

BETWEEN FRIENDS

written by

David A. Washington

David A . Washington
8 Monterey Avenue
Savannah, GA 31405
daw91210@yahoo.com

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FADE IN:

INT. ISLANDS RECREATION CENTER- GYM- DAY

A youth girls basketball TEAM runs laps around an empty gym.

Their coach, KEVIN WALKER, 26, medium height and build, stands in the center of the court, while holding a basketball.

KERI, a tough and gritty 9 year old, cuts across the line. Kevin notices this.

KEVIN

Keri, stay on the outside of the lines and stop cutting the floor.

KERI

(out of breath)

But my legs hurt and I'm tired.

KEVIN

I know. I'm tired too. Keep running.

The girls GRUMBLE, but continue to run.

KERI

Ah-- man.

Moments later, Kevin BLOWS his whistle and the girls sprint towards him.

The girls form a circle around him. They stand with their hands on their hips, or they slump over, out of breath.

KEVIN

ACE. Attitude, Commitment and Effort is the formula for success. Your success in basketball and in life will depend heavily on your attitude... the type of person you are. No one wants to be around a jerk.

He eyes every player. The players focus attentively.

KEVIN

You have to be committed. Set goals and work hard to achieve them, with all of the effort you have. Then you can achieve great success. Now, what's the most important thing about basketball?

TEAM
TEAM WORK!

KEVIN
What do we do when we're on
offense?

TEAM
SHARE THE BALL!

KEVIN
And when we're on defense?

THE TEAM
HELP EACH OTHER OUT!

KEVIN
All right, everybody in.

The girls tighten the circle.

Kevin extends the basketball and each girl touches it with one hand.

KEVIN
Team on three. One, two, three!

KEVIN AND TEAM
TEAM!

Everyone goes their separate way.

Keri grabs a ball and continues to shoot around, with a couple of teammates.

ALICIA, 10 years old, tugs at Kevin's arm. She looks upset.

ALICIA
Coach, can I talk to you?

KEVIN
Sure, Alicia. Let's go to my
office.

INT. ISLANDS RECREATION CENTER - KEVIN'S OFFICE- CONTINUOUS

The walls are clear of debris, except for a calendar that hangs on the wall by Kevin's desk. A computer desk sets in the corner, facing the doorway.

Kevin reclines in his desk chair. Alicia sits opposite of him.

KEVIN
Now, what's this about?

ALICIA
Well, I don't...

KEVIN
Just spit it out, Alicia. You can
tell me anything.

She sighs, gets up and paces the floor.

ALICIA
I... I can't afford the team
shoes. My dad lost his job and he
said that money was tight--

KEVIN
--Listen to me. Everything is
going to be okay. We'll work
something out. Don't worry. What's
your shoe size?

ALICIA
Size five.

She sheds a tear.

Kevin gets up and walks around the table.

KEVIN
Hey, listen to me. Don't cry. Just
keep playing and practicing hard.
Everything will work out. Trust
me.

He gives her a convincing smile.

She nods and gives him a hug.

ALICIA
Thanks, coach.

KEVIN
Don't mention it. Now, go get some
tissue and dry your eyes.

She scurries off and Kevin stares beyond the doorway.

EXT. RIVER FRONT PLAZA- THE WEIGHT ROOM- DAY

Cars are parked throughout a large parking lot. The businesses are aligned like a horseshoe.

A sign hangs over a business states, "THE WEIGHT ROOM." A red Honda Civic is parked in front.

INT. HONDA CIVIC

KARLA EDWARDS, 25, hugs and kisses JOE, mid 20's, who looks like the body-builder type.

Karla is medium in complexion and has long hair.

JOE
I'll talk to you later.

KARLA
Call me before three, or after eleven. I have to work tonight.

JOE
Sure thing, babe.

The man exits the vehicle.

KARLA
Bye.

The man looks back and waves. He turns and continues towards The Weight Room.

She undresses him with her eyes, as he enters the building. She drives away with a blissful smile.

EXT. CITY STREETS- CONTINUOUS

Karla drives on a lonely road that stretches through a green terrain.

EXT. ISLAND RECREATION CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Karla's car pull in to the lot and parks in a space.

INT. KARLA'S CAR- CONTINUOUS

She continues to glow as she tightens up in the rear view mirror, grabs her purse and exits the car.

INT. ISLAND RECREATION CENTER- HALLWAY- CONTINUOUS

Karla waltzes through the double doors. Her brilliant red dress highlights every curve of her body.

She walks a short distance to Kevin's office. She finds him reclined in his desk chair. His hands cover his face.

She KNOCKS on the door and walks in.

KEVIN'S OFFICE-

KARLA

Kevin, is everything okay?

He sits up.

KEVIN

Oh, hey. Um. No, it's not. One of the parents lost their job and can't afford the team shoes. So, now I gotta buy shoes. Another gift to put under the Christmas tree.

KARLA

That's sweet. You know Kevin, you really go far and beyond. They should build a shrine for you... put you up on one of those billboards... give you a key to the city.

KEVIN

No. That won't be necessary. To see them go on and be successful in life is recognition and thanks enough for me. So, how was your day?

She sits in the folding chair.

KARLA

Good. I spent most of it with Joe.

Kevin frowns at this. He gets up and puts a folder in the file cabinet.

KEVIN

Oh-- that's great. Break out the balloons and the confetti. Yippy.

KARLA

Come on, Kevin. You're always giving Joe a hard time.

He slides the cabinet door SHUT, then turns to her.

KEVIN

That's because he's an idiot and he's going to break your heart.

She gets up. Kevin retreats to his chair.

KARLA

You know, you've said that about every guy I've dated since middle school.

KEVIN

And how many times have I wrong?

KARLA

Well-- that's beside the point. I just wish that you could support me, you know?

KEVIN

Look, I'm sorry, okay. Maybe I've been a little hard on Joe. I don't think I have, but maybe I have. So, I'll try to be nice.

Karla's eyes widen and a growing smile consumes her face. She rounds the desk and embraces him.

KARLA

Oh-- thank you, thank you. I knew I could count on you. You're the best.

KEVIN

Wait a minute. Don't get too excited, here. I'm only tolerating him because of you... he's gonna end up hurting you. I-- I just wish you could see that.

KARLA

You know, you should really think about following your own advice.

KEVIN

And what's that supposed to mean?

The front door OPENS.

KARLA
Oh-- speak of the devil.

KEVIN
What?

Kevin glances towards the front door and spots TIFFANY, (20'S). Tiffany fits the profile of a model.

She makes her way to Kevin's office.

TIFFANY
Hello, everyone. Tiffany has just entered the building. Bow before me as I grace you with my presence.

Karla sighs.

KARLA
(scoffs)
No.

KEVIN
Tiff.

TIFFANY
Kevin, darling.

Kevin gets up and gives Tiffany a kiss.

KARLA
Hiya-- Tiff. So nice of you to drop by. We were just about to talk about you.

TIFFANY
(giggles)
Oh yeah? What about?

KARLA
He was just telling me how beautiful and... talented... and smart you are.

TIFFANY
(continues)
Really?

Kevin nods in approval.

KARLA
No... not really.

He awkwardly laughs.

KEVIN

She's kidding. In fact, I was about to suggest to her that we go on a double date with her and Joe.

Tiffany eyes Karla, who hides her outrage.

KEVIN

Isn't that right, Karla?

KARLA

Well, Um -- Yeah. Sure. I think that would be great. To give everyone a chance to get to know one another, you know what I mean?

Karla taunts Kevin with a devilish grin.

Tiffany stands unconvinced.

KEVIN

Yeah. I know what you mean.

TIFFANY

(to Kevin)

We need to talk.

Karla looks at her watch and grabs her purse.

KARLA

I think I'll be going now.

TIFFANY

Oh-- leaving so soon?

KARLA

(to Tiffany)

Errands.

(to Kevin)

Talk to you later.

Karla walks away.

KEVIN

Count on it.

Tiffany watches her leave in confusion. She turns to Kevin.

TIFFANY

Am I missing something, here?

KEVIN

What?

Tiffany's eyes narrow and Kevin releases a small grin.

TIFFANY
You're sleeping with her. I just know it. I can tell by the way she looks at you.

KEVIN
Excuse me?

TIFFANY
Well, you can have her. I came by here to break up with you, Kevin.

A moment of silence as Kevin stands in shock.

He walks slowly, then sits behind his desk.

TIFFANY
Well, don't you have anything to say?

KEVIN
(shrugs)
Okay. I can live with that.

Tiffany leans across the desk and SLAPS Kevin in the face. One of Kevin's players notices this and scampers away.

KEVIN
Ow!

TIFFANY
So, you are sleeping with her?!

KEVIN
What the hell's the matter with you?

She SLAPS him again.

TIFFANY
(appalled)
How dare you curse at me?

KEVIN
Hey, you slap me again, I'll--

Tiffany's mouth opens wide. She SLAPS him once more.

By this time, Kevin's entire team stands at the door. The girls stare at Tiffany angrily.

EXT. ISLAND RECREATION CENTER - DAY

A LOUD ROAR, as Kevin's team chases Tiffany out of the building. Her hair stands disheveled, with noticeable patches of hair missing.

Alicia and Keri have pieces of Tiffany's hair in their hand.

Kevin surfaces from the building.

KEVIN

Hey-- get back in here. How many times have I told you that you have to be respectful to adults?

KERI

But she was hitting you. Why are you mad with us?

ALICIA

You are the one who always tell us to stick together.

KEVIN

On the basketball court. Not going around beating people up like a bunch of thugs. Everyone inside. Now. And give me that.

Alicia and Keri give him Tiffany's hair. Everyone goes inside.

Kevin looks at the hair and shakes his head. He throws it in the garbage and enters the building.

INT. KEVIN AND KARLA'S APT - LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

The living room suit is blue. An oak wood coffee table sets in front of the couch.

A flat screen TV and home entertainment system are angled in the corner.

Kevin and Karla sit on the couch and eat their meal.

KARLA

That's horrible. She better be glad I wasn't there. I would have kicked her teeth in.

KEVIN

That's okay. The girls chased her away.

KARLA

Are you serious?

KEVIN

Yeah. And to tell you the truth,
it kinda felt good to see them
stick up for me.

KARLA

Well, good for them.

KEVIN

She also seems to think that you
and I have this thing going.

KARLA

That's because she is a ding-bat.

KEVIN

Don't you think you're being a
little harsh?

KARLA

Come on, Kevin. Tiffany is about
as deep as a puddle of water.

Kevin considers this and nods in agreement.

KEVIN

You're right. She's not the
brightest bulb on the Christmas
tree.

KARLA

Worst. She's the one light that
never blinks.

He stares at the table.

KEVIN

Thank you, for pointing that out.
God-- I feel like such an idiot.

Karla puts her arm around him. He leans on her shoulders.

KARLA

Listen to me, Kevin. You are an
amazing guy, but your problem is
that you always go for the
cheerleader type.

Kevin pulls back.

KEVIN

What are you talking about? I've never dated a cheerleader.

KARLA

I think you're missing the point. For as long as I can remember, you've always been attracted to the prettiest, most popular, stuck up, prissy, girls and unfortunately, those are the type of women who manipulate and walk all over people to get where they're going in life.

He becomes distant.

KARLA

You have to stop judging the cover of a book before reading the pages. Do I need to call in sick?

KEVIN

No. I'll be fine. Really. Thank for putting things into perspective.

Kevin gets up, walks to his room and shuts the door. Karla's room is opposite from his.

INT. NURSING HOME- NURSES STATION- NIGHT

Karla, along with LOUISE and ROCHELLE, both in their 20's, congregate at the nurses station.

Karla stands at the counter and jots something in a patient's file.

Louise sits in a chair, while Rochelle stands beside Karla.

LOUISE

No.

ROCHELLE

Yeah-- girl. She's the best beautician in town.

LOUISE

I don't know about that, but she did one hell of a job on your head.

Karla looks at Rochelle.

KARLA

I think it looks great.

ROCHELLE

Thank you. I just hope Terrell likes it.

LOUISE

Probably not, but it's hard to say. Men are such assholes, sometimes.

ROCHELLE

You're right, but Terrell is one of the good ones.

LOUISE

Well-- Willie is a moron, but he's my moron. I just hate the way he snores. I mean, all-night-long...

Louise imitates the way Willie SNORES. Karla and Rochelle laugh at this.

LOUISE

...Why do you think I work night shift?

KARLA

Well, I'm still trying to figure out Joe. He's mysterious and appeals to my curiosity.

A light appears on the switchboard, accompanied by a BEEPING.

Louise looks at the switchboard.

LOUISE

Karla, that's your guy.

Karla walks away.

KARLA

Now, why am I not surprised?

INT. NURSING HOME- MR. JENKINS' ROOM- CONTINUOUS

There is a KNOCK at the door and Karla enters.

KARLA

Hi, Mr. Jenkins. You needed something?

MR. JENKINS, a man in his mid to late 60's, sits on the edge of the bed.

MR. JENKINS

Ah-- if it aint my favorite nurse.
Come on over here and teach an ole
dog a new trick.

KARLA

Mr. Jenkins!

She takes Mr. Jenkins' water container and fills it with
water from the bathroom sink.

He lies on his back and stares at the ceiling.

MR. JENKINS

I bet you taste as good as tapila
fish.

Karla laughs from the bathroom. She emerges and returns the
container to the stand beside his bed.

KARLA

You're a dirty old man, you know
that?

He sits up in bed.

MR. JENKINS

I'm not dirty. I'm naughty by
nature. Come over here and let me
show you.

With a devilish grin, Mr. Jenkins raises his eyebrows up and
down.

Karla shakes her head in amazement.

KARLA

What am I going to do with you?

MR. JENKINS

Anything you want. Just remember
to be gentle. I aint young like I
used to be. Back in my day, I used
to be able to go all night long,
but now, you better get yours
before I get mine, is all I gotta
say.

Karla exits the room.

KARLA

Good night, Mr. Jenkins.

MR. JENKINS

Hey-- let me know if you're going to the store.

The door SHUTS.

MR. JENKINS

I got a big date tomorrow and I need some condoms! Mmm--mmm! Now that's fine. If I was a few years younger... Just a few years younger.

INT. KEVIN AND KARLA'S APT- KEVIN'S ROOM- NIGHT

Kevin lounges around on the bed and watches TV. He cycles through the channels, when the phone RINGS.

He looks at the caller ID and answers the phone.

KEVIN

Hello.

INT. FROZEN PARADISE- NIGHT

The place is packed. The light show illuminates the dance floor.

A waitress passes by with a tray of drinks.

People sit at the bar and others stand in line.

Kevin stands at the entrance of the club and looks around.

Two guys, TONY and PHIL, both in their 20's, motion to Kevin.

Kevin spots them and makes his way towards their booth.

Kevin and his friends sit and nurse two pitchers of beer.

TONY

Let's make a toast. Bachelors, forever!

PHIL

Here, here.

KEVIN

You can say that again.

They raise their cups and down its contents.

TONY

(to Kevin)

It sucks what that evil bitch did to you, man.

KEVIN

Yeah-- Tony. It was. Thanks for reminding me.

TONY

No problem. What are friends for?

PHIL

We called Kev here to forget about her, you idiot! Now that Kev is back on the market, he should put himself out there.

Phil gives Tony the evil eye.

KEVIN

It's okay, Phil. Really. It's not like I loved her or something.

TONY

Dude. She's a future super model. What's not to love?

PHIL

Have you ever loved any woman?

KEVIN

Yes. I--I love my mom, my sister and Karla.

PHIL

Not that kind of love. I'm talking about loving a woman romantically.

Kevin stares at the table and remains silent.

PHIL

You haven't, have you?

TONY

That is so sad. How can someone go through life without ever being in love? Maybe you should seek a therapist or talk to one of us.

Kevin chuckles in mocking fashion.

KEVIN

I don't need therapy and why would
I talk to you? You're an imbecile.

He looks around the club and focuses on the dance floor.
Something catches his eye.

PHIL

Now, that was uncalled for. True,
but uncalled for.

He stares harder.

KEVIN

Son-of-a-bitch.

TONY

What? I was just kidding about the
therapy thing.

KEVIN

No. Look.

Joe dances closely with another woman.

TONY

What are you gonna do? Let's go
over there and kick his ass.

KEVIN

No. Let's not. What are you?
Stupid? Look at him. He's...
He's... too big. He'll kill us.

PHIL

Yep. I kinda got that same
impression, which is why if you do
go over there, you're on your own.

KEVIN

I'm not going over there.
(to Tony)
You wanna kick his ass? Go... by
all means. I'm not even that mad
at him, but Karla.

Kevin frowns and reaches in his pocket for his cell phone.

LATER-

Karla appears at the entrance. She walks in, looks around
and spots Kevin and his friends.

She approaches the table.

KARLA

Kevin!

KEVIN

Oh-- hey Karla. I'm sorry I called while you were still at work.

PHIL AND TONY

Hi, Karla.

KARLA

Hi, guys.

Karla sits next to Kevin. She does a thorough inspection of him.

KARLA

That's okay. I already made my last rounds with my relief. I started to go home first, but it sounded like something was wrong. Are you okay?

KEVIN

No, no... I'm fine. It's nothing like that.

KARLA

Then, what is it?

Kevin points to Joe, as he kisses the woman on the neck.

Karla is stunned. She drinks the full contents of Kevin's cup.

She becomes irate and storms over to Joe's table.

Kevin and his friends eye one another and follow.

Joe doesn't notice Karla standing behind him. She taps him on the shoulder.

JOE

Karla! Oh... oh shit... What are you doing here?

Karla throws a drink in his face.

KARLA

You bastard!

Joe gets up and dries himself with a napkin. An argument ensues. The woman slips away conveniently.

Karla punches Joe in the face.

A GASP from nearby people, as they move away in fear.

Kevin grimaces and Phil looks impressed.

PHIL
Way to go, Karla!
(to Tony)
Did you see that?

Tony seems unimpressed.

TONY
Yeah, but she didn't knock him
out.

Phil stares at Tony in disbelief.

Karla pushes Joe in the forehead with her finger.

KARLA
Don't ever call me again, you
jerk!

She walks away. Kevin and his friends follows.

People look on in mocking fashion. They LAUGH and point at Joe.

An angry Joe pounds his fist into his hand.

INT. KEVIN AND KARLA'S APT.- LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

Karla and Kevin sit on the couch.

KARLA
(sobbing)
I just don't understand... And
things were going so well. Is
every guy out to break my heart?
Is there something about me that
says, Hi, I'm Karla. Please break
my heart?

She continues to sob.

KEVIN
No. There's nothing wrong with
you. You're nice, you're smart and
you're pretty.

KARLA
(continues)
Then why can't I keep a man?
Do I offend?

She sniffs under her armpit.

KARLA

Do I have bad breath?

She blows on her hand and inhales.

KARLA

I have the cooties.

KEVIN

The cooties? What the hell is that?

KARLA

You know, that-- that kissing disease teenagers get.

Kevin fails to hold back his laughter.

KARLA

You're laughing? How could you laugh at a time like this?

KEVIN

Because this is silly. Come on. You smell good... most of the time... your breath only smells like stale fish sticks when you wake up, but that's normal. And there's no such thing as cooties. At least I don't think it is.

Karla sighs and hangs her head.

KARLA

Maybe, I'm just destined to go through life alone.

He puts his arm around her.

KEVIN

You know, I feel the same way. So you're already not alone.

She lays her head on his shoulder and begins to cry.

KARLA

All I want is for someone to love me. Is... Is that too much to ask?

KEVIN

No. No, it isn't. It's a reasonable request, but hey, for what it's worth, I love you and you'll always have me.

Through her tears, a small grin.

KARLA

Aw. I love you too, Kev. You're my best friend and the only one in the world I can depend on.

They continue to sit quietly.

INT. KEVIN AND KARLA'S APT.- LIVING ROOM- NEXT MORNING

Kevin lies on the couch with one hand around Karla. Her head rests on his chest.

She awakes and gathers her thoughts. She gently nudges him.

KEVIN

Huh.

KARLA

Time to get up. I'll make some breakfast.

Kevin opens his eyes. He looks confused and tries to gather himself.

KEVIN

Okay... Ewe... Fish sticks.

She hits him with a pillow.

KARLA

Jerk.

He sits up and looks at his watch.

She intentionally blows her breath in his face. He turns his head and fights her off.

KEVIN

Okay, seriously. I'm calling Homeland Security.

INT. KEVIN AND KARLA'S APT- KITCHEN- CONTINUOUS

Karla stands by the stove. She uses a fork to scramble eggs in a frying pan.

LATER-

Kevin and Karla sit at the table, have breakfast and read the morning paper.

The two exchange sections of the paper and continue to read, while eating.

KARLA

Hey-- listen to this. "Are you tired of failed relationships? Are you looking for ways to keep your mate for a lifetime? The How To Keep Your Mate Seminar is the answer. Registration will begin today at the Hilton from three to five. Registration fee is fifty dollars."

KEVIN

I saw that. And your point?

KARLA

My point is, I think we should sign up for the seminar.

He peeks from behind the paper.

KEVIN

(chewing food)

Are you insane? No. I'm not signing up for a stupid class on how to keep a mate. You're not gonna get me all mixed up in your little ventures. Besides, I'm not searching.

KARLA

Well, I am. And my biological clock is ticking.

KEVIN

You're only twenty-five. You have plenty of time left on the clock.

KARLA

Well, last I checked, time waits for no one. I don't want to be an old maid, Kevin.

Kevin folds the paper and sets it on the table.

KEVIN

So, sign up for the class if it means that much to you.

KARLA

I can't sign up by myself, moron. The class is for couples.

He gets up and takes his plate to the sink.

KEVIN

Well, you're just gonna have to find someone else.

KARLA

But I have nobody else. Come on, Kevin. Please?

KEVIN

No. No. No. No. I won't do it and you can't make me.

INT. THE HILTON- HALLWAY- AFTENOON

A hallway with emerald green carpet. Light fixtures are aligned across the walls.

Kevin and Karla stand in the registration line with the other couples. He shows his displeasure.

KEVIN

You know, I can't believe that I let you talk me into this.

KARLA

Thank you, Kevin. I really appreciate this. I owe you one.

KEVIN

Yeah, you do... and I'm gonna collect.

The line begins to thin out as Kevin and Karla near the front.

KARLA

Anything... just name it.

KEVIN

Good. Because next week, we're going to see wrestling.

She rolls her eyes and sighs.

KARLA

Anything, but that.

KEVIN

I'm leaving.

Kevin starts to turn away.

KARLA

Okay, Okay. I'll do it.

KEVIN

I knew you'd see things my way.

INT. THE HILTON- CONFERENCE ROOM- CONTINUOUS

Beautiful chandeliers hang from the ceiling.

A podium stands on a stage. A buffet sits in a corner to the left of the stage.

The conference room is almost full. Very few seats remain. Kevin and Karla sit up front.

KEVIN

(loud whisper)

Why is your card maxed out?
There's nothing new in the
apartment. Do you have a secret
life I don't know about?

KARLA

Come on, Kevin. Relax.

KEVIN

What? I was just asking.

KARLA

You've been complaining since we
left the apartment. You're not
giving this a chance.

KEVIN

Okay.

Kevin momentarily looks away, then turns and leans towards Karla.

KEVIN

Well, do you?

Karla sighs and folds her arms.

KARLA

Do-I-what, Kevin?

KEVIN

Have a secret life I don't know
about?

KARLA

(pleads)

No. I don't have a secret life,
okay? Now, will you please?

KEVIN

Okay, okay.

Kevin shifts his attention to the table of food.

She punches him softly in the arm.

KARLA

Thank you. Now, stop being
difficult. Oh-- it's about to
start.

DR. WILFORTH, in his 60's, steps up to the podium. The
audience APPLAUDS his arrival.

Kevin continues to glare at the table of food.

DR. WILFORTH

Thank you. Thank you. Please be
seated. Thank you all for coming.
Welcome to the most successful
seminar in the country.

Kevin begins to lick his lips. Karla notices this.

He gets up and walks over to the table. This embarrasses
her.

Dr, Wilforth eyes Kevin.

DR. WILFORTH

We have successfully helped
couples from all around the
country rekindle or sustain the
romance in their relationships.
During the course of eight weeks,
you--

Dr. Wilforth stops and looks at him.

Kevin helps himself to a plate of hot wings and dinner
rolls. All eyes are on him.

The people in the room begin to MURMUR and Karla covers her
face in shame.

Dr. Wilforth CLEARS his throat and Kevin turns around.

KEVIN

Oh... Oh don't mind me. I'll just
be a minute. Go ahead. I'm still
listening.

Dr. Wilforth eyes Kevin, until he returns to his seat.

Karla's face reflects her anger, as she stares at him.

KEVIN
(whispers)
What? I was hungry.

Kevin begins to eat.

DR. WILFORTH
Did you get everything, Mr...?

KEVIN
(chews food)
Kevin. Just call me, Mr. Kevin.

Karla slumps further in her seat.

DR. WILFORTH
All right, Mr. Kevin?

KEVIN
Man, these wings are incredible!

A quiet laughter fills the room. Dr. Wilforth stands amazed.

Karla looks disgusted.

DR. WILFORTH
Great. I'm glad you like the wings. But, uh... if you don't mind, can we proceed?

KEVIN
(mouth full of food)
Please? By all means.

Dr. Wilforth is taken back.

DR. WILFORTH
Thank you. Now. During the next 8 weeks, you will have series of exercises, designed to help you find out a little something about your mates, as well as yourselves. Each couple will have classroom and home exercises.

Kevin raises his hand.

DR. WILFORTH
Yes, Mr. Kevin. You have a question?

He licks his fingers.

KEVIN

Yes. What kind of exercises? And are we going to be graded?

EXT. CITY STREETS- KARLA'S CAR- CONTINUOUS

Karla drives down the street in moderate traffic.

Kevin looks out of the window.

KARLA

Un-be-lievable. I have never been so embarrassed in all of my life. I can't believe you, Kevin.

Karla glances at him.

KEVIN

I was hungry. What was I supposed to do? It's not like they posted a sign that said, "Don't eat until after the presentation."

KARLA

"Mr. Kevin? Call me Mr. Kevin?" God-- Kevin. You... you were being mean and-- and obnoxious.

KEVIN

It's just that he doesn't strike me as a love doctor.

KARLA

What does that have to do with anything? You're impossible, you know that? This isn't even about Dr. Wilforth. It's about you agreeing to do this. Instead, you chose to be a jerk.

KEVIN

Flattery will get you nowhere.

Karla's face reveals her anger. Kevin notices this.

KEVIN

Look. I'm sorry, okay? I won't make any more trouble.

KARLA

You better not. Because I-- I won't pay you back.

INT. ISLAND RECREATION CENTER- GYM- DAY

Kids shoot around on the court, while others jump rope off to the side.

The bigger kids play on the far end of the court and the smaller kids play on the front end.

Kevin sits in the bleachers with Phil and Tony.

TONY

Is Karla going to be okay?

KEVIN

Of course not. She's losing her mind. She enrolled us in this seminar on relationships.

PHIL

That's great, Kev. This is like therapy.

A ball bounces in Kevin's direction. He catches it and tosses it back onto the court.

KEVIN

You mean, it's a hassle. We have homework... and we have to meet every two weeks.

TONY

Homework? What kind of homework?

KEVIN

Every time we meet, Dr. Wilforth gives us these exercises- more like projects. And when we meet, we have to share our experiences with the group.

TONY

Boring.

A GIRL chases a BOY with and throws a ball at him.

KEVIN

Hey-- hey... that's enough, you two.

GIRL

Tell him to leave me alone!

BOY

She hit me first!

KEVIN
Don't play hitting.

The kids scamper away. The girl continues her chase.

KEVIN
Anyway, I'm only doing this to help Karla and for the food.

PHIL
The food?

KEVIN
They have the best hot wings you'll ever wanna taste.

PHIL
Interesting. Well, what's your first project?

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT- NIGHT

The dining room is almost full. Waiters walk back and forth from the kitchen to the tables.

A bus boy wipes a table clean and takes away the dirty dishes.

Kevin and Karla have a candle light dinner.

KEVIN
I can't do this.

KARLA
Yes, you can. We have to simulate a relationship and dating is part of it. Now... this is our first date... We didn't come together and you've just arrived. What'aya say?

Kevin leans forward.

KEVIN
You're my best friend, for crying out loud. I can't look at you in a romantic way.

Karla leans forward.

KARLA
So, there is something wrong with me?

KEVIN

No. It just feels... weird, that's all. Why you couldn't pick a class for singles? Then, you wouldn't need me at all.

Karla sighs.

KARLA

Can you at least try? Just think of me as someone else, if it bothers you that much.

Kevin sits back.

KEVIN

Okay. Karla, you look radiant.

Karla reveals a smile and retreats to a normal posture.

KARLA

Thank you. You look nice, also.

KEVIN

So, tell me a little about yourself.

KARLA

Let's see. I'm a twenty-five year old nurse and I work at a nursing home. I share an apartment with my best friend.

KEVIN

Really? What's her name?

KARLA

His name is Kevin.

Kevin shows concern.

KEVIN

Really? Okay. So, you live with another man.

KARLA

I hope it's not a problem for you. Kevin means the world to me, so if that's a problem, we'll finish our meal and go our separate way.

KEVIN

(impressed)

Sounds like a great guy.

Karla leans forward with an adoring smile.

KARLA
He's more than great. He's
amazing.

Kevin releases a growing smile.

DANCE FLOOR-

The band plays a TUNE.

Kevin and Karla dance, joined by other couples.

KARLA
See. You were all worried and
we're having a great time.

KEVIN
Yes. As a matter of fact, I am.

He twirls Karla around and pulls her close.

KARLA
I didn't realize you were such a
great dancer.

KEVIN
You're not so bad yourself.

Kevin and Karla continue to dance. He dips her.

EXT. RIVER STREET- NIGHT

The night lights illuminate off the waters of the Savannah
River. A tour boat sails by.

Kevin and Karla walk along the river walk, while sipping on
drinks.

KARLA
(sighs)
It's really beautiful out,
tonight.

KEVIN
Yes. It is, but you act like
you've never seen the river at
night before.

KARLA
I have, but never on a date.

KEVIN

(nods)

Oh. What kind of guys you've been dating?

KARLA

Apparently, the wrong ones.

KEVIN

Ah, a break through.

The two continue to walk.

INT. KEVIN AND KARLA'S APT- FOYER- MOMENTS LATER

Kevin and Karla laugh from beyond the door. The front door opens and the two walk in.

LIVING ROOM-

Kevin drops his keys on the coffee table and the two sit on the couch.

KARLA

I'm so exhausted.

Karla takes off her shoes and rubs her foot.

KEVIN

So am I.

KARLA

I really had a great time tonight.

KEVIN

I know. You were with me. What did you expect?

KARLA

Shut up.

She switches and rubs the other foot.

KARLA

So-- how does a first date typically end, for you?

Kevin releases a sly grin.

KEVIN

Well...

KARLA

Don't even think about it.

KEVIN

You shouldn't have asked if you
didn't wanna know the answer.

She hits him with a pillow.

KEVIN

Oh-- so, you like fore-play.

He grabs a pillow and gets up. She gets up in a defensive
stance.

KARLA

Don't sing it. Bring it.

Kevin chases her through the apartment. He catches her and
the two engage in a pillow fight.

INT. ISLAND RECREATION CENTER - GYM- DAY

A game is in progress. Kevin stands by his team's bench.

Alicia scores a three-point basket and the crowd WILDLY
CHEERS. Karla does the same.

The other team has the ball and attempts to throw it in
play.

KEVIN

Pick up a person! Right here,
Keri! Deny! Deny!

Keri steals the pass and goes to the basket for a lay-up.
She makes it and the ball goes to the other team.

The other team throws the ball in bounds and the girl races
down the court for an uncontested lay-up.

Kevin is less than impressed with his team.

KEVIN

What was that? Hey-- Time out!

The REFEREE BLOWS his whistle and points to Kevin's team
bench.

REFEREE

Time out, gold!

Kevin's team runs to the bench and huddles around him.

KEVIN

We have to play better defense, if we're going to compete at State. There are no excuses for allowing an easy basket.

Keri points to the scoreboard.

KERI

Coach, we're winning by twenty-five.

KEVIN

I realize that, Keri. But I also know that you guys can't afford to slack up on the defensive end. What happens when we play a good team?

The horn BLOWS.

Kevin and the team touch hands.

KEVIN

Okay, girls. Let's get back out there and play Lady Eagles basketball. Lady Eagles on three. One, two, three!

KEVIN AND TEAM

LADY EAGLES!

INT. PIZZA PALACE- AFTERNOON

Kevin treats his team to pizza. The girls still wear their uniforms. Karla, Phil, Tony and some of the parents join the team in celebration.

Karla and a parent pass out pizza to the girls.

Kevin, Phil and Tony sit in a booth and eat pizza.

PHIL

That was an awesome game.

KEVIN

Thanks man, but we have a lot of work to do, if we're gonna get better as a team.

TONY

Dude, they've won like 40 straight games. How good do you want them to be?

KEVIN

I don't care about the wins, you idiot. Recreational sports is a critical time for a young player. No matter the sport, a rec. coach has to focus on the fundamentals. That's how I approach it. If my team wins, that's the only reason why.

TONY

That's easy to say, when you're winning.

PHIL

Well-- you're doing a great job. What'aya say we go out and celebrate at The Purring Kitty?

Kevin looks on his team with pride, then checks his watch.

KEVIN

I wish I could guys, but Karla and I have plans.

Karla smiles as she interacts with Kevin's team.

PHIL

(jokingly)

I forgot that you and Karla are an item.

TONY

Did you hit it, yet?

KEVIN

What?

TONY

You know? Did you get the goods, the pooh-nanny?

KEVIN

Uh-- no. She's my best friend, stupid.

PHIL

So-- let me get this straight. You and Karla go out on dates, but you're only best friends. So, you're not actually doing the things that couples do?

KEVIN

That about sums it up. Unless you count talking.

Phil and Tony stare at one another in disbelief.

TONY

I have another question.

KEVIN

Shoot.

TONY

What exactly are you getting out of this?

Kevin ponders the question.

KEVIN

Well...

EXT. CHRISTMAS TREE LOT- DAY

Dozens of Christmas trees stand in rows. People walk around and browse the lot.

Kevin and Karla navigate their way through the lot.

KARLA

This is great. Our first natural tree.

KEVIN

I still don't see what's wrong with the plastic tree we have.

Karla details a particular tree with her fingers.

KARLA

For one, it's old. We bought that tree when we moved into our first apartment. Now that we're in a new apartment, it's time for something new. Can't you just smell the freshness of the pine?

She inhales and sighs in a euphoric manner.

Kevin inhales and makes a strange face.

KEVIN

Yeah-- it smells really, really like pine.

Karla points to the tree that she likes.

KARLA

There it is. Come on.

She drags Kevin to the tree.

Kevin focuses on the tree. His face reflects his skepticism.

KEVIN

Don't you think it's a little big?

KARLA

No. It's perfect.

KEVIN

I don't know. It looks pretty big to me.

KARLA

It's just nice and full. Just how a Christmas tree is supposed to be.

Kevin spots a smaller tree.

KEVIN

Why can't we get that tree over there? It's short and stout.

KARLA

Because I want this one.

KEVIN

And how are we supposed to get that in the truck?

Karla examines the tree.

KARLA

I have a solution.

EXT. CITY STREETS- CONTINUOUS

Traffic moves at a snail's pace.

Kevin drives with the tree tied to the roof of his SUV.

INT. KEVIN'S SUV-

Kevin drives and Karla sits in the passenger seat. He can hear the scratches on the roof caused by the tree.

Every bump in the road leads to new SCRATCHES.

KEVIN

Oh... my roof. I'm gonna need a new paint job. I just know it.

KARLA

Stop being such a Scrooge.

KEVIN

Oh, forgive me for not wanting the roof of my brand new car to be scratched.

Kevin cringes at every scratch, as he continues to drive.

I/E. KEVIN AND KARLA'S APT.- FRONT PORCH/FOYER- CONTINUOUS

The tree is stuck in the front doorway.

Kevin stands in the foyer and Karla pushes the tree from the porch.

KEVIN

So, what now, genius? We'll never get the tree inside. Let's take this tree back and exchange it for a smaller one.

KARLA

We can make this work. All it needs is an extra... push.

Karla makes a strong push.

KARLA

There.

She forces the tree through the doorway.

Kevin loses his balance and falls on the floor. The tree falls on top of him.

KEVIN

Whoa! Oh... Oh... get this tree off of me.

Karla rushes in.

KARLA

Kevin! I'm so sorry. Are you okay?

Karla rolls the tree off of Kevin. A small piece of a branch is stuck in Kevin's nose.

KEVIN

Ow! I think I've stabbed my brain.

He pulls it out and reveals a slight nosebleed.

INT. KEVIN AND KARLA'S APT - LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

Christmas MUSIC plays on the entertainment system.

Kevin stands on a step ladder. He has a piece of tissue in his nose.

Karla stands nearby and gives him the ornaments to put on the tree.

KARLA

This is going to be the best Christmas ever.

KEVIN

Yeah-- and it only cost me fifty dollars, a bloody nose and a scratched roof on my new truck. What a steal.

KARLA

It's not that bad. At least your nose isn't bleeding anymore. And you have insurance.

He removes the tissue and tosses it in the trash can, a few feet away.

KEVIN

Just give me another ornament.

She gives him a star and he places it on top of the tree.

Kevin steps down from the ladder. He and Karla step back and admire their handy work.

KARLA

Let's turn on the lights.

He plugs in the tree lights.

KEVIN

Go ahead. Flip the switch.

She turns the room lights off. The tree lights cast a dim white/golden glow about the room.

Karla stands in awe.

KARLA

Oh, Kevin. It's... It's beautiful.

KEVIN

Yeah-- it is. Very beautiful.

LATER-

The lights from the tree continue to give light.

Karla and Kevin sit on the couch, drink eggnog and continue to listen to music.

KEVIN

Okay... So you were right. A real tree is better.

KARLA

I told you. You should try listening to me more.

He focuses on the tree.

KEVIN

As beautiful as the tree, something is missing.

A puzzled Karla surveys the tree.

KARLA

Hmm... What could possibly be missing from the tree? It has more than enough lights and ornaments.

KEVIN

Presents.

The two continue to sit and watch the flickering lights.

INT. NURSING HOME- HALLWAY- DAY

Patients move about. A woman resident pushes the wheelchair of a male resident.

Karla stands at her medicine cart. She writes something on a paper and grabs a small plastic cup.

She KNOCKS on a door and walks in.

Moments later, Karla emerges from the room.

Mr. Jenkins, who wears a purple pimps hat, with a pair of purple slacks and a t-shirt, stand at the doorway of his room, in his bedroom slippers.

SALLY, in her mid 60's, strolls by Mr. Jenkins' room.

MR. JENKINS
 Hey-- Miss Sally. How about a
 little nookie before lunch?

Sally stops and flirts with Mr. Jenkins.

SALLY
 I knew you'd be back for more. How
 much this time?

MR. JENKINS
 For you, only twenty-five dollars.

SALLY
 Oh-- my. That's a little steep. I
 haven't received my SSI check,
 yet.

Karla walks towards Mr. Jenkins and Sally.

MR. JENKINS
 That's okay. You can pay me later.
 I know you're good for it.

SALLY
 Well, let's get it on.

KARLA
 Let's not. Mr. Jenkins I need to
 talk to you... now!

MR. JENKINS
 Sally, give me a few minutes. I'll
 come to your room.

SALLY
 Okay.

KARLA
 No, he won't. Do you want me to
 call your son, Ms. Sally?

Sally walks away with haste.

MR. JENKINS
 You are a cock-blocker... always
 hatin' on a pimp.

KARLA
 Need I remind you that
 prostitution is illegal?

MR. JENKINS
Who cares? It's also the oldest
profession known to man.

KARLA
(loud whisper)
It is against policy for patients
to have sex in this facility and
you-- you definitely can't charge
for it.

MR. JENKINS
You know what I think?

KARLA
No, what?

MR. JENKINS
I think that you want me for
yourself and you're too shy to
admit it.

Karla mouth drops.

KARLA
What?

MR. JENKINS
I tell you what.
(whispers)
I'll give you a special rate.
Fifty-dollars a year. Not
including holiday's. So...
what'aya say?

KARLA
No, I don't want you for myself
and I certainly wouldn't pay for
it.

MR. JENKINS
Okay... How about a free sample?

KARLA
Not even for free. Besides, if you
were lucky enough to hit this,
you'd probably die from heart
failure.

Mr. Jenkins watches with a smile, as she walks away.

MR. JENKINS
I just love when they talk dirty.

EXT. ISLAND RECREATION CENTER- DAY- RAIN

The trees blow in the wind, the rain pounds the pavement and lightning flashes, as thunder can be heard in the distance.

INT. ISLAND RECREATION CENTER - GYM

Kevin stands in the middle of the court and his team sits in a circle on the floor.

KEVIN

At the end of the game, everyone always wants to know who scored the most points, and how many points did I score, right?

Keri and the team nods in agreement.

KEVIN

Don't be concerned with what you do on offense. Ask yourselves how many points did the player I defended score. Moral to the story... defense wins championships.

Alicia raises her hand.

KEVIN

Yes, Alicia.

ALICIA

Where is State this year?

KEVIN

It will be in Atlanta. But it's important to take one game at a time. We'll worry about State when it's time to worry about State.

Keri chimes in.

KERI

Nobody's gonna beat us. We can play the worst game ever and still beat everybody by twenty.

This surprises Kevin.

KEVIN

That's just great... A very smart thing to say. Let me tell you something. Never underestimate your opponents and never overestimate your abilities. On

(MORE)

KEVIN (CONT'D)
any given day, you can be
defeated. Remember. You were
champions last year. Every team
really wants to beat you. And they
will give it their all. I suggest
you do the same. Everyone in.

INT. CIVIC CENTER- ARENA- NIGHT

The ringside bell CHIMES.

Thousands of people have packed the arena.

Two men wrestle in a square ring. They emerge from their
corner.

The ENORMOUS WRESTLER pokes the Little Wrestler in the eye
and stuns him.

A chorus of BOOS erupt throughout the arena.

Karla shows her displeasure with the enormous wrestler.

KARLA
(appalled)
Hey! He can't do that. That's
cheating.

KEVIN
Well, he's the bad guy. He doesn't
want you to like him.

KARLA
He's succeeded. I mean, look at
what he's doing to that little
man.

The Enormous Wrestler beats the Little Wrestler to a pulp.

KEVIN
(chuckles)
Karla, you don't understand.
Wrestling isn't real. His
character is to be a bad guy and
six months from now, he'll be a
good guy. That's how it works.

KARLA
Well tonight, he's being an
asshole. I don't see what you men
see in this.

KEVIN

It's hard to explain. It's sort of like the soap operas, only it's geared towards men. Look around you. There are plenty of women in here, too.

Karla looks around the arena to find women everywhere.

The Enormous Wrestler picks the Little Wrestler up and holds him high in a show of strength.

Then, he tosses him out of the ring. The Little Wrestler crashes to the floor in front of Kevin and Karla's section.

KARLA

Oh my God!

The Enormous Wrestler GROWLS at the crowd. He makes eye contact with Karla. She jumps to her feet.

KARLA

Hey-- asshole! Pick on somebody your own size!

Kevin pulls her back to the seat.

KEVIN

Okay. Can you calm down, please? Before you get us killed.

KARLA

Oh-- he's not gonna do anything. CHUMP! You're right Kevin, this is fun. Much better than watching it on TV.

Kevin looks at Karla and shakes his head. He mumbles to himself and notices his empty cup.

The Enormous Wrestler exits the ring and savagely beats on the Little Wrestler.

Kevin stands with his cup and looks around.

KEVIN

Where is that beer man? I'm getting thirsty.

Karla continues to fuss at the enormous wrestler.

KARLA

You big bully! You leave him alone!

The Enormous Wrestler grabs the Little Wrestler by the head

and presents him to Karla. He slaps him hard in the chest, sending the Little Wrestler to the ground.

ENORMOUS WRESTLER

(looks at
Karla)

Shut up, you bitch!

He continues his offense on the Little Wrestler.

KARLA

Bitch?! I got yo bitch!

Karla throws her drink on the wrestler and fades behind the standing crowd.

The wrestler stands up and notices Kevin's empty cup.

Kevin has a frown on his face. He continues to look around.

KEVIN

Where is that son of a bitch!

The Enormous Wrestler climbs over the padded guard rails and comes after Kevin.

ENORMOUS WRESTLER

Hey! You son-of-a-bitch! You threw
your drink on me and now you're
going to pay!

Kevin is perplexed.

KEVIN

What? Oh my God! What are you
talking about?!

The wrestler puts his enormous hands around Kevin's neck and lifts him off of the ground.

KEVIN

Hey-- what are you doing? No!
Wait! Help! Put me down!

Karla's face reveals fear.

KARLA

Put him down! Leave him alone!

The Enormous Wrestler looks at Karla with an evil grin. Then, he head butts Kevin repeatedly, until he's unconscious.

He drops Kevin on the ground and Kevin lays limp.

EXT. CIVIC CENTER - MOMENTS LATER

An ambulance speeds away, with flashing lights and SIRENS.

INT. MEMORIAL HOSPITAL- ER- WAITING ROOM- NIGHT

A nervous Karla sits in a crowded waiting room. The TV is on.

A sickly man sips water from a fountain. Two SMALL CHILDREN laugh and run around in circles.

Their MOTHER finally rings them in.

MOM IN WAITING ROOM

Hey! Get over here this instant.

The kids go to their mother.

A NURSE, in her 30's, comes from the back and walks over to Karla.

NURSE

Ma'am, you can go back to see him, now.

Karla gets up.

INT. MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - ER - TREATMENT ROOM A- CONTINUOUS

A KNOCK at the door.

KEVIN

Come in.

Karla walks in and SHUTS the door.

Kevin lies in the bed and watches TV. His head is wrapped in a bandage and his neck supported by a brace.

KARLA

Hey... You okay?

Karla rushes beside him.

KEVIN

I have a cracked skull and jammed neck and why? Because some idiot threw a drink on a very big man and I... I was the one standing with an empty cup in my hand! So, no, I'm not okay.

Karla paces the floor.

KARLA

I'm pretty sure they didn't know the man was gonna attack you. Otherwise, they wouldn't have done it.

KEVIN

No. They do these types of things all the time. Oh look, it's on the news.

EXT. CITY STREETS- KARLA'S CAR- CONTINUOUS

INT. KARLA'S CAR-

Karla drives and Kevin sits in the passenger seat in silence. Kevin's face reveals his anger. He stares at her with his arms folded.

She takes a few quick glances at him.

KARLA

At some point, we're gonna have to discuss this.

He turns in his seat.

KEVIN

Discuss what? How you got me beat up by the biggest man on the planet?! How could you do this to me?

KARLA

Hey, wait a minute-- don't blame me. You're the one who said wrestling wasn't real.

KEVIN

But you can't throw your drink on a man that size.

Karla controls the urge to laugh, but shows signs.

KEVIN

Oh-- you... you think this is funny? I might have a dent in my forehead for the rest of my life. Unbelievable.

KARLA

Stop exaggerating. The doctor said that you'll be fine in a week.

KEVIN

Well, what about this week? And what about the mental scars I will carry around, for years to come? What about that?

Kevin returns to his former posture. Karla looks at him.

KARLA

He called me a bitch, Kevin. I'm sorry. I didn't mean for this to happen.

Kevin looks at her from the corner of his eyes.

INT. KARLA AND KEVIN'S APT - LIVING ROOM- EVENING

Kevin lounges around on the couch. He still wears the head bandage and a neck brace. He watches TV and eats a sandwich.

The doorbell RINGS.

Kevin looks towards the foyer and sighs. He grimaces in pain as he slowly gets up makes his way to the door.

FOYER-

Kevin stops at the door.

KEVIN

Who is it!

PHIL

(beyond the door)

It's Phil and Tony!

Kevin opens the door and they enters.

LIVING ROOM-

Kevin sits in the recliner, while Phil and Tony sit on the couch.

Phil shows concern.

KEVIN

Sorry guys. I didn't mean to bail on you like that. It's just that, when I woke up this morning, I couldn't move. I tried, but it felt like I was cemented to the bed.

PHIL

Kev, I understand. I was watching it when it happened and I felt horrible.

Tony reveals a mocking smile.

TONY

Yeah-- "Big Tsunami" really kicked your ass. You didn't even get a lick in. You always say wrestling isn't real. It looks pretty real to me.

KEVIN

Can you please not speak? Why did you bring him?

PHIL

Don't pay him any attention. He's just clowning around.

KEVIN

I know. It's just that this seminar and fake dating Karla is making me crazy. Not to mention, it's been hazardous to my health.

PHIL

Hey, don't complain now, my friend. You're the one who allowed her to talk you into mess. Besides, it doesn't really look that bad.

Kevin takes the wrap off and reveals a bruise that covers his entire forehead.

Phil cringes and Tony's face reveals his shock.

KEVIN

Look at me! And you say it isn't that bad?!

PHIL

Okay, that looks bad--

Tony nods in agreement.

TONY

Yeah-- pretty much. It looks like a gigantic birth mark or something.

KEVIN

And now I gotta stand before those people at the seminar like this.

TONY

Wear a skully. You can pull it down to your eyebrow...no one has to see a thing.

KEVIN

You know, Tony, I've been alive for twenty-six years and I've met a lot of stupid people in my life, but I've never, I mean never, have met anyone as stupid as you. You shouldn't be proud, but somehow, I know that you are.

PHIL

Oh... Oh-- That's cold.

TONY

Aw-- you just jealous. You know the Big Tsunami is one of my many my space friends. I can get him to beat you up, again.

Kevin picks up the remote and throws it at Tony. He ducks out of the way.

INT. THE HILTON- CONFERENCE ROOM- AFTERNOON

Class starts, as Dr. Wilforth stands at the podium.

Kevin and Karla sit in their same seats.

Kevin still wears a neck brace. He has a noticeable bruise on his forehead.

DR. WILFORTH

It takes a solid foundation for a relationship to last. A foundation that's built on trust and a transcending love. A love that's powerful enough to withstand the turmoil when the romance fades. It's been said that the best of friends makes the best of lovers.

Kevin and Karla eye one another.

DR. WILFORTH

Now a days, people often confuse love with infatuation. Never realizing that love is something that can withstand the test of human imperfection. Most people spend a life-time trying to change your mate, instead of loving them for who they are.

Kevin notices a sign by the buffet, which states: "No eating until after the seminar."

Dr. Wilforth looks at Kevin, then focuses on the audience.

DR. WILFORTH

I trust that everyone has done their assignments and is ready to share the experiences. Why don't we start with Mr. Kevin and Karla.

The people APPLAUD as Kevin and Karla stand before the group.

Pockets of LAUGHTER erupt around the room and others begin to MURMUR.

KEVIN

(whispers)

You go first.

KARLA

No, you first.

Dr. Wilforth shows his impatience.

DR. WILFORTH

Come on, guys. We don't have all night.

KARLA

Well, lets see. Kevin and I went on two dates. On the first date, he took me out to an Italian restaurant and for a walk on River Street. I had a great time. It was probably one of the best dates of my life.

Karla adores Kevin with a smile, as she looks at him.

KARLA

But the second date, as you can see, didn't go too well. We went to the wrestling event and we kind of ran into problems. Other than that, I think everything went well.

DR. WILFORTH

Tell me, what if anything did you learn about yourself and/or Mr. Kevin?

She looks at Kevin with admiration.

KARLA

I learned that he's incredibly romantic on dates and he's quite a dancer. I'm not sure what I learned about myself, though. I think that I need more time.

DR. WILFORTH

Interesting. Uh-- Mr. Kevin... your experiences and what you've learned.

KEVIN

Ah-- yes. I totally agree with what she said.

DR. WILFORTH

Is that it?

Karla sternly nudges him with her elbow. Kevin holds his side in discomfort.

KEVIN

(under his
breath)

Ow... Okay.

(to the
audience)

At first, it felt a little weird, because Karla and I are best friends.

DR. WILFORTH

Wait a minute. You mean, the two of you aren't a couple?

KEVIN

No. We're just friends. Best friends.

DR. WILFORTH

I see... Carry on.
(to Karla)
Smart move.

KEVIN

We always hang out, but never on dates. It felt different, but I enjoyed it. We probably won't go to see wrestling again, but she's a great date.

DR. WILFORTH

Did you learn anything?

Karla eyes Kevin.

KEVIN

Yeah. Never go to wrestling with her, again.

Kevin looks and smiles at Karla. She frowns at this.

INT. NURSING HOME- COMMUNITY ROOM- DAY

Patients in wheel chairs sit in a big room and watch TV. A decorated Christmas tree stands by the window.

A man sits in a reclining chair.

Mr. Jenkins and MAYBELLE sit at a table. Maybelle, in her 60's, has gray hair and wears glasses.

Karla and Rochelle sit in the back of the room.

KARLA

Thanks for working over, today. I would have caught hell dealing with all of these patients by myself.

ROCHELLE

That's okay, girl. So, how are things going with the class?

KARLA

Everything is going well. Kevin's finally forgiven me for the wrestling debacle and he really seems to be getting into it.

ROCHELLE

That's good, but, can I say something?

KARLA

Sure.

ROCHELLE

Be careful?

KARLA

Careful of what? Kevin?

ROCHELLE

You may not want to get too close to him. What if you fall for him and it's not reciprocated? It could ruin the relationship the two of you already have.

Karla scoffs at this.

KARLA

No chance of happening. Kevin is my best friend. Nothing more. I mean, come on. Me and Kevin? That's the silliest thing that I've ever heard.

ROCHELLE

Are you gonna invite him to the Christmas Party?

KARLA

Probably.

ROCHELLE

Just be careful, okay.

Karla's eyes grow big. She notices that Mr. Jenkins is kissing Maybelle on the neck.

KARLA

Trust me, I got everything under control. I think Maybelle has more to worry about, than me.

Karla motions towards Mr. Jenkins and Maybelle.

ROCHELLE

What? Oh my God.

KARLA

Mr. Jenkins, stop that!

Mr. Jenkins gets up and walks over to Karla and Rochelle.

MR. JENKINS

See, I knew you wanted me.

KARLA

No, Mr. Jenkins. I don't.

MR. JENKINS

Well, don't hate the pimp. Come on, Maybelle. Let's go to the room.

Maybelle gets up.

MAYBELLE

Your room, or mines?

KARLA

Maybelle, I can't believe you... you better not.

MAYBELLE

Honey, you better believe it. I aint gettin' no younger. Hell-- just because you can't keep a man don't mean I can't do my thang'.

Maybelle follows Mr. Jenkins.

Karla reveals her bewilderment.

KARLA

How pathetic? Everyone knows I can't keep a man. I'm such a loser.

She buries her face in her hands.

ROCHELLE

No, you're not a loser. You'll find a man, someday. You'll see.

Karla's eyes narrow.

INT. ISLANDS RECREATION CENTER - GYM- DAY

Kevin works from his desk. The bruise on his forehead has almost disappeared.

Phil surfs the internet.

PHIL

Oh-- look! You're on U-Tube!

Kevin gets up to get a closer look.

KEVIN

That's just great. Now the whole world will know I got my skull bashed in, by that... that maniac.

Phil gets up from the computer.

PHIL

Look on the bright side. At least he's the biggest man on earth.

KEVIN

It felt like he was the biggest man on the earth. You know, I think I know why Karla can't keep a man.

PHIL

And why is that?

KEVIN

She's a lunatic. A raving lunatic. I mean, don't get me wrong. She's a very sweet person, until you get on her bad side.

PHIL

But she's always been that way.

KEVIN

I know.

Kevin puts the papers in a folder, walks over to the file cabinet and puts the folder inside.

PHIL

So does this mean that you're gonna stop fake dating Karla and start hanging out with your boys?

KEVIN

No. I'm not "gonna stop fake dating Karla." I promised her and I gotta see this through.

Phil shakes his head.

PHIL

She's gonna be the death of you. You know that, right.

Kevin's cell phone RINGS. He retrieves the phone and answers it.

KEVIN

What's up... Um... sure... I'd love to. When is it?

Phil makes fun of Kevin.

Kevin looks at his calender and writes something on December 18.

KEVIN

Got it marked. Okay. See you when I get home. Bye.

Kevin hangs up and sits his phone on the desk.

PHIL

"I'd love to. See you when I get home." What is with you two? Are you pretend married, now?

Kevin sighs and shakes his head.

KEVIN

No. She invited me to a Christmas party at her job.

Phil gets up and stands in front of Kevin's desk.

PHIL

Okay. This has to stop. Kev, wake up man. This little charade you and Karla have going, is only gonna cause friction. You can mess up what you already have.

KEVIN

It's just a Christmas party.

Kevin gets up and rounds the desk.

PHIL

Yeah, for now. Then it's gonna be a picnic in the park, ending with you and her at some... altar.

Kevin considers this.

KEVIN

Okay... Even if there was a remote chance of something like that ever happening... that wouldn't be a bad thing, would it? But it won't happen, because she and I are best friends. I've never thought of her in that way.

PHIL

So you mean to tell me, you've never wondered what it would be like to experience a life of romance with Karla?

KEVIN

No. Never even crossed my mind. We played in the crib together.

PHIL

This is insane. I bet you two haven't had the first kiss.

Kevin reveals his guilt.

PHIL

Come on, Kevin. You should have your players card revoked.

Kevin becomes distant.

INT. NURSING HOME - COMMUNITY ROOM- EVENING

The residents, staff members and guests gather for the Christmas Party. Kevin and Karla sit next to each other.

They all SING the Christmas Carol: "Jingle Bells."

After the song, everyone CLAPS.

LATER-

Everyone mingles to the sounds of light MUSIC.

Mr. Jenkins has a female resident under the mistletoe. Maybelle periodically watches him, while she visits with her relatives.

Kevin and Karla stand by the refreshments.

KARLA

So, are you enjoying yourself?

KEVIN

(measured)

I think... I'm glad that you invited me.

Karla smiles and looks at Mr. Jenkins.

KARLA

I'm glad that you came. Oh-- come with me. Let me introduce you to Mr. Jenkins.

Kevin and Karla walk over to Mr. Jenkins. He still gropes the woman under his mistletoe.

Kevin laughs at this.

KEVIN

Look at him. Pops is over there getting his groove on.

KARLA

He's always trying to get his groove on. Mr. Jenkins! Stop that! I want you to meet Kevin.

Mr. Jenkins gets up. He walks with his purple cane and stares Kevin up and down.

MR. JENKINS

So you're the one she chose instead of me?

KEVIN

Yeah-- I guess I am. I'm Kev--

As Kevin extends his hands, Mr. Jenkins hits Kevin in the groin with his cane.

KEVIN

Oh... Hell no!

Kevin grabs his crotch and slumps over in pain. He falls to his knees.

EXT. CITY STREETS- NIGHT

INT. KEVIN'S CAR-

It's total silence in the car. Kevin looks upset as he drives down the street. Karla stares at him.

KARLA

Did I tell you that Mr. Jenkins tries to seduce me, everyday?

KEVIN

No. And he's lucky he's an old man. Is there any place I can go with you and not get injured?

Karla smiles and rubs the top of his head.

KEVIN
How do I keep letting you get me
in these jams?

INT. BOWLING ALLEY- NIGHT

Kevin stands ready to bowl. He releases the ball and bowls a strike.

Karla claps and cheers for him.

KEVIN
Submit, to the king.

Karla gets up and grabs a bowling ball.

KARLA
Not bad... Not bad at all.

KEVIN
Okay, now it's your turn. Let me
show you how to--

KARLA
--Excuse me. I don't need your
help.

KEVIN
Okay, but I gotta tell ya, that's
not the correct way to hold the
ball.

KARLA
I said, I don't need help.

Karla stands ready to bowl. Kevin throws his hand in the air.

KEVIN
Fine. Have it your way.

Karla tries to release the ball and slips, falling onto the floor.

Kevin makes fun of her. She gets up and punches him on the arm.

KARLA
That's not funny.

KEVIN
Oh-- I'm sorry. I thought you had
it.

She goes after Kevin, jumps on his back and the two fall to the ground.

KEVIN AND KARLA HANG OUT- MONTAGE

-Kevin and Karla eat popcorn and watch a movie at the cinema. She wipes the tears from her eyes. He puts his arm around her.

-Kevin and Karla stand in the middle of the living room. They briefly speak, shake hands and go to their own rooms.

-Karla easily ice skates, while Kevin struggles to keep his balance. She grabs his hand and causes him to lose his balance. They both fall and she lands on top of him.

- Kevin and Karla are at the mall. Kevin comes out of the dressing room. He models a pair of black slacks, a burgundy shirt and a heavy black coat.

-Karla turns her nose up at the attire.

-He disappointingly walks back to the dressing room and returns, wearing a pair of green slacks and yellow shirt.

-Karla gives Kevin a thumbs down. He storms back into the dressing room.

-He reappears wearing nothing, but his boxers and a bra. Karla laughs at him.

-Kevin walks with bags and Karla walks beside him. She looks at him, moves closer and grabs his hand. Kevin is pleasantly surprised and the two continue to walk hand and hand.

-Kevin and Karla stand in the middle of the living room. They hug one another and go to their own rooms.

-Karla smiles as she and Kevin share their experiences with the group.

-Dr. Wilforth seems intrigued.

-The people CLAP and Karla hugs Kevin.

-Alicia and Keri pass the ball back and forth until Alicia takes the lay-up. She hits it.

-The people in the stands CHEER.

-Keri steals a pass and takes it in for the easy basket.

-Everyone stands in APPLAUSE. Karla happily jumps up and down.

-Kevin takes three shots on the pool table and hits them all. Karla frowns.

-Karla stands in Kevin's view and distracts him on this

shot. He misses badly.

-Karla makes seven pool shots in a row. Kevin stands in shock.

-Karla sinks the eight ball and brushes both shoulders with her hands.

-Kevin and Karla stand in the middle of the living room. They embrace one another and Kevin gives her a peck on the cheek.

-Kevin and Karla stand in the doorway of their own rooms and glare at one another.

-Kevin and Karla go fishing. Karla's line begins to pull and she tries to reel in the fish.

-Kevin sits his pole down and helps Karla. He reels in a stingray.

- Kevin and Karla sit on a blanket and have a picnic in the park. Children play in the play ground a short distance away. Karla nurses a sandwich and Kevin says something to makes her laugh.

- Moments later, he plays a tune for her with his saxophone.

-Kevin chases Karla with the sting ray. Karla SCREAMS for him to "STOP," but he continues.

INT. KEVIN AND KARLA'S APT- KITCHEN- NIGHT

Kevin and Karla have dinner. They have fish on their plates, along with a glass of wine. A bottle of wine sits on the table. Karla laughs and nurses her glass of wine.

KARLA

I can't believe how much fun I've had these last few weeks.

KEVIN

It has been a blast, hasn't it?

KARLA

Yeah, it has.

KEVIN

Yeah.

A brief moment of awkwardness for Kevin and Karla. They momentarily stare at one another. Kevin quickly attend to his fish.

KARLA

So... What did you get me for Christmas?

KEVIN

I haven't bought it yet...

Karla raises her eyebrows.

KEVIN

but don't worry. I'm going to get your present tomorrow.

KARLA

Don't make me take yours back.

KEVIN

Chill out. You won't be disappointed.

Kevin fills their glass with more wine. The two hit their glasses and consumes it all. They adoringly look at one another.

LIVING ROOM-

Kevin and Karla lounge on the couch, in a drunken stupor.

Karla lies on the couch, while Kevin sits. She rests her feet on Kevin's lap. Her toes are beautifully painted.

The two laugh.

KARLA

And the one thing I hate most, is men with smelly feet. Don't you just hate women with smelly feet?

KEVIN

No. Then that means I'd have to hate you.

Karla puts her feet in Kevin's face.

KARLA

My feet don't stink, thank you. They smell like apricots and cantaloupes.

Kevin sniffs her foot and makes a funny face.

KEVIN

And nothing stinks more than rotten apricots and cantaloupes.

KARLA
You're a really funny man, you
know that?

Kevin massages her foot.

KEVIN
Now you know not to take me too
serious.

Kevin lays his head back and rests his eyes. Karla adoringly
looks at him.

KARLA
That's cute... Um... Kev?

Kevin looks at her with one eye open.

KEVIN
What's up?

KARLA
Why haven't we had our first kiss?

Kevin looks stunned.

KEVIN
Well... I... I didn't know you
wanted one. You want one?

KARLA
Yeah. That would be nice.

KEVIN
Okay.

Kevin kisses her on the top of her foot.

KARLA
That's a start. But I'm not
talking about there.

Kevin kisses her on the leg.

KARLA
You're getting warmer.

Kevin continues to move up and works his way up her arm.

KARLA
Now, I'm getting warmer.

Kevin gazes into her eyes and slowly kisses her on the lips.
He pulls back and sits back.

A moment of awkwardness fills the room. She touches her lips

and eyes Kevin.

Kevin swallows the lump in his throat.

KARLA
Do that again?

Before he answers, Karla leaps into his arms and the two make out on the couch.

INT. KEVIN'S BEDROOM- NEXT MORNING

The sunlight invades the room. Kevin and Karla sleep under the covers. The two face one another.

Kevin awakes. He looks at Karla and briefly smile. Kevin's eyes grow wide and he starts to panic.

He successfully slips out of bed, without awakening Karla.

EXT. CITY STREETS- KEVIN'S SUV- CONTINUOUS

Cars stop at a traffic light. Kevin's SUV is in the middle of traffic.

INT. KEVIN'S SUV-

Kevin freaks out in the car. He continues to look at his watch.

KEVIN
What have I done? Oh-- I'm a bad friend. A very bad friend. How could I have allowed this to happen? because I'm an idiot, that's how... and she's gonna wake up in my bed and never speak to me again. It's not even my fault. She's the one who got me drunk and took advantage of me... I mean... What was I supposed to do? I'm only a man!

INT. ISLAND RECREATION CENTER- ACTIVITY ROOM- MORNING

Kevin, Phil and Tony hang out in a room, with long tables and folding chairs. The TV is on.

Phil's face reveals his shock.

PHIL
You did what?!

TONY

Get out!

PHIL

What were you thinking?!

KEVIN

I-- I don't know. We were drinking... she asked why we never had a first kiss. I started kissing her and when I woke up this morning, she was in my bed... naked... and so was I.

PHIL

You idiot! Do you know what this means? This is no longer a pretend thing, here. You're in uncharted waters... infested with sharks... without a boat... or a life jacket.

KEVIN

Come on. It's not that bad.

TONY

Are you nuts? This is the absolute worst. How was it? I always wanted to hit that. I bet she can--

Kevin gets up and begins to walk.

KEVIN

--All right! That's enough!

TONY

Someone's jealous.

KEVIN

(scoffs)

I'm not jealous.

TONY

Sure you are.

KEVIN

No. I'm not. You think I wanna hear about how you fantasize about my girlfriend?

PHIL

Oh, so she's your girlfriend, now?

KEVIN
(perplexed)
No... Yes... I mean no.

PHIL
What are you saying?

KEVIN
I'm saying, I... I don't know what
I'm saying... or thinking.

Kevin flops into the chair and stares into open space.

Phil gets up.

PHIL
That's a first. See, man. I told
you something like this was gonna
happen, but did you listen to me?
No.

Kevin jumps to his feet.

KEVIN
This is a disaster. What have I
done? What am I gonna do?

Kevin frantically paces the floor.

PHIL
You gotta end this before things
get out of hand.

KEVIN
Too late. It's already out of
hand. I think I'm in love with
her.

TONY
You think?

KEVIN
How the hell am I supposed to
know? I've never been in love
before. I know that I've never
felt this way about anyone in my
life.

PHIL
You gotta tell her.

Kevin gets up and awkwardly moves about.

KEVIN

I can't tell her.

TONY

What'aya mean you can tell her?
You have to tell her.

KEVIN

What if she doesn't feel the same
way? It will ruin everything.

PHIL

That's the dumbest thing I ever
heard in my life. Even for Tony.
What if she does feel the same
way? It takes two to tango, you
know.

Kevin stares beyond the doorway.

INT. NURSING HOME - HALLWAY- AFTERNOON

Karla stands by her medicine cart and puts some medicine in
a cup. She sports a glowing smile and walks to Mr. Jenkins'
room.

Karla KNOCKS on the door.

MR. JENKINS ROOM-

Mr. Jenkins lies under the covers. The TV is on.

MR. JENKINS

Come in.

Karla opens the door and walks towards Mr. Jenkins.

He notices this.

KARLA

Hi-- Mr. Jenkins. Feeling a little
better?

Mr. Jenkins slowly sits up in bed.

MR. JENKINS

No. This gout is really kickin' my
ass, today.

Karla pours a cup of water and gives it to him, along with a
plastic cup.

KARLA

Well... I brought another pain pill. Here.

Mr. Jenkins takes the pill and throws the small plastic cup in the trash.

MR. JENKINS

Thank you, darlin.

KARLA

Don't mention it.

Karla starts for the door.

MR. JENKINS

Hey-- Karla. Whatever it is that has you glowing, hold on to it.

KARLA

Thank you, Mr. Jenkins.

Karla walks away.

HALLWAY-

Karla attends to her cart. She writes in a patient's chart and looks at her watch.

Just then, a DELIVERY MAN comes to the nurses station. He holds a bouquet of carnations and red roses.

One of the nurses points in Karla's direction and the delivery man walks towards her.

DELIVERY MAN

Excuse me? Karla Edwards?

KARLA

Yes. That's me.

Karla turns and notices the flowers.

DELIVERY MAN

These are for you.

He gives her the flowers and walks away.

KARLA

Thank you.

Karla takes a look at the card. The card states: "Thank you for the best night of my life."

Karla sighs and releases a growing smile.

INT. MALL- JEWELRY STORE- AFTERNOON

Kevin looks in a small mirror and carefully surveys the necklace around his neck.

A SALESWOMAN, in her 20's, stands behind the counter.

SALESWOMAN

It looks great on you and it's twenty percent off.

KEVIN

Really? In that case. I'll take it. It's gonna need a charm.

SALESWOMAN

What type of charm would you like?

KEVIN

No. I was just thinking out loud. That's all I want.

Kevin takes the necklace off and gives it to the woman. She walks to the register.

Kevin starts to follow her, but something in the display catches his eye.

KEVIN

Excuse me, Miss. How much for this one?

The saleswoman walks over to Kevin.

SALESWOMAN

Which one?

KEVIN

(points)

That one?

SALESWOMAN

A great choice. It's a little expensive, but--

KEVIN

--I'll take it.

Kevin pulls out his credit card and gives to the woman.

SALESWOMAN

Okay. I'll just grab it for you. Anything else I can get for you?

KEVIN

No, that will be all.

SALESWOMAN

Do you want these wrapped?

KEVIN

Not the necklace. You can give that to me, now.

The saleswoman gives Kevin the necklace and he puts it back around his neck.

He looks in the small mirror and releases a smile.

EXT. RESTAURANT- NIGHT

A dimly lit place with soft music in the background.

Kevin and Karla have dinner. They sit in a booth by the window.

Kevin sports the new necklace around his neck.

KARLA

That's a really nice necklace.

KEVIN

Thank you. Just a little present to myself. I got this at the mall today, while I was shopping.

Kevin and Karla awkwardly make eyes at one another.

KARLA

This is really good. How did you find out about this place?

KEVIN

Phil told me about it. He said the food was great and that it wasn't expensive.

Still a moment of awkwardness continues.

KARLA

So-- about last night.

KEVIN

It was totally unexpected.

KARLA

Yeah-- I know what you mean. I was thinking about it all day long. Oh, by the way, thanks for the flowers.

KEVIN

You're welcome.

KARLA

Listen, Kevin. I don't want you to think you owe me anything. Last night was wonderful, but I understand. We were drunk and...

Kevin focuses on the bottle of wine.

KEVIN

Yeah-- we just got carried away.

KARLA

Yeah.

Things get quiet. They only stare at one another.

KARLA

So. Oh-- have you come up with anything?

KEVIN

About?

KARLA

You know... Why I can't keep a man?

Kevin looks at her and releases a smile.

KEVIN

Actually, I don't think that it's you. It's the men that you date with the problem.

KARLA

Really? I was starting to think that I really sucked at relationships.

Karla looks out of the window and something grabs her attention. A growing anger reflects her face.

Kevin reaches in his jacket pocket.

KEVIN

No... I think that you're great.
In fact-- I wanted to ask...
you... What's wrong?

Kevin looks out of the window.

Joe and Tiffany walk hand and hand, across the street.

KARLA

I can't believe this.

Karla gets up and rushes out of the restaurant.

KEVIN

No... Karla. Wait! Dammit man!

Kevin gets up and follows her.

EXT. CITY STREETS- CONTINUOUS

Karla emerges from the restaurant and rushes across the street. Kevin emerges and follows her.

Karla confronts Joe and Tiffany.

KARLA

Hey! Hey... Hey-- just what do you
think you're doing?

Joe and Tiffany stop and turns as Karla approaches.

Kevin tries to intervene.

KEVIN

Karla! Stop! Who cares what they
do? They deserve one another.

KARLA

What are you doing with my
boyfriend, you-- you trollop?

TIFFANY

Boyfriend?!

KEVIN

Boyfriend?!

Kevin stares at the ground.

JOE

Boyfriend?

Tiffany and Karla are face to face.

TIFFANY

Look, you stupid bitch. He is not your man, anymore. He's with me now. I suggest you crawl back under the rock from where you came.

Karla takes off her earrings and heels.

KARLA

Bitch?! I've got your bitch.

Kevin tries to hold Karla at bay, but she snatches away from him.

KEVIN

What's the matter with you?!

KARLA

Can't you see that these two went behind our backs?

KEVIN

I don't care. Why do you?

JOE

Wait a minute. Correct me if I'm wrong, but didn't you dump me?

KARLA

But that doesn't mean for you to date Kevin's ex, you asshole!

TIFFANY

Look... Joe is my man, now. You need to move on and get a life.

Kevin shakes his head in disgust.

KEVIN

Karla, why are you doing this?

Karla jacks Tiffany up against the wall.

KARLA

Oh-- man up Kevin! Instead of questioning me, you should be kicking his ass!

Kevin nervously looks at Joe.

KEVIN

(with fear)

No. Oh no. I-- I don't want to fight him. If I did, I would have fought him at the club.

Joe becomes upset.

JOE

So, it was you that called her to the club?

KEVIN

(duh)

Uh-- yeah. She deserves a good man, not a jerk like you.

Karla PUNCHES Tiffany in the face and she collapses to the ground.

KEVIN

That's for Kevin!

Karla kicks her one last time.

Joe grabs Kevin and slams him from wall to wall, before he slams Kevin to the ground.

Karla jumps on Joe's back.

Kevin lies on the ground and moans in obvious pain.

EXT. CITY STREETS- CONTINUOUS

An ambulance drives away with flashing lights and SIREN.

INT. MEMORIAL HOSPITAL- ER- TREATMENT ROOM B- NIGHT

Kevin lies in the hospital bed. He has a two ice packs, one over each eye, and a sling on his arm.

Karla walks through the door.

KARLA

Kevin. I'm so sorry. Are you okay?

Kevin glares at Karla, but says nothing.

Karla walks close to the bed.

KARLA

Come on, Kevin. I said I was sorry. Please speak to me?

KEVIN

Leave me alone.

Kevin turns his head opposite of Karla. She hangs her head.

INT. KEVIN AND KARLA'S APT - LIVING ROOM- CONTINUOUS

Kevin sits on the couch. He stares at the TV. He has two black eyes.

Karla walks in with a cup of water and two pills. Kevin frowns at the sight of her.

KARLA

Here, take this.

Karla gives them to Kevin and sits beside him.

Kevin gets up and limps towards his room.

KARLA

I'm sorry, Kevin. I didn't mean to--

He stops and turns to Karla.

KEVIN

--You never mean to, Karla. You got into a fight with my ex, over a man that isn't even yours. Then on top of that, you drew me into a confrontation that I didn't even want. While you were over there doing your wonder woman impression, I was getting bounced around by Joe "The Freakin" Body Builder. Look at me! I look like the freakin' Hamburgular! I-- I can't do this anymore.

KARLA

Do what?

KEVIN

This... this pretend dating thing... it has to stop.

KARLA

But why?

KEVIN

You have to ask? It's been one disaster after another. I mean... come on, Karla... If you're not getting me beat up, you're busy

(MORE)

KEVIN (CONT'D)

seducing me, trying to get me into bed.

KARLA

Hey-- that's not true. You started kissing me, remember?

Kevin limps back towards Karla.

KEVIN

Only because you asked me to. If it wasn't for this stupid seminar, I wouldn't have a cracked skull... a dislocated shoulder and believe me, I definitely wouldn't have slept with you.

KARLA

But we're half way through the seminar. You can't bailout on me now. In four more weeks, the class is over and things can go back to the way they use to be.

KEVIN

Fine. I will still go to the class, but the dating part is over.

KARLA

But what about the assignments? If we don't do them, then we'll fail.

KEVIN

Why don't you do the assignments with your boyfriend, Joe? He's the one you want. And for the record, things will never be the same. Never.

Kevin walks into his room and SLAMS the door.

A confused Karla watches as Kevin disappears from sight.

INT. THE HILTON - CONFERENCE ROOM- EVENING

The room is almost full.

Kevin and Karla sit up front. Kevin looks unhappy. Karla notices this.

KARLA

Do you have to look like that?

KEVIN

Like what? Like I don't wanna be here?

KARLA

Yes.

KEVIN

Look. I said that I would finish the class, but don't expect me to break dance in the middle of the floor.

Karla stares at the floor.

KARLA

Why are you angry with me? You never get angry with me.

KEVIN

Angry is not necessarily the word I would use... Hurt and disappointment is more like it.

Dr. Wilforth walks from his room, onto the stage and stands at the podium.

KARLA

Can we discuss this later?

KEVIN

Whatever.

Karla oddly looks at Kevin. She shrugs and her attention goes to Dr. Wilforth.

DR. WILFORTH

Welcome back, everyone. Today, we're gonna go right into your presentations. Who wants to be first?

One of the couples, BILL AND SHARON, both in their mid to late 40'S, raises their hands.

DR. WILFORTH

Okay, Bill and Sharon, come up.

Bill and Sharon walk up to the front.

Kevin frowns and shakes his head.

Karla looks subdued. She eyes Kevin, who continues to frown and pout.

BILL

Thank you, Dr. Wilforth. The last two weeks were filled with excitement. We went to see the play, "The Nutcracker." It was different for me, because I'm not really a Nut Cracker kinda guy. But I have to say I really enjoyed it.

Everyone CLAPS for them, but Kevin. He looks miserable.

Sharon begins to speak, but Kevin interrupts her.

Kevin jumps up.

KEVIN

You know, I've had just enough of this stupid seminar and you people. This seminar is gimmick and a total waste of time. I mean, look at us. We're here taking a class from an unmarried man, who knows nothing about keeping a mate.

Dr. Wilforth looks surprised.

Karla's mouth is wide open, as she stares at Kevin.

BILL

You are such an asshole.

KEVIN

And you, sir, are an idiot. If you've been married for twenty years and you need a class on how to keep the magic going, maybe you shouldn't be married at all.

SHARON

So, why are you here?

KEVIN

I'm here only to help her find out why she can't keep a god-damn man.

A GASP from the group. Total silence fills the room.

Karla's eyes reveals her hurt feelings.

SHARON

You're a jerk!

Kevin bites his bottom lip, angrily walks over to the buffet table and pours a cup of red juice.

He walks back over to Bill and Sharon tosses the drink on both of them.

KEVIN

Now, I'm a jerk.

Bill pushes Kevin and he falls near the buffet table. Kevin gets up and starts throwing food at Bill.

Bill ducks and the food hits another man in the face. The man gets up and a food fight ensues.

MOMENTS LATER-

Food flies everywhere as more and more people get involved.

Kevin and Bill continue to throw food at one another.

Dr. Wilforth tries to restore order, but to no avail.

Karla puts her head in her lap.

INT. KEVIN AND KARLA'S APT - LIVING ROOM- DAY

Karla sleeps on the couch. She wraps herself under a blanket.

The front door SHUTS and keys RATTLE. Karla awakens.

Kevin walks into the room. He notices Karla on the couch and attempts to go to his room.

Karla sits up.

KARLA

We need to talk.

Kevin scoffs at Karla, continues to his room and shuts the door.

KEVIN'S ROOM-

A KNOCK at the door and Karla comes in.

Kevin lies on his back and focuses on the ceiling.

KARLA

Kevin. I don't know exactly what's going on between the us, but I don't like it.

KEVIN

That makes the two of us. I don't like what I'm feeling, right now. The scary part is I don't know what I'm feeling, because I've never felt this way before.

Karla sits on the bed beside Kevin

KARLA

Look, Kevin. I'm sorry that I made you go to the seminar with me. It's just that... I want to have kids and a family dog. I wanna be happy, you know? And I guess I thought that this seminar was the answer. But, I'm more confused now, than ever.

Kevin sits up on the bed.

KEVIN

(sighs)

And that is why you can't keep a man.

KARLA

What are you talking about?

KEVIN

I don't think you know what you want, Karla. I hear what you say, but your actions say otherwise. You're like one of the players on my team, you know. You have the dream, but you don't have the drive.

Karla becomes defensive. She gets up.

KARLA

So, I'm the reason why I can't keep a man. That's just great... It's all my fault. Well, what about you, Kevin? Huh? You're just as bad. I mean, come on, Kevin. Really. Or maybe you're attracted to bimbos, because they are easy to manipulate and you're too afraid of the challenge of a real woman.

Kevin gets up.

KEVIN

Is that what you think?

Karla stands her ground.

KEVIN

Well, here's a little info for you. I can't keep a woman because I live with you. If you were a man, I'd probably be married right now... and you... you'd probably still be confused and single.

Kevin walks out of the room.

A stunned Karla follows Kevin out the room.

LIVING ROOM-

Kevin grabs his keys from the coffee table. He heads for the foyer.

Karla angrily follows.

KARLA

Well, if you feel that way, why don't you just leave?

FOYER-

Kevin opens the door.

KEVIN

Fine! I will! I'll be out in three days.

Kevin walks outside of the apartment.

Karla stands in the doorway.

KARLA

Why so long? How about tomorrow... or tonight!

Karla SLAMS the door. She trembles and she buries her face in her hands.

LIVING ROOM-

Karla collapses on the couch. She stares in open space and begins to cry.

KEVIN AND KARLA APART- MONTAGE

-Kevin sits at his desk and does some paper work. He slams his pen on the desk and covers his face.

-Karla lies in bed and stares at the wall. Her face reveals her anguish and pain. A box of tissues sits beside her.

-Kevin lies on a cot in front of his desk. He uses a seat cushion for a pillow. He looks uncomfortable.

-Karla lies asleep. Her face reflects tension as she tosses and turns, unable to find comfort.

-Kevin lies on the floor beside the cot. He stares at the desk.

-A somber Karla stands by her cart and writes on a chart. She knocks on the door and walks into a patient's room.

-A young man, in a wheelchair, sits in front of his TV. Karla tries to hide her pain, as she greets the man and gives him a little plastic cup. The man takes his medication and gives the plastic cup back to Karla.

-The gym is packed for the game. Alicia steals a pass and goes in for the lay-up. She misses.

-Kevin shows his disappointment.

-JASMINE, a tall 10 year old girl, grabs a rebound and turns it over.

-Kevin shakes his head. He looks over to Karla's usual seat and it's empty.

-He drops his head for a moment and tries to mentally get back into the game.

-Karla lounges on the couch in a pair of Kevin's pajamas. She looks through a photo album.

-A picture reveals Karla and Kevin, about 2 years old, standing in the middle of the play pin. The two embrace one another and share a kiss. Karla touches the picture with her fingers, then turns the page.

-Another picture shows Karla in a gown and Kevin in a tuxedo, standing side by side.

-Another picture shows Karla and Kevin in party hats, which states: "HAPPY NEW YEARS". Kevin kisses her on the cheek.

-Karla briefly laughs and she burst into tears.

-Three boxes sit in the middle of the floor. Another box

sits on the bed, as Kevin packs the last of his things.

-Kevin'S SUV sits in front of the door. He struggles to get the box into the trunk. He stands and wipes his brow with a towel.

-Kevin grabs the last box from his bed and starts to walk away. He turns and looks around the room.

-Very few cars drive on this two-lane street. A red car travels ahead of Kevin's SUV.

-Kevin looks distraught. He changes the station repeatedly and pounds on the steering wheel out of frustration.

-Karla throws her keys on the coffee table and starts for her room. She notices that Kevin's room is empty and detours.

-Karla stands in the doorway, looks at the bare walls and empty closet. She takes a deep breath, hangs her head, turns and walks away.

-Karla sits on one of the swings in the park. She focuses on the sand and gently swings back and forth.

-Karla smiles as she watches a young boy and young girl play together. The boy and girl hide behind a tree and kiss one another.

-It's dark. The park is empty and the lights brightly shine.

-Kevin sits in the same swing as Karla did. He swings back and forth and gazes into the stars.

-A somber Karla stands at her cart. She puts medicine in small plastic cups. She writes in a notebook.

INT. ISLANDS RECREATION CENTER - KEVIN'S OFFICE- DAY

Kevin sits behind his desk and reclines in his chair. Phil sits at the computer, while Tony sits in the folding chair.

TONY

You know this is for the best,
right?

KEVIN

Then, why does it feel like a part
of me has died?

Kevin rests his head on the desk.

TONY

Hey-- Kev. You remember my cousin from Philly?

KEVIN

Yeah-- so.

TONY

So-- she's in town for the holidays and she asked me if I had a friend to show her around. Are you interested?

Kevin looks at Tony.

GYM-

Kevin practices his team. He looks depressed and the girls recognize this.

The team does lay-up drills.

KEVIN

You're not jumping.

The girls continue the drill and make an effort to jump.

KEVIN

That's better.

Kevin looks preoccupied. He stares at the floor and Alicia glances his way. She notifies Keri. Now both look at him.

LATER-

The girls sit in a circle on the floor. Kevin stand in the center of the circle.

KEVIN

Girls, you must not be afraid to make mistakes. Mistakes are a part of life. As long as you live, you will make mistakes. It's what you do after you make a mistake that defines you as a person.

Kevin begins to walk around.

KEVIN

The championship game is Saturday and if we are going to be successful, we have to lay it all on the line. We can't hold anything back. Just know that win, lose or draw, I'm proud of you.

Just then, Karla walks through the doors. Kevin notices this. His face lights up at the sight of her.

Alicia and Keri notice this, then look at one another.

KEVIN

Okay, girls. Bring it in.

The girls get up and huddle around Kevin.

Karla sits in the bleachers.

KEVIN

Lady Eagles on three. One, two, three!

KEVIN AND TEAM

LADY EAGLES!

The girls run out of the gym and leave Kevin and Karla alone. He walks over to the bleachers and sits.

Alicia and Keri sneak back in and hide under the bleachers.

KEVIN

Hi.

KARLA

Hi... Look, Kevin. I know that we're not on the best of terms, but I figured that you would at least have said goodbye, before moving all of your stuff.

Kevin gets up.

KEVIN

I'm sorry. I just thought it would be less painful.

KARLA

I understand. So, where will you be staying?

KEVIN

Probably here, in my office, until I can find a place of my own. I have a cot so... uh... yeah.

An moment of awkwardness, as Kevin and Karla stare at one another.

KARLA

Yeah. So-- how's the team?

KEVIN

Good, actually. The championship game is Saturday? Are you coming? I mean, the girls... they were asking... you know... I told them I would ask.

KARLA

I wish I could, but I have to work.

Kevin drops his head.

KEVIN

Yeah... of course you do.

Karla gets up and slowly walks towards Kevin.

KARLA

But hey, there's gonna be a party after the seminar. You can meet me there... you know, if you want?

KEVIN

I can't. Tony's cousin is in town and he asked me to show her around. I-- I told him I'd do it.

Alicia and Keri are in shock.

Karla releases a small smile.

KARLA

That's... That's just great, Kevin. I'm happy for you. I hope she's the one.

Karla turns her back to Kevin and reveals her pain.

KEVIN

It doesn't mean a thing. I'm just doing Tony a favor.

KARLA

You don't have to explain anything to me. I'm not one of your exs. We were only pretend dating, remember.

KEVIN

Yeah-- I guess we were.

Karla checks her watch.

KARLA

I... I gotta run. I have to get ready for work. Good bye, Kevin.

She closes in and embraces him. Kevin returns the gesture.

KEVIN

Good bye, Karla.

Karla breaks away and quickly makes her exit.

Kevin watches as Karla disappears from sight.

INT. NURSING HOME- COMMUNITY ROOM- DAY

Karla sits alone at a table. Her face reveals sadness.

Mr. Jenkins notices this. He makes his way to Karla.

MR. JENKINS

Hey there. How is my favorite nurse doing today?

Karla turns and a tear streaks down her face.

MR. JENKINS

What happened to your glow?

KARLA

Kevin and I had a fight... a big fight... he hates me.

MR. JENKINS

Well, what happened?

KARLA

I blew it. I had the greatest best friend in the world and I-- I absolutely blew it.

MR. JENKINS

Aw-- he'll come around.

KARLA

I don't blame him. I should have never forced him to go to that seminar with me. I just pushed him too far. I love him so much and now, he'll probably never speak to me again.

MR. JENKINS

Karla, the way that young man looked at you, it's hard to believe that.

KARLA

Tell me, why is he going out on a date?

MR. JENKINS

Listen, I don't know why we men do some of the things we do, but I do know this. He loves you. Does he know how you truly feel?

KARLA

No... Because I'm just realizing my true feelings and if I tell him and he doesn't feel the same way... well, it may completely destroy any hope of saving our friendship.

MR. JENKINS

You know, I loved a woman once. And it turns out that she would be the only woman that I would ever love.

KARLA

Mr. Jenkins, I never knew you were married?

MR. JENKINS

I wasn't. I never told her how I felt. She married a lawyer and I... I became a pimp. And now, I have no one. No children... or grandchildren... and I'm stuck in a nursing home, where I'm around the only family I have.

Karla becomes distant.

MR. JENKINS

I wonder what my life would have been like if I just would have told her? Anyway, I gotta go. Maybelle is waiting for me.

A confused Karla stares in open space.

INT. ISLAND RECREATION CENTER - GYM- AFTERNOON

It's standing room only and the bleachers are full. People are aligned against the wall.

Alicia dribbles the ball up the floor. She looks around the court and passes the ball to Keri.

Keri takes a three-pointer and hits the shot. The crowd wildly CHEERS.

Kevin's team immediately gets in a full fourt press.

The other team tries to throw the ball in bounds, but Alicia steals the pass. Alicia goes in for an uncontested lay-up.

The fans CHEER.

The scoreboard reads: 22-20.

The other team throws the ball in bounds and the girl dribbles the ball up the floor. She looks around and shoots. It goes in. Kevin calls time out.

The scoreboard shows: 29-28.

Kevin's team sprint to the bench.

KEVIN

Okay... This is not the end. We have fifteen seconds to score. Now they are going to proably double Alicia and Keri, so that means, someone else is going to have to step up. It's going to have to be you, Jasmine.

Jasmine stands in shock.

JASMINE

But coach. What if I miss?

KEVIN

Then, you miss. You can't allow the fear of failure to keep you from trying. If you miss, hopefully you'll make it next time. I got faith in you and now it's time for you to have faith in yourself.

The HORN sounds. The referee walks over to Kevin's team bench.

REFEREE

Okay, coach. Let'em go.

Kevin girls walk back on the court.

Jasmine nervously stands just above the block in the low post. She looks over at Kevin. He gives a nod, wink and a smile.

Keri tosses the ball in bounds to Alicia. The clock begins to count down.

Two players from the opposing team guard Alicia. She throws the ball back to Keri.

Keri dribbles the ball and two defenders close in on her. She quickly passes the ball back to Alicia.

Alicia spots Jasmine in the low post. Alicia looks at the clock, which reads, 5 seconds. She passes the ball to Jasmine.

The clock reads 3 seconds and Jasmine catches it, turns and shoots as time expires. It goes in. The team and fans CHEER and trickle onto the court, in celebration.

Kevin stands in total shock. He runs onto the court and the girls converge on him. They celebrate on center court.

Kevin finds Jasmine. She runs to him and hugs him.

ACTIVITY ROOM-

Kevin meets with his team and their PARENTS. Everyone shows excitement as they all continue celebrate.

KEVIN

See what can happen with a little faith. You never know what you can accomplish unless you are willing to try. Jasmine you scored your first points of the season and it couldn't have come at a better time. Congratulations.

Everyone CHEERS. Alicia and Keri pat Jasmine on the back.

KEVIN

I wanna take time to thank everyone for a memorable season. Thank you parents for showing your steady support throughout the season... and to my players... for their hard work and dedication. You are champions and no one can ever take that away.

Kevin sits the trophy on the table.

KEVIN

But we have more work to do. Now, it's time to compete in the state competition. So practice will be Monday. Until then, enjoy this moment and enjoy the rest of the weekend. All right, everybody in, parents included.

They all huddle around Kevin.

KEVIN

Team on three! One, two, three!

PARENTS AND TEAM

TEAM!

They continue to celebrate.

Alicia and Keri comes to Kevin.

ALICIA

Coach, can we talk to you?

KEVIN

Sure, girls. What about?

ALICIA

Well-- you've been helping us learn the game of basketball ever since we were six years old.

KERI

And now it's time for us to help you.

KEVIN

Help me? With what? What are you girls getting at?

Alicia and Keri stare at one another.

ALICIA

Tell her how you feel.

KEVIN

Tell who?

KERI

Karla, you big dummy. How can you tell us that Attitude, Commitment and Effort are the formula for success and to work hard for what
(MORE)

KERI (CONT'D)
we want, when you don't do the
same?

ALICIA
You know that you love her.

KEVIN
Well, it's a complicated
situation. Thanks girls. I know
you mean well, but--

ALICIA
--But nothing. Come on, coach. Why
are you giving up so easily?
Where's your fight--

KERI
--Come on Alicia. I guess the ACE
thing was just a joke, after all.

Alicia and Keri walk away.

Kevin puts his hand on his hip and looks up.

INT. HILTON - CONFERENCE ROOM- NIGHT

People begin to file in. The sound of quiet MURMUR, as the
group mingles with one another.

Karla sits alone. Her face reveals her sadness.

INT. RESTAURANT- NIGHT

A moderate amount of patrons sit at tables. The sounds of
distant CHATTER fills the room.

A waiter takes the menus from Kevin and TAYLOR'S table and
walks away.

Taylor, in her 20's, is a tall woman with a short hairstyle.

TAYLOR
This place is so beautiful. The
lighting... the soft music... I'm
really glad we came here.

KEVIN
Yeah. Me too.

Kevin stares off into the distance.

TAYLOR

You know, most of the guys I date never take me to places like this. They always take me to cheap and sleazy places, like fast food restaurants and motels.

KEVIN

Imagine that.

INT. HILTON - CONFERENCE ROOM- NIGHT

More people walk through the door and seat themselves.

Bill and Sharon sit with Karla. Karla looks upset.

SHARON

Where is Mr. Kevin?

KARLA

I... I don't think he's coming, tonight. We had a huge fight.

BILL

I'm so sorry.

SHARON

That's horrible.

KARLA

Yeah, tell me about it. Before this class, we were best friends and now... I don't know.

Just then, WILFORTH'S ASSISTANT steps up to the podium.

WILFORTH'S ASSISTANT

Attention everyone. If you will kindly find your seats. Class will start in five minutes.

INT. RESTAURANT- NIGHT

The sounds of distant CHATTER continues, as Kevin and Taylor have dinner.

KEVIN

So tell me a little about yourself.

TAYLOR

Well... I born and I had my first birthday a year after that. By the age of six, I had every boy in elementary school sending me

(MORE)

TAYLOR (CONT'D)
notes. I was junior high and high school prom queen. Do I have any food in my teeth?

Taylor opens her mouth and reveals food particles between all of her teeth.

Kevin looks at her in shock.

KEVIN
Yeah... You might wanna brush and floss... more than twice a year.

Taylor fills her mouth with wine and gargles. She spits the wine back into her glass.

All of the food particles float around in her glass. Kevin looks at the glass and gives her an odd stare.

TAYLOR
Okay, better. Now, enough about me. I wanna know about you.

KEVIN
Um... sure. What'aya wanna know?

TAYLOR
What's your idea of a perfect mate? You know, someone you can see yourself spending the rest of your life with?

KEVIN
Well...

Kevin focuses on the table.

INT. KEVIN AND KARLA TOGETHER- FLASHBACK- MONTAGE

-Kevin and Karla eat at a restaurant. Karla displays a glowing smile.

-Karla laughs at one of Kevin's jokes.

-Kevin and Karla dance. He dips her.

-Kevin and Karla sit in his office. Her eyes grow big and a growing smile consumes her face. She quickly rounds the desk and hugs Kevin.

-Kevin chases Karla through the apartment. He catches her and the two engage in a pillow fight.

-Karla and Kevin sit on the couch. She leaps into his arms and the two make out on the couch.

INT. RESTAURANT- NIGHT- BACK TO PRESENT

Kevin continues to stare.

TAYLOR

Kevin. Kevin.

Kevin looks at Taylor and stands.

KEVIN

I gotta go.

TAYLOR

What? What'aya mean, you gotta go?
Was it something I said?

KEVIN

(gets up)

Ah-- no. It's not you... really.
I'm sorry, Taylor. There's some
place that I need to be.

TAYLOR

What's wrong? I don't understand.

Kevin pulls out his wallet and leaves the bill money on the table. He reluctantly kisses Taylor on the cheek.

KEVIN

You're quite a woman. Thanks for a
lovely time and thanks for opening
my eyes.

Kevin rushes away.

TAYLOR

But wait! Oh-- man. This always
happens to me.

INT. HILTON - CONFERENCE ROOM- NIGHT

A couple, MR.and MRS. ANDERSON, stand and share their experiences with the group.

Dr. Wilforth stands at the podium. He looks at his cell phone and puts it to his ear. He walks away from the podium, turning his back to the group.

MR. ANDERSON

We really enjoyed the seminar. We
learned a lot about ourselves and
met a few new friends in the
process--

Dr. Wilforth puts his phone back in his pocket and walks back to the podium.

MRS. ANDERSON

--Most importantly, we rekindled the love we shared when we first met, thirty years ago. If it wasn't for the seminar and Dr. Wilforth, I don't know where we would be. So we say thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

MR. ANDERSON

Thanks everybody.

Everyone stands in APPLAUSE. The couple return to their seats.

Karla's eyes continue to reflect her sorrows. She shakes her head.

DR. WILFORTH

Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson. I am happy to say that you've passed with flying colors.

Everyone CLAPS.

DR. WILFORTH

Okay. Now, who wants to go next?

Bill and Sharon stand.

BILL

We do.

DR. WILFORTH

Okay. Let's hear it for Bill and Sharon.

Everyone CLAPS as Bill and Sharon make their way to the front.

EXT. CITY STREETS- NIGHT

INT. KEVIN'S CAR-

Kevin is stuck in traffic. He looks at his watch and HONKS the horn, repeatedly.

KEVIN

Come on! Move it! Oh-- I'll never make it in time!

He POUNDS the steering wheel with his fist.

KEVIN

God-dammit! I gotta do something.

Kevin looks around and veers onto the side walk. The tires SCREECH as Kevin speeds off.

People scamper and frantically try to get out of the way, as Kevin HONKS his horn and speeds past them.

A MAN ON A BIKE tries to avoid Kevin's car and crashes into a trash can, falling to the ground.

MAN ON A BIKE

Whoa!

KEVIN

Oh... sorry. I'm so sorry.

The man looks as Kevin speeds away.

MAN ON A BIKE

ASSHOLE!

As Kevin approaches the intersection, he swerves back onto the street. Tires SCREECH and horns BLOW as he nearly causes an accident. He continues on.

INT. HILTON- CONFERENCE ROOM- NIGHT

Bill and Sharon continue to speak in front of the group.

BILL

It was because of this class, that we were able to relive the magic we once shared... and because of this class and sharing our experiences with all you, we will be able to keep that magic alive.

SHARON

We'd like to take the time to thank Dr. Wilforth and you guys for an amazing experience and we will never forget you. Thanks for everything guys.

Everyone APPLAUDS Bill and Sharon, as the two return to their seats.

DR. WILFORTH

Thank you, Bill and Sharon. I'm glad that you were able to find the magic that brought the two of you together.

Everyone CLAPS.

DR. WILFORTH

Okay. Now for our final couple.
Karla and Mr. Kevin. Uh-- where's
Mr. Kevin?

A broken Karla stands and turns towards the group.

KARLA

As you can see, Kevin is not here
and I doubt that he's coming.

The audience quietly MURMURS and shake their heads in
sympathy.

KARLA

I realize this means that we've
failed the course, but I just
wanted to share with my
experiences with you all, anyway.

EXT. CITY STREETS- HILTON- NIGHT

Kevin struggles to find a parking space. He looks around and
no spot is available.

KEVIN

That's just great. Now what am I
gonna do?

Kevin circles the block and encounters the same scenario of
no parking spaces. He comes up on the Hilton, he looks at
his watch and SLAMS on breaks.

Kevin jumps out of the car and leaves it in the middle of
the street. He runs towards The Hilton.

The SECURITY GUARD confronts Kevin near the top of the
steps. Kevin stops.

SECURITY GUARD

Hey-- You can't abandon your car
in the middle of the street! Move
it, or I'll have it towed!

Kevin looks back at the car.

KEVIN

(sternly)

I don't care. Do what you have to
do. Just get the hell outta my
way.

He continues past the security guard.

The guard shakes his head and speaks into a hand held
device.

INT. THE HILTON LOBBY- CONTINUOUS

Kevin continues to make his way to the lobby. The elevator opens and Joe and Tiffany emerges.

Joe spots him and the two confront Kevin.

JOE

What the hell are you doing here?

Tiffany chimes in.

TIFFANY

He's following us, Joe. Kick his ass again.

KEVIN

Look... I don't want any trouble. I got something to do and nothing is going to keep me from doing it.

Joe pushes Kevin in the chest.

JOE

Well, you've got trouble, you little punk.

Joe grabs Kevin by both arms. Kevin gives Joe a stiff knee to the groin.

JOE

Oh!

Joe slumps over and falls to the ground. Kevin starts to leave, then stops. He goes back.

Kevin snatches a couple of Tiffany's braids out of her hair.

TIFFANY

Ouw!

KEVIN

That's for slapping me in the face.

Kevin runs away.

Tiffany grabs her head and Joe continues to lay on the ground and grimace in pain.

TIFFANY

Get up, Joe. You can't be hurt that bad. It's not like it's a whole lot down there. I don't know why I'm even with you.

CONFERENCE ROOM-

Karla continues to stand in front of the group.

KARLA

You see, it's not all Kevin's fault. I forced him to take this class with me and it ruined our friendship. And now, he hates me.

Kevin opens the door.

KEVIN

(out of breath)

I don't hate you.

A GASP from the audience. Karla looks at Kevin.

KARLA

Kevin. What are you doing here?

All eyes and angry faces are on Kevin. The audience GRUMBLES and MURMURS among themselves.

KEVIN

(continues)

I have something to say.

DR. WILFORTH

Apparently, Mr. Kevin has something to say... for himself.

Dr. Wilforth steps aside and gives Kevin the floor.

Kevin slowly turns towards the audience. Their faces reflect anger.

KEVIN

(nervously)

First of all, I would like to apologize to all of you for being such a jerk.

(to Dr.

Wilforth)

Especially to you, Dr. Wilforth. I'm sorry for starting the food fight and for all of the disruptions. Except, of course, for the chicken wings.

Karla shakes her head in disappointment.

Kevin turns towards Karla.

KEVIN

(to Karla)

I'm sorry. I'm sorry that I hurt you. I would never do anything to intentionally hurt you.

Kevin slowly walks towards Karla.

KEVIN

(continues)

I admit, I never was sold on this seminar, but this has been the best eight weeks of my life.

Karla eyes reflects her sadness.

KARLA

All I know, is that on a night when I really needed you the most, you chose to go out on a date. How should that make me feel? I've always been there for you. Always.

KEVIN

I know and I'm truly sorry.

Karla's eyes tear up.

KEVIN

But funny you should mention my date. And in a weird way, if it wasn't for my date tonight, I... I probably wouldn't have come.

KARLA

What are you talking about? That's the craziest thing I've heard in my life.

KEVIN

She asked me a question and the answer was you.

KARLA

What? Who is your best friend? She shouldn't have had to remind you of that, Kevin.

KEVIN

Actually... she wanted to know what type of woman I wanted to spend the rest of my life with.

Karla's eyes light up.

KEVIN

You see, I can imagine a lot of things like... never being rich or not having a big house and a fancy car, but I can't imagine a life without you.

Karla becomes emotional. The two stand face to face. He strokes the side of her face with his fingers.

KEVIN

You are my best friend... the person I want to spend all of my free time with and because of this seminar and my date, I found out that you're the person that I'm in love with... the woman I want to be the mother of my children.

Tears streak down her face. Kevin kisses her tears away, sits her down and gets on one knee.

KEVIN

(compassionately)

Don't cry. From this moment on, you'll never have to cry again.

Kevin puts his hand in his pocket.

KEVIN

Everything I was searching for is right in front of me... and it's you. No one will ever love you the way I will. You are my soul-mate and I... I want the smell of stale fish sticks to wake me up, everyday, for the rest of my life.

Kevin brandishes a small gray box. He opens it and reveals a sparkling platinum diamond ring.

KARLA

(gasping)

Oh-my-God!

Karla becomes overwhelmed with emotions, unable to utter a word.

KEVIN

What'aya say?

She smiles, leans forward and blows her breath in his face.

Kevin closes his eyes, inhales and releases a blissful

smile.

Kevin and Karla passionately embrace and kiss one another.

A THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE consumes the room.

Dr. Wilforth REJOICES.

DR. WILFORTH
 Congratulations! You've passed!

Karla hugs Dr. Wilforth.

Kevin extends his hand to Dr. Wilforth, but Dr. Wilforth moves his hand, gives him a hug and a pat on the back.

LATER-

The entire group MINGLES around, eating and talking. Soft music PLAYS in the background.

Kevin and Karla stand by the table of food. People stop by to shake their hand.

Dr. Wilforth approaches them.

DR. WILFORTH
 So-- how are you two love birds doing?

KARLA
 Great. This is like a dream come true.

DR. WILFORTH
 I'm so happy for the two of you. You have the total package... everything it takes to make a long and successful marriage.

Dr. Wilforth shakes Kevin's hand and walks away.

KEVIN
 Hey-- Dr. Wilforth.

Dr. Wilforth turns around.

KEVIN
 I did learn something during the seminar.

DR. WILFORTH
 Oh, yeah? What's that?

KEVIN

There's nothing wrong with romance
between friends.

DR. WILFORTH

Ah... sounds like you've learned a
valuable lesson. Goodbye, Mr.
Kevin.

KEVIN

Please? Call me, Kevin.

DR. WILFORTH

Goodbye, Kevin.

Kevin looks at Dr. Wilforth with admiration.

Dr. Wilforth nods, turns and walks away.

Kevin and Karla embrace and kiss one another.

KEVIN AND KARLA'S WEDDING AND RECEPTION MONTAGE.

-Kevin and Karla stand at the altar. A preacher stands in front of them with a Bible. Phil, Tony and Bill stand as groomsmen, while Louise, Rochelle and Sharon stand as bridesmaids.

-Kevin's entire team dresses as flower girls. Kevin and Karla kiss one another and the two walk away, arm and arm.

-Everyone converges on the dance floor. Kevin and Karla dance in the center of the floor. Kevin's team gleefully look on. Alicia and Keri look at one another and give each other a high-five.

-Kevin and Karla gaze into each others eyes and kiss.

- A photo album reveals the picture of two toddlers, hugging and kissing.

-Another photo shows Kevin and Karla dressed in a tuxedo and gown.

-A photo of Kevin and Karla wearing hats that states, "HAPPY NEW YEARS," with Kevin kissing her on the cheek, sets under the first.

- A wedding photo of Kevin and Karla is beside the former.

THE END

FADE OUT.