Crazy Makers

By

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INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

MIRANDA CASTOR smiles. She's mid- to late-twenties; infectiously bubbly, in the Old Navy Fall Catalog kind of way.

MIRANDA

Thank you for meeting me here today. I've been a terrible friend. I haven't been around enough, and I come to you with no excuse to justify your forgiveness. For that, I am sorry.

The man across from her, MERRILL STROTINSKI, places his hand on top of hers. He's nebbish, think Albert Brooks in Taxi Driver. Curly hair and corduroy slacks.

MERRILL

You're here now, and I love you for it.

MIRANDA

You've always loved me, Merrill. I've always known; that's how terrible I am. I've been avoiding you these last few weeks.

MERRILL

Three and a half months! But you're here now, that's all that matters. You're my best friend. My love is something you never have to shield yourself from.

Miranda pulls her hand away from his.

MIRANDA

I'm really glad you said that, because I called you here today to introduce you to my new boyfriend.

She drapes herself over the shoulder of ANDY FOSTER (29), who is only now revealed to have been sat next to her this whole time. He's the kind of guy who wears flannel. This is Seattle after all.

MIRANDA This is him. Merrill, meet Andy Foster. Andy... Merrill.

Andy holds his hand out.

ANDY It's great to finally meet you. My grandmother was also named Meryl.

Merrill refuses to shake Andy's hand. Instead, he throws his napkin down.

MERRILL This is bullshit. Miranda, do you realize how selfish you are acting right now?

MIRANDA That's unfair.

MERRILL Just answer the question.

ANDY Totally uncalled for, man.

MERRILL

Uncalled for? I'm the one she's going to run to when she needs a shoulder to cry on.

ANDY Let's go, Miranda.

MIRANDA

Let me handle this. Merrill, I have Andy for that now.

MERRILL

What about when he asks you for a thousand dollar loan and never repays it? Will he have you then?

ANDY

I wouldn't do that!

MERRILL

How do I know? I'm not saying you will, I'm just saying I can't say with certainty. You could be a really great guy, but you aren't her soul mate.

MIRANDA

Neither are you.

MERRILL How do you know? You're not psychic.

MIRANDA For God's sake, we say I love you to each other.

MERRILL How long has this been going on?

MIRANDA Over a month.

ANDY Two weeks, tops.

MIRANDA But it feels like a month, it's that intense.

MERRILL

Don't do this to me now. I'm begging you, just not during Christmas. It's too important.

MIRANDA

But you're Jewish. Merrill, this will be good. You and Andy are going to be so great together. You love to laugh, he makes people do so for a living. Right there, you're basically step brothers.

ANDY

Step brothers with the same taste in women. Already, we've got something to bond over.

MERRILL

I always put you first, Miranda.

MIRANDA

You no longer have to.

ANDY

But you still can! I haven't felt jealousy since twenty-ten. I'd be cool with it.

MERRILL

I'm warning you now, I will murder you if you hurt her. She may be the (MORE) MERRILL (cont'd) girl you're fooling around with, but she's going to be my wife.

MIRANDA

No, I'm not.

MERRILL Stop saying that!

MIRANDA

Listen: I wanted to tell you, and I told you. You now have to decide whether I'm losing my best friend.

Merrill once again places his hand on top of hers.

MERRILL

You can throw a thousand heartbreaks my way, I'll turn it into gold every time. I'm a strong man, you've always known that about me. I am somebody you will never lose.

Andy now enfolds their hands around his.

ANDY

This will be so awesome.

Merrill pulls his hands away. Miranda keeps hers enshrined in Andy's.

EXT. COMEDY CLUB - NIGHT

Andy hangs out under the awning with his friend, GAWAIN. One more thing, Andy, now looks totally different. Truthfully, he looks like a Midwestern conservative. Sweater vests...

ANDY She's so cool, you're really going to love her.

Just then, Miranda and Merrill get out of a taxi. Miranda is now no longer Little Miss Banana Republic. Her hair is curled and her state of dress is best described as "promiscuous." For God's sake, she's probably wearing a thong.

Andy grabs onto her and latches a kiss, to the disgust of Merrill.

ANDY

This is her. Miranda, meet Gawain.

GAWAIN Andy truly didn't do your beauty justice when he described you. It's more subtle than I expected.

MIRANDA

You are so funny. I totally see why you and Andy are best friends.

GAWAIN We aren't best friends.

MIRANDA You aren't?

GAWATN Andy, how many times do I have to tell you this: I'm your pot dealer.

ANDY And this is Merrill.

MERRILL (whispers to Gawain) Hey. Don't worry, I'm not really Miranda's best friend either.

EMCEE (O.S.) Everybody, please welcome to the stage, Andy Foster.

INT. COMEDY CLUB

The group sits at a table in the dark room. Andy gets up from his seat.

MIRANDA

Break a leg.

Andy takes the stage and grabs the mic.

ANDY Hey, thanks. I've been dating this girl, and for the first time in my life I'm actually trying to do something right in a relationship... Pretending I like her friends.

Merrill raises an eyebrow.

б.

INT. MERRILL'S BREAK ROOM - DAY

Andy enters to find Merrill being intimidated by a BULLY.

ANDY Everything okay in here?

BULLY Yeah, bitch boy here was just leaving.

ANDY Bitch boy is actually who I came to see.

BULLY Is he your friend?

ANDY My girlfriend says he is.

MERRILL Don't fight him, Andy.

ANDY I wasn't going to. Do you want to get some food or did he take your lunch money?

BULLY You both should leave. BEFORE IT GETS DANGEROUS.

Merrill walks out the room with Andy.

MERRILL Please don't tell Miranda about this. She'd never think me a man again.

BACK TO:

COMEDY CLUB

The audience laughs. We've obviously missed the punchline due to the flashback.

ANDY This girl is great. We're still in that phase of the relationship (MORE)

CUT TO:

INT. ANDY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Miranda sets Andy on the bed and gives him a gift to unwrap.

MIRANDA I got this for you.

Andy unwraps the box and pulls out a sweater vest. The same one he's wearing for the performance. Only God knows why she would give him such a thing.

MIRANDA

Like it?

ANDY Yes. if this were in a museum, I would go.

MIRANDA

Great!

She leans to the side of the bed and then hands Andy another dozen or so boxes.

ANDY

You didn't!

She goes to the closet and pulls the doors open. The hangers are all devoid of clothing.

MIRANDA

I so did!

BACK TO:

COMEDY CLUB

Once again, we missed the punchline, but the audience appears to have loved it. Except for maybe Miranda.

She leans over to Gawain.

MIRANDA If you aren't his best friend, who is?

GAWAIN Shhh, you're being incredibly rude to the artist.

ANDY It goes both ways though. I may be giving the best version of me possible, but she's doing the exact same.

INT. MACY'S - DAY

The dress section. Miranda dresses herself in shades of beige.

MIRANDA This is so who I am!

Andy walks off. He comes back with something a little sexier. Sequin? Definitely.

JUMP FORWARD

She comes out of the dressing room and models for Andy.

ANDY Now that! That is who you are.

He holds up a pair of six inch stilettos.

BACK TO:

COMEDY CLUB

Sure enough, the audience laughs.

ANDY This girl is different. I don't generally go for women like this, but this quality she has, I want it. I call that quality: mental stability.

CUT TO:

INT. ANDY'S CAR - DAY

Andy sits in the passenger seat. In the driver seat is a woman who looks strangely similar to how Miranda now looks. She is TERA KADOSH. The two are mid-argument.

By the way, she's French. She's got the accent.

ANDY Tera! You are driving on the wrong side of the road!

TERA I told you I would pull your balls out and slit your throat!

ANDY You're going to get us both killed!

TERA Deliverance must come somehow.

Andy takes the wheel and the car spins out.

They come to a stop. Andy is on the verge of a heart attack, but Tera is already over what just happened. She sees something out the window.

> TERA Oh my God, is that Beyonce? I didn't know she was in town!

> > CUT TO:

INT. ANDY'S APARTMENT

Andy and Miranda drunkenly stumble into the

LIVING ROOM

ANDY Do you want wine or coffee? I'm personally having both.

MIRANDA What the hell, I'll be a poly substance abuser with you.

Andy leaves the room. While he's gone Miranda scans the room.

ANDY (O.S.) What did you think of Gawain?

MIRANDA Didn't really get a chance to get to know him. He kept telling me to shut up.

ANDY (O.S.) Yeah, he's really into focusing on things. We'll get lunch with him tomorrow.

Miranda gets to the mantle place. Right in the middle is a picture of Andy and Tera embraced in a cuddle on some street somewhere.

MIRANDA (to self) Who the hell are you?

She puts the photograph face down.

Andy walks into the room with 4 glasses and set them down.

Miranda pulls another gift wrapped box out of her purse. Thankfully, it looks too small to be clothes.

> MIRANDA Sit down, i got you something.

They sit on the love seat.

ANDY I hope this isn't an engagement ring. Three months pay for me is like... tonight's bar tab.

He opens the box.

ANDY You shouldn't have.

MIRANDA I wanted to.

Inside is a snowglobe. A manger scene; the birth of Christ. A Fake Smile.

MIRANDA it reminded me of you. ANDY I can see why.

MIRANDA

You like it?

ANDY

Love it!

MIRANDA Go put it on the mantle.

ANDY

You sure?

MIRANDA

Yeah.

He walks over and places it next to Tera's photo. Then he notices Tera's photo is turned down. He puts it in the right position before returning to the couch.

They begin to kiss, but Miranda pulls away.

MIRANDA Those jokes you were telling about your ex.

ANDY

Yeah?

MIRANDA She sounds crazy as sin.

ANDY I embellish, you know, for entertainment.

MIRANDA Is that her picture?

ANDY Yeah, I mean, we're still friends.

MIRANDA

You're still friends with somebody who threatened to kill you?

ANDY Let me just say I deserved it every time.

MIRANDA

It happened more than once?

ANDY Relationships are crazy. It's like you and Merrill.

MIRANDA

We never dated, and he's never threatened harm against me.

ANDY

I'd be less creeped out by him if he had. But seriously, you two have been friends for over a decade. You've never even accidentally done something with him?

MIRANDA

I'm a Republican. You have no right to ask me that.

ANDY

What about any exes? You've got to have one like that.

MIRANDA I've never really had a serious boyfriend before.

ANDY

... You're twenty-seven.

MIRANDA

You are such a good kisser.

She starts to ram her tongue down his throat again. She does not stop to let him finish this line of conversation.

INT. BISTRO - DAY

We are mid-conversation as Andy sits across the table from Gawain.

ANDY Just tell me I'm being crazy here.

GAWAIN We'd have to be under the same understanding of the word crazy. Are we talking psychologically, socially orANDY It's just a gift. it doesn't mean anything, right?

GAWAIN Spiritually?

ANDY Exactly! There is nothing spiritual about gifts, they're just objects.

GAWAIN Well it is a depiction of the birth of Christ.

ANDY

In the snow. It doesn't make geographical sense. You think that's weird? I'm her first boyfriend. I know she's a conservative, but wouldn't the sex be more sheltered?

Merrill enters.

GAWAIN Hey, it's the third piece to the love triangle.

MERRILL Somebody gets me!

Merrill sits down.

MERRILL Where's Miranda?

CUT TO:

INT. MIRANDA'S CUBICLE

Miranda sits hungover in front of her computer.

Her cellmate, BRODY, throws a ball against the divider.

BRODY I tell ya, I'm dying to get back in the field. You have one tiny mental breakdown and this is how they repay you: desk duty! Give me Syria at least. I can hang. I look like Al Jezeerah's definition of a Demi-God. MIRANDA That's great, Brody.

BRODY How are things with the boytoy?

MIRANDA

Great.

BRODY I'll spy on him if you want.

MIRANDA

No thanks.

BRODY Sure, but just know what I'm going to say when it turns out he's a serial killer: She should have let me avoid this outcome.

INT. FLOOR SIX ELEVATORS

Miranda walks up to where her boss, MISS ADELSON, stands.

MISS ADELSON Hello, Miranda.

MIRANDA Miss Adelson.

They step into the elevator.

MISS ADELSON You look like you had yourself a fun night.

MIRANDA My boyfriend's a comedian, so we went to one of his shows.

MISS ADELSON I don't care about any of that. what I want to know is this: did you suck some dick?

MIRANDA

Kind of, yes.

Miss Adelson gives her a high five just as the elevator closes.

FLOOR ONE LOBBY

Miranda and Miss Adelson step out and head to the building's entrance.

MISS ADELSON And that's when I said, "only if my husband can watch!"

A COP comes from around the corner and handcuffs Miss Adelson.

COP

Sierra Adelson, you are hereby taken into custody for the willful and malignant abuse of the fourth, eighth and fourteenth amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

MIRANDA

I'm sorry, Miranda, but it looks like we're going to have to hold off on that promotion.

COP Merry Christmas.

Miss Adelson is taken away, never to be seen again.

BACK TO:

BISTRO

The three guys drink.

GAWAIN So how exactly does the friendship work? Has she ever thrown you a bone and just given you a night of passion?

MERRILL Miranda and I have never officially had sex.

ANDY I was never officially concerned... what do you mean by "official"?

MERRILL We took shrooms when we were nineteen and she touched me... with her feet.

ANDY Is she still into that sort of thing? GAWAIN It's funny, we were just talking about her never having a serious boyfriend. MERRILL That's not true. ANDY Excuse me? Just then, Andy's phone rings. It's Miranda. He answers. ANDY (into phone) Well if it isn't you... What...? I'm on my way. He disconnects the call and bolts up. ANDY I'm sorry to do this to you, gawain, but I have to go. MERRILL was that Miranda? ANDY Yes. MERRILL Was it an emergency? ANDY Yes. MERRILL Does she want me there? ANDY She didn't even mention your existence. With that, he leaves. GAWAIN Can you tell me more about this foot thing?

INT. ANDY'S APARTMENT

LIVING ROOM

Miranda is at the mantle. She takes the photo of Tera off and centers the snowglobe. Then, above the mantle, she hangs a giant black and white portrait of herself.

Andy bursts through the door.

ANDY IS EVERYTHING OKAY?

He sees what has happened to his apartment. Chiefly, Miranda has set up a life size manger scene throughout the whole of the room.

ANDY

Well this is more of a Home and Garden Network definition of an emergency.

MIRANDA We need to talk. Can you sit down?

ANDY

I think we both should.

She sits on the couch, he takes the ottoman. She places her feets on his lap. Andy's reminded of what Merrill told him, no doubt.

ANDY

What happened?

MIRANDA

Some assumptions were made on my part. I saw how much you loved the snowglobe so I took the risk of decorating the whole apartment with that theme in mind. Looking at your face now... I can see it paid off.

Look at Andy's face; it hasn't.

ANDY

I meant the emergency.

MIRANDA

Oh. There were some things about my job that weren't exactly... meeting the definition of legal.

ANDY

You spy on American citizens for a private corporation.

MIRANDA

Will you please shut up so I can explain? Like I said, my job could be defined as criminal. The police used that definition and arrested my boss.

ANDY

So are you now the boss?

MIRANDA

Don't you understand? There is no more job. I don't know what I'm going to do. I had to do the responsible thing and give up my apartment. There's a chance I'll be sleeping outside tonight.

ANDY

I told you about my no dating homeless women policy, right?

MIRANDA

I could stay at a shelter until I get back on my feet.

ANDY

Or here.

MIRANDA

I wouldn't put you out.

ANDY

I'm pretty liberal about sharing my bed.

MIRANDA I'm just glad it's the only liberal thing about you.

She kisses him; he winces.

MIRANDA I'm going to go call my mother and give her the good news.

She runs into the bedroom.

Andy's phone rings. He picks it up.

GAWAIN (O.S.) You've got a problem.

ANDY You don't say.

GAWAIN It's Tera. She just called me. She's in town.

Andy bolts up from the ottoman. He enters a panic attack. He looks to the mantle and sees.

Her photograph replaced by Miranda's portrait. Andy hangs up the phone.

Miranda runs back into the room.

MIRANDA My mother is coming to spend Christmas with us!

Andy faints.

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

Andy and Miranda drive into the arrivals bay and exit the vehicle.

ANDY Are you nervous?

MIRANDA

My mother is very critical. I'm scared that she'll say something disgusting.

ANDY

Nothing to worry about. Critical mothers are a prerequisite for my penis.

DIANE (O.S.) I thought you said he was funny, Miranda.

The both turn to see DIANE CASTER (65). Miranda hugs her mother.

MIRANDA

Hi, Mom!

Andy also gives a hug. Diane only just reciprocates.

ANDY It's so great to finally meet you... Mom?

DIANE Diane is fine. I've heard a lot about you, Anthony.

MIRANDA His name is Andy.

ANDY Truthfully, call me Anthony. I've always preferred it.

DIANE Well he certainly fits into your type.

ANDY What type is that?

MIRANDA Just wait until you see the apartment. You'll love it.

Andy grabs the bags and they head to the car.

INT. CAR

Andy drives, Diane in passenger, Miranda in the back.

DIANE They sat me next to this large man on the flight. I'm not a bigot or anything, but I don't want to sit next to a large man or pretend I enjoy his conversation. ANDY Do overweight men not know how to talk?

MIRANDA Mother has a phobia.

DIANE

Overweight men find me attractive. I was married to a fit man for 30 years, God rest his soul. I'm not lowering my standards and I shouldn't be expected to have to hurt the feelings of these men just to make them realize that.

ANDY I totally get the anxiety thing. They tell me I'm a manic depressive.

Miranda laughs, but it's a facade.

MIRANDA See, Mom, I told you he was funny. Andy, tell her you were just joking.

ANDY

Yeah...

Andy looks in the rear view mirror.

STREETS

There is a car tailing a little too close.

Andy turns right. The car does so as well.

CAR

MIRANDA Honey, this isn't how we get home.

ANDY

New way.

STREETS

Andy turns left this time. The other car does likewise.

The light turns red as Andy speeds through it. The other car is trapped behind traffic.

CAR

MIRANDA WHAT THE HELL?

DIANE YOU COULD HAVE KILLED ME!

ANDY

Sorry; sorry.

APARTMENT PARKING LOT

Andy pulls into his spot. As they all get out, Andy sees the car that was following them, parked across the street. Miranda takes the bags out of the trunk.

> DIANE What do you mean I won't have my own room?

MIRANDA Mom, it's a one bedroom apartment.

DIANE You're making your mother sleep on the couch?

The car drives off as Merrill walks up with flowers.

ANDY It's actually a futon.

MERRILL My, my, my, you just get more

beautiful with age, Mrs. Caster.

Diane hugs him.

DIANE My heaven's, Merrill. They're making me sleep on a futon. MERRILL I told you Andy was a monster.

DIANE Are those flowers for me? You know just how to please a woman.

MERRILL Did you hear that, Miranda? Diane, let me walk you up.

ANDY Go without me, I have to make a quick call.

Miranda kisses him then goes inside with Merrill and her mother.

Andy takes out his phone and dials Tera. Straight to voicemail.

Andy hangs up and goes inside.

INT. ANDY'S APARTMENT

LIVING ROOM

Christmas music plays as Andy walks in.

Miranda, Diane and Merrill exit the kitchen in tandem.

DIANE You didn't tell us your sister was coming for the holidays.

ANDY

Sister?

Tera walks out. Her and Miranda wear basically the same outfit.

TERA Hello, Andy!

MIRANDA You didn't me she was French... or that she had a key.

Tera bear hugs Miranda.

TERA Who do you think wore it better?

ANDY What are you doing here, Tera?

TERA Look around you. It's Christmas, hello! That's right, I'm your surprise.

MIRANDA Oh, I think we're all surprised.

TERA C'est de peu d'importance. Andy, why are you dressed like that? You look like an imbecile.

DIANE Do I have to share the futon with her?

MIRANDA Andy, I need to talk to you alone.

Andy follows Miranda into the

BEDROOM

Miranda shuts the door behind them.

MIRANDA What is she doing here?

ANDY

It totally slipped my mind, but she is right. We do spend every Christmas together.

MIRANDA

It's very strange to walk into my home and see your ex.

ANDY In her defense, it has only been your home for like... four days.

MIRANDA That's the wrong thing to say. ANDY

Let me rephrase that. I hadn't told her you were living here.

MIRANDA She didn't even seem to know of my existence.

ANDY There were multiple things I forgot to tell her.

MIRANDA How could you not tell her about me? I thought she was your friend.

ANDY

Probably best.

MIRANDA

You also forgot to mention that part. Nobody is best friends with their ex. How can I believe that?

ANDY She's hurt me too many times to be anything but.

MIRANDA

So friendship is a punishment? How many times is too many?

ANDY

Don't know.

MIRANDA

Guesstimate.

ANDY

How many reunion tours has Motley Crue had?

MIRANDA EIGHT FUCKING TIMES? I just lied to my mother about that woman.

ANDY Why did you tell her Tera is my sister?

MIRANDA I panicked. And she hadn't the chance to speak yet. Seriously, you (MORE) MIRANDA (cont'd) could have warned me I was dealing with a French woman.

ANDY Your mother is going to hate me now.

MIRANDA

She already does. That's okay though, we just aren't going to ever let her know the truth. Now you need to get her to leave.

ANDY

I can't do that. She's my sister. And I'm spending Christmas with Merrill, who last time I checked, isn't related to anybody here. Just give it a chance. I promise, you'll like her more than I do.

He kisses her; because that's how you always get women to comply, right?

DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The dining room is one of those open layouts, where it's really just a cubby inside the living room. The gang eats Chinese around the table. And yes, the Christmas music sadly still plays.

DIANE I'm confused over the accent issue.

TERA

Andy is less cultured than I. Our father was a gambler. The French kind. Our mother, just a common American. Few interests in life; extremely boring. Naturally, Andy stayed with her after le divorce.

DIANE Will your mother be joining us for Christmas?

TERA

She's dead.

ANDY Actually, she's still alive. TERA But we wish she wasn't. Unfortunately, she will be here Christmas day.

ANDY Your mother is coming here on Christmas?... Our mother?

TERA

It's funny, if you two were to get married, all twelve of our brothers would need to be invited. Miranda, have you taken that into account

MIRANDA

It's already covered, I assure you. So what exactly do you do for a living?

TERA I'm a feminist.

MIRANDA What exactly do you mean by that?

ANDY She goes into third world, religiously backward countries and converts the women.

MIRANDA

I don't think feminism is considered a religion.

TERA But it should be.

MIRANDA

You're a feminist, Andy's a comedian, Gawain's a pot dealer. Doesn't anybody have a real career?

TERA What do you do?

MIRANDA

I'm a spy.

ANDY An unemployed one. DIANE You lost your job?

MIRANDA We'll discuss it later.

DIANE Well look at you, making your father so proud.

ANDY

I don't believe Miranda ever mentioned what you did for a living, Mrs. Caster.

DIANE Nothing. My husband, while alive, felt a woman's place was in the home. No offense, Tera.

TERA None taken. Anybody want some better music?

Tera gets up and goes to the Ipod deck. She puts something good on: funky guitar, Jagger-like growl. She begins to dance. She accidentally kicks over a manger piece. She dances anyway.

Tera sees that her photo has been replaced by the giant portrait of Miranda.

TERA Wow, Miranda, it's shocking, but you're so beautiful in black and white.

MIRANDA Thanks... So, you may not know this, Tera, but Merrill is also one of the chosen.

TERA I've never seen him at the meetings.

DIANE I didn't realize Andy was Jewish.

MIRANDA

He's not.

TERA He converted after reading Anne Frank's diary.

ANDY In my defense, the holocaust made it really hard to believe in anything.

MIRANDA

What I was going to say though, is that Merrill is single. Tera and him are both Jewish. I think they could hit it off.

MERRILL No offense, Tera, but you seem a tad unstable.

TERA I prefer to call it allure. And no offense, but I'm dating a real man.

ANDY

You are?

Tera comes to pinch his cheek.

TERA You thought I would ruin the surprise?

MIRANDA

Where is he?

TERA Should be here any minute.

ANDY Who is he?

The doorbell rings.

TERA It's better you find out for yourself.

LIVING ROOM

They all stand in front of the door before Andy opens it.

There he stands: BEN NORTHAMPTON; middle aged and dressed exactly like Andy before Miranda got her hands on him.

BEN Hey, everybody, it's great to be here.

EXT. ALKI BEACH - DAY

Miranda does her morning jog along the boardwalk in her Tera outfit. Yes, even the heels. It's not pretty.

Brody runs up and keeps pace with her.

MIRANDA Thanks for meeting on such short notice.

BRODY You kidding? It's a mission. How could I not be here?

MIRANDA I need a background check. Tonight.

BRODY Let me guess: CEO of a rival corporation. You trying to blackmail your way into a job?

MIRANDA That would solve many of my current issues, but no.

Brody stops to pretend to tie his shoe at a bench. Miranda takes a package out of her purse.

BRODY Conspicuously!

He tears it open. There's the photograph of Tera with Andy.

MIRANDA

I need it on her. I have to hire twelve actors who look like Andy because of this bitch.

BRODY The one dressed like you with this cute guy? What's she done to you besides have a cute boyfriend?

MIRANDA That is my boyfriend. BRODY

Slightly disappointing; they're so cute together. Want me to dig up stuff on him too?

MIRANDA I'm not invading his trust.

BRODY So no chance of danger then?

Miranda shakes her head no. Brody pulls a handgun out and discharges the clip.

BRODY Guess I won't be needing this then.

INT. ANDY'S APARTMENT

BATHROOM

Andy comes in and begins to get ready for a shower. When he goes to turn the shower on, he discovers Merrill asleep in the tub.

He walks out.

KITCHEN

Diane and Gawain pass a joint back and forth while she reads the paper as Gawain notices Andy walk in.

> GAWAIN Andy, my man, you absolutely have to tell me who this chick is. She's rocking.

ANDY That's Miranda's mom.

DIANE Were you wanting the editorial page?

ANDY

No.

She hands him the newspaper.

DIANE Take it anyway. Be informed. Miranda likes men who have (MORE) DIANE (cont'd) opinions. Scott had an opinion on everything.

ANDY Now who is Scott again?

DIANE Her ex boyfriend. Quite the amazing character. You would have loved him.

This very moment, Tera and Ben walk in. Andy notices that Ben is now dressed in a sweater vest and has the same exact haircut Miranda forced Andy to get.

Tera is dressed in a reproduction outfit of the one Miranda wore in the picture over the mantle: Banana Republic winter wear.

BEN Nice to see you all again. I wanted to wait until one of you came to the door to let us in, to be respectful.

TERA Ben's a little slow if none of you already noticed.

Merrill now comes out. He notices Tera, but more importantly he notices that she now looks like Miranda.

> MERRILL Wow. You're looking really good.

TERA I didn't realize you were here.

ANDY He slept in the bathtub.

TERA Jesus, Andy, you forced him to sleep in a bathtub?

MERRILL Diane is really who he should be apologizing to. Andy made her sleep on a futon. Tera, can I have a private conversation with you?

Andy and Tera go out the front door.

EXT. ALLEY

Andy and Tera stand by the garbage cans.

ANDY What's going on with the costume changes?

TERA

I'd ask you the same thing, but unlike you, I realize that all life's a stage.

ANDY I'm going to need you to be nice to Miranda.

TERA Consider her my sister from this point forward.

ANDY I'm serious.

TERA We shall become one then.

ANDY

I just need you to be on your best behavior. If you actually give Miranda a chance, you'll love her. She reminds me a lot of you.

TERA

Don't plea to my own self obsession. I'm not here to screw with her.

ANDY

To be honest I don't even know why you're here. Especially with that senior citizen.

TERA Ben's only fifty-three.

She places his hand atop his cheek.

TERA Don't be jealous unless you have a reason to be.

EXT. BALCONY

Ben peers out over the ledge at what he perceives to be a tender moment between Tera and Andy as Diane comes out.

DIANE They sure are close for siblings, aren't they?

BEN

Siblings?

EXT. ALLEY

We continue mid conversation.

ANDY You have the guy dressing like me. You can't tell me you aren't trying to mess with me.

TERA Ben isn't dressed like you. Many respectable people besides you wear khakis and sweater vests. Closeted youth group ministers, for instance.

Andy's phone rings. He takes it out to see Miranda's name on the screen.

ANDY We'll finish this in one moment. (picks up phone) Hello?

MIRANDA (O.S.) Hey, babe! I'm not going to make it home before the parade starts, so I'll just meet you guys there.

ANDY

Okay.

He hangs up the phone.

A crowd of people on all sides of the frame await the start of the parade. We focus in on Andy, Tera, Ben, Diane, Merrill and Gawain.

> ANDY I'll be right back, I'm going to go find a bathroom.

Andy walks off.

Elsewhere in the crowd, Miranda navigates between the clusters of people as she searches for the rest of the group.

She spots Tera, dressed exactly as she should be.

MIRANDA That conniving bitch.

She then sees the person standing next to Tera from the back. He's wearing khakis and a sweater vest. She goes up to him and squeezes his ass, believing him to be Andy, no doubt.

But it's only Ben.

BEN What the hell.

MIRANDA Oh my God, I'm so sorry.

TERA What the hell are you doing?

Andy comes back from the bathroom.

ANDY What's going on?

TERA Your woman just touched my man's ass.

ANDY You did what?

MIRANDA I thought he was you!
ANDY How could anybody possibly think that?

BEN Andy's right, the man looks nothing like Clark Gable.

MIRANDA Oh, shut up.

ANDY Just apologize.

MIRANDA

I'm sorry, Ben.

ANDY To both of them.

TERA It's what a feminist would do.

DIANE I'm sure it will teach men somehow.

EXT. HIGHWAY/RIDE THE DUCK - DAY

They group sits on the semi-open balcony benches of a converted WWII amphibian and land motorcraft. Andy sits with Miranda, Tera with Ben, Diane with Gawain; Merrill however sits alone.

Brody is in disguise as their Tour Guide.

We begin on Andy and Miranda.

MIRANDA I can't believe you made me apologize to her.

ANDY It's what friends do.

MIRANDA

I never realized friendship was so combative.

ANDY

Well, you're a protestant. If getting along with Jews came naturally to you, the relationship wouldn't be as valuable.

MIRANDA

I'm Catholic.

We move on to Tera and Ben.

TERA

(in French) It just doesn't make any sense. There's nothing he could possibly see in her. I don't say this about a lot of people, but she's terrible. That woman's voice is legally defined as an infanticide.

BEN

Just because I'm British doesn't make me cultured. You know I don't speak French.

On to Gawain and Diane.

GAWAIN

I'm going to be real with you, Diane; I wasn't expecting any feelin's out of nobody at this juncture. But here I sit, just talkin to you. To my surprise, feeling is what I have. Still being real, I'm not a prosperous man, I just sling weed for a living. But that don't matter, because my girl gets as much as she wants. No questions asked.

DIANE

Are you flirting with me?

GAWAIN Just being real.

DIANE I appreciate it, but, just... no, obviously.

GAWAIN

I'm not fat.

DIANE

Absolutely you aren't. But you see, I'm a widower. I spent thirty years with a man's man of the highest caliber. Now that he's dead, I find myself wanting a man a tad more... breakable. JUMP TO MERRILL ON THE

EXT. SPACE NEEDLE - DAY

Could Merrill be the breakable man Diane spoke of?

We move on to BRODY following closely behind the group as they circle back and forth on top of the needle; their view of the city constantly morphing.

> ANDY Tell me Ben, how does social security work? Do they send you a check?

TERA For God's sake, Andy, everything is digital nowadays.

BEN I'm still roughly fifteen years away from that.

TERA But sex together, just based off stamina, you would think he still had twenty years to go.

MIRANDA Is that a compliment?

BEN She says it is.

TERA Occasionally he even gives me multiples.

BEN

I'm sure your brother doesn't want to hear that. Do you, Andy?

ANDY

We used to share a bedroom, I heard worse.

BEN From other men... hopefully.

MIRANDA I think it's time we go to another tourist attraction. The gang is underneath the city streets. Light shines from both lanterns and the storm drains above them. They all branch off in their separate directions.

Andy and Miranda come to a one-hundred-seventy-year-old toilet.

ANDY When you think about long dead people, you never really think about them using a toilet. Just goes to show, they're just like us.

MIRANDA

Andy, my love, you know that I have nothing whatsoever against you personally, it's just... when it comes to digesting history, I prefer to do so in solitude.

ANDY

Are you asking me to go somewhere else?

MIRANDA You understand my wants without my even having to say them. That's what I love most about you.

ANDY Yeah, sure, I'll just be over there.

Over by Merrill, Diane and Gawain, Brody is still taking the role of tour guide. They stand in front of a sectioned off alleyway.

BRODY

This alley is probably the most interesting of all alleys down here. In the early 1900s, after the fire, they just built the city on top of this, but the stores down here were still open for business. Prostitutes would stand out above ground to advertise themselves and collect johns. They'd bring them back here, to this very alley, for some good old sex. History is just fascinating.

DIANE

(to Merrill) I wanted you to know I got us tickets for the opera tonight. The Nutcracker, of all things.

MERRILL

That's great. My only suggestion is that you should have me sit between Miranda and Andy. He can't be trusted to remain proper, especially with The Nutcracker.

GAWAIN Excuse me, I'm getting bad vibes listening to this.

Gawain walks over to Andy.

GAWAIN

Hey, buddy, can I ask you a question?

ANDY

What's up?

GAWAIN How do you know if a woman is playing hard to get?

ANDY

Don't assume she's even aware she's doing it. Follow me, I need you to act as a distraction.

They walk over to Tera and Ben.

ANDY

Hey girl.

TERA

Sup boy?

ANDY Come here, there's something I want you to see.

BEN That would be splendid.

GAWAIN Actually, I had something I wanted to show you. Something different. BEN We'll see it next.

GAWAIN

I don't want to show them. It's just for you. What, does a woman having a private moment with her brother make you jealous?

BEN

Well... I suppose not if it's with her brother.

TERA Thank you. That's a very noble and feminist thing to say. Come on, Andy, let's go.

Andy and Tera saunter off with us on their tail.

ANDY

I have this pet theory. You and Ben aren't really dating. He's an unemployed actor and you hired him so that we would have somebody to laugh at all Christmas. You're quite the evil character.

TERA

My theory is that Miranda is an alien sent to Earth to learn human emotion. Inadequacy seems to be the one she feels the most.

ANDY Oh, I bet that's exactly what you believe.

TERA Either that or she's a Nazi. I'm not certain yet.

They come under the light of a grate to the world above. Footsteps constantly pass over them.

> ANDY I'm letting you know right now, Miranda isn't like all the others.

TERA That's wonderful to hear. ANDY I'm serious. She completes my thoughts.

TERA Good for her.

ANDY You don't believe me.

TERA

I believe you believe it. That's what explains your obsession with Ben.

ANDY

How about we just drop the antagonism towards each one's soul mate. Let's just enjoy what little time we have together. Like we used to.

TERA Oh, Andy, the moment I do that is the moment I lose my resolve.

She coyly saunters off. Andy follows her. We do not.

Gawain has taken Ben to the alley from before.

BEN What are we looking at here?

GAWAIN

It's an alley.

BEN Significance wise, is what I meant.

GAWAIN Prostitutes once had sex here.

BEN

This is what you wanted to show me?

GAWAIN

Yep.

BEN

Thank you. I wouldn't ever impose, but I must ask you something. What exactly is the nature of Andy and Tera's relationship? GAWAIN

That's a complex question to answer, man. Like for instance, take a single piece of matter. That piece has a direct clone of itself called anti-matter. If those two were to ever collide, you've got yourself a space explosion. Sorry for using such a graphic sexual metaphor, but that's them in a nutshell.

BEN Sexual... Excuse me, I'll be right back.

Ben walks over to where Miranda stands, in front of a sign which reads, "Jericho Mission."

BEN

Miranda, I have something I must discuss with you. It may be detrimental to us both, but it must be said and fortune has befell me to reveal the truth.

MIRANDA What are we discussing here?

BEN

It has come to my attention that Tera and Andy are masquerading as brother and sister. This just simply isn't the case. He is her ex fiance. I know this for a fact.

MIRANDA What did you just say?

She glances over to Andy and Tera. What do you know? They look exactly as if they are in love.

BEN Unless Donny and Marie Osmond are back on tour, they just simply aren't both former lovers and siblings.

MIRANDA I'm aware they aren't siblings. Why do you keep saying they were engaged? BEN

Because they were. Why are they calling each other "bro" and "sissy"?

MIRANDA That's what I want my mother to think they are to each other.

BEN

Why?

MIRANDA

I wanted her to assume Andy was a virgin before he met me.

BEN

Why?

MIRANDA Because that's the first thing I told her about him.

BEN You didn't think that through, did you?

MIRANDA

Excuse me? Who are you to judge me? You're what, fifty? A little late for your midlife crisis, isn't it? You probably got yourself an ex wife and kids you don't see often enough. Remind yourself of them before you judge others.

BEN

Nobody has ever talked to me like that before.

MIRANDA It's time somebody did.

BEN

You are incredibly strong.

MIRANDA I have to be, with a mother like mine.

BEN I admire that about you. They stare into each others eyes for a time. The scene is palpable, really.

Tera and Andy walk up.

ANDY Hey there, what's up?

MIRANDA Nothing whatsoever.

Suspicion encapsulates them all in the form of a steam current.

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - NIGHT

We begin with Andy mid monologue. Miranda pays more attention to her soup than she does him.

ANDY

...so that's my excuse for continuing to listen to R. Kelly for a whole decade after it was considered proper... Is everything okay? You've barely said a word all night.

MIRANDA

You finally noticed I'm mad, so it's fair I tell you why now. Do you remember that conversation we once had where I asked if you had previously been married or engaged?

ANDY

Of course.

MIRANDA

That would have been the perfect time to tell me you had previously been engaged.

ANDY I've never been engaged.

MIRANDA Ben says differently.

ANDY

He's wrong.

MIRANDA Why would Tera tell him that?

ANDY I never asked her to marry me. I came close.

MIRANDA You never got down on one knee? Never gave a ring?

ANDY

Not in the least. Well, I gave her a promise ring.

MIRANDA So you did propose!

ANDY

That's not proposing. It's a promise to propose.

MIRANDA

No, it's a fake thing women made up to get two rings out of the guy. You were engaged.

ANDY Well that's news to me. Just like Scott is.

MIRANDA How do you know that name?

ANDY And how do I know you have me dressed like him? I know he can't be some ex of yours, because you told me I was the only guy you have ever been in a serious relationship with.

MIRANDA There was some fudging of my time line.

ANDY How much fudge?

MIRANDA Like nine years worth. ANDY Nine years? That's a common law marriage. You're mad at me for being engaged when you've been married?

MIRANDA

Scott hurt me really bad and when you asked, I didn't want to bring out that vulnerability. So I lied. I'm sorry. You're mad that you think I have you dressed up as someone else, but the difference is you're not dressed like him while he's here trying to steal you away from me.

BEN (O.S.) Mind if we pull up a table?

We look to see Tera and Ben. Who knows how long they have been standing here.

MIRANDA I don't think they allow that here.

BEN Well they should because I own the place. I'm kidding, but I did ask permission.

Ben grabs a table and begins to align it with Miranda's.

BEN

So, Andy, in the car on the way over, Tera was telling me you have a bit of the bipolar. Grandiose thoughts, periods of insatiable sexuality; that sort of thing.

ANDY Tera, I need to speak to you in private.

They get up. He grabs her by the arm and takes her across the room to an

ANTIQUE PHONE BOOTH

ANDY You need to go tell her that we were never engaged. TERA

I can't lie to her.

ANDY It was only a promise ring!

TERA

The modern day engagement is a two ring process. I only follow the rules the diamond conglomerate suggests. Some would claim I'm representing my heritage.

ANDY An anti-Semite would claim that.

TERA

Even so.

ANDY

At least tell her I'm not bipolar. I don't have manic depression. I have Kanye West as a spirit animal.

TERA That's not a distinction, honey.

LATER

The four eat their main course.

MIRANDA So how did you two meet?

TERA Andy and I?

MIRANDA You and Ben.

BEN

OKCupid.

ANDY I was under the impression you two were legitimate.

TERA Granted, it's not as interesting a story as when you and I met. MIRANDA Andy failed to mention that as well.

ANDY We're not telling it.

TERA

Relax. It's not like we met in a sex club. It was at Ravenna Park. I was trying to read Love In The Time of Cholera. My friend was screaming about Israel. Andy came up and asked to join. We were inseparable then on. I toyed with him for days, would only let him make out with me. He didn't tell me he wasn't going home and finishing himself. So after five days of dry humping, I have to take him to the emergency room for blue balls. The first time I saw his penis, it was in the hands of a doctor. Those were magical times.

MIRANDA

Only the first sentence of that story was needed to answer my question.

ANDY You left out the best part.

TERA Don't you dare.

ANDY

Before she was willing to take me to the hospital for my dangerously swollen testicles, we had to go back to her place so she could take a shower.

BEN That's God awful, babe.

bullet hole in his chest.

TERA A bird pooped on my face, okay! What was I supposed to do?

ANDY Be a little less vain, in the waiting room there was a man with a TERA

This is exactly why we never worked out. You're just too judgmental.

ANDY That's rich coming from a woman who converts Muslims into feminists.

MIRANDA Andy, together, we should tell them the story of how we met.

ANDY It was at a party.

MIRANDA But wait, there's more!

ANDY

Not really.

MIRANDA

I was like black out drunk. Andy took me home.

ANDY To be clear, I didn't sleep with her.

MIRANDA

He slept on the couch. I woke up and had no idea who he was. We've been inseparable ever since.

ANDY Well there is some space, we don't spy on each other.

TERA

Fascinating, because you are a spy, aren't you?

ANDY She's currently unemployed.

MIRANDA

Well that's not exactly true. I'm no longer affiliated with a company. I'm not currently getting paid; but I still have operatives in the field. I'm still bringing down bad guys. BEN Now that's fascinating. How did you get into such a dangerous occupation?

MIRANDA

There are two kinds of people in this world. Those who remember 9/11, and those who said, "never again."

BEN

Any terrorists you currently have your eye on?

MIRANDA

For national security reasons I can't give you specifics, but yeah, there's a suspicious person out there.

BEN What's he done?

MIRANDA

She; and nothing yet. But for instance, she's been to the middle east. Nobody forced her to go. We look at that and say, "You're up to no good."

TERA

Now even if she is up to no good, how exactly would you plan on stopping her? In the middle east, they use torture. But you can't do that can you...?

MIRANDA

So who is excited for Christmas? Andy and I have totally fallen behind on shopping. We still haven't gotten our gifts for each other, actually. I still don't know what I'm getting him, but we've been discussing promise rings, haven't we, Andy?

TERA

Is that so?

ANDY There were mentions of that.

MIRANDA Yeah, I think we're going to get one. It just feels right.

TERA

Wow, Andy, that's a big committment. For you. Well, I'm really happy for you both. Excuse me, I need to run to the restroom real quick.

MIRANDA Want me to come with?

TERA Not needed.

She gets up and goes off.

MIRANDA So, Ben, you're like a cypher. What do you do for a living?

BEN Dentist, but since meeting Tera I've given up my practice to pursue my passion.

ANDY

Which is?

BEN Award show audience sitter.

ANDY That's a real job?

BEN Sure, even got a union.

INT. ANDY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

LIVING ROOM

Diane smokes a joint on the couch while in a state of semi-undress as Andy and Merrill come through the door.

MIRANDA

I'm engaged!

BATHROOM

As Andy enters, Merrile sets up his blanket and pillow in the bathtub.

ANDY

Don't you have a place of your own?

MERRILL

All the way across town.

ANDY

I suppose baths do have less room than a bed to be lonely in. Could you leave for a moment? I had to -

MERRILL

Go ahead and use it, I needed to ask you a question anyway. Can you keep a secret from Miranda?

ANDY Her and I don't do that sort of thing.

MERRILL

I've ruined all chances I've had to be with her. I wasn't planning on having sex tonight. I certainly didn't want to.

ANDY Who exactly was this with?

MERRILL

Diane.

ANDY You slept with Miranda's mother?

MERRILL

Be honest here, did I ruin all chance I ever had of getting together with her?

ANDY I'd say definitely. MERRILL

Okay, tell you what, we're just not going to tell her. I can keep a secret, as can Diane. The only wild card here is you.

ANDY I could see myself forgetting to bring it up.

MERRILL Do you want to tell me a secret as collateral?

ANDY

No.

Andy walks out of the room.

HALLWAY

Diane rushes to Andy.

DIANE I know all about Tera.

ANDY

Excuse me?

DIANE

Absolutely everything. She isn't your sister; I'm not an idiot. I'm disappointed you thought you had to lie.

ANDY I'm sorry for that. I had no say. Miranda-

DIANE Will never know.

ANDY

Come again.

DIANE

Men have their secrets. A woman is only harmed by them if made aware by them. Miranda may judge, but I don't and you seem intelligent enough to keep your bases covered. I'm sorry for how cold I've been to you until now.

BEDROOM

Miranda is alone in the room. She's just put her pajamas on for the night. She takes her phone and calls Brody.

MIRANDA I need you to call off the recon on Tera.

BRODY (V.0) Sure, just give me the passcode so I know you aren't saying this under duress.

MIRANDA Never trust any man who makes his living from selling homeopathy.

BRODY (V.0) Okay, good, because honestly, this has been a boring case. I can't find anything bad on her.

MIRANDA How is that possible?

BRODY (V.0) She goes into 3rd world countries and overthrows dictators. She's basically a vagina oriented Indian Jones.

MIRANDA That's not even - I want you to make a report on Andy.

BRODY (V.0) Her boyfriend?

MIRANDA

Mine.

BRODY (V.0) Easy mistake to make, he was hers first.

MIRANDA Are you going to do it or not?

BRODY (V.0)

I will.

She hangs up just as Andy walks in.

ANDY I just had the weirdest conversations in my life.

MIRANDA I love you so much.

Miranda claps the light off.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Tera is in the mirror comparing her potential costumes for the day. She stuck deciding between her usual flirtatious wear and a Miranda copycat outfit.

Ben comes out of the bathroom.

TERA What do you think?

BEN I'm not sure I like either of them.

He goes to the open suitcase on the bed and pulls out a men's flannel button up.

TERA I don't know about that.

BEN

You'll be warm and the most beautiful woman in the room. You know I like my women capable of killing two birds with one stone.

TERA You convinced me!

She kisses him and gets dressed.

INT. WESTLAKE MALL - DAY

Andy, Miranda, Diane and Gawain walk in front of the shops and Santa kiosks where Merrill gets his picture taken. Andy wears a tux.

Tera and Ben come up.

BEN Sorry we're late. Tera had to convince me to take my hands off her. (notices Andy's tux) I like your style.

ANDY

I thought you would. (notices Tera's flannel.) Why are you wearing that?

TERA Ben thought I looked sexy in it.

BEN Doesn't she?

ANDY

Not the issue, Ben. That's stolen property; I've been asking for it back.

TERA It's immature to ask for something

back just because you were dumped.

MIRANDA Don't worry, Mom, dumped is slang siblings use here.

ANDY She knows we used to date, Miranda.

DIANE

I KNEW NOTHING!

TERA

Look at what you've done. Like I said, you're the face of maturity. Quite honestly, you're slightly manic.

ANDY I'm not manic.

TERA Are you off your pills again?

MIRANDA Andy doesn't take pills.

ANDY You need to watch your mouth, Tera. TERA You need to not tell me what to do. I don't stand for that.

ANDY What exactly do you stand for?

TERA Love. I stand for love.

ANDY

I thought you only ran from it.

TERA From it, towards it, for it. I do them all. I'm the long distance runner of love, baby.

Merrill comes over now that he's finished getting his picture taken with Santa.

ANDY Let's go, Miranda, I'm not going to spend any more years of my life listening to this.

MIRANDA We can't leave. It's unisex shopping day.

ANDY I don't know what that means.

MIRANDA

Girls shop with the girls for the boys while the boys shop with the boys to get presents for the girls.

ANDY

You aren't going to be friends with her; and furthermore, this is the first I am hearing about this.

MIRANDA

You're an adult. There's no excuse for you to not check your email every morning. Besides, you have a ring to buy and if I go with you i won't be surprised.

ANDY You two can do whatever you want. Come on, Gawain, let's go. Merrill... you can come as well. MERRILL I was actually going to go shopping with Miranda.

ANDY Don't be expecting a footjob.

MIRANDA YOU TOLD HIM!

MERRILL How could you rat me out, Andy?

ANDY I have more secrets.

MERRILL You know, I think I could probably stand to feel a little masculine today.

TERA Please take Ben with you.

BEN I'm here with you, honey.

TERA I'm having a girl's day. I'd invite you, but I know for a fact you have a penis. That's right, Andy, I've seen Ben's penis. Why don't you talk about that?

BEN We won't be talking about that.

ANDY And you aren't going to decide that, Ben.

The four men leave.

INT. DIAMOND SHOP - DAY

Ben, Merrill and Gawain look at all the engagement rings. Andy sees only their prices.

> MERRILL For God's sake, Andy, you only made twenty-three-five last year. How can you afford this?

BEN What is money to a man in love?

MERRILL But what is love when you can't pay the rent?

GAWAIN

I don't want to interrupt anything here, but do you guys think it would be appropriate for me to get Diane something?

A SHOPGIRL comes up from behind the counter.

SHOPGIRL

Thank you for waiting. Let me guess, you had a wild bachelor party where the best man lost the rings so you're here to find replacements only hours before the wedding.

ANDY No, but that's definitely a specific situation.

SHOPGIRL You're in a tux. I just assumed. it actually happens all the time.

BEN Why are you in a tux?

ANDY I'm here because I just got engaged.

SHOPGIRL Congratulations. Which ring in the process are you?

ANDY The promise stage.

SHOPGIRL You are definitely looking at the wrong ones then. Follow me.

She takes the group over to the promise ring display. Of course Andy notices that they are quite a bit cheaper. Thank God!

ANDY These are a lot better of a price.

SHOPGIRL When it comes to jewelry, what's her style?

ANDY I don't know how to answer that question.

The Shopgirl takes a tray of rings out of the case and picks up a certain one.

> SHOPGIRL This one has an owl on it.

ANDY Merrill, does Miranda like owls?

MERRILL You should already know she prefers pelicans.

BEN Don't listen to Merrill. You don't want to be the guy who fails two women when it comes to your promises.

MERRILL Who was the first?

BEN

Tera.

MERRILL That's your sister! What the hell is wrong with you?

ANDY Shut up, Merrill, she's not my sister.

SHOPGIRL This is the second promise ring you've given?

ANDY Is that a problem? SHOPGIRL Not for me. My job is to sell them after all. But ethically, it looks bad.

ANDY

How so?

SHOPGIRL

I feel that just because your relationship didn't work doesn't mean that the promise no longer means anything. I personally would never date a man like that. But this is a business, so I will still sell you whatever you are looking to buy.

Andy walks off towards the exit as the group follows him.

BEN What are you doing? We're supposed to be buying presents for our loved ones.

ANDY

No, we aren't going to be buying presents for our loved ones. They should've thought about that! We're going to have fun. Besides, if you really wanted to get Tera a present, the perfect time would have been on the Jewish holiday that ended less than two weeks ago. Though I believe eight presents is usually what's considered proper. Am I correct on that, Merrill?

MERRILL

You certainly are.

BEN

Oh my God, I knew she was Jewish, I just never put two and two together.

ANDY

You would have if you loved her.

As they reach the door, Brody intervenes.

BRODY Woah, buddy, what's the problem?

ANDY I have to get out of here.

BRODY let me buy you a drink.

ANDY Who are you?

BRODY I'm a tourist... from Boston.

ANDY Thanks for the offer, but I'd rather drink with just these guys.

GAWAIN Ask him if he's buying.

BRODY Listen, I overheard your conversation. I'm a relationship counselor... from Boston. Let me buy you a drink.

EXT. STREET - DAY

The group of guys head to the bus stop.

BEN So where in Boston are you from?

BRODY

Boston proper. Downtown mostly, but I dabbled in the outskirts as well. Public transit? I did it!

BEN I went to Harvard. Where did you go?

BRODY

M.I.T.

BEN Did you study under Chomsky? BEN

You're a lucky man. Him and I ran in the same social circles back in the nineties. How's his wife, Carol?

BRODY

Dead.

BEN No! He didn't say anything about it in his Christmas newsletter.

BRODY It was about two years back. He's still in the grief stage. You know Chomsky, he never could let go of the past.

They pass a book store where Andy spots a first edition copy of Love in the Time of Cholera.

ANDY Hey, guys, I'll meet you at the bus stop. I gotta use the bathroom real quick.

Andy goes inside the bookstore as the rest of the gang heads to the bus stop.

INT. ART GALLERY - DAY

The ladies scan the paintings. Miranda comes to a Kinkade painting.

MIRANDA Andy would love this.

TERA What makes you say that?

MIRANDA He's all about that architecture.

CUT TO:

None of the art which hangs on Andy's wall has anything to do with architecture. In fact, he's all about those bodies in various states of undress.

CUT TO:

INT. DEPARTMENT STORE

The ladies are now in the dress section. Miranda holds the gigantic Kinkade frame, which is wrapped in Christmas cheer.

Diane finds herself a dress.

DIANE What do you think, Tera?

TERA You'll look really great in that.

DIANE You're like the daughter I never had. I'll go try it on.

Diane runs off. Tera finds herself a dress. It's something Ingrid Bergman would have worn.

MIRANDA

Is that your gift for Ben or Andy?

TERA I hadn't planned on getting Andy anything.

MIRANDA You really should, since you won't be giving your original gift to him now.

TERA

Excuse me?

MIRANDA

Oh, please. I know why you're here. And it has nothing to do with wanting to spend the holiday with him or even wanting what's best for him. TERA

You're an incredibly sore winner and it's sad how that isn't even the worst thing about you.

MIRANDA

Please, tell me, what is the worst thing about me?

TERA

You're the kind of girl who goes to someplace like Sierra Leone on vacation and discovers slavery still exists. Even worse, none of them have shoes. So you come home and start a charity to get all your rich friends to donate their old pairs.

MIRANDA

What of it?

TERA

I'm the girl who comes in after you've left having remembered to bring socks. I leave having given democracy.

Tera grabs the dress and walks off to the check stand just as Diane exits the changing room.

DIANE Honey, be honest here: if you were a younger man, would you stick it in?

INT. PARLOR'S COMEDY CLUB - DAY

The guys enter the room and head over to where the BARTENDER waits. There's a COMEDIAN onstage.

ANDY You got a spot available?

BARTENDER For you? Yeah... unfortunately.

The bartender pours them drinks and they head over to the pool tables.

BEN

So you said you were a relationship counselor?

BRODY Yeah, I remember saying that.

BEN

Can I ask you something?

BRODY

Yeah.

They begin their game of pool.

BEN

This morning I told my girlfriend to wear this ridiculously sexy piece of flannel. Come to find out it used to belong to Andy here. She hugged and kissed me in it. How am I supposed to feel about that?

BRODY That's rough. She probably still harbors feelings for him. How does that make you feel, Andy?

ANDY

I'm not really on the level of dignifying that with an answer.

BRODY

So his emasculation makes you feel good?

ANDY I didn't say that.

BEN For God's sake, you're dressed as me right now.

ANDY

I felt like wearing a tux. There's no crime in that.

BEN You know what I do for a living!

ANDY You're absolutely mental.

BEN Here's what I think is mental: here you've got this great girl, Miranda, and it seems like you're trying to complicate my relationship. The SERVER brings over more drinks. Andy quickly downs his. ANDY Excuse me, but she's the one that came to me. You may want to face the reality of who the person you're with is. BEN Even right there, you're trying to mess with my head. BRODY What for, Ese? ANDY Just in case... Scratch that. BRODY What did you mean? ANDY Nothing. Andy steals Gawain's drink. ANDY It's just that even if Miranda and I make it to the altar, I'm the guy who assumes we'll also make it to divorce court. So yeah, being a guy who believes in economics and all that, it's totally reasonable why I don't want Tera to be with you. BEN I'm confused as to what definition of the term economics you're using.

MERRILL I think we're all confused.

ANDY You know, keeping her open for business. So she's like your back up plan?

ANDY

No, not at all. She's my investment... That was the alcohol talking. I don't truly feel that way... Let's just drop the subject and everybody forget I ever said that.

ANDY Especially you, Merrill. You have a lot of good reasons to keep your mouth shut.

MERRILL

Name one.

ANDY

Who do you think she'll finally give a chance to once her and I get a divorce?

MERRILL

Name another.

ANDY

You'll never get to have her if I tell her you slept with her mom.

GAWAIN

YOU DID WHAT!? You knew I had a thing for her.

MERRILL

She has a dead husband. What was I supposed to do? You can still have her, I certainly don't want her.

GAWAIN

I'm not going to be that woman's cuckold. I'm not Ben here.

BEN

You may be able to buy Merrill's silence, but what makes you think you can buy mine?

ANDY

Mutually assured destruction. If you say nothing to, Miranda and I stay together, meaning you and Tera get to stay together. BEN God dammit, you're actually going to get away with this.

No, he isn't. We now see under Brody's shirt. yep, he's got a recorder taped to his chest.

ANDY Now excuse me, I think I just heard my name called.

Andy walks to the stage and grabs the mic.

EXT. KARAOKE BAR - NIGHT

The three ladies wait for their men under awning. Tera is now in her silver screen beauty dress.

> DIANE This is just like Andy to have us wait for him outside.

TERA He's a total putz.

MIRANDA You two go get the table, I'll wait.

Miranda waits for Tera and Diane to go inside before she sneaks off to the

ALLEY

Where Brody waits on a bicycle.

BRODY I can't say for certain that I wasn't tailed on my way here. I can say for certain that I dropped them if I was.

MIRANDA You weren't tailed, Brody.

BRODY It's funny you say that, because I did smoke some weed with the one wearing the pajamas. You think that could be it? MIRANDA How did it go?

BRODY I haven't had that much fun since the divorce.

MIRANDA With Andy?

BRODY I didn't really like him. He is kind of one sick puppy.

MIRANDA Can I see the report?

Brody takes a manila envelope out of his fanny pack and hands it to her, but she doesn't grab.

MIRANDA No, don't. Right now, him and I are life partners. If I invade his trust, I'm dooming us to nothingness.

He places the envelope inside her purse.

BRODY

Just in case.

They head back to the front of the bar. When they round the corner

They bump into Andy.

ANDY Hey, honey. (notices Brody) The guy from Boston. What are you doing here?

Brody drops his bicycle and gets into a pitching position.

BRODY Stand back! I can throw a 110 M-P-H fast ball. Don't eff with me.

ANDY You have nothing to throw...

Brody gets on his bike and rides off.
BRODY You are one sick puppy!

ANDY Do you know that guy somehow?

MIRANDA

Know him? I just met him! I thought he was a homeless guy and I kept trying to give him a dollar but he kept saying NO. You try to be a good person, and that's the treatment you get.

ANDY

You tried giving money to a homeless person? I'm proud of you. Come on, everybody's inside waiting.

He kisses her.

MIRANDA Have you been drinking?

ANDY Is that a problem?

MIRANDA I guess not; you are a comedian.

She takes his hand and together they go inside the

INT. KARAOKE BAR

They all stand around one of those tiny little hip round tables with their shot glasses raised. A BAD SINGER is up on the stage, along with a DJ.

MIRANDA

To Christmas.

They clink glasses.

BEN I don't know if anybody here knows this, but the largest Christmas Tree of all time was actually here in Seattle back in the 1950s. ANDY That's the dumbest trivia I've ever heard, and I live here, so I have a reason to care. What's your excuse?

MIRANDA Andy, don't be hostile.

GAWAIN

I don't know if I asked you this, Merrill, but do you sing?

MERRILL Can I breathe under water? ... I'm willing to try if my head is held under long enough.

GAWAIN Good, because I signed us up for a duet.

The Bad Singer finishes.

DJ

Give it up for Amber. That sure took a lot of guts. She's got 'em! Next up to the stage is Gawain and Merrill.

GAWAIN

Diane, I really hope you watch this. It's the performance of a man you could have had were you a better person.

MERRILL

What he said.

They get on stage and start their song.

Diane goes to the bar and sits next to a STUD. She leans into his ear.

DIANE

Have you ever been with a woman who could suck a cold sore straight off?

The man immediately leaves the area.

DIANE Oh come on, that got all the guys in the late '70's. Merrill and Gawain finish their song, exit the stage and come back to the table.

ANDY Good job, Gawain.

TWO GROUPIES walk up.

GROUPIE ONE (to Gawain) Do you want to get a drink?

GAWAIN Are you paying?

GROUPIE ONE

I could...

GAWAIN

Then yes!

Gawain and her walk off together.

GROUPIE TWO (to Merrill) What about you: Can I buy you a drink?

MERRILL (to Miranda) You cool with that?

MIRANDA Definitely.

MERRILL (to Groupie) Yeah, I guess it's okay.

Both the newly formed couples are now gone.

DJ Our next singer to the stage, give it up for Miranda.

MIRANDA I love it when you're out somewhere and you see somebody with the same name. One day I want to get the courage to just walk up to another Miranda and say... Hey. DJ Miranda in the yellow beanie thing.

MIRANDA She even has the same style. I'm vibing with her already.

TERA I forgot to tell you that I signed you up.

MIRANDA Sort of an invasion of privacy.

ANDY You'll be great, babe.

BEN The spoils do go to the victor, do they not, Miranda?

Miranda begrudgingly goes to the stage.

MIRANDA I'd like to dedicate this song to Andy, my one true love. What song is this? No... I'm not dedicating that to him. My mother is here.

She goes to the DJ and chooses a different song and begins.

For a time, Andy, Tera and Ben watch before Andy loses interest and turns to Tera.

ANDY I got you something.

He pulls out a wrapped gift and hands it to her.

TERA You shouldn't have.

BEN he certainly shouldnt've. Andy, you said no gifts earlier. He said no gifts.

TERA Stop it, Ben, you're embarrassing me. BEN When did you even get that?

ANDY Do you remember when I said I had to go pee? I lied.

TERA That's incredibly sweet. Thank you so much.

ANDY

Open it.

While she sings, Miranda watches the complete gift exchange. This only makes her performance more theatrical. Andy doesn't notice.

Over at the bar, Merrill talks to his Groupie.

GROUPIE TWO Do you want my number?

MERRILL

Not really. You seem like a great girl, but here is where I'm at right now: I've been in love with that girl singing for like fifteen years.

GROUPIE TWO

That's really sweet. How many of those years have you been together?

MERRILL ZERO! She dated this one guy for like ten of them and now she's dating a total blow hole, so I've just been pretending to be the best friend this whole time... ya know, until she's ready. But get this: last night I slept with her mother. And Miranda's boyfriend is blackmailing me with that so I don't tell her that he's in love with his ex, who is also here.

GROUPIE TWO Wow, that's complex.

MERRILL Yeah, but everything so far has just made me realize that my love (MORE) MERRILL (cont'd) is stronger than I previously thought.

Back at the table, Tera has opened her present. It's a copy of Gabriel Garcia Marquez' Love in the Time of Cholera.

TERA Our favorite book!

BEN You two share a favorite book? That's the book you share? Tera, that's the book you've been trying to force me to read.

TERA I want you to be cultured.

BEN It's weird.

TERA It's not like you read it. Maybe then it would be weird, but as it stands now, you're just complaining about dumb stuff.

Miranda finally realizes that Andy won't watch her performance so she drops the mic and storms off the stage.

Andy certainly doesn't notice this, but Ben does.

Back at the bar, Merrill watches as Miranda comes over.

MERRILL Excuse me, I have to go see about a girl.

He leaves his groupie and goes to Miranda.

MIRANDA Thank God, I just need somebody to talk to.

MERRILL

I need to talk to you as well. There are some things I need to come clean about. Miranda, look me in the eyes. I slept with your mother last night. It was not my choice, it was basically rape. Look at me. I'm the guy who empathizes. She took advantage of that.

MIRANDA

I'm not doing this with you right now.

MERRILL

You have to, because I'm not finished. I was going to tell you, but Andy blackmailed me into not. You see, we went to the comedy club earlier and he kinda said he was still in love with Tera.

Miranda slaps him and runs off to the bathroom.

DJ Let's get Diane up here!

Ben watches Miranda go into the bathroom.

BEN I'll be right back.

He leaves while Andy and Tera forgot he was there a long time ago. They take another drink.

Diane gets to the stage and does her song, a wildcat on the prowl vamping sort of thing.

Gawain and his Groupie come back to the table.

GAWAIN

Good news! I'm going on a plane ride. Charlotte here and I have to be in Tulsa tomorrow for her sister's wedding.

BATHROOM

Miranda sits on the toilet and holds the manila envelope. She takes out a CD. She eyes it for a time before she puts it back in her purse.

As she opens the door to exit, there stands Ben in the doorway.

MIRANDA I don't think this is a unisex bathroom.

He pushes her back in and shuts the door.

BEN It's appalling the way he doesn't appreciate you.

She kisses him as he pushes her against the mirror.

MIRANDA He's not the only one who can do bad.

She bites his lip.

BEN I'm not in love with Tera.

She stops. It's now her turn to push him - away.

MIRANDA This was the wrong moment to mention love.

She leaves the room and goes back to the

BAR

The first thing she sees is her mother make out with TWO DUDES.

DJ And now we present to you, Tera!

Tera, that silver screen siren enters the stage and sings a verse.

When the chorus comes, Andy steps up with a wireless mic of his own to turn this baby into a duet.

As the song comes to an end, they drunkenly (not to mention passionately) kiss.

Miranda screams, which breaks apart the slobber fest.

Miranda drags Andy off the stage.

DJ Give it up once again for Miranda, everybody!

Tera follows them offstage and outside, as does Merrill.

Miranda and Merrill drag the drunken Andy to the car as Tera chases after.

TERA Don't be mad at Andy. This was all my fault. He didn't even want to sing in the first place.

MIRANDA We're leaving now.

TERA Just please hear me out.

Merrill does a karate chop in her general direction.

MERRILL She said BACK OFF!

They load Andy into the car and drive off which leaves Tera to cry by her lonesome.

Ben comes out. Tera tries to hug him but he backs her away.

BEN You betrayed me, Tera. After I left my wife for you, we both agreed that monogamy works... for us. it was our one rule and you just threw it out the window.

TERA

What are you talking about? Nothing's happened.

BEN Maybe not inside your vagina has happened, but inside your heart, something has. I don't want that craziness in my life. I'm not going to be that man's cuckold. I'm leaving you. Now. Goodbye, Tera.

he kisses her forehead and goes back inside.

Ben gets on the stage, grabs the mic and starts a '90's gangsta rap song.

INT. ANDY'S BEDROOM - DAY

BEDROOM

Andy is sprawled out on the bed still asleep as Miranda takes the CD out of Brody's envelope and puts it in the stereo.It's the conversation between Andy and Ben from the comedy club.

Andy wakes up to his own voice as Miranda sits in the chair and lays the contents of the folder across the table.

> MIRANDA Good morning, sunshine. Were you ever planning on telling me about your numerous charitable contributions to democratic organizations?

Andy leaps up and heads to the stereo.

MIRANDA

Leave it on.

He does so.

ANDY You were spying on me?

MIRANDA I've earned the right to be the one asking the questions. Were you planning on telling me about the funding of liberal causes?

ANDY

Planned parenthood and some inner city school programs. I don't see anything wrong with that.

MIRANDA

What about repeatedly lying about not having bipolar disorder? See anything wrong with that? ANDY

It's not any of your business. You never told me you had allergies. You let me figure it out for myself. I never confronted you.

MIRANDA

How many hearts have you two broken together?

ANDY How many Motley Crue reunion tours were there?

MIRANDA Where is my ring?

ANDY I don't have it. I wanted to. It's hard to find inexpensive jewelry that doesn't have owls on it.

MIRANDA I think we need to break up.

Andy gets on his hands and knees and crawls to her.

ANDY

No, baby.

200 people.

MIRANDA You kissed that slut in front of

ANDY But it's you I want.

MIRANDA Then prove it.

ANDY Just tell me how.

MIRANDA get rid of her from our life. X out the eyelids.

ANDY

What?

MIRANDA Like in cartoons. ANDY I'm not going to murder her.

MIRANDA I mean metaphorically. Your relationship is over with her. Goodbye yellow brick road and all that.

We hear the doorbell ring.

LIVING ROOM

Andy and Miranda walk out. Andy opens the door. The recording is still playing

Tera immediately crashes into him - in tears.

TERA Ben left me.

MIRANDA Do it now, Andy.

ANDY Not the best time.

TERA

Do what?

MIRANDA X out the eyelids, Andy.

TERA What does she keep saying?

ANDY Like in cartoons.

TERA She wants you to murder me?

ANDY No... Tera, she wants us to say our goodbyes.

TERA Tell her to go fuck herself.

ANDY She's going to be really good for me. TERA You agree to this? I'm revolted by you.

she pushes him away and runs out. Andy begins to follow.

MIRANDA Don't chase her; that's what she wants. It's over. We're finally going to be happy... forever.

ANDY

I'll be right back.

Andy leaves the apartment.

Just then, Diane sits up on the couch. She's been covered by a blanket this whole time.

DIANE

That was embarrassing to pretend to sleep through.

Ben takes the cover off his head. Yep, the two old people had sex.

BEN It would have been so much worse had she known I was here.

MIRANDA

You slept with my mother?

Merrill comes out of the bathroom, Miranda hasn't noticed him yet.

The recording now gets to Andy's stand up act.

BEN I just got out of a relationship. What did you think I was going to do?

MIRANDA You slept with my mother after we made out!

MERRILL What? You made out with him after I told you I loved you?

Andy is revealed to be standing in the doorway.

DIANE Hey, Andy.

Miranda turns to him.

MIRANDA Honey... how much of that did you hear?

ANDY Don't mind me. I just forgot my jacket.

He grabs his jacket from a chair and stops.

ANDY This recording of me, by the way, it's called copyright infringement.

He walks out.

EXT. PAVILLION

Andy runs through a crowd of people as he searches for Tera.

He gets on the escalator going up. Once he reaches halfway, he sees Tera pass him on her way down.

TERA

Oh hey.

He attempts to climb over to her side but he gets pulled up.

ANDY Just wait for me there.

He gets to the top and then immediately goes on the down side.

Again, he meets Tera at the halfway point.

ANDY What are you doing? I said wait for me.

TERA I thought you meant at the halfway point.

This time, he successfully climbs over, with the help of Tera.

TERA

You came for me? Like a modern day King Arthur, or something.

ANDY

Him and I have very similar views on cuckoldry. When we get to the top of this escalator, I'm going to push you against a wall, put my hands around your throat and kiss the fuck out of you.

TERA

Start now.

ANDY I'll wait til we have the wall.

They get to the top and immediately he presses her against the wall and does what he promised.

> TERA So is this your way of apologizing?

ANDY You know me, I get delusional sometimes.

They kiss again, this time their teeth clink together.

TERA You hurt me.

ANDY

I'm sorry.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Andy and Tera finish their sexcapades. They both light joints.

ANDY Why is it that a woman can be happy cooking and doing dishes for her family but a man never knows contentment unless he kills all chances for her to be happy without him?

TERA Are you talking about me? ANDY

Yeah?

TERA

I never wanted to be happy without you. You just sometimes make it really hard to feel it with you.

ANDY

When you aren't here, when I can't see your face, I forget the way you even look. To myself I think that if I truly loved you I wouldn't forget for even split second. Then I think that if you loved me you would never let me forget. Then I think I need to leave my head behind and go reside in somebody with their shit figured out. Because I don't forget, not really. I just don't want to be 30, in love with a phantom.

TERA

I'm not a phantom.

ANDY

You're worse than a phantom. You're a phantom who's always two-thousand miles away from me.

TERA

You really know how to melt a girl's heart.

ANDY It's the only plea I have left.

TERA

Falling in love is easy. Keeping it is hard... Not running is hard.

ANDY

Not holding on even when it's gone is hardest. I don't love Miranda.

TERA

I know.

Miranda cries on the couch while Merrill does his best at consolation.

MIRANDA What if he doesn't come back?

MERRILL You don't need him. You have me.

MIRANDA Oh, God, I just want him to come back.

Over at the door, Diane prepares to kick Ben out.

BEN I had a lot of fun.

DIANE Some of the most fun I've had in years.

BEN Can I call you sometime?

DIANE I'd prefer that not to happen.

She pretty much just slams the door on his face at this point. We'll never see him again. She now goes to comfort her daughter.

DIANE Stop crying, my darling.

MIRANDA It can't be over, it just can't.

DIANE Maybe now you'll stop judging me for always taking your father back.

MIRANDA God, I'm you. I'm really you. All these years fighting that - nope, I'm just you.

DIANE It feels better than loneliness, doesn't it? Miranda bolts up from the couch and takes out her phone. She dials Brody and paces.

MIRANDA Brody! When I had you spy on Andy, did you hack into the GPS on his phone?

BRODY I'm good at my job, aren't I?

MIRANDA Send me the coordinates. I'll meet you there.

She hangs up the phone.

MIRANDA Both of you, get your stuff, we're going.

INT. MIRANDA'S CAR

Miranda drives, Diane in the passenger, Merrill takes the back seat hump.

MERRILL Honey, we don't have to do this.

MIRANDA

Don't call me honey. I am Xena Warrior Princess on the path to take my property back. DO NOT CALL ME HONEY.

Her phone gets a text and she reads it.

MIRANDA He's at the hotel. Really?

INT. HOTEL ROOM

Andy and Tera are still in bed.

ANDY How do I break up with somebody on Christmas Eve? It's heartless.

TERA You may want to check the clock.

He does so. It's past midnight.

ANDY No, no, no, this is not happening.

TERA Does it matter at this point? You're leaving her anyway.

He bolts up from the bed and takes his phone out of his pocket. Missed call after missed call.

ANDY I just didn't want to look like the bad guy.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY

Miranda, Diane and Merrill rush through the roundabout door and head for the elevators.

The HOSTESS looks up as they pass.

HOSTESS Excuse me! Excuse me! You have to check in! Excuse me!

They ignore her and head into the elevator.

FLOOR FIVE

As the elevator door opens, Brody runs to greet them.

BRODY Room number fourteen on the right.

MIRANDA You're sure he's in there?

BRODY

Affirmative. I've been listening the whole time.

DIANE

Just remember that no matter what you see in there, God made all men sick and twisted. It is our job to love them regardless.

They get to the door.

MERRILL I always knew I was going to have to kill him.

MIRANDA Please stop, I need one of us to not lose their sanity.

BRODY I'm cooperating medicinally currently, God damn!

HOTEL ROOM

Andy puts his pants on.

ANDY I have to go ruin a little girl's Christmas.

Tera sits up on the edge of the bed, pulls him by the shirt and kisses him.

TERA Just in case you don't come back.

The door breaks open and there is Brody, with gun in hand.

BRODY Freeze motherfuckers!

MIRANDA Put the damn gun away, Brody.

ANDY Jesus Christ! Are you stalking me?

BRODY You do not talk to me like you're my ex wife. I'm a spy.

Miranda takes the gun out of his hand.

MIRANDA I didn't hire you to kill them.

TERA How are you paying for a spy? You're unemployed!

Miranda points the gun at Tera now.

MIRANDA You need to stop mentioning that!

ANDY Miranda, put the gun down.

She does so. This infuriates Merrill.

MERRILL Well if nobody is going to do something, I will.

He clocks Andy in the jaw which brings them both to their knees.

MERRILL Now stand up and take me like a man!

ANDY No, it's fine. I deserved that.

DIANE I explained it to Miranda that this is just man's nature and that you're faultless.

ANDY You're an absolutely terrible parent.

MIRANDA No, she's right.

Andy gets up.

MIRANDA

This whole time, I pretended Tera was the issue, but she's not. It was me. I wasn't loving you to the best I was capable of and I'm the one who threw you into that bed. It's okay, this was payback for making out with Ben.

TERA

What?

MIRANDA It's not a big deal, don't worry about it. Andy, let's go home. ANDY ...No. I'm here because I want to be here. With her. It's not a sport people play. It's just life.

TERA Unload the weapon and we'll talk about it.

MIRANDA I DO NOT WANT TO HEAR YOUR VOICE!

Miranda runs out of the room.

ANDY I'll be back, honey. I gotta... do something right.

He walks back out into

FLOOR FIVE

where Diane and Merrill follow.

DIANE

She just doesn't understand the facts of life yet. I failed as a mother. It's not her fault, please just give her another chance.

They reach the elevator and Andy hands Diane his apartment key.

ANDY Just go back to my place and pack up her things.

HOTEL ROOM

It's now just Tera and Brody in the room together.

BRODY

You're toned. You work out?

Tera grabs her purse and pulls out pepper spray. She points it at him.

TERA

Please leave.

BRODY

Cool. Catch you on the flip.

He backs away slowly. Once he reaches to the door: he runs.

EXT. MEZZANINE

Miranda smokes a cigarette and composes herself as Andy comes out.

ANDY I was thinking I was going to have to chase you.

MIRANDA This neighborhood is really dangerous at night.

ANDY You smoke?

MIRANDA I've given up on life.

ANDY

That's not true. You wouldn't be worried about running through the neighborhood.

MIRANDA I said I gave up on life, not that I want to be the victim of gang initiation week.

ANDY I actually think that's in June. Can we go for a walk?

MIRANDA Are you going to abandon me halfway through?

EXT. STREET

They walk under the streetlights of the abandoned Seattle. Too cold even for the crackheads tonight.

> ANDY Don't be nervous, there's no homeless in this part of town.

They walk up to a church.

ANDY I've performed here. MIRANDA Who hires a comedian to perform at a church?

ANDY Weddings. Surprisingly.

MIRANDA What kind of person hires a comedian for a wedding?

ANDY A person who isn't bothered by divorce.

MIRANDA Your kind of person then.

ANDY Let me show you something cool.

He gently grabs her by the arm and takes her behind the church and begin the walk to

A gigantic, moss and vine covered alter.

ANDY I don't like being the bad guy. You know that right? This doesn't make me proud.

MIRANDA You have the choice, Andy.

ANDY If there had been a choice, it would have been you.

MIRANDA The consolation prize! Thank you!

ANDY

My heart beats for that woman back there and I don't know if you've realized this, but I hate sweater vests. They are so incredibly stupid.

MIRANDA

They are not!

To you. That's what you want out of life: A guy who wears sweater vests. A guy who votes on economic principle. I'm never going to be that guy. And it's wrong to pretend to be him just because you make me less lonely. If we were truly in love with each other, you would know I'm never going to be happy dressing that part. She doesn't require acting.

MIRANDA

You're allowed to break my heart, but you're not allowed to tell me our feelings aren't real.

ANDY

Maybe they are real. Even if this was love between us; even if it were possible to love two women at the same time... she's the one I want to lose less.

They finally reach the Alter.

MIRANDA This place is beautiful.

ANDY It's haunted.

MIRANDA

No it isn't.

ANDY Can't you feel the presence of every failed relationship standing here with us?

MIRANDA It's the kind of place I'd like to get married.

ANDY It is beautiful, I'll grant you that.

She presses her body to his.

MIRANDA Make love to me.

ANDY

No.

MIRANDA We won't get caught.

ANDY

That's not my reason for saying no.

She lifts up her skirt.

MIRANDA You don't want to say no.

ANDY You can't use that against me.

MIRANDA Just your love once more.

She falls to her knees.

ANDY Come on, get up.

MIRANDA Just fuck me already!

ANDY I'm saying this as feminist: You are so much better than this.

MIRANDA Isn't bipolar what you crave?

Andy sits down and puts his arm around her shoulder.

MIRANDA You won't even fuck me one last time. Have I been good for anything?

Andy looks to the stars.

ANDY Do you believe in parallel universes?

MIRANDA

What?

ANDY

Every physical thing in this universe is made of particles, but those particles have the choice to become waves when nobody is looking.

MIRANDA

You're really going to make me listen to this?

ANDY

Just hear me out. There are an unlimited possible variations in which those particles can turn to waves and vice versa. Maybe if our particles observed each other just one second sooner, or in completely separate environment, we wouldn't be here right now. The universe accounts for every variation. Somewhere in those variations, we do stay together.

MIRANDA

You're using science fiction to justify cheating me?

ANDY

Quantum physics isn't science fiction, it's science actuality.

MIRANDA

Quantum physics can suck my dick. She's only going to leave you again. You know that right?

ANDY

Probably, yeah... I know.

MIRANDA

That hasn't sunk in yet?

ANDY

My heart may want the most dangerous things, but it's the only heart I have. I gotta do right by it. It's so fitting, us coming to an end here.

In the distance, the blue and reds of a police cruiser flash.

ANDY Come on, we need to get out of here.

He takes her by the hand and makes her run off. They are lost into the night.

EXT. ANDY'S APARTMENT

They each drink hot chocolate.

ANDY I had your mom and Merrill pack. You can stay through the holiday, I'm not going to kick you out. I can be at the hotel.

MIRANDA It's fine. Thank you though.

Andy adjusts her collar.

MIRANDA Those parallel universes you mentioned, you truly believe there is one where you love me?

ANDY

I do.

Miranda grabs his hand and leans into his ear.

MIRANDA

There's a world out there where we stand here for hours, just holding each other. Then as we break apart our embrace, you grab my hand and you pull me back. You kiss me. Your kisses never leave. You love me forever.

Miranda slowly backs away until only their hands touch. She waits for Andy to pull back, but he allows her fingers to slip from his.

She goes inside and leaves Andy to only watch the space where she once stood.

INT. ANDY'S APARTMENT

Merrill and Diane put the full suitcases by the door as Miranda walks through it.

MERRILL Miranda, I promise I'm going to be better. I'm going to work for your forgiveness.

MIRANDA

I'm never going to be with you and you finally need to let that sink in. Now there is nothing to forgive, let's just go.

Diane and Merrill take the bags out for her. Miranda walks to the mantle and takes the snow globe.

She begins to leave but stops. What the hell, she also takes as many of the manger characters as she can carry.

She kicks over the pieces which remains and then walks out.

After a brief moment of silence, Andy comes through. He sees the destruction around him. He goes to the

KITCHEN

and pours himself a drink.

ANDY Thank God.

INT. TRAIN STATION - DAY

Andy and Tera hold hands as they walk through the tunnel.

TERA I've always loved this city in winter.

ANDY You've never had to live through it all. TERA I never would. Life is too short for unbearable conditions.

ANDY You said it, sister.

TERA Andy, my love, I have a confession to make.

ANDY

Which is?

TERA We aren't here to pick up my mother.

ANDY Is she taking a taxi to my place?

TERA No, stupid, she was never coming.

ANDY That's a relief.

TERA

Excuse me?

ANDY

I didn't mean it tha- oh, come on, she's hated me ever since I refused to eat that cabbage soup she made.

TERA

Of course she hates you, you're a pig. I like you though, but try not be so selfish right now. We're here for charity.

ANDY Wait, what?

TERA On a scale of one to ten, how Jewish do I look right now?

He looks around the train station. It's pretty much all women in hijabs.

Tera pulls out some feminism pamphlets and hands them to him.

102.

TERA Pass these out.

ANDY No, honey, we aren't doing this.

TERA Oh, and in case I don't come back!

She jumps on him and passionately kisses him. We will never see either of these two again.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Miranda drives a convertible with the top down the long stretch of farm country. Gone are the clothes she wore for Andy. She's finally herself again.

She sings her song, something about self empowerment. She gets lost in her dance and the car swerves into a white picket fence.

EXT. SCOTT'S HOUSE

Her now battered car enters the driveway. Chickens scatter.

She knocks on the front door, a four-year-old BOY answers.

BOY Can I help you?

MIRANDA Hi! Maybe this is the wrong house. Is Scott here?

BOY Just a moment.

The child goes off inside while Miranda waits on the porch.

a man dressed similarly to how she had Andy dress comes to the door. This is SCOTT, obviously.

SCOTT

Miranda?

MIRANDA

Scott!

He opens the screen and they hug.

SCOTT What are you doing here?

MIRANDA I'm back! Living with my mom!

SCOTT That's great! Come on inside.

INT. SCOTT'S HOUSE

They come into the foyer. Scott picks up the child.

SCOTT This here is Christopher. Can you say hello to Miranda?

BOY Hi, Miranda.

Miranda shakes the child's hand.

MIRANDA

He's so cute.

The boy's mother, VANESSA, enters the room. She's dressed in the. exact. same. outfit. as. Miranda.

VANESSA

Hi, there.

SCOTT Honey, this is Miranda, the old friend of mine I was telling you about.

Vanessa shakes Miranda's hand.

VANESSA It's great to finally meet you.

MIRANDA You as well.

VANESSA Are you staying for dinner?

MIRANDA I wouldn't impose. VANESSA I'll get everything ready while you two catch up. Come on Christopher, let's help Mommy.

Scott hands Christopher off to his mother and they go off into the kitchen.

SCOTT I can't believe it's you in the flesh. In my doorway.

MIRANDA Life is just full of detours. Wow, look at you. You must love being a... step dad?

SCOTT Nope, I'm just mommy's boyfriend.

MIRANDA You always were a family man. Is it everything you hoped it would be?

SCOTT I like it. He's great. And Vanessa, she really gets me. You're going to love her. Actually, she reminds me a lot of you.

Hearing this, MIRANDA SMILES!

THE END