

MAKE A CHOICE

By: Sarah Garron

INT. ALEX'S ROOM - NIGHT

ALEX is a 21-year-old college student whose primary interests include hanging out in his room after classes and playing video games with his friends.

We see Alex playing games at his desk, lights flashing, keys tapping, and illegible talking between Alex and his friends. Hours go by when finally we see a clock with the display of 2:00 am.

ALEX

Alright guys, imma head to bed now. I got classes starting at 8.

We hear goodbyes through Alex's headset as he turns off his computer and hangs up his headphones. He walks over to his bed, takes off his hat, and glasses, and then lies down and closes his eyes.

A few minutes pass before Alex's computer DINGS. Alex readjusts himself in bed but doesn't react. More time goes by when Alex's computer turns itself on and again DINGS. Alex turns over and stares at his computer as it makes another DINGING sound. Alex puts on his glasses and walks over to his computer and sits down in his chair. Rubbing his eyes, he sees on the screen that the computer has opened up his email. He then sees an email from his classmate KYLE, another 21-year-old college student from Alex's class. The message has no further information it just shows an email titled "Choices" with a link. Alex clicks on the email and then clicks on the link opening up a black screen. A few minutes go by when Alex finally gets tired of waiting and he then gets up and walks back to his bed. Suddenly, he hears a clicking sound coming from his desk. He turns around and sees writing on the screen. Alex walks back over to the computer and sits down. The screen says "MAKE A CHOICE: GO TO BED LATE, GO TO BED NOW." Alex stares at the computer for a moment before trying to hit the X in the corner of the webpage. When he clicks it, another tab saying the same link pops back up. Alex then clicks, "GO TO BED NOW".

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S ROOM - DAY

Alex gasps and suddenly sits up in bed. He puts on his glasses and grabs his phone off the nightstand, the time reads 12:00 pm.

Alex gets up and walks back over to his computer and turns it

back on. He checks his email and doesn't see the link anymore. He gets up from his desk and walks into the kitchen. Suddenly his phone DINGS and another question has popped up. It reads, "MAKE A CHOICE: DOG OR CAT." Alex looks at his phone for a minute and then types "CAT". Just then, an Orange cat rubs itself on Alex's jeans. Alex bends down and looks at the collar.

ALEX

Mango huh? Is that your name?

Mango looks up at Alex and MEOWS. Alex picks up Mango and brings her into his bedroom. He sits down at his desk and puts the cat on his bed. Alex opens up his games and starts to play with his friends.

A few hours go by and Mango starts scratching at Alex's door.

ALEX

Mango stop.

Mango doesn't stop, he continues to scratch on the door. Alex is typing rapidly on his keyboard.

ALEX

Mango, please.

Mango continues to MEOW and scratch the door. Alex continues to type and talk to his friends.

Another question pops up on the screen covering Alex's game.

ALEX

What the...

Alex clicks the X in the corner several times but nothing is happening. The pop-up continues to cover the game on the screen, and Alex's friends are yelling over the microphone. "MAKE A CHOICE: MAKE MANGO STOP, LET MANGO CONTINUE." Alex quickly types "MAKE MANGO STOP" and then the pop-up disappears letting Alex continue to play his game. Mango suddenly stops scratching.

When the game finally ends Alex gets up from his desk and starts looking for Mango.

ALEX

Mango?

Mango is gone. Alex walks over to his door and opens it.

ALEX  
(Yelling)  
Mango?

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM / KITCHEN - DAY

Alex starts walking around his house, Mango is nowhere to be found.

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S ROOM - DAY

Alex walks back into his room and looks under his bed. He shuts the door and sees the scratch marks embedded in the door. He runs his hand over them when suddenly another notification pops up on Alex's computer screen. He walks over and sits down at his desk and reads "MAKE A CHOICE: BUS CRASH, PLACE CRASH." Alex once again tries to close out of the tab resulting in it never going away. Alex tries to turn off his computer, but it won't shut off.

ALEX  
Fuck this.

Alex walks out of his room.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM / KITCHEN - DAY

Alex walks over to his fridge and pulls out a root beer. He opens it up and takes a sip. He then opens up the pantry and grabs a bag of chips. Alex then walks over to the couch and sits down he picks up the remote and turns on the TV where the question pops up on the screen. Alex looks nervous as he puts his food and drink down and walks over to the TV and tries to turn it off again. Realizing it isn't going to shut off, Alex walks out of the living room.

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S ROOM - DAY

Alex walks in and slams the door behind him. He angrily sits at his desk and stares at the question on the screen. The computer continues to make DINGING noise that progressively gets louder and louder. Alex, pissed at this point, types "BUS CRASH". The pop-up goes away and the room is finally

quiet. Alex takes a deep breath and sighs. H gets up and walks out of his room.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM / KITCHEN - DAY

Alex walks back into the living room and plugs back in the TV. He sits down on the couch and turns on the TV. The news suddenly pops up.

NEWS ANCHOR, male, late 40's, dark hair.

NEWS ANCHOR

Police are currently on the scene of a horrific bus crash in downtown Sarasota. Detectives still are trying to figure out what caused the bus to lose control. Several people have been pulled out of the rubble, but no recorded survivors have been found thus far. Sarasota police-

Alex turns off the TV. He sits quietly just staring at the black screen. He puts his head in his hands. He begins to breathe heavily. Suddenly, another DING makes Alex pick his head up quickly. Alex's face turns from concerned to anger. He walks over to the TV again and unplugs it. The notification remains. Horrified, Alex walks out of the room.

CUT TO:

INT. ALEX'S ROOM - DAY

Alex walks in and slams the door. He looks at his computer which is DINGING consistently. He tries to unplug it but it remains on the screen. Alex looks down at his phone which is also DINGING. Alex puts his phone on his desk and lies down on his bed. He is covering his ears with a pillow as the DINGING continues getting louder and louder every second.

The computer screen says, MAKE A CHOICE: SEND LINK TO MOM, SEND LINK TO DAD.

FADE TO BLACK: