

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

The hand you've been dealt

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FADE IN.

EXT. PORTER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

CHLOE is in front of PORTER'S apartment with takeout in hand. She is drenched from the rain, and frustrated at Porter for not answering her calls. She rings the bell 3 times, and Porter opens the door with haste.

PORTER  
(breathless & frantic)  
Finally. Where have you been?

Chloe and Porter is entering the apartment.

INT. PORTER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Porter's apartment is dimly lit and minimalistically decorated. Clean, white tabletops with black and gold accents. A picture of of Porter and Chloe on a hiking trip is hanging on the hallway wall with other arts.

CHLOE  
(trying to stay calm)  
I've been blowing up your phone for  
the past 10 minutes! What do you mean  
"where have you been"?

PORTER  
(aloof)  
I've been reading game strategies all  
night. Tournament's coming up, you  
know this. Thanks for the food, by  
the way.

CAMERA FOLLOWS COUPLE INTO APARTMENT.

Porter kisses Chloe's cheek, then returns to unpacking food. Chloe's gaze follows Porter's movements.

MEDIUM SHOT - CHLOE'S FACE.

CHLOE  
Yeah, about that... (pauses), we need  
to talk, Porter.

Chloe fidgets with her engagement ring. Porter starts rambling while pacing around trying to unpack food and set the table.

PORTER

(excited)

Yes! There's so much that has happened. The tournament's going to be insane. So many high-profile players, so it's literally all hands on deck.

Porter runs to the TV cabinet, pulls out a DECK OF CARDS, and starts flipping through cards. He starts laying 5 of clubs, 8 of clubs, and 2 of diamonds. He finds 9 of clubs and 6 of clubs and keeps them on his hands. And continues to ramble about one of his recent wins.

PORTER (cont'd)

I was under the gun, dealer flips these out, right? I had these on hand.

Porter shows his hand of cards to Chloe, while Chloe is still trying to find a good point to cut him off.

PORTER (cont'd)

(triumphant)

I only needed the 7 of clubs to be solid, right? And guess what? Dealer burned a card, and the next card that was flipped was THAT card! Yeah! (nods) Insane, right? So yeah, I'm so pumped.

CHLOE

(raises voice)

PORTER!

Porter snaps out of the adrenaline rush. Porter stops shuffling through cards and looks up at Chloe. He's a bit stunned. He finally notices that Chloe is drenched from the rain, and she looks exhausted. Chloe looks like she is fed up with Porter.

CHLOE (cont'd)

Can you please, for the love of God, explain to me, how taking ten thousand dollars from our wedding savings is going to help us?

PORTER

(stammers)

I, uhm, I was preparing for the tournament and they need buy-ins-

CHLOE

(cuts Porter off)

What do you mean "need"? It's for our wedding, Porter. How could you do this?

PORTER

(frantic)

I, I didn't realize I was spending THAT much. But trust me, Chloe, I will win the money back. And then we'll have our wedding, and we could buy a house, and it'll be great!

Bile goes up Chloe's throat, making up difficult for her to speak. She is on the verge of tears.

CHLOE

Stop. Just stop.

Both people fall silent for 5 seconds. The air is tense.

CHLOE (cont'd)

(exasperated)

You had the audacity to pour all of our savings that was meant to be for our marriage, by the way, just so you could go and gamble? You want to ruin us, right? Is this what you meant?

Chloe looks at Porter, waiting for a response, but Porter just fell silent.

CHLOE (cont'd)

(voice breaks)

I don't know you anymore.

Chloe turns away and heads towards the bathroom as Porter watches her.

CHLOE (cont'd)

(voice falls flat)

I'm getting a towel.

Chloe takes the clean towel from Porter's bathroom, goes back into the living room, gets her stuff. Chloe leaves the frame, leaving Porter.

CAMERA FOCUSES ON PORTER.

Porter's gaze follows Chloe, which is just out of frame, as she goes out the door, leaves, and we hear the door shut.

FADE TO BLACK