ALCHEMICAL BONDS

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ACT I

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

A MONTAGE OF DETAILS. Tarot cards spread across a table. Wax dripping from candles of different shapes and sizes. A crystal bowl filled with jewelry. Blue LED lights casting a soft glow across the living room wall. A cluttered apartment that feels lived in, feminine, and slightly magical.

INT. LANA'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

The bathroom sink is covered in makeup palettes that show glitter and dark eyeshadow shades. Makeup brushes and half-open beauty products. Everything is slightly messy but intentional, evidence of a long getting-ready process. Lana carefully applies blue eyeshadow facing the mirror. A voice calls from somewhere in the apartment. SERENA (O.S) Lana! Are you guys ready? Her fingers keep applying eyeshadow as she faces the mirror-

LANA
Yeah, one minute.

She stops and turns briefly towards the door.

LANA
I'll get Cass after.

INT. CASSANDRA'S ROOM - NIGHT

A messy bedroom. Makeup scattered. Clothes everywhere.

CASSANDRA fixes her makeup. Again. And again. LANA, one of her roommates, leans on the doorframe. Watching. Calm.

LANA
You're doing it tonight.

CASSANDRA
No. No way.

LANA steps inside. Picks up a tarot card. INSERT - TAROT CARD: THE LOVERS

LANA
You already decided; you've been crushing on him since he moved in with us.

CASSANDRA hesitates.

CASSANDRA
What if he doesn't -

LANA
(interrupting)

He will. Venus is in Pisces. If it's not now, then when? LANA leaves the tarot card on the desk, with knowingly raised brows, and she walks away into the living room. A beat. CASSANDRA exhales. Still unsure.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Music pulses. Loud. SERENA, the third roommate, drinks straight from a can. CASSANDRA enters, slightly out of place. She runs her fingers through her skirt and then adjusts her blazer. SERENA glances over at her, holding the can in her hand before taking another sip.

SERENA
Bro, you look so stressed.

CASSANDRA
No shit, for real? Never noticed (eye roll).

CASSANDRA throws herself on the couch, followed by a long sigh, staring into nothing. LANA watches CASSANDRA. Calculating but thoughtful. She can't figure out how to set her friend at ease.

The door suddenly swings open. NICK, the fourth and final roommate, enters carrying a bag of alcohol.

ACT II

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Energy shifts in the room.

SERENA
Finally!

SERENA and NICK dap each other up with ease and familiarity. SERENA hands him an opened can. They drink. NICK nods at CASSANDRA in a silent greeting. She nods back with a shy smile. LANA walks over to NICK. They hug.

LANA
Thank you for the bottles.

They separate. NICK shrugs with a smirk, handing her the plastic bag. LANA grabs it with a satisfied smile and heads towards the kitchen with confident steps.

LANA
I'll go make drinks

NICK watches LANA disappear into the kitchen, amused.

LANA winks at CASSANDRA without NICK noticing. CASSANDRA notices both. She takes a deep breath and runs a hand through her hair, trying to figure out how the night is going to go.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Music is muffled. LANA prepares drinks. Precise. Controlled.

Her hands move along the beverages with ease as she prepares the cocktails. This ritual is familiar to her. She adds a little of the cocktail mixture to two glasses, treating it as a love potion. To Lana, this is a spell; the ritual is hers, not evidence of actual magic.

LANA
(quiet) I got you, Cass.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

LANA returns with drinks. Hands them out to the group.

LANA
Here you go.

NICK
You and your damn cocktails.

LANA rolls her eyes with amusement.

LANA
And yet every time you drink until the last drop.

NICK
Never said they weren't good. They do the trick.

SERENA snorts at the admission.

SERENA
The trick meaning they get you wasted fast?

NICK
Like I said, they work, and I don't question it. I just drink it.

LANA
As you should.

She raises her cup.

ALL
To us.

They share a look of familiarity. For the first time in the night, CASSANDRA appears relaxed. This feels safe. The four of them are drinking before their night out. LANA gives her a nod.

They drink.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Music louder.

PARTY MONTAGE:

The four of them are dancing around the living room. Bodies moving. Chaos. CASSANDRA watches NICK. Again. LANA clocks it. Signals: go. CASSANDRA moves toward NICK - Interrupted by SERENA dancing wildly.

CASSANDRA
Do you really think I have a shot? (to LANA)

LANA
There's no better night.

SERENA
NIGHT FOR WHAT? (over the music)

NICK looks over at the three of them.

NICK
Night for what?

LANA
Night to... get drunk!

She signals with her own cup, pretending to take a sip.

SERENA / CASSANDRA / LANA
Drink! Drink! Drink!

NICK shrugs with a smirk, already used to them. He chugs the entire drink in his hand without much effort. Music swells. Montage ending.

INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

CASSANDRA
Guys...we only have thirty minutes -

SERENA
There's no way I'm paying to get in.

LANA
Then move it. Chaos. Shoes. Jackets. Movement. They rush out.

ACT III

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Running. Laughing. Drunk energy. NICK drifts next to LANA. Effortless. He wraps his arm around her. LANA subtly shifts - pulls CASSANDRA closer into a group formation. They move together. Messy dancing. Rockettes-style kicks. They sync. Laugh. CASSANDRA glances at NICK. Hopeful. NICK looks at LANA. Focused.

Suddenly - NICK collapses.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

All three stand over him. CASSANDRA: panic. SERENA: laughing. LANA: composed. Slight concern. CASSANDRA drops beside NICK.

Hands shaking. She attempts CPR.

SERENA
He's breathing, you idiot, just wake him up! (eye roll)

NICK gasps. Eyes open. He sees CASSANDRA. Soft. His hand reaches up. Touches her cheek.

NICK
Finally...

CASSANDRA freezes. Hope. She looks at LANA. Then -

NICK (CONT'D)
...Lana.

Silence. Everything drops. NICK goes limp again.

WIDE SHOT

The three stand there. Disconnected. Energy gone. LANA and CASSANDRA look at each other. They don't say anything.

SERENA
Holy sh -

CUT TO BLACK - END CREDITS