 pm,  
Dec.30, 2013. Your seat is booked next to an old Korean  
woman who snore during sleep. Have a nice trip! ;)"

Alex types a message to reply, smiling devilishly.

SUBTEXT: "ALEX: Thank you, Your Majesty. I won't bring you  
any gifts from Vegas."

CYNDY (O.S.)

Alex?

Alex sharply turns to face a young woman, CYNDY (late 30s,  
very whitish skin, pale lips, dressed casually).

Cyndy walks through a crowd, smiling at Alex.

Alex sharply stands up, but not making a step ahead. He  
looks at her surprisingly and questioningly.

ALEX

Cyndy? Is it you?

CYNDY

(softly, quietly)

Hi, Alex.

ALEX

Wow, what's a surprise? You're in  
Vegas.

CYNDY

Why not? You're in Vegas, too.

Cyndy comes closer to him. Alex moves to kiss her, but  
stops. She smiles at him and approaches her hand. They  
handshake each other.

(CONTINUED)

CYNDY  
May I have a seat?

ALEX  
A seat?.. Oh, sure, of course! Be  
my guest.

Cyndy sits down, continuously looking at Alex with a smile  
on her face.

CYNDY  
What are you doing here?

ALEX  
Having coffee.

Alex points at his empty cup.

CYNDY  
Will you sit down, too, or--

ALEX  
I will... I do.

Alex sits down on his chair, clearing his throat.

ALEX (CONT'D)  
Want some coffee?

CYNDY  
You forget everything... How sad it  
is, Alex.

ALEX  
What?

CYNDY  
I don't like coffee.

ALEX  
Yeah... Sure... Tea?

Alex waves to a waiter to come.

A WAITER (20s, girl, dressed in uniform) stops by Alex's  
table.

ALEX (CONT'D)  
A cup of tea, please... And one  
more coffee for me.

WAITER

In a moment.

The waiter leaves to make an order.

CYNDY

So... Do you really visit Vegas for a cup of coffee?

ALEX

What?... Oh... No!

(laughing)

No, no, no... I do some business here. Actually, the deal is closed and I'm coming back to Vancouver... in an hour.

Alex glances at his watches. Time is shown as 9:15 pm.

CYNDY

I'm so glad I meet you here, Alex.

ALEX

Me, too.

CYNDY

You look the same... the same as twelve years ago.

ALEX

Really?... I mean, was it really twelve years ago? Wow... Time is flying.

CYNDY

It was, Alex.

ALEX

And you look good, too, Cyndy. You know... I just thought about you this afternoon... after lunch.

Alex glances at his watches. Time is shown as 9:17 pm.

CYNDY

How come?

ALEX

You know... Just recently, somehow. I was at a lunch, and just... you know it's like... Wow! Where is my Cyndy? How's she doing?

(CONTINUED)

CYNDY  
Your Cyndy?

ALEX  
Yeah... Oh, no... I mean... You  
know, just--

CYNDY  
Relax, it doesn't matter anymore.

ALEX  
It doesn't.  
(long pause)  
How's your mom? Do you live with  
her or...?

CYNDY  
It doesn't matter, Alex.

ALEX  
Sure.

The waiter comes back with the order of two cups: coffee and tea.

WAITER  
Your order.

ALEX  
(looks at the waiter)  
Thanks.

WAITER  
Would you like to open a credit?

Alex glances at his watches. Time is shown as 9:19 pm.

ALEX  
Yes, please.

The waiter nods and leaves.

Alex turns back to face Cyndy. She sits next to him and smiles at a young STRANGER (20s, nice looking, well build, dressed casually).

The stranger winks and smiles at Cyndy.

Alex becomes red and puts his hand over Cyndy's hand. She looks at him.

(CONTINUED)

ALEX  
(angrily)  
Who is it?

CYNDY  
Stop it, Alex. I swear I don't know  
him... People smiles at, even they  
don't know each other. It's normal,  
I told you before.

ALEX  
Yeah, sure... I'm sorry.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - EVENING (FLASH BACK)

The noise of open door is heard. Alex (20s, dressed light  
and casually) jumps up from a couch. He looks angry.

CYNDY (O.S.)  
Honey, I'm home.

ALEX  
Hey! Look who finally came! Do you  
know what time is it now?

Cyndy (20s, dressed in light short skirt and jacket) walks  
in the living room. She glances at a wall clock and smiles  
at Alex questioningly.

CYNDY  
Ten.

ALEX  
It's ten sixteen p.m., Cyndy! Don't  
you supposed to be home earlier?  
Right after work? Around seven?

CYNDY  
I'm sorry, honey. Girls asked me  
for a cup of coffee... and then it  
was a traffic on my way home.

ALEX  
Girls? Who? Just a coffee?

CYNDY  
Just a coffee... with Sabrina, Olga  
and Rosa.  
(pause)  
Are you hungry? Let me make  
something for both of us, and--

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

I am not.

Alex leaves the living room, closing a door to the bedroom after him sharply.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - EVENING (FLASH BACK)

Alex (20s, dressed in sweater and jeans) walks back and forth in his living room. Then he comes closer to a window and looks out.

ALEX

I knew it!

In a few, Cyndy (20s, dressed in raincoat) walks in the apartment.

CYNDY

Hon? I'm home.

ALEX

Who is he?!

CYNDY

Who?

ALEX

(pointing to the window)

The guy is in a car. Who is he?!

CYNDY

Stop it, Alex. It's not funny. It's just a cab. A taxi, you know.

ALEX

How could you... How... aw! Fuck! I can find a word... I...

CYNDY

I love you, Alex. I always love only you.

Cyndy comes closer to Alex, hugs him and tries to kiss. Alex moves out of her and walks away.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - EVENING (FLASH BACK)

Alex lies in a bed, looking at a clock.

Cyndy walks in the bedroom quietly.

CYNDY  
Are you sleeping?

ALEX  
(mumbling)  
Not yet. Waiting for you to come  
back home.

CYNDY  
So, I did.

ALEX  
It surprised me, Cyndy. I was sure  
you don't remember where your home  
is.

CYNDY  
Common, Alex. I visited my mom, she  
is sick, and I--

ALEX  
Mom?

CYNDY  
Yes, my mom. And I--

ALEX  
Prove it!

CYNDY  
Stop it, Alex. You drives me  
crazy... Call her and ask.

ALEX  
Hell no! I won't call your mom...  
Of course she'll cover your ass!

CYNDY  
Whatever.

Cyndy leaves the bedroom.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - EVENING (FLASH BACK)

Alex walks in the apartment, carrying a huge bouquet of flowers. He smiles happy.

ALEX

Cyndy? Baby, are you home?

He looks for her in the bedroom, then in the kitchen, then in the bathroom -- no results.

ALEX

Well, alright then.

Alex comes closer to the coffee table, going to put flowers into a vase.

There is a folded paper on the table, written as "For Alex".

He picks up the letter and unfolded it.

CYNDY (V.O.)

Dear Alex... I want to let you know that sooner or later everything comes to the end... I'm tired of your constant jealousy. And I decided I'm leaving you... Please, don't even try to see me anymore, it won't change anything. Don't jealous, I'm going back to live with my mom. I'll send you the divorce papers in the mail... Believe me and agree with me, it would be better for all of us... I always loved only you, but I can't live with you and your unfounded jealousy. Your Cyndy.

Alex drops the flowers on the floor.

INT. STARBUCKS CAFE IN LAS VEGAS, USA - EVENING (REALITY)

Cyndy puts her another hand over Alex's hand. She smiles at him.

ALEX

I'm... ummm... I'm sorry.

CYNDY

I know you are, Alex.

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

I just... you know... I guess I  
still lov--

Cyndy presses her finger to his lips.

CYNDY

Sh-sh. Lets talk about something  
else... Please.

ALEX

(angrily)

What about? We haven't seen each  
other for twelve years since we...  
umm...

CYNDY

(nodding to Alex)

Since our divorce.

ALEX

And now you want to talk about  
something else, but... What about,  
Cyndy? What was the last book I  
read? What are TV shows I watch?  
Who is I recently date? Job?  
Travel? Weather?

CYNDY

I couldn't just passby you, Alex.

Alex jerks his hands away from Cyndy's hands. Then he grabs  
his cup of coffee and makes few sips.

ALEX

(angrily, mumbling)

You better do.

CYNDY

But I couldn't... Because I still  
love you, Alex.

ALEX

Do you?

Cyndy takes Alex's hand and holds it with her hands. She  
looks into his eyes.

CYNDY

I always loved you, Alex. And I  
still love you.

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

And I... and I love you, baby.

Alex looks around, like seeking for something. He turns back to Cyndy and smiles at her.

ALEX (CONT'D)

You know... It's Vegas! It's Christmas Time... And we are... we met for a reason! Don't you think so?

CYNDY

Absolutely, Alex. There is a reason.

ALEX

So... You know... let's spend this weekend together and... ummm... Promise me you won't laugh.

CYNDY

(smiling)

Okay.

ALEX

Let's forget about all these years and ummm... our divorce and my jealousy... and...

CYNDY

(smiling)

What you mean?

Alex gets down on one knee in front of Cyndy. He looks into her eyes.

ALEX

Let's start from the beginning again. I know you love me, and I--

Cyndy presses her finger to his lips again.

CYNDY

I know you do, too, Alex. And I couldn't live without you... But I can't live with you, too.

Alex gets back on his chair, clearing his knee.

ALEX

Then what...

(CONTINUED)

CYNDY

I gotta go now.

Cyndy stands up from her chair. Alex stands up after her. She kisses him to a cheek.

Alex glances at his watches. Time is shown as 9:32 pm.

ALEX

I still have a plenty of time... We can--

CYNDY

I really gotta go... Happy New Year, Alex.

Cyndy turns and walks away.

ALEX

Happy New Year to you, too!

(pause)

I'll give you a call, okay?

Cyndy disappears in a crowd. Alex sighs heavily. Someone puts a hand on his shoulder. Alex turns back.

WAITER

Would you like something else?

ALEX

Thanks, but no. A check, please.

The waiter nods and leaves. Alex sits on his chair and glances around.

Las Vegas is crowded.

The waiter comes back and puts a book with a receipt on the table. Alex nods at her. Then he puts a twenty dollar bill inside a book.

Alex takes his coat and briefcase, and leaves the Starbucks cafe.

EXT. LAS VEGAS BLVD - NIGHT

Alex glances at his watches. Time is shown as 11:58 pm.

ALEX

Oh, shit! My bus!

Alex runs forward, then he stops. Then he runs back in panic.

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

No, way! I missed it... How come?

Alex dials a phone number.

ALEX

Hello? Bella?.. Yes, it's me.. No, I'm not in the bus with South Korean tourists! I missed it.

INT. BELLA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Bella sits on her couch in a living room, dressed in pajama. She opens a laptop.

BELLA

Where have you been? Strip club?  
Bar? Casino?

ALEX (O.S.)

It doesn't matter. Find something else for me to get out Vegas.

INTERCUT -- PHONE CONVERSATION

Alex sits down on a bench, signing heavily.

ALEX

Okay, okay. I am sorry for waking you up, but I really want to get home.

BELLA

There is nothing available at this time. You have to stay in Vegas till tomorrow morning.

ALEX

Bella! Common! Anything... Bus, train, ship, Santa's sleigh... Flight?

BELLA

A flight? Are you sure about it? Am I talking to you, Alex?

ALEX

Yes, yes, it's me... and I just want to get home.

(CONTINUED)

BELLA

Well, a flight... umm...

(pause, typing)

The first flight to Vancouver is at seven a.m. tomorrow morning, operated by Air Canada... Lucky you, Alex, it's nonstop flight.

ALEX

Tomorrow? At seven?

BELLA

Yeah, you heard me. There is absolutely nothing earlier than this one.

ALEX

Book it.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Alex walks in his apartment. He drops his shoes and his coat. Then he falls on a couch and turns on the TV. He changes the channels, finally choosing the CBC News Canada.

Alex closes his eyes and falls asleep.

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Alex wakes up, lying on his couch in the living room. The TV continues to show the news.

Alex stands up and walks to the bathroom. The noise of running water is heard.

Alex comes back to the living room, dressed in his pajama. He holds a toothbrush in his mouth. The foam of toothpaste is shown on his face.

NEWS REPORTER (O.S.)

Authorities say a Vancouver-bound tour bus crashed Sunday on an icy stretch of interstate in Oregon, killing nine people and injuring at least twenty others.

Alex stops in a middle of the living room, looking at the TV questioningly.

(CONTINUED)

## NEWS REPORTER (CONT'D)

State police said the bus was on a return trip from Las Vegas, Nevada, to Vancouver. The bus went through a guardrail along the icy Interstate eighty four and fell about thirty meters down a steep embankment.

Alex pulls out the toothbrush from his mouth. His mouth stays open. Alex's eyes become large.

## NEWS REPORTER (CONT'D)

Lieutenant Greg Hastings said the accident happened in the west end of Blue Mountains, on an eleven-kilometer section of road that winds down a hill west of an area called Deadman Pass.

(pause)

The area is so dangerous the state transportation department published specific warnings for truck drivers, advising it had some of the most changeable and severe weather conditions in the Northwest and can lead to slick conditions and poor visibility.

Alex slowly sits down on his couch, continuing to watch the news.

## NEWS REPORTER (CONT'D)

Rescue workers used ropes to help retrieve people from the crash scene... According to CBC News' Lisa Johnson, the bus company is owned by the British Columbia based Mi Joo Tour and Travel, which has offices in Vancouver and Coquitlam.

Alex grabs his coat and pulls out the cellphone.

## ALEX

Oh my God... It can't be truth!  
Just can't be.

Alex dials the number nervously.

## ALEX (CONT'D)

Cyndy... My little Cyndy... You don't even imagine what you did in Vegas... You saved my fucking life!

(CONTINUED)

NEWS REPORTER (O.S.)  
NBC's Jane Sander, who was on the scene, told CBC News that the bus was on its side and in terrible condition... The bus is mangled with the roof ripped off the back part of the bus, and the front is smashed in... she said... Some of the wheels are ripped off the sides--

Alex grabs a remote control and mutes the TV volume.

ALEX  
Pick up the phone, baby! Please! I need to talk to you... right now!

INT. CYNDY'S APARTMENT - LATE EVENING

Alex stands in front of door to Cyndy's apartment. He nervously shakes, carrying a huge bouquet of red roses. He smiles wide and happy.

Someone's open the door.

ALEX  
Cyndy!

An old woman, MISSES TOUSCHE (late 60s, dressed casually), opens the door.

MISSES TOUSCHE  
Alex?

ALEX  
(smiling wide)  
Oh, misses Tousche... I'm sorry, I didn't expect to see you here. Is Cyndy home? I really need to talk to her... You won't believe in it! I swear God!

Misses Tousche looks at Alex sad and quiet.

MISSES TOUSCHE  
You better go, Alex... And never come back.

ALEX  
But misses Tousche... Please. Give me a chance to see Cyndy for a very short moment.

(CONTINUED)

Alex rushes into the apartment. Misses Tousche blocks the doorway.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I'm really sorry for a late visit,  
but... This is very important!

MISSES TOUSCHE

Alex... Cyndy is not here...  
anymore.

ALEX

Where is she? Could you give me an  
address where I can find her?  
Please!

MISSES TOUSCHE

(signs heavily)

Okay.

Alex jumps up happily. He accidentally drops the bouquet on the floor.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

The bouquet of roses is on the grave. Snowflakes cover the petals of red roses.

Alex stays near by the grave, looking down. Misses Tousche stays next to him.

MISSES TOUSCHE

Oh, Cyndy... My little princess...  
She is unexpectedly gone eleven  
years ago.

ALEX

(mumbling)

In a year after our divorce.

MISSES TOUSCHE

But I always feel like she is  
here... She is about to come and  
hug.

ALEX

I know what you feel... And she  
did. Recently did.

Alex turns and walks away.

(CONTINUED)

CYNDY (V.O.)

Alex... I couldn't live with you...  
And I couldn't live without you...  
But I always love you.

Alex stops and glances back.

ALEX

And I love you, too, Cyndy.  
(pause)  
Thank you.

FADE OUT:

THE END