

# THE WEDDING PLANNER

By  
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1st White  
Shooting Draft

1 EXT. PARK - NIGHT - 1975

1

The city sleeps. The park is quiet. Just then...

A BARBIE DOLL pops into the foreground. She bounces along and BUMPS right into...a KEN DOLL. WE HEAR a little girl do their voices...

KEN

Excuse me. I'm Ken. What's your name?

BARBIE

Malibu Barbie. I was just going to buy an ice cream cone.

KEN

Groovy, I love ice cream! Hey, I'm going to Paris right now. You wanna come?

2 EXT. PARIS - NIGHT - 1975

2

Barbie and Ken dance in front of the Eifel Tower.

KEN

No way! Burnt Orange is my favorite color too!

BARBIE

Really? Wow. What do you think are more fun, escalators or elevators?

KEN

Escalators. Except one time I got my scarf caught in one and almost died.

BARBIE

Oh Ken, you're so brave...

3 OMMITTED

3

3A EXT. HAWAIIIN BEACH - SUNSET - 1975

3A

BARBIE

First the park, then Paris, now Hawaii, this has been the best night of my life!

KEN

Malibu Barbie, will you marry me?

BARBIE

Oh Ken, I will marry you. I will marry you forever.

SMASH CUT TO:

3B INT. GIRLS BEDROOM - DAY - 1975 3B

BRRRINK! The girl's HAND sets an EGG TIMER - 12 minutes.

3C INT. DRESSING ROOM - DAY - 1975 3C

Barbie, in a wedding dress, looks in a mirror.

BARBIE

Wow! I look beautiful...

GIRL (O.S.)

We're running behind! Where's the caterer?!

VOICE (O.S.)

Here I am!

3D EXT. CHURCH - MARY'S BEDROOM - 1975 3D

G.I. JOE PARACHUTES in with the wedding cake.

G.I. JOE

I'm not only the caterer, I'm also the best man!

A nervous Ken comes into frame.

KEN

You got the ring, Joe?

G.I. JOE

(pats pocket) Right here, my main man!

A DIGGER THE DOG doll bursts onto the scene with a View Master around his neck.

DIGGER

The photographer has a-rrived!

GIRL (O.S.)

Only two minutes left! Is the priest on the premises?

A MR. SPOCK action figure dressed as a priest, turns around.

MR. SPOCK

Affirmative.

A needle drops on 45 record. The "WEDDING MARCH" plays.

GIRL (O.S.)

Hey, where are your pants?!

(CONTINUED)

The CAMERA PANS UP to see...MARY FIORE, 7, adorable, panic stricken, holding a half-naked Ken doll.

4 INT. FIORE TAILOR SHOP - NEXT MOMENT - 1975 4

Mary bursts in. Her father, SALVATORE, sits at a sewing machine. Her mother, ANNA, hems the dress of a customer.

MARY

Dad, did you forget to make Ken's pants?!

He exchanges words with Anna in ITALIAN.

MARY

You did! I told you today was the big day and you forgot! How could you?!

CUT TO:

Anna walks Mary up the stairs.

ANNA

You take your weddings too seriously, Mary.

MARY

But I had it all planned, now everything's ruined.

ANNA

So it's not perfect, so the groom has no pants. Aunt Rose married a man with no sense of humor, cousin Zelda married a man with no prospects and I married a man with no chin. There's always an obstacle somewhere. There's an old Italian saying (she speaks in Italian), "Love can't always be perfect. Love is just love."

5 INT. CHURCH - MARY'S BEDROOM - 1975 5

Barbie and Ken in front of the altar. Ken now wears a pair of TIN FOIL "pants" molded tightly to his body.

MARY (O.S.)

...You may now kiss the bride.

As Barbie and Ken kiss WE PULL OUT TO SEE...the church is a magazine photo pasted inside a shoebox. Stacked along the wall are twenty such shoe boxes with different locales, including the Eifel Tower and Hawaii.

(CONTINUED)

MARY

From now on, he'll take care of you and you'll take care of him and he'll make you big bologna sandwiches and you'll buy him new socks and a white briefcase and you'll live happily ever after ...You're the luckiest girl in the world, Barbie.

MATCH CUT TO:

MARY, now 28, looks into the terrified eyes of a REAL BRIDE.

MARY

You're the luckiest girl in the world, Tracy...

ROLL CREDITS. We're in...

6 INT. CHURCH. SAN FRANCISCO. PRESENT - MORNING

6

Mary in smart business attire, wears a HEAD-SET.

MARY

When I did Whitney Houston's wedding, she was even more nervous than you, and you look ten times better than she did.

BRIDE

No she didn't, this isn't going to work, I'm fat and I'm about to marry the wrong guy!

Mary gently takes the bride by the shoulders. She is the wedding planner. She is hypnotic...

MARY

Look at me. You are exquisite, you are timeless, you are the envy of your future sister-in-law, Janice, whom I overheard at your last gown fitting say, "look at those thighs. I'd kill for Tracy's thighs." But you have more than great thighs, you have the love of a man named Steve. A man who, when he saw you walk into your rehearsal dinner said, "I can't believe she picked me. I can't believe I'm marrying the most beautiful woman I've ever seen..." And that tells me this marriage of yours is not only going to work, it's going to last forever.

(CONTINUED)

The bride shines. Mary turns, smile shutting off instantly. She moves at warp speed. Stops the wedding photographer.

MARY

Keep to areas A, B and E, I don't want interference with the video team.

She spots a SELF-CONSCIOUS BRIDESMAID, breasts too small to hold up her sleeveless gown.

Mary unzips her jacket to reveal a sizable UTILITY BELT containing the tools of her trade; everything from thimbles to mini-bottles of Absolut. She produces a CLOTHESPIN. Puts her hand down the bridesmaid's dress.

MARY

Pardon me...

BRIDESMAID

gasping) What are y...

Mary CLAMPS the inside of the dress, creating a pretty, shirred design in the bodice. The bridesmaid is delighted. We follow Mary into...

7 INT. CHAPEL - CONTINUOUS

7

GUESTS fill the pews of the loveliest chapel on the planet. Mary notices a DARK MASS obstructing a video monitor - it's a BRUNETTE with an unusually high hairdo.

MARY

(into headset) Penny, go to M-12. We got a Dark Tower choking the A.V.

Mary's instructions are received by her friend and fellow wedding planner, PENNY, 30's, also wearing a headset. Penny approaches the brunette.

PENNY

Miss, I believe you're on the preferred seating list. If you'll follow me...

Flattered, the woman does so. The monitors clear.

PENNY

(into headset) Dark tower demolished.

MARY

Places everyone! (into headset) Tom, cut the fill lights. Maestro, on three...

The ORCHESTRA plays. Mary sends out the FLOWER GIRLS...

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

MARY  
(into headset) Pen, send over the F.O.B.

PENNY (O.S.)  
I did, fifteen minutes ago.

MARY  
(racing off) Cover me up north. The  
F.O.B. is M.I.A.

She speeds down a long corridor. Hears some MURMURING...

8 INT. CONFESSIONAL - CONTINUOUS

8

Mary SMASHES open the door. Inside, the F.O.B (father of the  
bride) swills a bottle of scotch. The man is tanked.

F.O.B.  
My little girl's getting married. I  
remember her nursery school graduation  
like it was yesterday...

Mary grabs him - SMELLING SALTS to his nose. EVIAN MIST in  
his face. VISINE in his eyes. COFFEE CANDY popped in his  
mouth. Mary looks him dead in the eye.

MARY  
I know what you're thinking, Mr.  
Bartlett. Today you're giving away your  
little girl, tomorrow you'll be living in  
an adult community in Boca, wearing plaid  
pants, white dress shoes and referring to  
Neil Sedaka as a "very talented young  
man." (leans in confidentially) You know,  
when I married off Sean Connery's  
daughter he went through the same thing.

F.O.B.  
He did?

MARY  
I know how it is between fathers and  
daughters. Until today you've always been  
her hero, her ideal man, her knight in  
shining armor...

He nods. Choking back tears.

MARY  
But Mr. Bartlett...a girl may have many  
lovers and even a husband or two, but  
she'll only ever have one daddy.

9 INT. CHURCH 9

A triumphant "Here Comes The Bride" rings out. Proud Father and daughter reach the altar. Not a dry eye in the house.

END CREDITS

Mary, in the back, takes in her creation - the orange trees, the taper candles, the flowers that are everywhere. Just then, her beeper vibrates, breaking the spell. It reads: 911

10 EXT. CHURCH - NEXT MOMENT - EVENING 10

Mary stands on the steps, talking on her cell phone.

MARY

Outstanding, Miguel. I owe you again.

Mary closes her phone. Does a little football victory dance.

11 INT. CHURCH - NEXT MOMENT 11

Mary slips back into the chapel next to Penny, who's crying along with the guests.

MARY

That was the maitre d' at Fleur De Lys. Francine Donolly got engaged five minutes ago.

PENNY

(through tears) Already on to your next mark, you ambulance chaser! I bet you even used that Whitney Houston line on the bride.

MARY

And Sean Connery on the F.O.B.

PENNY

You're horrid! How can you lie to people on their wedding day? Where's your sense of romance? (re: bride and groom) Look at them, they're so in love...

MARY

I give 'em five months, twelve days...no, make it eleven.

TWO TEARY-EYED GUESTS look at Mary, whisper...

GUEST #1

Look, there's the wedding planner.

(CONTINUED)



SALVATORE

I paid him nothing! He's ready to settle down, he's ready for a wife and family. Anyway, you know him, remember Massimo?

MARY

Who?

SALVATORE

Massimo Lanzetta. The little boy you played with the summer we visit Canicatti. He lived next door to Aunt Celeste.

MARY

You mean the kid who ate mud?

SALVATORE

That's the one! I bumped into him at New Arrivals Night at the Sicily Association. He has just been accepted to Stanford graduate school.

MARY

This is the greatest day of my life! My very own man. You must take me to him at once!

SALVATORE

No need.

Salvatore gets up. Opens the door...

SALVATORE

Massimo! Come join us...

Mary stops laughing.

MARY

He's here?

Enter MASSIMO, 30, a very handsome and confident Italian man.

SALVATORE

Mary, you remember Massimo?

DOTTIE

(whistles) All that mud did him good.

Massimo and Mary stare at one another. He is stunned.

(CONTINUED)

DOTTIE, 80, bangs her walker on the floor, shutting them up.

DOTTIE

Put a lid on it! The city semi-finals are only a week away, Mary needs to practice.

SALVATORE

You're right. (to Mary) I know I can be a big pain in the neck. I just want you to have a good life...

MARY

I know, Dad. It's okay.

SALVATORE

...and I'm going to say something that you may be a little resistant to, but sometimes a father has to take action. Maybe the daughter won't understand at first but...

MARY

What are you talking about?

SALVATORE

It is hard to explain.

MARY

Give it to me in one sentence.

SALVATORE

I've found a man who has agreed to marry you.

Mary just looks at him. So does the rest of the Scrabble club. She suddenly busts out laughing.

DOTTIE

If her mother was alive and heard this, she'd wish she were dead.

SALVATORE

What's wrong with some fatherly intervention? (to Mary) I've tried to let it happen your way, but your way is no way. So I've found you a fine, responsible Sicilian man with good prospects.

MARY

(laughing harder) Sicilian? What'd you pay him to marry me, three mules and a canoli?

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

GUEST #2

My God, she must lead a very romantic life...

CUT TO:

MARY

"Earwax." "X" on a triple letter, "A" on a double word, sixty three points...

12 INT. COMMUNITY CENTER - NIGHT

12

The Scrabble Club. Five different games in progress. Mary, the only member under 73, plays against her dad, Salvatore, whom we met in the flashback. He speaks with an Italian accent.

SALVATORE

I challenge you! "EARWAX" is two words.

MARY

It's one.

SALVATORE

You're bluffing. The same way you bluff through life.

MARY

Oh Dad, not again.

SALVATORE

Sweetheart, I'm not going to be around forever. I want to make sure you have a family before I'm gone.

Mary rolls her eyes.

SALVATORE

No rolling eyes! I'm about to turn sixty-five, you're my only daughter and you're still unmarried.

BURT WEINBERG, 75, leans over from a neighboring game.

BURT

For Chrissakes, leave her alone.

SALVATORE

Keep your big eyebrows outta this.

BURT

At least I have a chin.

(CONTINUED)

MASSIMO

The last time I see you, you were scrawny and ugly and your head was too big for your body.

MARY

How nice. Thank you.

MASSIMO

You are welcome. (takes her hand) I look forward to our life together. I want three sons and a tomato garden.

MARY

Okay then.

She kisses Salvatore on his bald head and leaves.

SALVATORE

Mary! Wait, Mary!

MASSIMO

Why did not you tell me?

SALVATORE

I thought if you knew how stubborn she was, you would not come.

MASSIMO

No. Why did not you tell me how lovely she has become? My eyes ache from her beauty...

Massimo recovers. Claps Salvatore on the shoulder with confidence.

MASSIMO

Do not have the fear. She will marry me.

13 INT. MARY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

13

The door bursts open, revealing Mary, arms full with grocery bags. She looks around her immaculate apartment.

CUT TO:

13A MARY STANDS ON A CHAIR, VACUUMS HER LIVING ROOM CEILING. 13A

CUT TO:

13B A WALK-IN CLOSET. MARY USES A PLASTIC FOLDING FORM TO FOLD T-SHIRTS WITH PRECISION. EVERYTHING IS ARRANGED BY COLOR, FROM LIGHT TO DARK. AND SPACED EXACTLY TWO INCHES APART. SHE EYES HER WATCH. OOO, SHE'S LATE. 13B

CUT TO:

13C MARY SETS AN ELEGANT TABLE FOR TWO. LIGHTS CANDLES. UNCORKS A BOTTLE OF WINE. PULLS GOURMET READY-TO-EAT FOOD FROM GROCERY BAGS. CHECKS HER WATCH AGAIN. 13C

MARY

Just made it...

CUT TO:

13D MARY AT THE TABLE, EATING THE LOVELY DINNER ALONE. THE SECOND PLATE IS RELEGATED FOR SALAD. SHE WATCHES "ANTIQUE ROADSHOW" ON TV WITH GLAZED EYES. 13D

CUT TO:

13E MARY IN BED, SETTING HER ALARM. BESIDE THE CLOCK, HER OLD BARBIE AND KEN DOLLS. SHE SHUTS OFF THE LIGHT. 13E

A14 EXT. STREET - MORNING A14

Mary stops at a newsstand. Scans over the magazines. WILSON, the guy behind the counter, works on a crossword puzzle.

WILSON

Mary, what's the shortest sentence in the English language? Three letters.

MARY

Try "I am."

WILSON

That'll work.

MARY

Know what the longest sentence is? (beat)  
"I do."

Wilson cracks up. She smiles and grabs a copy of WIRED magazine, FRAN DONOLLY and her DAD on the cover.

14 INT. "HERE COMES THE BRIDE" OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER 14

Mary walks through the bustling offices with her high-strung boss, GERI. Mary shows her the WIRED magazine.

(CONTINUED)

MARY

Fran Donolly. Her family started selling gourmet sausages out of their tiny, working class kitchen. Now, five years later, they're one of the biggest internet speciality food companies in America.

They pass a FLORIST holding a big bouquet.

GERI

Pierre, you stick another carnation in one of my bouquets and I'll have you deported.

Mary hands her a newspaper with a circled wedding notice.

MARY

And they placed her wedding announcement in the society pages because they want their new money to be taken seriously.

A CRYING BRIDE, face covered with orange streaks, is comforted by FRIEDA, 40's, an overworked wedding planner.

GERI

What's this?

FRIEDA

Sunless tanning cream, wedding's this weekend, you do the math.

MARY

Quarter cup lemon juice, half cup salt and a loofah sponge. (to Geri) They see this wedding as their ticket into the club. They want to make it a social event, the party everyone talks about.

Geri SHOUTS to her SECRETARY.

GERI

Sheila, book the gazebo package for the Beletti's, call Davis for the rush on the chupah rental and where's my whole fig oatbran smoothie with the ginseng brain boost?

A15 INT. GERI'S OFFICE - NEXT MOMENT

A15

They enter Geri's office. Geri fiddles with papers.

(CONTINUED)

MARY

I've already made contact, they're coming to the Copeland wedding to see my work. I'm gonna nail this account, Geri. We'll get a spread in every major bridal magazine in the country, it'll be our biggest event ever...

She takes away her papers, forcing Geri to look at her.

MARY

And when I pull it off you're making me a partner.

GERI

A partner?! Let me tell you something, I built this business on my back. I sweated, I toiled, I did things no innocent wedding planner should ever know about. I made the big plans, I made the sacrifices...

MARY

And you also never made any money. Until I came along. I've been here for eight years, Geri, and I bring in more revenue than all your other planners combined - times five. You need me and you know you need me and I know you know you need me. Or maybe I should start my own company.

GERI

You wouldn't.

MARY

Of course if I nailed the Donolly account and you made me your partner, you'd save me the trouble of designing a company letterhead. Hmm, what font would I use?

15 INT. OUTSIDE GERI'S OFFICE - NEXT MOMENT

15

PENNY

You're gonna be a partner!

MARY

Gotta get the account first...

BENTON, another planner, stuffs \$20 in Mary's pocket.

(CONTINUED)

BENTON

The Greenberg marriage lasted twenty-three months, two weeks. You win the pot again.

PENNY

How do you do it? I was more than four years off!

MARY

"I Honestly Love You" was their wedding song. Puts them in the twenty month divorce range.

PENNY

Speaking of honest love, Jed was asking about you again.

MARY

I don't trust a man who gets regular pedicures.

PENNY

Then what about a tall, handsome Italian man who's just been accepted to Stanford graduate school?

She points to the lobby. Mary sees Massimo, reading "Bride Magazine" with a puzzled expression. Mary GASPS.

MARY

You talked to him?!

PENNY

Just a few minutes ago. He's sooooo adorable.

MARY

He is not adorable.

PENNY

How can you say that?

MARY

When we were kids, he followed me around for an entire summer asking me if I had a vagina.

PENNY

What did you tell him?

MARY

I have to get out of here.

(CONTINUED)



PENNY

Mary, you can't hold that against him, he was boy. Now he's a man.

MARY

And I want no part of that man. Now if you'll excuse me...

Someone passes by with a dry cleaned tuxedo, Mary ducks behind and makes a getaway. From the tux WE...

MATCH CUT TO:

A BEST MAN in a tuxedo. WERE IN...

16 INT. MANSION. ATRIUM - DAY

16

An eye-popping Moroccan wedding. The BRIDE is black, the GROOM is white. The best man makes a toast.

BEST MAN

May you have enough happiness to keep you sweet, enough trials to keep you strong, enough hope to keep you happy, enough perspective to keep you humble, enough success to keep you eager...

MOVING INTO THE BEST MAN'S EAR, WE SEE A RECEIVING DEVICE...

17 INT. KITCHEN - SAME

17

Mary feeds the best man the lines to his toast through her headset. THREE CHEFS have stopped cooking to watch her.

MARY

...enough friends to give you comfort, enough determination to make each day... a better day than yesterday. Congratulations I love you both.

CHEERS from the reception area. Tired, Mary pulls off her headset. Sees the chefs staring at her.

MARY

What? You think Kissinger came up with his own stuff?

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

You just fed the best man his lines...

FRAN DONOLLY, 27, attractive, all business, in a very chic Richard Tyler suit, stands in the doorway.

(CONTINUED)

VOICE/FRAN  
...Smooth. Real smooth.

MARY  
You must be Francine. (shake hands) I saw  
your article in Wired. Very Impressive.

As they exit into the reception...

FRAN  
Oh God, I hate that picture, they made me  
look like a psychotic poodle. (scans  
room) Where is he?

MARY  
Who?

FRAN  
Eddie, my fiance, he's supposed to be  
here.

MARY  
Listen, most grooms are N.I.D.'s - Not  
Into Details.

FRAN  
That's Eddie alright. (noticing) There's  
my parents...

ANGLE ON THE STAGE

The WEDDING SINGER steps up to the mic.

WEDDING SINGER  
I'd like to invite the bride and groom  
onto the dance floor for their first  
dance together as man and wife...

The bride and groom step onto the dance floor. The band  
starts playing their wedding song - it's "Ebony and Ivory."  
The bride and groom enjoy the joke as the guests look on,  
slack-jawed.

BACK TO FRAN AND MARY

Fran leads Mary over to MR. & MRS. DONOLLY who are perusing  
the Viennese dessert table. He's eating something.

FRAN  
Mary, meet my parents, Kitty and Jack.  
Dad, are you eating the food?

(CONTINUED)

MARY

Very nice to meet you.

MRS. DONOLLY

(sipping champagne) This champagne is delightful. Is it Cristal? D.P.?

MARY

Actually, it's Veuve Clicquot.

MRS. DONOLLY

How enchanting!

FRAN

Mother, you're not a guest, you're not supposed to be drinking the champagne.

MR. DONOLLY

(to Mary) You give my little girl whatever she wants, spare no expense.

MRS. DONOLLY

...And I'll be faxing you a list of songs I'll be performing at the reception.

MR. DONOLLY

And no mini-egg rolls, we got a lot of classy people coming, we got an impression to make.

FRAN

We haven't even hired her yet and Mother, as previously discussed, in detail, ad nauseam, you will not be singing at my wedding. (to Mary) I'm sorry.

MRS. DONOLLY

Why should you be sorry? I was a featured singer on the Lawrence Welk Show for one season. I was in the union.

MARY

You're kidding?

FRAN

Ma, please.

MRS. DONOLLY

(points) Ooo look Franny, the woman in the silver crepe, that's the next nose you should get.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (3)

17

Insecure, Fran touches her nose. If Mary could wince she would.

MR. DONOLLY

Okay, wedding woman, lets get down to brass tacks. What do you see for our wedding?

MARY

Well, off the top of my head...

Speaks in hushed tones, forcing the three to lean in.

MARY

Night. Dubouce Botanical Gardens. White silk tents thin enough to see the stars. Candlelight, Wedgewood, exotic Waringin trees imported from Bali...I'm thinking "Gatsby." Not a period wedding, but the spirit of it. The time after WW I, when everyone had money, when everyone was trying to out-do everyone else, to have the best house, the best car, the best clothes, the best wedding...Your wedding can capture that. Your wedding can be what this country's all about, fulfilling the American dream.

Fran and her parents just stare...

18 EXT. STREET

18

MARY

(on cellphone) I nailed it Geri!

Mary strides down the street, the thrill of victory.

MARY

But they want it in three months. They're going for June...I know, the clock's ticking. Put Penny on!

She steps into the street without looking. Passes a GUY, who takes notice of her. The guy clicks open his car door.

MARY

Guess what, Miss Money Penny...

The narrow heel of Mary's shoe gets CAUGHT in a street grating. She struggles to release it.

A taxi speeds towards the intersection.

19 INT. TAXI - SAME

19

As the driver takes a lick of an ice cream cone, the scoop falls to the floor. As he bends down to get it, he accidentally veers onto a HUGE DUMPSTER which CAREENS down a hill...

BACK TO MARY

Heel still stuck in the grate. She sees the dumpster headed right for her.

MARY

I can't talk, Pen, I'm about to be run over by garbage.

Mary drops the phone, tries to unfasten her strap with trembling hands. The dumpster closes in. She gets the strap open. Too late. She SCREAMS. BAM!!!

Something BARRELS into Mary, HAMMERING her to the sidewalk.

Dizzy, Mary looks up. There's a MAN on top of her, it's the guy who noticed her just seconds ago. He is STEVE EDISON, 30's, strong, sexy and surprised to be on top of such a fetching woman.

STEVE

Howdy.

MARY

Hello.

STEVE

How you feeling?

MARY

(dazed) Great. You?

STEVE

Not bad. You experiencing any faintness? Nausea? Difficulty breathing?

MARY

The breathing thing rings a bell, then again, you're on top of me cutting off my air supply.

STEVE

Mental clarity is excellent. You don't appear to have a concussion.

(CONTINUED)

MARY

Thank you. Why are you still on top of me?

STEVE

Just trying to stay on top of the situation. (he rolls off her) It seems that dumpster tried to kill you. And it seems my thumb is broken. Ow.

Eyes heavy, Mary sees the dumpster smashed into the mailbox. It dawns on her...

MARY

You...you saved my life.

STEVE

It was a pleasure. Maybe one day you can save mine.

They get up. She loses her balance. He catches her.

MARY

Mmmm, you smell like sweet, red plums and grilled cheese sandwiches...

STEVE

(bewildered) Yeah, I get that a lot.

She passes out. Steve looks at her in his arms, his throbbing thumb outstretched.

A BRIGHT WHITE LIGHT fills the screen.

CHILD'S VOICE (O.S.)

Yup, she's dead alright.

CHILD #2 (O.S.)

Do you think she's going to heaven?

CHILD #3 (O.S.)

Definitely, she has the cleanest toes I've ever seen...

20 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

20

Mary blinks. She's wearing a big, plastic C collar which keeps her neck stationary. She sees a GIRL, 7, leaning into her face holding a flashlight.

MARY

Where am I?

(CONTINUED)

GIRL

You're in the children's ward of St. Vincent's hospital. I'm your doctor. Try not to talk.

A BOY, 5, in an arm cast, sticks Band-Aids on her knee. Another BOY, 6, listens to her big toe through a stethoscope.

MARY

Could someone tell me what the hell is going on?

BOY #1

Ooo, she said "hell."

Mary feels the brace around her neck. Tries to move her head, but the collar prevents it. She suddenly freaks.

MARY

Oh my God, I'm paralyzed! I'm paralyzed!

Panicked, her arms and legs flail about. The kids shake their heads.

GIRL

If you're moving your arms and legs, you're clearly not paralyzed.

MARY

(stops) Oh. Right.

At that moment, Steve enters with a clipboard.

STEVE

How's our patient?

GIRL

It was touch and go there for awhile.

BOY #1

I think she needs more fluids.

STEVE

Right. Steffi, give her 10 cc's of Yoo-Hoo.

The kids laugh, disgusted and delighted.

MARY

Wait a minute, you're the guy who saved my life. You must be from out of town.

(CONTINUED)

GIRL  
You can't catch us Dr. Steve!

The kids scatter. Steve chases the three kids while carrying on a conversation with Mary, the master of his multi-tasking domain.

STEVE  
Oklahoma originally. I'm Steve Edison,  
supervising pediatrician here.

MARY  
And I'm M...

He dives under the bed...

STEVE  
Mary Fiore, I know.

...and comes up with a giggling boy.

STEVE  
I had to go through your wallet to get  
your I.D. I never met anyone who  
alphabetized their credit cards before.

He whips the door closed to find the girl hiding behind it. She screams with laughter as he scoops her up. Mary watches the scene bewildered and...charmed.

MARY  
Um, so I, I assume I'm not going to die.

STEVE  
Not on my watch...

Holding the two kids, he chases after the last boy.

STEVE  
...Your X-rays are normal, hemoglobin  
levels are fine, we're just waiting for  
the Catscan to be processed.

He catches him. Now holds all three kids in his arms.

GIRL  
Dr. Steve thinks you're pretty, I can  
tell.

STEVE  
Dr. Steve also thinks you three owe Ms.  
Fiore an apology for acting like wild sea-  
monkeys. Now apologize real proper-like.

(CONTINUED)



KIDS  
Sorry, Ms. Fiore.

MARY  
(smiling) Quite alright.

STEVE  
Okay, now it's off to the play room for  
the lot of ya...

He puts the kids down. They run from the room.

STEVE  
...And don't forget to throw blocks at  
Nurse Bob!

He turns back to Mary.

STEVE  
Oh, you won't be needing that thing. Let  
me take it off.

Mary defensively pulls up the covers, but relaxes when she  
realizes he's only taking off her neck brace.

STEVE  
You have a big neck.

MARY  
I have a big neck?!

STEVE  
No. No. It's a fine neck. It's just that  
it's been a long time since I've had a  
patient over the age of six.

He gets the brace off.

MARY  
What happened to your thumb?

STEVE  
You fell on it with your big neck.

Enter DR. JOHN DOJNY, playful, nervy, wearing a gold pinky  
ring. Gives Mary the once over.

JOHN  
So this must be the little lady who got  
into a fight with a dumpster and won.  
(extends hand) Dr. Jonathan P. Dojny, the  
most masculine pediatrician on the ward.

(CONTINUED)

STEVE

Don't shake it, Mary, Dr. John has just tested positive for cooties.

JOHN

This is your first day off in three weeks, Dr. Steve, would you just go home. (to Mary) He keeps coming back like a bad nose hair. So, you got a fellah?

STEVE

Hey, no picking up on my patients.

JOHN

Gimme a break, she's the first one you've had over the age of six. (to Mary) What do you say, me, you, midnight blue...

MARY

(to Steve) If I throw a stick, will he leave?

Steve laughs.

LOUDSPEAKER (O.S.)

Dr. Dojny, report to the front desk...

JOHN

(to Mary) Don't go anywhere...

He exits. Then pops his head back in.

JOHN

Resistance is fu-tile.

He's gone.

MARY

Resistance is fu-tile?

STEVE

I know he seems disgusting...and quite frankly, he is. But underneath that he's actually a decent guy.

MARY

What is midnight blue?

STEVE

I don't know. The cooties must have spread to his brain.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: (5)

20

They chuckle. For a brief, shy moment their eyes meet. Mary looks away first.

21 INT. STEVE'S OFFICE - LATER

21

Mary alone in Steve's organized mess of an office. Finger paintings everywhere, a bouquet of half-wilted helium balloons float in the corner, three pair of running shoes sit on a shelf next to a collection of Agatha Christie mysteries.

Mary notices a framed photo of an angry looking YOUNG WOMAN with spiked green hair, black lipstick and piercings on her eyebrows, nose and lips. Mary recoils. Steve enters.

STEVE

Your Catscan came back. Not that it was missing, but it's all clear.

MARY

So I'm okay?

STEVE

Better than new.

MARY

Speaking of new, she looks like a modern girl.

STEVE

Who?

MARY

Your girlfriend.

Mary points to the photo of the green-haired girl.

STEVE

Girlfriend? No, that's my baby sister. Yup, she's modern okay, last I heard she had bone through her nose.

MARY

Oh my.

At that moment, Penny rushes in.

PENNY

MY GOD, YOU'RE ALIVE!

MARY

How did you get here?

(CONTINUED)

PENNY

The nurse found my number in your appointment book. Is this the guy who rescued you?

STEVE

I wouldn't exactly call it a rescue, I...

Steve trails off when he notices Penny staring at him - Handsome. Doctor. No ring.

STEVE (cont'd)

Are you okay?

PENNY

Fabulous! (shakes his hand) Penny Nicholson here. I bet you work long hours. Working late tonight?

STEVE

I'm not even on duty, but...

PENNY

Great! Mary and I were just on our way to Yerba Buena Park. They show old movies behind the museum. You must join us and we won't take 'no' for an answer. Off we go!

She starts to usher them out.

STEVE

I'm sorry. I don't think I...

PENNY

Oh come on, you must let us repay you.

MARY

Penny, leave him alone.

STEVE

You don't want me to go?

MARY

I didn't...No I...

PENNY

Of course she wants you to go! Look, the truth is, I'm thinking of going into a career of medicine, something medicinal or whatnot and I'd love to pick apart your brain.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

STEVE  
I'd like to help but... (to Mary) Should I go?

MARY  
Ah...sure.

PENNY  
Then it's settled!

He takes Penny's arm. They walk ahead. Dubious, Mary follows.

STEVE  
(to Penny) Okay, medical lesson number one - the ham bone is connected to the thigh bone...

22 EXT. YERBA BUENA PARK - DUSK

22

MARY  
Don't you dare!

PENNY  
It's for your own good.

Steve approaches holding sodas, caramel corn and a big bag of M & M's. Penny turns to him, big smile.

PENNY  
Look at you! There you are! (to Mary)  
There he is! (stops) Oh my Christ! My friend's brother's...godmother is leaving town and stupid me, I offered to...change her fax cartridge. And I was so looking forward to our medical chat, oh boo.

Penny runs off.

MARY  
Penny!

STEVE  
My God, let's hope her friend's brother's godmother doesn't find out.

CUT TO:

22A EXT YERBA BUENA PARK - NIGHT

22A

Mary and Steve enter the park. It's crowded with SPECTATORS, seated on the grass, waiting for the movie to begin.

(CONTINUED)

STEVE  
No grass left.

MARY  
Come on, I have reserved seating...

Mary leads Steve to a tree protected by a SECURITY GUARD whose back is to them. Mary taps him on the shoulder.

MARY  
Hey, thanks for guarding my tree.

The guard turns around - it's old Burt Weinberg from the Scrabble Club. He looks Steve over.

MARY  
Burt, this is Steve Edison.

STEVE  
Pleasure to meet you.

BURT  
You never mentioned any Steve. Don't tell me you got a date?

MARY  
It's not a...

BURT  
So, Steve, what line of work you in?

MARY  
Burt!

STEVE  
I'm a doctor over at St...

BURT  
You're a doctor!! He's a doctor!

MARY  
Burt!

BURT  
Okay, okay, I can take a hint. (winks) See you at Scrabble, kid...

He lumbers off.

MARY  
I'm sorry...I'm so sorry...

(CONTINUED)

STEVE  
Scrabble?

MARY  
Please don't ask.

STEVE  
Now you have to tell me.

MARY  
(begrudging) I'm a member of the Bay Area  
Scrabble club. Pathetic, I know.

STEVE  
Wow, that is pathetic.

MARY  
Shut up, at least I can spell! What can  
you do?

STEVE  
I'm a gifted Yahtzee player.

She hits him.

STEVE  
Seriously, how'd you get into it?

MARY  
(grabs popcorn) No caramel corn for you.

STEVE  
I'm serious, I think it's interesting.  
Unusual, but interesting. How'd you get  
into it?

She takes him in. He is serious.

MARY  
When my parents came over from Italy they  
joined a Scrabble club to help them learn  
English. After my mom died, my dad became  
obsessed with the game and always wanted  
me to play. So I guess I was destined.  
(re: tree) After you...

CUT TO:

22B EXT. YERBA BUENA PARK - TREE - NIGHT

22B

Mary and Steve sit up in the tree.

(CONTINUED)

STEVE

...I have another one, "zoogloae".

MARY

Z-o-o-g-l-o-e-a-e.

STEVE

Whoa, you're amazing.

MARY

I thought I was pathetic?

STEVE

You're pathetically amazing. But I like it. It's quirky and endearing.

MARY

Thanks.

STEVE

Welcome. So...where would one go to see a Scrabble match?

A song BOOMS over the park's P.A. system. The giant image of the movie's opening credits is PROJECTED onto the library wall. It's "YOU'LL NEVER GET RICH," starring Fred Astaire and Rita Hayworth.

STEVE

This is, by far, the coolest thing I've done in this city.

MARY

Wait till the musical numbers come on.

STEVE

Why?

MARY

You'll see.

TIME CUT:

22C EXT. YERBA BUENA PARK - TREE - NIGHT

22C

Mary and Steve munch on M & M's. She watches him fish through the bag, separating the browns from the rest.

MARY

What are you doing?

STEVE

I only eat the brown ones.

(CONTINUED)



MARY

Because...?

STEVE

Because my mom thought they had less artificial coloring than the others because chocolate's already brown. It kind of stayed with me.

MARY

That's very scientific of you, Dr. Steve.

STEVE

You should hear my theory on blue cheese.

MARY

I'm afraid.

STEVE

You should be.

At that moment, the musical number "So Near and Yet So Far" begins. As Fred sings to Rita, a good portion of the audience GETS UP AND DANCES ALONG.

Steve can't believe it. He stands up in the tree, mesmerized.

MARY

Told you it was cool.

They watch the crowd. After a time...

MARY

You wanna dance?

STEVE

I don't know. It's been awhile...

Burt steps out from behind the tree.

BURT

A girl asks you to dance, you dance!

Steve shrugs. Helps Mary down from the tree. Guides her to a space among the dancing crowd.

Offers his hand. She takes it. They dance.

ASTAIRE (O.S.)

(singing) "My dear, I have a feeling you are, so near and yet so far..."

He twirls her around. They move beautifully together.

(CONTINUED)

MARY  
How'd you learn to dance like this?

STEVE  
Ballroom class in college.

MARY  
Oh. You're gay?

STEVE  
The gayest.

MARY  
Oh.

Big pause.

STEVE  
I'm not gay. I took dance class to meet girls. Then I got to like it.

MARY  
Oh...So did you meet any girls?

STEVE  
Not the right ones.

They dance on. Eyes locked.

ASTAIRE (O.S.)  
(singing) "You appear like a radiant star, bursts so near and then again so far..."

They float over the grass. Faces close.

MARY  
How's your thumb?

STEVE  
Never been better.

MARY  
Y.M.C.A.

STEVE  
Are you still testing to see if I'm gay?

MARY  
No, my next Scrabble match is Tuesday, 8 o'clock. Northside Y.M.C.A. It'll be the social event of the season.

(CONTINUED)

He smiles.

MARY  
Maybe you should be there.

STEVE  
Maybe you shouldn't step on my foot.

MARY  
Did I?

STEVE  
Yup.

MARY  
Sorry.

STEVE  
Don't let it happen again.

MARY  
Don't tell me what to do...

STEVE  
Don't...

MARY  
Don't what?

They look into each other's eyes. Everything around them seems to fade. Their lips are about to meet...

Suddenly, a BOLT of lightning. A CRACK of thunder. Rain falls over them. They break apart, laughing. Spectators scatter. Mary and Steve lock eyes and smile through the rain and rush of people. From the rain...

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

23 INT. MARY'S BATHROOM - LATER

23

Hot water filling into a tub. WE'RE IN...

Mary, in a towel, getting ready to take a bath. Stares at herself in the soft-steamed mirror. She runs her hands through her wet hair. She smiles, her eyes are dreamy.

24 INT. STEVE & FRAN'S APARTMENT - SAME 24

Steve enters, soaked from the rain. Then...

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)  
Hi sweetie, how was your day?

FADE OUT/FADE IN:

25 OMITTED 25

26 INT. RITZ CARLTON. HALLWAY - NIGHT 26

Mary and Fran head for the ballroom. Mary looks at a guest list. She's walking on air.

MARY  
Four hundred and eighty guests?  
Bill Gates? Barbra Streisand?

FRAN  
Not bad, huh?

MARY  
You know all these people?

FRAN  
No, but I will. (beat) What's up with  
you? You're different.

MARY  
I'm not different. How am I different?

FRAN  
You can't stop smiling.

MARY  
(smiling) I'm not smiling. Am I smiling?

FRAN  
Like a fool. Tell me.

MARY  
It's nothing.

FRAN  
Then stop smiling.

Mary tries. She can't.

MARY  
I can't.

(CONTINUED)

FRAN  
Okay, who is he?

27 INT. GRAND BALLROOM - SAME

27

A wild GREEK WEDDING in full swing. The band plays the theme to "Zorba The Greek." A circle of jubilant MEN do a traditional dance.

GREEK MEN  
OOO-PA!!!

SMASH! A plate is tossed onto floor. Penny runs over.

PENNY  
Mr. Kotsioupolis, you cannot throw plates  
in the Ritz fucking Carlton!

A plate heads right for her. She ducks. SMASH!

Mary and Fran enter. A plate CRASHES at their feet.

FRAN  
This is like a fairy tale. He saved your  
life, you danced under the stars, you  
kissed in the rain and...

MARY  
Almost kissed.

Several more plates CRASH all around them.

FRAN  
What's going on?

MARY  
Greek wedding. Normal. (beat) I don't  
know Fran, I've been so out of the  
relationship, dating loop. It's been a  
long time since I've felt like this.

FRAN  
Then go with that feeling. I'll tell you  
what I did with my Eddie - I held back a  
little, I didn't show all my colors, I  
was elusive. I'm lending you my new black  
Versace dress with the scoop neck for  
your Scrabble match.

MARY  
Not really my style.

(CONTINUED)

FRAN

Leave it to me, I'm not the President of an internet food empire for nothing.

MARY

What do you think of the room?

FRAN

First thing's first, with my help, you could marry this guy within three months. And the room...it's...it's...

MARY

Not enough?

FRAN

Not enough.

At that moment, Penny staggers by, holding a stack of plates, looking for a place to hide them.

PENNY

Mary, everything's out of control. Tell me what to do?!

MARY

If you can't beat 'em...

Mary takes a plate off the stack and FLINGS it at the wall.

PENNY

What's gotten into you?

FRAN

She met a guy.

PENNY

(stops) She met a guy? You mean...

MARY

Uh-huh. Thanks Pen. I owe you one.

Penny lets the entire stack CRASH to the floor.

PENNY

Yesssss!

GREEK MEN (O.S.)

OOO-PA!

28 INT. Y.M.C.A. - NIGHT

28

A banner reads: CITY SCRABBLE TOURNAMENT. There are only eight spectators in the bleachers...ah, seven, one just left.

Burt brings Mary some water. Dottie holds an open Scrabble Dictionary to Mary's face. Salvatore approaches.

SALVATORE

You ready?

MARY

I'm reviewing my "Q's."

SALVATORE

Look who came to cheer you on...

Mary follows his gesture to Massimo, who sits in the stands.

MARY

Why did you bring him?

SALVATORE

He wanted to see you. Give him a chance.

BURT

Leave her alone. It just so happens she met a nice young fellah and he's a doctor.

MARY

Thanks a lot, Burt. (to Salvatore)  
Listen, I met a guy and he's coming here tonight. I can't have you stirring up any trouble. Besides, you should be worrying about your own match.

SALVATORE

But what about Massimo?

DOTTIE

Who cares, the other guy's a doctor.

MARY

Dad, if you don't back off, so help me, I'll throw the match.

SALVATORE

You would not.

MARY

I'll open up a triple word for my opponent...

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

Salvatore, Burt and Dottie are horrified.

DOTTIE

I think she means business.

CUT TO:

28B INT YMCA

28B

Scrabble tournament underway. Six games in progress. Salvatore plays in one. Mary in another. She puts down a word. Hits the clock. Scans the room for Steve. He's not there.

DISSOLVE TO:

28C INT YMCA

28C

Three games, Mary still a contestant. Her eyes search the room. Salvatore, now in the stands, leans over to Burt.

SALVATORE

What is she looking at? She should be looking at the board.

BURT

She's looking for the doctor.

MASSIMO

Is she sick?

DISSOLVE TO:

Only one game left. Mary against a MAN with Coke-bottle glasses and a bad toupee. The man lays down the word "ZOWIE."

VOICE OVER P.A.

"Zowie." Point worth: fifty-six. Rack cleared. Game. Tournament to number thirty-two, Ralph Mitlow.

The "crowd" APPLAUDS. The Scrabble Club approach Mary, concerned.

SALVATORE

What happened? You threw away your "D" for no good reason!

DOTTIE

Knock it off, ya big jerk. (to Mary) It's okay, honey, we'll get 'em next time.

(CONTINUED)



MARY  
(to Burt) Did you see him?

BURT  
No, kiddo. Maybe he had an emergency.

MARY  
Maybe he can't be bothered.

Massimo steps up to her.

MASSIMO  
I feel proudness. My wife-to-be was almost a big winner...

SALVATORE  
That's very nice, Massimo. (to Mary) Look how wonderful he is.

MASSIMO  
...And after we are married, you will quit your job and until I finish school, we will live with your father.

Shocked, everyone waits for Mary's reaction. She turns to the Scrabble board.

On the big screen TV, for "all" to see, she spells in Scrabble tiles...

SCR(-)W U

The "(-)" being a blank.

29 INT. MARY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

29

Mary dusts her room feverishly. Picks up Barbie and Ken to get at the top of her night table. Her doorbell RINGS.

CUT TO:

Mary, still holding the dolls, looks through the peephole of her front door. No one is there. Leaving the chain on, she cracks open the door. There she finds Massimo on his knees.

MARY  
No...

(CONTINUED)

MASSIMO

What I say to you was wrong. It is because when I am around you I get nervous and my tongue flips around like a crazy, dying fish in my mouth. Please, to forgive me.

He hands her a single red rose. She softens.

MARY

I shouldn't have embarrassed you. You didn't deserve it. I was...This is silly.

She opens the chain. The door swings open.

MARY

Listen, what I did tonight...I was upset about something and I took my frustrations out on you.

Massimo picks up a decorative bowl.

MASSIMO

This looks expensive.

She snatches it from him.

MARY

It is.

MASSIMO

Why are you frustrated?

MARY

I don't want to talk about it.

MASSIMO

That is okay. I will not give you the pressure. (re: Barbie and Ken) You still play with dolls, I think that is cute.

MARY

Massimo, I have an idea. How about I fix you up. I have an infinite supply of unhappy bridesmaids.

MASSIMO

That is tempting, but I must refuse. At first I want to marry you because I have nothing better to do. But now I want to marry you for you. I realize you're the one for me. My heart tells me so.

(CONTINUED)

MARY

That's sweet. It is. But your heart...it's wrong.

MASSIMO

And your heart is sad. You father tell me what happened to you.

MARY

He what?

MASSIMO

I am here to say that I will wait. I will be here to make your heart happy again.  
(backs away) Sleep tight, my nutshell.

30 EXT. STREET - SAME NIGHT

30

Steve walks down the street, a chill in the air. He passes a toy store. Backtracks...

In the window, amongst the board games displayed, a Scrabble game. He stares at it.

WE PAN UP TO THE CRESCENT MOON...

MATCH CUT TO:

A CRESCENT MOON painted on the door of "Gilbert Mounsey's School of Dance." Mary enters with an ENGAGED COUPLE.

31 INT. DANCE SCHOOL

31

A class for couples is about to begin. Mary walks through saying "hi" to VARIOUS CLIENTS. Turns to the engaged couple.

MARY

Alright, you're signed up for six classes. Just be sure to pay up front.

As the couple go off...

VOICE (O.S.)

Mary, what are you doing here?

Mary turns to see...

FRAN

You better run and hide, I may be a hell of a businesswoman, but when I dance I look like a retarded string bean.

(CONTINUED)

MARY

I thought your class was Thursday.

FRAN

We had to change it. This is great, now you can finally meet Eddie...

Fran calls to a MAN, who's drinking at a water fountain.

FRAN

Eddie! Eddie, I want you to meet the wedding planner!

Eddie turns, water dripping down his chin. He's too stunned to wipe it off. Mary's eyes go wide.

EDDIE IS STEVE. MARY'S STEVE!

There is no movement. There are no words.

FRAN

Finally, the two most important people in my life set eyes on each other. Eddie, this is our wedding planner, Mary. Mary this is my fiance, Eddie.

Mary and Steve are in utter shock.

FRAN

Mary, are you okay?

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

Let's go people, get your tootsies out here!

Meet intolerant dance instructor, GILBERT MOUNSEY.

MOUNSEY

I want all the couples in a straight line in front of me. I don't see a line forming. Is there a problem in this room?

Mary and Steve just stand there, frozen. Fran's cell phone RINGS.

FRAN

(into phone) Hi Dad, wait a minute, you're breaking up... (moves to get better reception) There...nope...hold on...

MOUNSEY

Pronto people!

(CONTINUED)

FRAN

(into phone) Now I'm breaking up? (to Mary) Dance with Eddie, I have to take this...

Mounsey comes over.

MOUNSEY

You're holding up the class.

FRAN

(to Mounsey) She's with him. And Mary, watch out for his thumb, he hurt it saving some old lady...

Mary's eyes narrow. Steve can't look at her. Mounsey pulls them onto the dance floor.

MARY

Oh no, no, I can't...

STEVE

And I...Whoa...prior engagement...

MARY

(to Steve) Good choice of words.

MOUNSEY

What we have here is a fear of dancing.

He shoves Mary and Steve together.

MOUNSEY

And I am a firm believer in the conquering of one's fears.

Mary and Steve look for a way out. They see everyone including Fran, who's still on the phone, watching them. Fran mouths the words, "What's wrong?"

Trapped, Mary and Steve step into line. It's all unbearable.

MOUNSEY

Okay people. I need to gauge what I'm dealing with here. So, I will play the music, you will dance and I will observe.

He puts on the music. The couples start to dance. Steve and Mary just stand there. The instructor nudges them together.

MOUNSEY

Have no fear. Just dance. (nudging harder)  
Dance!

(CONTINUED)

Mary and Steve look around. Reluctantly, they start to dance.

MARY  
Old lady, huh?

STEVE  
Listen, this is...

MARY  
You told me your name was Steve.

STEVE  
It is. Fran uses my last name, Edison.  
Calls me "Eddie." It's a nickname.

MARY  
I have a better nickname for you, how  
about "Sleazy, two-timing son-of-a..."

STEVE  
Hey, hey, if you're thinking...

MARY  
What I'm thinking involves a machete and  
a pair of pliers.

Without missing a beat, they fall into a series of  
complicated steps and twirls.

STEVE  
Okay, that day you had the accident...

MARY  
Yeah, that was a special day.

STEVE  
...I was running late...

MARY  
How convenient.

STEVE  
...I was on my way to meet Fran and our  
wedding planner...And you turn out to  
be...

MARY  
Surprise, surprise.

STEVE  
What are the odds?

(CONTINUED)

MARY

Don't dance around the issue.

STEVE

I'm n...

MARY

You didn't show that day because you don't want to get married.

STEVE

You h...

MARY

I see it all the time.

STEVE

How d...

MARY

Then why'd you tell your fiance you saved an old lady?

Good question. He doesn't have an answer.

MARY

Exactly. You think you want to get married, but you don't. You're just pathetic, confused and looking to get some hot pepper wherever you can.

STEVE

You have no idea what you're talking about...

MARY

Yeah? Then why did you come with me to the movie?

STEVE

Why did Steve go to the movies? Steve likes the movies, Steve had a night off, Steve got an invitation, Steve said to himself, "Hey, a movie sounds good." Nothing's more relaxing to Steve then a good movie.

MARY

Um, why is Steve referring to himself in the third person?

STEVE

What are you talking about?

(CONTINUED)

MARY

Oh I'm onto you. You think you can double talk your way out of this. Throw me off your scent. But I smell you...

He swings her into a perilously deep dip.

STEVE

...And I smell like sweet red plums and grilled cheese sandwiches.

MARY

What?

STEVE

That's what you said to me in the street, right before you passed out.

MARY

I did not!

STEVE

You did. Matter of fact, if anybody was looking to get some 'hot pepper' it was you.

MARY

Me?! You think...?! You are hideous!

And they're up again. They have no idea how magnificent they are together.

STEVE

Then why'd you ask me to dance?

MARY

I didn't!

STEVE

You did. Up in the tree, you said, Do you wanna dance?

MARY

I did not, but even if I did, I'm not the one who's engaged!

STEVE

It was a dance. Hoop-dee-do. It didn't mean anything.

MARY

Oh no? Then why'd you almost kiss me?

(CONTINUED)



The music stops to enthusiastic APPLAUSE. Mary and Steve are mortified - the entire class has stopped to watch them.

MOUNSEY

These two!...This lovely couple, they have it, they know what it's all about!

At that moment, Fran turns around, shuts off her phone. She's missed the whole thing. Goes over to Mary and Steve.

FRAN

We need to pow-wow...

32 INT. DANCE SCHOOL. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

32

Excited, Fran chatters to Mary and Steve. Mary is still shell-shocked. Steve is being extra-attentive to Fran.

FRAN

As soon as Dad mentioned it, I went, "Of course!" Everyone knows it's THE place to get hitched.

STEVE

A vineyard. Sounds perfect. I don't know why we didn't think of it before? We should check it out right away. What are we waiting for?

FRAN

Not one thing! We have a reservation for this weekend! (hesitant) But honey, you're going to have to take off Friday.

STEVE

Done! John can cover for me. We're so there!

Fran jumps on him, psyched.

STEVE

(to Mary) Thanks for all your help. We'll let you know how it goes.

FRAN

What are you talking about? She coming with us.

.CLUNK.

MARY/STEVE

I'm coming?/She's coming?

(CONTINUED)

FRAN

She's the one putting this whole thing together, good morning. God, the three of us at the Age da Basoul!

Mary and Steve just look at her.

FRAN

Why are you two staring at me like I'm an alien?

MARY

Oh, sorry, I was thrown by your pronunciation. The place is called Auberge du Soleil.

FRAN

Okay, whatever. We're going!

MARY

Fran, I've done a bunch of wedding there. It's lovely, but it's rustic, it's small.

FRAN

Then I'll cut the guest list.

STEVE

Franny, I just remembered, I can't go this weekend. There's a...Diverticulitis seminar I signed up for months ago and...

FRAN

You just said you would go. I don't understand? Why are you both acting so weird?

Oh crap. Oh crap.

MARY

Alright then. Let's go!

Steve takes a big breath.

STEVE

Yeah, let's do it. It'll be fun!

Thrilled, Fran grabs them both.

FRAN

It'll be more than fun! It'll be a time we never forget!

33 INT. MARY'S OFFICE

33

PENNY

No you're not. You are not quitting the Donolly wedding.

Mary sits at her desk. Slumped over.

PENNY

This is about the doctor isn't it?

Mary looks at her. She knows?

PENNY

It's my fault, he had such a kind face, who knew he wouldn't show for your match.

She doesn't know.

MARY

It's not that. (gets up) I gotta tell Geri I'm off the account.

PENNY

Listen to me, there's only one good reason to quit a wedding and that's if you break the cardinal rule - which is ridiculous because we both know you didn't fall in love with the groom.

BEAT.

PENNY

What? (off Mary's look) You didn't...

MARY

How can you even think that? I play by the rules.  
I never get emotionally involved. Never.  
Ever...Except... except...this time.

She puts her face in her hands.

MARY

It's the doctor.

PENNY

I'm confused. Is it the doctor or did you fall for the groom?

MARY

The doctor IS the groom! The doctor is Fran Donolly's fiancée.

(CONTINUED)

PENNY  
(disbelieving) Shut...up.

MARY  
Now you see why I have to quit.

PENNY  
Look how calm I am, are you looking?

Mary looks.

PENNY  
You'll go through with this wedding. Why? Because you deserve this partnership. You've earned it. The hell with him, he's nothing. And you, you're one of the top wedding planners in this great, thriving metropolis. (beat) Look on the positive side, he got you to open up again. Thank the bastard and move on. You can't tell me you'd sacrifice your entire career over this.

MARY  
You're right. (calculating) I can do this. I can plan this stupid wedding and I can treat that jack-ass like any other faceless groom. And that's just what I'm gonna do. Why? Because it doesn't matter. Because I love a challenge. Because I'm a GODDAMN PROFESSIONAL!

PENNY  
Oh God, I've created a Weddingstein.

34 EXT. DRIVING RANGE - NIGHT

34

Steve and John tee-off.

JOHN  
The dumpster girl is your wedding planner?

STEVE  
I'm in hell.

JOHN  
And I'm in heaven. Now you can fix me up with her.

STEVE  
I'm not fixing you up. This is complicated enough.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

What's complicated? You give me her number, I call her, I bang her and that's that.

STEVE

John, you're 42 and you still 'bang?'

JOHN

Yes, when the moon is in the 7th house and Jupiter aligns with Mars.

STEVE

You are not aligning with my wedding planner.

JOHN

Why not?

Beat.

STEVE

That night, after the hospital, we went out. We saw a movie in some park and there was some...chemistry.

JOHN

You mongrel. You banged your wedding planner.

STEVE

No! It wasn't like that. Oh boy, I think I'm in trouble here.

JOHN

Okay, what a minute. Did you niggle her nanny?

STEVE

No.

JOHN

Puff her dragon?

STEVE

No.

JOHN

Twiddle her teasedales.

STEVE

No.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Did she...

STEVE

Stop it.

JOHN

Did you at least slip a lip?

STEVE

NO. Nothing. Not one thing. I didn't touch her. I mean, we danced and it was...but nothing happened. I swear on my mother's pancreas.

JOHN

So what's the problem?!

Steve doesn't know what to say.

JOHN

You're thinking it's a mistake to marry Fran.

STEVE

No! It's not a mistake. Fran is great. But what I'm thinking is, how do you know if what you think is great is really great, but is not as great as something greater?

JOHN

Okay, you need to stop talking. What you have is what's known to us in the medical community as "cold feet." I'm not talking poor circulation, I'm talking jitters. You're looking at 50 to 60 years with the same woman. The fact that someone looks good to you at this point in time is normal. It's your defense mechanism. Everyone looks good, the nurse, the waitress, the wedding planner, even the elderly one-legged nun. That's not chemistry, that's anxiety. That's nature.

STEVE

So it's not chemistry, it's anxiety.

JOHN

Right.

(CONTINUED)

STEVE

And what I have with Fran runs deep. It can't be swept away in one night. With one dance.

JOHN

Exactly.

STEVE

What was I thinking?

JOHN

You're an idiot.

STEVE

I am.

JOHN

You are. Now can you fix me up?

She hits the C

STEVE

No. But I will let the wedding planner plan my wedding. Nothing happened between us. The whole thing is nothing. Good. Bring her on...

CUT TO:

Mary, staring like a corpse out the window of a VOLVO. We're in...

35 INT. CAR - MORNING

35

Steve drives. Fran sits shotgun. Mary's in the back. Fran is oblivious to the tension in the car.

FRAN

Then it hit me, Eddie and I don't have a song. So I bought this wedding compilation to see if we can find one.

D player. Phil Collins' "Groovy Kind of Love" plays.

FRAN

Whaddaya think of this Eddie?

STEVE

Like it. It's groovy.

FRAN

What about this one...

(CONTINUED)

Fran skips to the next song, "Muskrat Love."

STEVE  
Like it. It's groovy.

FRAN  
Nah, who wants a wedding song about rodents?

Skips to the next. It's "I Honestly Love You."

FRAN  
Oh my God, Olivia Newton-John! I love this song! Eddie, isn't it perfect?

STEVE  
Perfect honey.

MARY  
HA!

FRAN  
What?

MARY  
Oh nothing. It's nothing.

FRAN  
What? Bad song?

MARY  
No. I think it's absolutely perfect.

FRAN  
I can't believe it, we have a song.  
(takes Steve's hand, sings) "I love you, I honestly love you..." (stops) Oh Mary, speaking of love, whatever happened to that guy? The one you danced with in the park?

Steve swerves.

FRAN  
Eddie, pick a lane!

STEVE  
Sorry...Squirrel...Cars...

FRAN  
(to Mary) So, what happened?

(CONTINUED)



MARY  
It didn't work out.

FRAN  
How can that be? I saw you three days later and you still had stars in your eyes.

Steve freezes. Mary wants to jump out of the car.

FRAN  
Mary...what...happened?

MARY  
(relishing) He turned out to be the groom of one of the weddings I'm planning.

FRAN  
No!

MARY  
Yes.

FRAN  
That's the most disgusting thing I've ever heard! Thank God I have you, Eddie. (kisses him) I'd hate to be a single gal with all these creeps running around.

MARY  
Yeah Fran, you're really lucky.

A36 OMITTED

A36

36 EXT. AUBERGE DU SOLEIL - DAY

36

Fran, Mary and Steve take in the spectacular natural beauty of the vine-studded valley and charming country inn.

FRAN  
Just think...our wedding...at the Bruage De Pasquale.

MARY  
Auberge Du Soleil.

Just then...

VOICE (O.S.)  
Hello!

There, at the entrance of the inn...Massimo.

(CONTINUED)

MARY  
(aghast) What are you doing here?

MASSIMO  
Your papa tell me this is where you are,  
so I come to surprise it to you!

FRAN  
(taken) Who is this?

MARY  
He's...This is...

MASSIMO  
I am her fiance.

FRAN  
What?!

Steve soaks this in.

STEVE  
You're her fiance.

MASSIMO  
Buon Giorno, I am Massimo!

FRAN  
And I'm Fran and this is Steve and oh my  
God, Mary, I can't believe you didn't  
tell us you're engaged! YOU'RE ENGAGED!

Before Mary can respond, BERNARD, the events coordinator,  
pokes his head out of the lobby.

BERNARD  
Who's engaged?

FRAN  
She is!

BERNARD  
Mary? Mary you're engaged? (yells inside)  
Hey everyone, Mary Fiore's engaged!

He rushes out to greet them as hotel employees file out,  
showering Mary with congratulations. Mary just stands there,  
this isn't happening.

BERNARD  
You've probably done ten weddings with  
us, Mary, and now it's finally your turn!

(CONTINUED)

MASSIMO

And I am the fiance!

BERNARD

Well congratulations! We'll have to do something this weekend to celebrate. How wonderful!

MARY

Really, that's not...

STEVE

It is 'wonderful!' Finding that one person you'll always be honest and faithful to no matter what until the end of time for ever and ever. Let's take a moment here.

EMPLOYEES

(moved) Awwww.

MARY

Bernard, we'd like to start the tour now if we may.

BERNARD

Certainly. If you'll follow me...

They start to go. Massimo stops Steve.

MASSIMO

Steve, This wedding-putting-together, it is not a job for a man. You should stay with me, we will have good manly bonding.

FRAN

How cute is he?

STEVE

That sounds great, Massi. Let's let the ladies, rather, brides-to-be, do their thing.

He gloats at Mary. She wants to punch him in the face.

37 INT. RECEPTION ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

37

COORDINATOR

The reception can be held either in this space or in the courtyard by the vineyard.

As he goes to open French doors, Fran turns to Mary.

(CONTINUED)

FRAN

I can't believe you didn't tell me you were engaged. When did this happen?

MARY

It was all very sudden.

38 EXT. AUBERGE GROUNDS - SAME

38

Massimo and Steve make their way through the grounds.

STEVE

So here we are, two engaged guys. Yup, me and Fran and you and Mary...So what are your plans?

MASSIMO

Ah, we plan to have three sons and a tomato garden. How do you call them, the little ones, strawberry tomatoes?

STEVE

Cherry tomatoes.

MASSIMO

Right! I am too excited. Look, my knuckles, they sweat.

STEVE

I guess you are excited. (beat) So how long have you two known each other?

MASSIMO

Oh way before she had breasts. Believe me, back then she did not look as good. Ah...(points) a center for the physical fitness!

39 INT. HOTEL GYM - MOMENTS LATER

39

MASSIMO

When I say three, help me to lift up.

Massimo lies on a bench press, prepares to lift a heavy barbell.

STEVE

There's a lot of weight on this thing.

MASSIMO

If it is too heavy for you...

(CONTINUED)

STEVE  
That's not what I...

MASSIMO  
Three!

Massimo lifts up and does a set of five, all without help from Steve.

MASSIMO  
Now, let us see how strong you are.

STEVE  
No thanks. I'll pass.

MASSIMO  
You do not know how to lift weights? I will show you.

STEVE  
I know how to lift weights, I'm just not dressed for working out.

MASSIMO  
(joking) You did not bring your special lifting hat?

With that, Steve gets on the bench. Tries with all his might to lift. He gets it a few inches into the air...But can't hold it up. Massimo helps him rack it.

MASSIMO  
I win! Do not feel bad. One day, maybe, you will be almost as strong as me.  
(flexes his muscle) Mary, I think she likes that I am so in the shape.

STEVE  
Ever do a chin-up?

CUT TO:

39A INT. HOTEL GYM

39A

Steve and Massimo side by side on a chin-up bar. They're sweating.

MASSIMO  
Fifty-seven. Fifty-eight. Fifty...

Steve drops.

(CONTINUED)

39A CONTINUED:

39A

MASSIMO  
I win again!

CUT TO:

39B INT. HOTEL GYM

39B

Steve and Massimo on rowing machines. They're 'racing' each other.

MASSIMO  
Back home, my brothers and I used to row boats up and down the Stretto di Messina and pretend we were Vikings and shout, "By the oath of Odin!" I was always the fastest one to row.

STEVE  
I was co-captain of the crew team in high school. We came in third in the States.

MASSIMO  
I used to dive off cliffs!

40 INT. AUBERGE LOBBY - LATER

40

Fran's parents enter. Followed by a bellboy carting in too many pieces of luggage. Mrs. Donolly's left eyelid is droopy.

Fran and Mary meet them. Hugs and 'hellos' are exchanged.

MR. DONOLLY  
(looks around) So here we are.

FRAN  
Mother, what's wrong with your eye?

MRS. DONOLLY  
Nothing serious, darling. My bastard dermatologist got a little over zealous with the Botox.

40A INT. GYM - SAME

40A

Still in street clothes, Steve and Massimo run full speed on inclined treadmills. They're soaked to the bone.

Exhausted, Steve slows down his treadmill.

MASSIMO  
I win again!

(CONTINUED)

STEVE  
I know, I was there.

41 EXT. AUBERGE GROUNDS - MOMENTS LATER

41

Mary and Fran walk with Fran's parents.

MARY  
Another plus is that their chef is rated  
one of the three best on the West Coast.

FRAN  
I really like it here, Dad.

MARY  
The minus is that we'll have to cut the  
guest list...

MR. DONOLLY  
By how much?

MARY  
Probably a hundred off the list I have.

MR. DONOLLY  
Then this place is out. We need a big  
wedding, we're inviting half of Silicon  
Valley.

MRS. DONOLLY  
I didn't see a stage anywhere.

FRAN  
Mother...

MRS. DONOLLY  
Eddie, what on Earth?

They all look over to see...

Steve and Massimo in the gym, wrestling on a mat. Massimo has  
Steve in a half-nelson.

FRAN  
What the hell are you doing?

STEVE  
I'm about to pin 'em...

BAM! Massimo BODY SLAMS Steve to the floor. Fran laughs. Mary  
gloats.

(CONTINUED)

MARY  
(to Massimo) Good move, honey.

CUT TO:

Computer Screen. A 3-D seating chart for a reception. Generic female and male heads are seated around tables - the names of each guest are labeled on the empty faces. A blinking arrow helps to move the heads to different tables.

FRAN (O.S.)  
The Corbett's at table sixteen next to Judge Bernstein and his not-so-lovely wife...

WE'RE IN...

42 INT. STEVE AND FRAN'S HOTEL SUITE - SAME

42

Fran sits behind a computer working on the chart. Behind her, Steve searches through the mini-bar.

FRAN  
Now where do I put Richard Green and friend?

STEVE  
Famous Amos fudge chip, trail mix, garlic cheese spread. Steve hates garlic cheese spread. Where's the cashews? All Steve wants is some cashews.

FRAN  
Why are you upset?

STEVE  
Steve's not upset.

FRAN  
Whenever you refer to yourself in the third person you're upset.

STEVE  
The sheet says cashews, but they don't have cashews. They have pistachios. They dangle the cashew carrot in front of you and then they broadside you with a grubby bag of loser pistachios.

FRAN  
You're upset because you got squashed in the gym.

(CONTINUED)



STEVE

I didn't get squashed. It was very close.

FRAN

Jason and Cynthia Spitz? Are they are on your side?

He looks over Fran's shoulder at the computer.

STEVE

Why isn't Erica sitting with us?

FRAN

You shouldn't concern yourself with this.

STEVE

I can't have my sister sitting back there and my mom sitting up here.

FRAN

Then we can move your mom back with your sister. (off Steve's look) Kidding. Ha.

STEVE

Fran...

She sits him down and sits on his lap.

FRAN

Eddie, the last time we saw your sister, she had a spike through her chin, she threw up in a punch bowl, she stole my tennis racket and she tried to sell Grandma Bess a bag of mescaline.

He rubs his forehead.

FRAN

We're under a lot of pressure now. My father won't let us have the reception here and we only have ten weeks left until the wedding.

STEVE

We could always elope.

FRAN

Very funny. I know that you love your sister and that you want her included, but I've been planning this day since I was nine. The one thing I don't want is a wild card in my bridal party.

(CONTINUED)

She kisses him.

FRAN

It's the biggest day of our lives and  
it's only going to happen once. And I  
need that once to be perfect.

STEVE

I know. So do I, babe.

They kiss.

43 INT. MARY'S HOTEL ROOM - SAME

43

Mary meticulously irons a pillowcase. Massimo watches.

MASSIMO

Tell the truth, you have feelings for me.

MARY

No, Massimo, I'm sorry, but I don't.

MASSIMO

But we had such great times together as  
children.

MARY

Are you kidding? You mentally tortured  
me!

MASSIMO

What did I do?

MARY

Would you please just go home.

MASSIMO

You want me to leave?

MARY

I really, really do.

MASSIMO

Why are you ironing the pillow cases?  
They are not yours.

MARY

Because I like my life to have order. I  
don't expect you to understand...

(CONTINUED)

MASSIMO

I understand. You look me in the eye, you call me 'honey' and you did not deny our engagement because you have a mounting attraction for me and this frightens you.

MARY

Come here, I want to iron your head.

44 EXT. TRAIL - LATE AFTERNOON

44

Mary, Massimo, Steve, Fran and her parents are all on horseback, making their way down the trail. Mary is nervous and uncomfortable on her horse. Mrs. D sings...

MRS. DONOLLY

"I've got spurs, that jingle, jangle, jingle..."

MASSIMO

It was very nice of your friend, Bernard, to pack us an engagement dinner.

Mary rolls her eyes. Mr. D rides up to her.

MR. DONOLLY

Hey Mary, you don't look too comfortable on that horse...

MARY

I'm not much of an equestrian.

MR. DONOLLY

I used to be a city-slicker like you. But then I learned. People of culture, people of character, they ride horses. When we get back, I'm buying you lessons.

MARY

Thanks, but I'm doing okay...

FRAN

You want Eddie to help you? He grew up around horses.

Mary can barely control her horse.

MARY

Really, I'm fine.

(CONTINUED)

ANGLE ON STEVE AND MASSIMO.

MASSIMO

Steve, today at the center for the physical fitness, you put up a good fight. I have much respect for you.

STEVE

(dry) Thanks.

MASSIMO

I must tell you, I do not know many people in this country, but I am glad I have met you. You know, together, we have things in common. We both have good, honest women. Let us be friends.

Steve feels bad for him. They shake.

STEVE

You're okay, Massimo.

45 EXT. TRAIL - DUSK

45

Mrs. D sings "Happy Trails." Mary and Fran ride side by side.

FRAN

I'm starting a non-profit pediatric foundation. I want Eddie to head it up. Imagine that, Eddie CEO of a major medical foundation. He could finally put an end to all the stress of the day to day hospital life.

MARY

He wants to give up his patients?

FRAN

He does, but he doesn't know it. He has the worst abandonment issues. His dad walked out on the family when he was ten and left Eddie to take care of his mother and sister. Since then, he always has to be the caretaker, always does the right thing.

MARY

I'm sure he doesn't always do the right thing.

(CONTINUED)

FRAN

He does and that's part of why I love him. He gives me humanity. (re: singing) Ma, would you please SHUT THE HELL UP?!

Mrs. D hits a HIGH NOTE. The pitch spooks Mary's horse. It rears and TAKES OFF!

MARY

Heel, boy! Heel!

She kicks and the horse goes faster.

MARY

Wrong! Wrong!

FRAN

Pull on the reins!

Steve races off after Mary. Massimo goes to follow...

MASSIMO

Not to worry, Mary! I am coming!

...But his horse goes in the opposite direction.

Mary's horse hits a fork in the road, goes right, BUSTS through a roadblock - heading right for a downed bridge!

MARY

Oh no! Oh no! Bad horse! Bad!

Steve speeds after Mary. Gains on her.

The food baskets attached to Mary's horse, unfasten and fall off. Food goes everywhere.

MRS. DONOLLY

Oh shit, there goes dinner.

Mary's horse gets dangerously close to the broken bridge. Closer. Closer.

MARY

Not good.

BAM! Steve pulls her off her horse and onto his. They stop in the nick of time.

Mary slowly looks over the edge. It's a long way down. They just sit there, frozen.

(CONTINUED)

MARY  
You saved my life. Again.

They both realize his arms are around her. He lets go.

STEVE  
...You okay?

MASSIMO  
Mary!

Massimo and the others arrive.

FRAN  
My God! You could've been killed!

MR. DONOLLY  
You see, it's important to know how to ride a horse.

MASSIMO  
Thank you, Steve, for saving my woman...  
Although, I could have done it myself.

MARY  
I've ruined dinner.

FRAN  
Stop that. Eddie, ride back with Mary.

MARY  
No, really...

MR. DONOLLY  
Eddie, don't let her out of your sight.

They can't say anything. They're stuck together.

MRS. DONOLLY  
The good news is...I have the wine!

46 EXT. TRAIL - NIGHT

46

As the convoy makes its way back, they pass around bottles of wine. They're completely drunk and singing "Back in the Saddle Again." Beyond the title, no one knows the words.

Steve walks, holding the reins to Mary's horse. They're not singing or drinking.

MARY  
Thank you for what you did.

(CONTINUED)

STEVE

No problem.

MARY

Well you don't have to be all smug about it.

STEVE

Smug? How about a quick recap. You harpoon me for being engaged when it turns out, in a zippy and unexpected twist, you yourself have a fiance, who fancies himself a Viking, and then you have the nerve to call me smug when we're in the exact same situation. What the hell is your problem?

MARY

My problem?! You're the one with the problem! I've been in this business a long time and I can smell how long a couple are going to last. How they interact, where they're going on the honeymoon and even the color of the bridesmaids dresses tells me everything I need to know. Are you aware that Fran wants to put her bridesmaids in teal? Teal, the color of gangrene. My last bride who chose teal had her marriage annulled in twelve days. Oh and "I Honestly Love You" as your wedding song? You might as well commit matrimonial suicide! So based on all the evidence, I'd say your marriage isn't looking too good!

STEVE

You want a confession in blood?

He stops walking. Looks up at her.

STEVE

I went to the movies that night because I was attracted to you. Fine, you caught me, I admit it. Maybe I was feeling unsure about the whole marriage thing. Maybe I was just being a guy and an opportunity presented itself. Bottom line, I never thought I'd see you again. Bottom line, nothing happened between us. And bottom line, I believe now, more than ever that Fran is the one for me.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED: (2)

46

STEVE (cont'd)

So based on the evidence I'd say all your theories on love are more like the rantings of a bitter and cynical woman.

Mary stares at him. At that moment, a drunk Massimo rides up, sings in their face.

MASSIMO

"La-la, my saddle, la-la!"

47 INT. HOTEL FOYER - LATER

47

Mary limps in. Steve carries a drunk Fran. The Donolly's are arm and arm with Massimo, they're still singing.

STEVE

(re: Fran) I gotta put her to bed. Good-night everyone.

Massimo stumbles over to Mary.

MASSIMO

Shall we go to our room, my sweet-tooth?

48 INT. MARY'S HOTEL ROOM - LATE NIGHT

48

A SNORING Massimo lies on the couch, covered with blankets. Mary's on the bed, staring at the ceiling, wide awake.

49 INT. HOTEL LOBBY - A LITTLE LATER

49

Mary in sweats, limps, sore from the horse. Enters the hotel bar. Sits with a groan.

MARY

(to Bartender) Can I still order food?

BARTENDER

(handing her menu) Sure.

MARY

I'll have an egg white omelette, dry, sliced tomatoes instead of potatoes, no toast.

The bartender heads off.

MARY

Scratch that. I'll have a slice of chocolate cheesecake with extra whipped cream and a root beer float, three cherries.

(CONTINUED)



VOICE (O.S.)

If it isn't the Nostradamus of wedding predictions.

Mary turns. Sees an exhausted Steve sitting at the other end of the bar.

MARY

I have no time for predictions. I'm too busy being 'bitter and cynical.'

An uneasy silence sets in. Then...

MARY/STEVE

I'm sorry.../I'm sorry...

STEVE

There it is again. You go...

MARY

No, you go...

STEVE

I'm sorry. I didn't mean what I said. I'm an idiot.

MARY

And I'm sorry for what I said about your marriage being doomed to fail. You and Fran will be very happy together.

STEVE

And so will you and Massimo.

Mary's food arrives.

STEVE

And I'm sorry for referring to you as 'an opportunity.'

MARY

And I was only half-serious about the significance of the teal bridesmaid dresses.

STEVE

At least I have a 50/50 chance.

She takes a bite of cake. He takes a drink.

STEVE

Do you think we could put all this behind us and call a truce?

(CONTINUED)

MARY

Okay. Truce.

STEVE

So everything's fine now?

MARY

Absolutely.

STEVE

Cool.

MARY

Yeah. Well, good night.

STEVE

Good night.

50 EXT. HIGHWAY - MORNING

50

The ride back. A silent Steve drives. Fran sits next to him, sporting a big ice bag on her head and an even bigger hangover. In the back, Mary stares straight ahead. Fran hits the CD button. The sounds of "I Honestly Love You" fills the car. Oy.

Behind them, Massimo, wearing goggles, drives his moped.

Behind him, a stretch limo speeds along. Through an open window Fran's parents are making out in the back seat.

51 INT. MARY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

51

Mary asleep in bed. A tape measure is stretched down her arm. She stirs. The tape measure wraps around the crown of her head. Her eyes snap open to see Salvatore, standing over her bed, measuring her.

MARY

What's going on?

SALVATORE

I'm measuring you for a wedding dress.

MARY

That's it. I want my house key back.

Ignoring, Salvatore takes the big garment bag from Mary's closet.

SALVATORE

Now you can finally get rid of this...

(CONTINUED)

MARY  
PUT THAT BACK!

Burt enters holding cream cheese and a butter knife.

BURT  
Mary, what do you want on your bagel?

MARY  
No bagel, no wedding dress, no wedding!

SALVATORE  
But Massimo said you announced your engagement.

MARY  
I never said that! Jesus Christ, this is the blind date that wouldn't end!

SALVATORE  
He is right, you are frightened by your mounting attraction for him.

MARY  
That's disgusting.

BURT  
(to Salvatore) I told you Massimo was full of crap.

SALVATORE  
Mind your own business and go toast the bagels!

BURT  
(walking out) I'll toast when I see fit!

MARY  
Dad, you can't push some guy at me. That's not how it happens. You know that, you had Mom.

SALVATORE  
And I didn't meet her until the day of our wedding.

MARY  
What are you talking about?

SALVATORE  
Your mother and I had an arranged marriage.

(CONTINUED)

CLUNK.

MARY

What about that story of how you and Mom met on the beach when you were eight and she buried you up to your neck and the sand crabs started biting you but you didn't tell her because you were afraid she might dig you out and go away forever?

SALVATORE

That is a nice story. But that's all it is, a story.

MARY

You lied to me?

SALVATORE

Mary, you've been a romantic ever since you were a little girl. You loved fairy tales, like "Some Enchanted Evening," where two strangers lock eyes across a crowded room. Who was I to rain on your parade?

MARY

I can't...How...What...

He sits down on her bed.

SALVATORE

Your mother and I met on the day of our wedding. We couldn't even look at each other. I was in love with another girl and your mother wanted nothing to do with me. She said I had a high forehead and a low I.Q. For fourteen months we barely spoke. But then, I got sick with scarlet fever. She stayed by my side and took care of me. For the first time I appreciated her. Then the appreciation grew to respect, respect grew to like, like grew to love, a deeper love than I could ever hope for...Give Massimo a chance. Maybe you don't like him now, but maybe you might love him later.

Mary is speechless. He takes her hand.

SALVATORE

I'm sorry, I should have told you about your mother and I a long time ago.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED: (3)

51

SALVATORE (cont'd)

Maybe then you would feel differently  
about love.

MARY

I don't feel anything about love.

CUT TO:

52 EXT. GOLDEN GATE PARK - DAY

52

STEVE

I think I feel the same way...

A vast and seemingly endless expanse of land.

STEVE

...It's just too small.

FRAN

Eddie, this is serious. What do you think  
Mary?

Mary's off in another world.

FRAN

Mary?

MARY

Huh? Oh. The park's great and you'd be  
the first, no one's been married here  
before. We'd have to construct the site  
from scratch, but we wouldn't have to cut  
the guest list.

FRAN

Dad would love it.

MARY

And what about the bride and groom-to be?

Fran and Steve look at each other.

FRAN/STEVE

Let's take it./We should keep looking.

It's an awkward moment.

MARY

Maybe I should give you guys a minute.

STEVE

Franny, if this is what you want, I'll go  
along with it.

(CONTINUED)

FRAN

You see that? You see why I'm marrying this lug of a guy? Because he's got a heart bigger than the friggin' ocean. And that's why I feel completely comfortable letting you two plan together while I'm gone.

STEVE

Gone?

FRAN

It's only for a week. I need to go back East, we're thinking of buying out a few of our manufacturers.

MARY

Fran, this is a critical time.

FRAN

I know, that's why we can't lose momentum. You two will do a great job. I trust you.

From Mary and Steve's anxious expressions WE CUT TO:

53	OMITTED	53
54	OMITTED	54
55	EXT. STATUARY GARDEN - DAY	55

Mary and Steve walk amongst towering stone statues - everything from mythological figures to Michelangelo reproductions to modern art. They're stiff and unsure how to behave around each other.

MARY

Choosing the right sculptures will help enhance the tone and theme of the wedding. (points) Something like this is the right idea...

STEVE

Isn't that a little...menacing?

MARY

No, it's dramatic.

STEVE

O-kay.

They wind down the path.

(CONTINUED)

STEVE

I always pictured a small wedding. On a beach somewhere. With just our friends and family and the cool, salty breeze... But Fran seems to need this.

Unsure of what to say, she says...

MARY

The two Rodins we passed on the way in might be perfect.

They stop in front of a nude statue of Samson.

STEVE

What about this guy?

MARY

No. All wrong for a wedding. Too masculine.

STEVE

That's the point. Why should a wedding be all yin and no yang? Look at him, he's a man's man.

He takes holds of Samson's ankles and shakes to prove his point.

STEVE

Look how sturdy...

With that, CRASH! The statue falls over.

STEVE

Holy...

MARY

Pick it up! Before someone sees!

The two struggle to get Samson back on his feet. When they do...

MARY

Thank God it's okay.

STEVE

I told you, he's a man's man.

PLOP. Samson's penis falls off.

STEVE

What the...

(CONTINUED)

Mary can't contain herself. She bursts out laughing.

MARY  
You castrated Samson.

He picks up the broken penis.

STEVE  
You'd think he'd be bigger...

MARY  
Are you sure you're not gay, you look awfully comfortable holding that.

STEVE  
You think?

Mary's laughing so hard she can't breathe.

STEVE  
What do I do?

MARY  
Oh my God, a guard's coming.

A mean-looking GUARD enters the garden. Mary's doubled over.

STEVE  
What are you laughing about? You're an accomplice.

She's laughing so hard, he starts to crack up too.

STEVE  
What am I gonna do with this thing?

MARY  
Wait...

She flips open her utility belt. Pulls out a tube of Crazy Glue.

STEVE  
Of course, why didn't I bring my tube of Crazy Glue?

MARY  
Hurry up, the guard's coming this way.

Trying to keep a straight face, Steve races to glue Samson's penis back on.

(CONTINUED)



STEVE

There's a good reason I didn't go into surgery...

MARY

Hurry!

Finished, Steve tries to remove his hand, but it's stuck to Samson's balls.

STEVE

It's stuck. Steve's stuck.

At that moment, the guard appears. Steve smiles feebly.

STEVE

Howdy.

GUARD

Sir, touching the statues is not permitted.

STEVE

Yes sir...

The guard waits. Steve's hand doesn't move.

STEVE

(to Mary) You were right, it's not granite, it's limestone. (to guard) We had a bet going...

GUARD

Sir.

STEVE

Yes, sir?

GUARD

You're hand.

STEVE

Yes, sir.

Steve struggles when suddenly, CRACK. Samson's whole genitals snap off in his hand.

STEVE

Just having a ball over here.

55A OMITTED

55A

55B EXT. STATUARY GARDEN - LATER

55B

Steve and Mary on a bench. She's using nail polish remover to get the penis off.

STEVE

I can't believe I had to buy this. (beat)  
I'm concerned about how it will appear on  
my statement.

MARY

At least you got to keep it.

STEVE

(re: utility belt) What else do you have  
in there?

MARY

The entire universe.

As she applies more remover, they realize their hands are touching. An awkward moment...

STEVE

I spoke to Fran about the cake. She said  
we should go with that Violet Chocolate  
whatchamacallit you suggested.

MARY

Good, I'll put in the order today. (beat)  
How's she doing?

STEVE

Making deals. Kicking butt.

MARY

How'd you two meet?

He's thrown. Where did that come from?

STEVE

College.

MARY

She was in one of your classes?

STEVE

Nope, I met her at some environmental  
rally. It was a Walden Woods thing. I  
helped her make a sign and we've been  
together ever since.

(CONTINUED)

MARY

You were a couple of tree huggers.

STEVE

Yup. It feels so long ago. Our priorities were pretty different back then.

The glue dissolves. The penis breaks free of his hand.

STEVE

Just as I was getting used to it. (beat)  
Would you like to keep it?

MARY

Sure.

She sticks it in her utility belt.

STEVE

What about you and Massimo? How's he doing?

MARY

He's...um, fine. But we're not engaged anymore.

Steve tries to hide his surprise.

STEVE

Really.

MARY

Really.

STEVE

You okay with it?

MARY

Yeah...my dad, he kind of pushed us together.

STEVE

Why would he do that?

MARY

(beat) Probably because he was so happy with my mom.

They take in the peaceful surroundings.

MARY

I agree with you about the small wedding. That's the way I'd do it.

56 INT. SALVATORE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

56

The shop is closed. Massimo sits at a table reading "Blood, Architecture and Natural Man." Mary enters.

MASSIMO

Mary, how nice to see you!

MARY

Where's my father?

MASSIMO

He is out buying plastic spoons for his birthday cake.

MARY

Tell him I was here.

She starts to go.

MASSIMO

Wait... (she turns back) Are you mad at me?

MARY

Yes, I'm mad. You told my father we're engaged. He tried to measure me for a wedding dress! What is the matter with you? You never listen, we will never be together and what are you doing at my father's house?!

Mary's exhausted.

MASSIMO

I am sorry. I will leave you alone.

MARY

Oh please.

MASSIMO

From now on, I will not bother you. From now on, we will be just friends.

MARY

You think you can be my friend? Just like that.

MASSIMO

Yes, I want to apologize for any madness I have caused you.

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED:

56

MARY

Is this a trick?

MASSIMO

No tricks. I am very serious. I just want for us to be buddy-buddy. I promise it.

Mary eyes him suspiciously.

MASSIMO

Do you have plans for dinner? As your friend, I would like to cook for you my speciality.

57 INT. SALVATORE'S KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

57

Massimo rips open a white packet. Pours orange powder into a pot of macaroni.

MARY

That's your speciality? Instant Macaroni and Cheese?

MASSIMO

Si, it is a low budget wonder. Already today, I have eaten three boxes.

MARY

Nothing like a well-balanced diet.

MASSIMO

(flattered) Thank you.

He brings two bowls to the table. Mary eats.

MASSIMO

You look like you have things on your mind.

MARY

Not at all.

MASSIMO

We are now friends, and friends listen when their friends are feeling not so good...Please tell me.

MARY

There's nothing to tell. It's just that...well...I've been thinking, maybe...but then again, I just don't know, you know? Who knows...

(CONTINUED)

MASSIMO

Ahhh...

He rattles off in Italian. Mary understands.

MARY

I don't have 'feelings' for anyone. I don't know how you came up with that.

MASSIMO

You remind me so much of your mother.

MARY

You don't remember my mother.

MASSIMO

She had your big smile and the same dark hair and she had no nail on her little finger. Something fell on it...

MARY

(amazed) It was a brick from her kitchen. When she was a child. The nail never grew back.

MASSIMO

You see? We have a wide history together. It is okay to tell me things.

Mary considers.

MARY

Did you ever like someone, but the timing was off. Way off.

Massimo nods.

MARY

And you feel things you shouldn't be feeling and...and I'm not making any sense.

MASSIMO

You make much sense. You long for him... the way that I long for you.

MARY

Massimo, I don't mean to...don't you have a nice girlfriend back home? Someone special?

(CONTINUED)

MASSIMO

No, I am not so good with the women. My tongue gets tangled in all languages.

MARY

You are so full of it. Look at you, you're smart, nice looking...

MASSIMO

You think I am nice looking?

MARY

(backpedals) Um...sure. But I don't mean that, I mean...

MASSIMO

I will tell you something. You need to learn patience. Love can't always be perfect, love is just love.

MARY

(stunned) My mother used to say that.

MASSIMO

Your mother was a wise woman...

58 OMITTED

58

59 OMITTED

59

60 EXT. FLOWER MARKET - LATE AFTERNOON

60

An insider's secret. Rows of fresh cut flowers and ornate, top of the line floral arrangements. Mary and Steve make their way through.

MARY

I think we'll start with Camellias as a base. Point out anything that strikes you.

STEVE

What about this one?

She chuckles.

STEVE

What?

MARY

That's called a Bachelor's Button. Generally would not go over well with the superstitious bride.

(CONTINUED)

STEVE  
Right. What about those?

MARY  
Interesting. That's called a Bleeding  
Heart. The official funeral flower of  
Tibet.

STEVE  
Wow, I really have a knack for this.  
(points) Are those called Slit-My-Wrist  
Susans?

MARY  
OH MY GOD.

STEVE  
I guessed right?

Through the flowers Mary sees a MAN, 30's.

STEVE  
What's the matter?

MARY  
No.

STEVE  
No what?

MARY  
No way. Hide me. Now.

She ducks behind Steve.

STEVE  
What are you doing?

The man heads toward them. Mary drops to her knees and  
pretends to be look for something on the floor.

STEVE  
Did you lose something, Mary?

MARY  
Shhh! Don't say my name!

STEVE  
What...

MARY  
Oh God, Steve, get me out of here!

(CONTINUED)



Bewildered, Steve helps her up. She curls into his shoulder, hiding her face.

As he leads her off, her purse strap hooks onto a flower in a vase. CRASH! It smashes to the floor.

The other customers turn, including the man. He sees Mary. His eyes register pure shock.

MAN

Mary?

Trapped.

MAN

Hi.

Mary tries to be cool.

MARY

Hi.

The three just stand there. Finally, Steve offers a hand.

STEVE

Steve Edison...

MAN

(shakes) Keith Richmond.

A PREGNANT WOMAN joins them. Mary's face flushes.

WOMAN

Mary, nice to see you. You look great.

MARY

Wendy, you look...pregnant.

KEITH

Yeah, we're just picking up some flowers for the baby shower.

STEVE

Congratulations! When are you due?

WENDY

Eight weeks. We're very excited.

STEVE

That's great. Congratulations again.

KEITH

Thank you.

(CONTINUED)

They all look at each other. Not knowing what to say next.

STEVE

So, how do you all know each other?

KEITH/WENDY

Well it's a.../We go way b...

MARY

Oh, I'll tell it, it's a really funny story. See, Keith was my fiance, Wendy was his high school girlfriend, and I caught them making out in my car the night of our rehearsal dinner. I think that covers all the high points. (to Keith and Wendy) Did I leave anything out?

CUT TO:

61 EXT. MARY'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

61

A hand CRUSHES a can of beer. WE ARE...

Drunk, Mary chucks the flattened can over the railing of the front steps. Steve tries to find the right key on a huge key ring to open the door.

STEVE

There are five-thousand keys on this ring. Which one is it?

Mary pulls another can off a six pack. Opens it. Guzzles.

MARY

Jezebel was the only queen in the bible to be eaten by dogs.

STEVE

(searching) Just give me a hint, is it a silver key or a gold key?

Mary's eyes fall on the building intercom. Gazes at the list of names.

MARY

Look at all those names. There are people who belong to those names. Each one has their own story. And each story is complicated and has a life of it's own. John Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Perper, Nancy Pong...I don't know any of them.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MARY (cont'd)  
I've been living here for six years and I  
live with a bunch of strangers.

She presses a buzzer.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)  
(over intercom) Who is it?

MARY  
(into intercom) Hi Nancy Pong 2C, this is  
Mary Fiore 7H, we never met because I'm a  
control freak and I lead a very busy life  
and I don't have time for people. If you  
ever need to borrow a cup of sugar, I  
can't help you because I don't have time  
to shop...

She BURSTS into tears. Steve doesn't know what to do.

MARY  
Oh Nancy, what the hell...

Mary steps back, stumbles. Steve catches her. She sobs  
uncontrollably.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)  
Who is it?

Steve puts his arms around her.

STEVE  
It's okay.

MARY  
I want to go home.

STEVE  
We are home...

She clutches his shirt in her fists.

MARY  
They're married and they're gonna have a  
baby. And he looked good. Didn't you  
think he looked good?

He sweeps Mary up in his arms, honeymoon style.

STEVE  
He didn't look that good.

At that moment, a MAN comes through the lobby. Opens the  
door. As he exits, Steve carries Mary inside.

62 INT. MARY'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

62

Steve tucks Mary under covers on the couch, her face still wet with tears.

STEVE

Can I make you some coffee?

MARY

I don't have coffee. I don't have time to shop.

STEVE

What do you have?

MARY

Marshmallows.

CUT TO:

A lit candle by Mary's end table. Mary and Steve roast marshmallows over the flame.

MARY

You really don't think he looked good?

STEVE

He looked old. And I think he put on a couple of pounds.

MARY

(smiles) Be quiet.

They are. For a long moment.

MARY

He said they were just friends, but deep down, I knew better. I was just a stand-in, a poor man's Wendy. Do you know she threw me my bridal shower? She even took the time to freeze raspberries and mint leaves in the ice cubes. That alone should have tipped me off - she was trying too hard... Sometimes it's so clear, he was a jerk and it was a great thing I didn't marry him. But most of the time I think, I just wasn't enough...

STEVE

You're wrong. And by the way, Wendy is a poor man's Mary...

(CONTINUED)

He moves a lock of hair away from her face. She searches his eyes. They're aching to move closer.

STEVE

It's getting late. I better go.

Mary and Steve walk to the front door.

MARY

Thanks for tonight. I really made a fool of myself.

STEVE

No you didn't...Well, maybe a little.

MARY

Shut up.

STEVE

You gonna be okay?

MARY

Of course.

They can't look each other in the eye. Finally, he leaves.

Mary goes into the living room, doesn't know what to do with herself. Then, a KNOCK at the door.

She goes over and opens it. It's Steve.

STEVE

Do you ever think about that night in the park?

MARY

What?

STEVE

I do. All the time.

She can't speak.

STEVE

I barely know you. I don't know your dad's first name, I don't know if you ever wore braces or glasses or contacts and I have no idea how you came to be a wedding planner, but I know the curves of your face and every fleck of green in your eyes and that time in the park was the best time I've ever had...

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED: (2)

62

Silence.

STEVE

Please say something.

MARY

Six years after Keith and I'm still a blubbering mess. I'm a magnet for unavailable men and I'm sick of it! It's simple - I know Fran. I like her. I respect her. She's a good person and she's in love with you. Besides your tux measurements that's all I need to know. Go away, please...

He looks at her one last time and closes the door. A tear rolls down her cheek...

63 OMITTED

63

64 EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - DAWN

64

The cling peach sun rises over the city.

65 INT. "HERE COMES THE BRIDE" - MORNING

65

Mary walks down the hall. Benton joins her.

BENTON

How do I word an invitation where both sets of parents are paying for the wedding, the groom is in the military about to receive a medical degree and the bride is a young widow whose father recently had a sex change and now goes by the name of Peaches McDonald?

Mary keeps walking.

BENTON

Mary? Did you hear me?

MARY

What? What is it?!

Benton's blown back.

BENTON

Whoa, a little tense.

MARY

I'm not tense, just terribly, terribly alert.

66 INT. MARY'S OFFICE - NEXT SECOND

66

Frazzled, Mary enters her office to find...

Fran, seated in front of her desk. Her eyes red and watery. She looks shaken and bitter. This is the last person Mary expected to see.

MARY

Fran, what's the matter?

FRAN

(cold) I came back early.

MARY

Why? I mean, is everything okay?

FRAN

I've discovered something...

Mary's heart skips a beat.

FRAN

I've been blind. I didn't want to see it. I tried to ignore all the signs. I think you know what I'm talking about.

MARY

Let me explain...I mean...it's not what you think...

FRAN

Yes it is.

Fran gets up. Stands face to face with Mary. Mary's almost trembling.

FRAN

I'm not going through with this wedding.

MARY

Fran...

FRAN

I was in a meeting, talking about Bocolino Mozzarella when it hit me - This isn't going to work, I'm almost thirty, my metabolism is slowing down and I've been with Eddie for so long, I don't even remember why we're together anymore...

(CONTINUED)

Mary regards her for a long moment. Then does the hardest thing she's ever done. She takes Fran by the shoulders. Talks on auto-pilot.

MARY

Look at me. You are exquisite, you are timeless, you are the envy of your very own mother, whom I overheard say while horseback riding, "look at those thighs. I'd kill for Franny's thighs." But you have more than great thighs, you have the love of a man named Steve. A man who, while you were away having meetings about mozzarella, said to me, "I can't believe she picked me. I can't believe I'm marrying the most incredible woman I've ever met..." And that tells me this marriage of yours is not only going to work, it's going to last forever.

Fran throws her arms around Mary.

FRAN

Thank you. Thank you...Thank you.

67 EXT. CEMETERY - DUSK

67

Headstones, as far as the eye can see. A lone figure walks, stops by one of the graves. It's Mary.

She stares at the headstone that reads: "Anna Fiore Beloved wife. Loving mother." A glass encased photo of her mom is affixed below it.

MARY

Sorry I haven't been here in a while. I've been meaning to come but...Can you see me? I wish I knew you were out there because it's so lonely here...

She starts to cry.

MARY

You and Dad had such a great marriage, it was enough to make an all-out romantic out of anyone. Then I find out it was all arranged. Why don't you just drop a piano on my head? Now everything's turned upside down...Oh God, why did you have to leave? Everything just went to hell. After you, then Keith...I locked the gate and closed up shop.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



MARY (cont'd)

I felt like I was suffocating. Then Steve showed up and made me breathe again.

She chokes back sobs.

MARY

I can't believe I put them back together. I made sure I couldn't have him.

Tearfully, she flips open her utility belt. Pulls out a mini bottle of Windex and a tissue. Cleans the headstone.

MARY

I don't believe that love can work, it hurts too much. But where does that leave me? It leaves me all alone again and I don't want to be alone anymore...Oh Mama, I wish you were here - you always knew what to do...

PULL OUT to see the massive graveyard until Mary is just a tiny dot among the headstones...

68 INT. SALVATORE'S TAILOR SHOP - NIGHT

68

Mary brings out Salvatore's birthday cake to a roomful of senior citizens. Everyone, including Massimo, sings "Happy Birthday." There's a sadness in Mary's eyes.

BURT

(singing) "Ò...you smell like a monkey, and you look like one too!"

Salvatore blows out the candles. Everyone applauds.

DOTTIE

Hope he didn't spit on the cake.

MASSIMO

(raising his glass) Please, everyone, I would like to make some toast.

The room quiets.

MASSIMO

I would like to thank Salvatore for taking me into his life and introducing me to all you wonderful people.

Moved, everyone takes a celebratory drink.

MASSIMO

And there is something else...Hold on the moment.

(CONTINUED)

He rushes into the next room. Comes back holding an impressive, hand-crafted DOLL HOUSE. Places it before Mary.

MASSIMO

Mary, from the first day I meet you, I have never done the right thing...I have never said the right thing and I act like a fool. I know I said that we would just be buddy-buddy friends, but that would not be true to my heart. So I will ask you this one question and if your answer is 'no' then I will leave you alone forever...Be my wife, Mary Fiore, and I promise to be true to you and take care of you and like this house that I make for your dolls, I will make sure you always have a strong roof over your head. If your answer is 'yes' then no one will ever love you more than I will love you. If your answer is 'yes' then you will make me the gladdest man on the earth. Please, please say 'yes.'

Tentatively, Mary looks into the doll house...

On the dining room table, a bouquet of red roses. In the living room, over the mantel, a tiny framed PHOTOGRAPH of Mary's mother. The same one that's on her headstone.

Mary draws in a breath. She looks at Massimo and smiles, taken by his sweetness.

On the table before her, an open Scrabble game, a mess of tiles on the board. Mary finds two tiles. Puts them together. Spells...

OK

Everyone erupts in a CHEER. Massimo is dumbfounded. Salvatore faints.

69 INT. MARY'S BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

69

Mary unzips the big garment bag in the back of her closet. Inside...a flowing, white WEDDING GOWN.

70 EXT. MARY'S FIRE ESCAPE - NEXT MOMENT

70

Under a heavy moon, Mary stands on the fire escape, wedding gown in her arms.

She FLINGS it into the air. A rush of wind picks it up, carrying it over the city into the night. A white phantom...

(CONTINUED)

70 CONTINUED:

70

## START MONTAGE

71 INT. MARY'S OFFICE - DAY

71

Mary and Fran gaze into a computer screen. A photo of Fran's head is moved around to rest on pictures of different wedding gowns. It locks onto one and blinks...

Mrs. Donolly looks over their shoulders, drinking champagne and bawling hysterically at the sight of her daughter's image in the perfect wedding gown.

72 INT. TUXEDO SHOP

72

Steve gets fitted for a tux. Fran fixes his jacket, talking incessantly, Steve glances into the mirror at himself.

73 INT. SALVATORE'S TAILOR SHOP

73

Salvatore fits Massimo for a suit. Massimo glances into the mirror at Mary. Her mind is on other things.

74 INT. WORKSHOP - DAY

74

Mary stands over a CALLIGRAPHER who carefully scribes an invitation for Steve and Fran's wedding.

75 INT. GERI'S OFFICE

75

Geri presents Mary with a partnership contract. Penny stands alongside her. Gives her a big hug.

## END MONTAGE

76 INT. STRIP CLUB - NIGHT

76

A female STRIPPER dressed as Little Bo Peep appears on stage straddling an INFLATABLE SHEEP. Addresses a rowdy CROWD.

## STRIPPER

Hiya all, I'm your MC, Little Bo Peep Show, and I'd like to give a special Nudie Girl welcome to Steve Edison, who's having his bachelor party here tonight!

The FIFTEEN MEMBERS of Steve's bachelor party, including Dr. John, stand up and CHEER. Steve looks like he's about to have a root canal.

## STRIPPER

Here's something to think about. Why don't bunnies make noise when they screw?

(CONTINUED)

CROWD

Why?!

STRIPPER

They have cotton balls!

The crowd laughs and whoops it up. Steve looks for an exit.

STRIPPER

Now slap your groins together for the sultry, sinister stylings of Satan's Sexy Satin Sisters!

TWIN SISTERS strut out with pitch forks and skimpy, satin devil costumes. The men HOWL.

77 INT. STRIP CLUB. BACK ROOM - LATER

77

Steve and John sit next to each other, getting lap dances. John is having the time of his life. Steve pokes John in the arm.

STEVE

Hey...

JOHN

(to girl) Ride me, baby, ride me like a pogo stick!

STEVE

John!

JOHN

What?! I'm working here!

STEVE

I need to talk.

JOHN

Now?!

STEVE

I gotta tell you, I love Fran today as much as I did when we first met.

JOHN

I'm very proud of you.

STEVE

We really make each other happy. I've known her for a long time and that means a lot.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN  
(tries to stay focused) That's great.

STEVE  
She accepts all my little idiosyncrasies like how I have to hike up my left pant leg after I've eaten too much, or the way I chew on all my pen caps...I did the right thing when I proposed. She's the one. She's it.

JOHN  
Oh my...Oh my...

STEVE  
John, I'm trying to talk to you.

JOHN  
I don't think you're talking to me, Steve, I think you're trying to talk yourself into getting married.

STEVE  
What?

JOHN  
If you don't want to marry her, don't marry her.

The stripper on Steve's lap is pounding on him, trying to get him to react.

STEVE  
Do you mind? I'm trying to have a conversation. (to John) Of course I want to marry her. When I say I'm going to do something. I do it. That's who I am.

JOHN  
It's the wedding planner isn't it?

STEVE  
No! It's just...my life with Fran is good. Damn good. But what if there's something better?

JOHN  
You don't know that. What if it's worse? It's a crap shoot, buddy. You just gotta go with your gut. What's your gut say?

STEVE  
My gut says to...do the right thing.

(CONTINUED)

77 CONTINUED: (2)

77

JOHN  
Which means?

STEVE  
Marry Fran.

JOHN  
Then there it is. Discussion over. Now if you'll excuse me... (to stripper) Come on baby, show daddy who's...OW!

STRIPPER  
Ooo, sorry little man.

78 EXT. GOLDEN GATE PARK - DAWN

78

Steve steps out of a limo. Looks at the behemoth wedding site before him. It's not what he wants.

A79 EXT. WEDDING SITE - DAY

A79

Geri, Mary's boss, walks through the site. Starts to rearrange the oyster bar. In her haste, she accidentally knocks a platter onto the grass. She checks to see if anyone saw and quickly takes off. She sees a waiter.

GERI  
You! Something happened over there! Clean it up!

79 INT. BRIDAL TENT - DAY

79

Mary finishes buttoning up Fran's wedding dress.

FRAN  
What would I do without you?

Fran's dad enters. He grabs Mary's shoulder.

MR. DONOLLY  
Hey wedding woman, you did some job. My girl's gonna knock 'em dead! (to Fran)  
Ain't ya, sluggo?

Mrs. Donolly pokes her head in the tent.

MRS. DONOLLY  
Somebody stole my lucky mic. I can't sing without my lucky mic!

Mary winks at Fran on the sly.

80 INT. CATERERS TENT - MOMENTS LATER

80

Mary walks through, adjusting, fixing, admiring all the food being prepared. Penny follows her.

PENNY

What are you talking about?! You can't give the whole wedding to me!

MARY

Everything's taken care of. It's a no-brainer.

PENNY

You can't do this, Geri's out there!

MARY

And? Look, the entire commission is yours.

Mary takes off her utility belt and puts it on Penny.

PENNY

That's more money than I make in a year.

MARY

Then we'll have to go shopping next week.

PENNY

I'm completely confused. Why are you doing this?

MARY

Because I've got somewhere I've got to be.

PENNY

(worried) Where?

81 INT. CEREMONY TENT - LATE AFTERNOON

81

The space is spectacular. Awash with flowers and candles that are being lit by ATTENDANTS. Filthy rich, pastel-wearing GUESTS start filling the pews.

81A EXT. GROOMS DRESSING ROOM TENT

81A

ANGLE ON STEVE

Poking his head out of his dressing room. No one's around.

(CONTINUED)

STEVE

Ah, Steve needs help here? Hello? Steve can't find his pants?

He ducks back in. After a moment, he exits his dressing tent in tux shirt, jacket, black shoes, black socks and a towel around his waist. He tries to look inconspicuous.

STEVE

Hello?

WOMAN (O.S.)

Nice socks.

Steve turns to face a lovely young woman.

STEVE

You think? I'm not sure they match the towel.

WOMAN

You never had a flair for fashion.

STEVE

I'm sorry, do I know you?

WOMAN

No. Except for the fact that we have the same parents.

STEVE

Erica? Erica!

His initial shock turns into overwhelming emotion. He hugs her.

STEVE

But...You look...the spike in your chin...I can't...What happened?

WOMAN/ERICA

It's a long story.

STEVE

I have (looks at his watch) two minutes.

ERICA

Okay, here's the two minute version. I was drying out my armpits at one of those blowers in public rest room, trying to decide if I should shave off my eyebrows, when I saw myself in the reflection of the metal spout.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



ERICA (cont'd)

I don't know, I just stared, thinking that's me? This is what the world sees? I looked ugly on the outside because I felt ugly inside. I realized I lost myself and it was time to take back me.

Steve turns it over in his head. He's moved.

STEVE

I'm proud of you.

ERICA

No, I'm proud of you. After dad took off, you did everything to help me. But I never thanked you, I was too busy being a brat.

STEVE

I would've used another word, but 'brat' is good.

ERICA

You gave up a lot and I'm sorry. I'm sorry I wasn't a better sister.

They hug.

STEVE

I'm glad you're here.

ERICA

And I'm glad you're finally doing something for yourself. You're finally getting what you want.

Steve's smile fades.

Fran pulls the white veil over her face. Looks at herself in the mirror. It's as if she's looking at a stranger.

She sees Steve, now fully clothed, enter through the reflection in the mirror.

FRAN

What are you doing here? You know it's bad luck to see the bride before the wedding.

STEVE

You look beautiful.

(CONTINUED)

FRAN

Go on. Get outta here. We're starting any minute.

STEVE

Let's go for a walk.

FRAN

A walk?! What....

STEVE

Come on, take my hand.

82A EXT. JAPANESE GARDEN - NEXT MOMENT

82A

Steve and Fran walk through the garden. Steve holds his cumberbun. Fran picks up her wedding dress so as not to get it dirty.

STEVE

Where did they get the word 'cumberbun?'

FRAN

What?

STEVE

It's such a strange word. Where did it come from? Or maybe the guy who invented it was named like, Jim Cumberbun or something.

FRAN

Oh my God, you've gone insane! Eddie, who cares?

STEVE

I do. I care.

FRAN

Why?

STEVE

Because there are things I need to know that I don't have the answers to.

FRAN

Okay. That's fantastic. We'll get all the answers AFTER the wedding.

She tries to pull him back towards the wedding tent.

STEVE

Why do you want to marry me?

(CONTINUED)

FRAN  
What?

STEVE  
That's one of the questions I need answered.

FRAN  
Steve, you're scaring me.

STEVE  
You never call me Steve.

FRAN  
That's because you don't like it.

STEVE  
I never said I didn't like it.

FRAN  
Where is this going?

He turns to her, gently.

STEVE  
This wedding isn't about us. It's about Mr. and Mrs. Donolly. It's about inviting all the right people. It's about showing off a little bit. All of that's okay, but what about us? Where do we fit in?

FRAN  
Are you kidding me? ARE YOU KIDDING ME? You're trying to dump me the day of my wedding?!

She snatches the cumberbun from his hands and starts hitting him with it.

STEVE  
(covering his head) I'm not dumping you, I'm just asking you a question.

FRAN  
This isn't happening! THIS IS NOT HAPPENING!

STEVE  
Franny...

FRAN  
Don't Franny me, you bastard! You selfish bastard!

(CONTINUED)

STEVE

Here me out! The reasons we were together in college don't hold up anymore. We're different people now.

FRAN

AND?!

STEVE

And I think you know that.

She stops hitting him. Starts to cry.

STEVE

Fran, if you really want to marry me, I'll put on the cumberbun, we'll go back to the big tent right now and we'll get married.

Fran stares at him in disbelief. Desperate, she tries to process the whole thing.

FRAN

All those people...

STEVE

And you don't know half of them. So, what do you think? You want to get married?

FRAN

YES, OF COURSE!

STEVE

Alright then. Come on.

He looks at her. She looks at him. Then it hits her...

FRAN

NO! I DON'T WANT TO GET MARRIED!

She can't believe she said it. Tears stream from her eyes. She plunks down on the ground, the wind knocked out of her.

FRAN

I don't want to get married. I had doubts but I just couldn't...Oh my God. Oh my God...I can't deal with this! Oh my God...

Mary walks up the front stairs of the building, tote bag over her shoulder.

84 INT. CITY HALL RESTROOM 84

Mary has changed into a simple, beige suit. She looks in the mirror. Puts on an pillbox hat, pulls down its thin veil...

85 INT. CITY HALL 85

Mary steps out of the bathroom. The awful florescent lighting hits her hair. Her steps echo through the empty hallway. She seems black and white in a Technicolor world.

86 EXT. GOLDEN GATE PARK - LATER 86

Steve and Fran sit side by side on a rock.

FRAN

How did we let it get this far?

STEVE

I don't know.

FRAN

What are we going to do?

STEVE

That's the beauty of it, anything we want.

FRAN

I haven't thought about what I really want in so long.

STEVE

Me neither. We're quite a pair.

Pause.

FRAN

What about Daddy?

STEVE

Yeah, what about Daddy?

FRAN

You're right.

Beat.

FRAN

Is there someone else?

STEVE

I hope so. For both of us.

(CONTINUED)

He puts his arms around her. She kisses him lightly on the lips. Brushes a tear from his eye.

FRAN

You're a good man, Steve Edison. A piece of shit with a lousy sense of timing, but a good man.

STEVE

I guess we should go back and tell everyone.

FRAN

You want to tell my father, who thinks he's about to close a ton of business deals? Or my mother, who bought a bigger, more expensive gown than I did? (pause) I'm taking off...and if I were you I'd do the same.

STEVE

But all those people...

FRAN

And we don't know half of them.

87 EXT. STREET OUTSIDE PARK

87

Fran gets lost in a sea of tulle as she enters a taxi. She waves good-bye to Steve. He waves back, just as Penny comes up behind him, frantic.

PENNY

We've been looking all over for you and... (seeing Fran) Holy crap, is that the bride?

STEVE

Yup.

An expression of sheer horror washes over her.

STEVE

Would you, by any chance, happen to know where I could find Mary?

PENNY

She's at City Hall, getting married.

He stares at her stunned. Then races off.

(CONTINUED)

87 CONTINUED:

87

PENNY

And there goes the groom...along with my career.

88 INT. CAB - NEXT MOMENT

88

Steve yells at the driver.

STEVE

City Hall! Hurry up!

89 INT. CITY HALL. COURTROOM

89

Mary enters the drab room.

Massimo stands at the front next to a JUSTICE OF THE PEACE. The Scrabble Club are the only guests present. Proud, Salvatore steps up. Mary takes his arm.

Dottie hands her a small bouquet.

Together, father and daughter reach Massimo in just two steps.

90 INT. CAB - SAME

90

The cab is stuck in traffic.

STEVE

Don't you know any shortcuts?

CABBIE

No.

Steve gets out, opens the driver's door, SHOVES him into the passenger seat and takes the wheel.

CABBIE

What are you doing?!

STEVE

Whatever I have to, pilgrim.

He drives onto the sidewalk and down an alley.

91 INT. COURTROOM - SAME

91

JUSTICE

We are gathered here in the presence of these witnesses to join this man and this woman together in matrimony...

Mary shifts uncomfortably. Salvatore looks at her.

(CONTINUED)

JUSTICE

...The contract is not to be entered into lightly, but thoughtfully, seriously and with a deep realization of its obligations and responsibilities...

Massimo dabs his forehead with a hanky. Salvatore studies his daughter.

JUSTICE

If anyone can show just cause why they should not be lawfully joined together, let him speak now, or forever hold his peace.

Salvatore and Massimo raise their hands at the same time. Mary's completely confounded.

BURT

Hell, I object too!

MARY

What is going on here?

JUSTICE

(flat) I'm on the edge of my seat.

SALVATORE

(to Mary) I look in your eyes and it hurts my insides. This is not what you want, this is what I want. Shame on me! I've been trying to force your life into a place where it does not belong. I love you so much, it's made me blind to the truth. Cara mia, it does not matter whether or not you're married. It only matters if you're happy.

MARY

I'm lucky to have a father like you.

She takes his hand.

SALVATORE

And I appreciate that you object too, Massimo, that you understand.

MASSIMO

Yes. Thank you. But I have the objection for another reason. I want to marry your daughter to get a green card and become a citizen. Then I plan to divorce her and live the big life.

(CONTINUED)



EVERYONE

WHAT?!

Salvatore lurches at Massimo, spewing a stream of CURSES.  
Burt and the others restrain him.

MASSIMO

It was good plan, but something went wrong. (to Mary) I did not expect to fall in love with you...

Salvatore stops struggling.

MASSIMO

But then I learn you are in love with another. So why you would agree to marry me is a wonder in my mind. Mary, you should be with him. I would never forgive myself if I step in the way. The worst thing in this world would be to see you without your smile.

She kisses his forehead.

92 EXT. STREET - LATER

92

The cabbie SCREAMS as the cab SCREECHES around a corner. It stops in front of city hall. Steve jumps out.

CABBIE

You crazy son of a...!

Steve gives him a look. Scared, the cabbie jumps back in the cab and takes off.

On the front steps sits Mary's wedding party, including Salvatore and Massimo.

BURT

Hey it's the doctor.

MASSIMO

Steve!

BURT

You know the doctor?

STEVE

Where's Mary?

SALVATORE

I'm her father. Who the hell are you?

(CONTINUED)

BURT/MASSIMO  
He's the doctor./He is Steve.

STEVE  
And I'm in love with your daughter, sir.

MASSIMO  
(shocked) You are the one?!

STEVE  
I'm sorry, Massimo.

MASSIMO  
What of Fran?!

STEVE  
We didn't get married.

DOTTIE  
That's been happening a lot today.

STEVE  
You mean...

BURT  
She means...

SALVATORE  
They didn't get married! Now who are you?

MASSIMO  
This is the man that Mary loves. I did not know until now.

SALVATORE  
WAIT A MINUTE! You mean to tell me you love her and she loves you and neither of you got married today?

STEVE  
It looks that way, sir.

SALVATORE  
Then what the hell are you standing around talking to us for?!

Beat.

STEVE  
I don't have a car.

93 EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

93

Massimo drives Steve on his little moped. On the back, a JUST MARRIED sign. A string of CLANKING CANS hang from it.

They turn a corner and find themselves in the middle of HUNDREDS OF MEN running in the 10TH ANNUAL AIDS RACE. They spot Steve, Massimo and the JUST MARRIED sign and let out a CHEER.

GAY MEN  
CONGRATULATIONS!/WHERE'S THE HONEYMOON?!/  
YOU GO, GIRLS!

94 OMITTED

94

95 EXT. CURB

95

Massimo drops off a rumpled looking Steve.

STEVE  
Thanks man, Grazie.

MASSIMO  
Be good to her.

As Steve rushes off. Massimo calls after him.

MASSIMO  
I can still do more chin-up's than you!

CUT TO:

A CLOSE-UP of Fred Astaire in "ROYAL WEDDING." PULL OUT to see...

96 EXT. YERBA BUENA PARK - NIGHT

96

"ROYAL WEDDING" plays on the big screen in front of a large crowd.

Mary sits up in the tree, still in her wedding suit. She smiles at the sweet movie, eating brown M & M's.

VOICE (O.S.)  
How come you're only eating the brown ones?

On the ground below stands Steve, looking up at her. Mary is thunderstruck. She finally manages to speak.

(CONTINUED)

MARY

Someone once said they had less artificial coloring than the others because chocolate's already brown. It kind of stayed with me.

STEVE

And you kind of stayed with me.

Beat.

MARY

Where's Fran?

STEVE

Tahiti. On our honeymoon. We didn't get married.

MARY

Because...

STEVE

Because she wants to find her own life. And I...

MARY

You what? What does Steve want?

STEVE

Steve wants to dance. With you.

Her eyes well up.

He helps her down from the tree. They merge with the dancing crowd as the song "WEDDING BELLS" rings out.

He stops. Takes her face in his hands.

She smiles a smile that couldn't be further from her wedding planner smile.

STEVE

So given all the evidence, how long do you figure we'll last?

MARY

I don't know, my guess would be... Forever.

They fall into a kiss. A deep, wonderful kiss.

Mary and Steve continue to kiss as the DANCING CROWD swirls around them.

(CONTINUED)

96 CONTINUED: (2)

96

WE MOVE UP from the park and past the tree where WE FIND...

Mary's old wedding gown, stuck in its branches, flapping in the wind.

Suddenly, the dress TEARS away from the tree and FLIES AWAY, over the city and into this glorious, starry night.

FADE OUT.

OVER END CREDITS:

97 INT. CEREMONY TENT - NIGHT

97

The guests at Steve and Fran's wedding are still waiting for them to show. In the meantime, WAITERS pass around hors d'oeuvres. Mrs. Donolly is at the altar performing for the crowd, "If I Could Save Time In a Bottle."

THE END.