

This transcript was exported on Jun 05, 2024 - view latest version [here](#).

JDW (00:00):

Hello people of the internet. This is James David West. I voice Dr. Gabriel Larson. Listen, you should join our Patreon for as little as \$2 a month. You'll get episodes free of ads and up to a week early for \$5. You'll get access to director's commentary and other exclusives. All the proceeds help us continue to make great content for you. So for more information, please visit a pollion.observerpictures.com and click Become a Member. That's also where you can find transcripts for every episode. Thanks for listening and enjoy the show.

Alvin (00:33):

Well, hello there, Mr. Punctual. <laugh>.

Corey (00:36):

I mean, it's not like I had to go anywhere,

Alvin (00:39):

<laugh>. Hey, I've been on one or two of these in my day. You could still be late to a holiday date,

Corey (00:45):

You know? Did you really just "back in my day" me. You're not that old, Alvin.

Alvin (00:50):

I'm old enough. So you were just dying to see me again.

Corey (00:56):

I don't know why you're harping on this so much. The app's got a built-in alarm for just before an engagement is about to start.

Alvin (01:03):

Well, you sure know how to make a guy feel special.

Corey (01:06):

Whoever said I wanted to make you feel special.

Alvin (01:09):

<laugh>

Narrator (01:16):

Alvin Smith, age 49 and Corey Dunaway, age 30. Holo conversation.

Corey (01:28):

Oh quit being pouty over there.

Alvin (01:29):

Whoever said I was pouting

This transcript was exported on Jun 05, 2024 - view latest version [here](#).

Corey ([01:31](#)):

Your entire body just pouted. But hey, I don't mind the show.

Alvin ([01:38](#)):

Did you notice I got you something?

Corey ([01:40](#)):

I did.

Alvin ([01:41](#)):

Did you peek?

Corey ([01:42](#)):

I didn't. I swear. I can follow instructions, thank you very much.

Alvin ([01:47](#)):

Good. I wanted to see the look on your face the first time you saw it.

Corey ([01:53](#)):

What is it?

Alvin ([01:56](#)):

A whole nother fish tank for you to fill up.

Corey ([02:00](#)):

Very funny. I don't have that many fish.

Alvin ([02:02](#)):

Come on. 27 fish in an entire wall length enclosure in your basement is a lot of fucking fish.

Corey ([02:12](#)):

Wait, you really weren't kidding.

Alvin ([02:16](#)):

Look, you know, I can't actually install an aquarium that big in my apartment, so I thought this might be the next best thing to make you feel at home.

Corey ([02:26](#)):

Boy, has anybody ever told you how sweet you are? <laugh>? Who am I kidding? Of course they have. I'm sure you use this move and all the boys you talk to.

Alvin ([02:37](#)):

<laugh>. Oh yes. All the boys.

([02:41](#)):

No, this was just something my mom and I used to do when I first went away to college and we lived just too far away to see each other.

Corey ([02:50](#)):

Would you hate me entirely? If I had to ask you what it was,

Alvin ([02:56](#)):

Please tell me. You're kidding.

Corey ([02:58](#)):

Afraid not picture's beautiful. But why are there so many pieces?

Alvin ([03:02](#)):

You've never seen a puzzle before?

Corey ([03:05](#)):

I mean, I've heard of them. I've just never seen one.

Alvin ([03:09](#)):

Oh gosh. I really am old.

Corey ([03:11](#)):

You're not old. You're vintage <laugh> like a fine wine.

([03:17](#)):

<They both laugh>

Alvin ([03:19](#)):

Whatever you say. Okay. Well, puzzles are kinda like a game. You get all these little pieces that, um, together they make up the picture on the box, but you've gotta put in the work to make them fit.

Corey ([03:34](#)):

And this is something you used to do for fun.

Alvin ([03:37](#)):

Yes, all the time. <laugh> before the mail was shit. My mom would send me a new one every week for us to do together over a video call.

Corey ([03:46](#)):

Oh no. How come I always attract the mama's boys?! Tell me I'm not going to have to be in a constant competition with her for your attention.

Alvin ([03:55](#)):

No, she died... a long time ago now

Corey ([04:00](#)):

I am so sorry. That was incredibly insensitive.

Alvin ([04:04](#)):

It's it's really okay. I was younger than you are now when it happened.

Corey ([04:10](#)):

That means it was during the first wave.

Alvin ([04:13](#)):

Gosh, I, I guess it was. But you know what the funny thing is? She didn't even die from AVS.

Corey ([04:22](#)):

She didn't?

Alvin ([04:22](#)):

No. Or not directly, anyway. She was driving home from work one day while I was away at school and she got t-boned by an ambulance carrying an infected person to the emergency room.

Corey ([04:38](#)):

That's awful. I can't even begin to imagine what that felt like.

Alvin ([04:46](#)):

Certainly wasn't a walk in the park. Nothing was then, though, for any of us. Everybody was losing someone every day of their lives. In a way, I guess I'm sort of thankful she never had to experience that.

Corey ([05:04](#)):

Yeah, I was a baby back then, so I don't really remember any of it.

Alvin ([05:11](#)):

It was a completely different world. I, I really took everything for granted back then. How much access we had to the world around us. How at that time I was only a few weeks away from moving back in with her across country. Now you can't even leave the city without a mountain of paperwork.

Corey ([05:32](#)):

I've never even left Atlanta.

Alvin ([05:35](#)):

Well, that's nothing to be ashamed of, Corey. Well, like I said, the access— It's a lot different now...unless you're outside of The Wall.

Corey ([05:46](#)):

There just wasn't any reason to. All of my mom's family, everyone who survived anyway, they stuck close together, stayed in small pods, and cared for each other. I always wondered what it'd be like anywhere else. I mean, of course I did, but I like my people. I like it here.

Alvin ([06:13](#)):

Yeah, there was a lot of that back then. How much family do you have?

Corey ([06:19](#)):

I grew up with both sets of grandparents. One uncle, two aunts, and a couple of cousins who I always kind of felt were more like my siblings for me. Um, never got to meet my dad. He caught it not long after I was born, before Redivir.,

Alvin ([06:35](#)):

Oh, I'm so sorry. That's— I know what it's like to have lost a parent, but my parents and I got to share a lot before they passed.

Corey ([06:47](#)):

We still have a lot of dad around. He was big on home video ever since he was little. So if I squint my eyes real hard, I can still remember what he looks like. I swear I even know what he smelled like. But that's mostly 'cause mom never got rid of his cologne.

Alvin ([07:05](#)):

Oh, that's beautiful.

Corey ([07:06](#)):

What about you? I know you've said both of your parents have passed, but did you have any other family to weather the storm with?

Alvin ([07:16](#)):

No, I didn't. Mom and dad were both only children. I had a few of my grandparents left at the time and several siblings, but none of them were lucky.

Corey ([07:31](#)):

Alvin, I, I had no idea. How could you possibly bear it after all of that?

Alvin ([07:41](#)):

I, I didn't have much of a choice. It wasn't long after her that the rest passed too. That first wave, it just never let up. Every night for months I'd go to bed just dreading waking up in the morning, afraid that I'd get another notification as soon as I woke up that another one of them passed. And every few weeks, I was right. Until there were no more notifications left.

Corey ([08:21](#)):

I don't wanna be crass, but that's so incredibly fucked. I don't think I could have made it as long as you have without my family.

Alvin ([08:28](#)):

You say that and, and you think you mean it, which I appreciate. Well, because for a long time I really didn't think I'd be able to. But even after all that, there's still joy to be found in this life or like right here, right now, building this puzzle with you. Getting to know each other a little better.

Corey ([08:54](#)):

You're beautiful. Did you know that

Alvin ([08:58](#)):

I did.

Corey ([08:58](#)):

<laugh>

Alvin ([09:00](#)):

But I appreciate you telling me all the same.

Corey ([09:05](#)):

You know, I never wanted to leave Atlanta before I met you. Not really. Not with how much frigging paperwork it'll take, but now Chicago's sounding real, real nice.

Alvin ([09:22](#)):

It's 12 degrees outside right now.

Corey ([09:25](#)):

<laugh>.

Alvin ([09:26](#)):

We're really gonna go through all that to meet each other. I'm coming to you!

Corey ([09:30](#)):

<laugh>

Alvin ([09:32](#)):

We deserve to be where it's warm.

Corey ([09:35](#)):

Anywhere is warm...when I'm with you

Alvin ([09:39](#)):

Now, who's the softie?

([09:41](#)):

<They both laugh.>

Corey ([09:43](#)):

You bring it out in me.

([09:45](#)):

Now, shall we get to putting this thing together?

This transcript was exported on Jun 05, 2024 - view latest version [here](#).

Alvin ([09:51](#)):

I'd love that.

Corey ([09:53](#)):

<small chuckle>

Narrator ([09:58](#)):

This episode of Chronicles was written and directed by Bob Raymonda, featuring the voices of Marcus Xavier Stewart and David S Dear. Produced by Faith McQuinn. Dialogue editing by Bob Raymonda, editing by Faith McQuinn Sound mix by Joshua Suhy. Credits by Matthew Boudreau. Theme music by Alice in Winter.

([10:19](#)):

Episodes of this show and all Observer shows are available ad free when you become a patron. Visit observerpictures.com and click support us for more information. This is also where you'll find transcripts for each episode. If you love what you hear, please leave a rating and review on Podchaser, Spotify or Apple Podcasts. And more importantly, tell a friend, we can't make these shows without you. Thank you so much for listening.