THE WEDDING PLANNER

By
Pam Falk & Mike Ellis

01/03/00

1st White
Shooting Draft

1 EXT. PARK - NIGHT - 1975 1

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

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

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

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

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

2 EXT. PARIS - NIGHT - 1975 2

Barbie and Ken dance in front of the Eifel Tower.

KEN
No way! Burnt Orange is my favorite color too!

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

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

BARBIE
Oh Ken, you're so brave...

3 OMMITTED 3

3A EXT. HAWAIIN BEACH - SUNSET - 1975 3A

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

KEN
Malibu Barbie, will you marry me?

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

SMASH CUT TO:

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

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

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

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

BARBIE
Wow! I look beautiful...

GIRL (O.S.)
We're running behind! Where's the caterer?!

VOICE (O.S.)
Here I am!

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

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

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

A nervous Ken comes into frame.

KEN
You got the ring, Joe?

G.I. JOE
(pats pocket) Right here, my main man!

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

DIGGER
The photographer has a-rrived!

GIRL (O.S.)
Only two minutes left! Is the priest on the premises?

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

MR. SPOCK
Affirmative.

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

GIRL (O.S.)
Hey, where are your pants?!

3D CONTINUED: 3D

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

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

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

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

He exchanges words with Anna in ITALIAN.

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

CUT TO:

Anna walks Mary up the stairs.

ANNA
You take your weddings too seriously, Mary.

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

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

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

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

MARY (O.S.)
...You may now kiss the bride.

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

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: 5

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

MATCH CUT TO:

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

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

ROLL CREDITS. We're in...

6 INT. CHURCH. SAN FRANCISCO. PRESENT - MORNING 6

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

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

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

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

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

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: 6

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

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

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

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

MARY
Pardon me...

BRIDESMAID
gasping) What are y...

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

7 INT. CHAPEL - CONTINUOUS 7

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

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

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

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

Flattered, the woman does so. The monitors clear.

PENNY
(into headset) Dark tower demolished.

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

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

7 CONTINUED: 7

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

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

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

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

8 INT. CONFESSIONAL - CONTINUOUS 8

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

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

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

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

F.O.B.
He did?

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

He nods. Choking back tears.

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

9 INT. CHURCH 9

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

END CREDITS

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

10 EXT. CHURCH - NEXT MOMENT - EVENING 10

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

MARY
Outstanding, Miguel. I owe you again.

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

11 INT. CHURCH - NEXT MOMENT 11

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

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

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

MARY
And Sean Connery on the F.O.B.

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

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

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

GUEST #1
Look, there's the wedding planner.

12 CONTINUED: (2) 12

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

MARY
Who?

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

MARY
You mean the kid who ate mud?

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

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

SALVATORE
No need.

Salvatore gets up. Opens the door...

SALVATORE
Massimo! Come join us...

Mary stops laughing.

MARY
He's here?

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

SALVATORE
Mary, you remember Massimo?

DOTTIE
(whistles) All that mud did him good.

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

12 CONTINUED: 12

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

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

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

MARY
I know, Dad. It's okay.

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

MARY
What are you talking about?

SALVATORE
It is hard to explain.

MARY
Give it to me in one sentence.

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

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

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

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

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

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: 11

GUEST #2
My God, she must lead a very romantic life...

CUT TO:

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

12 INT. COMMUNITY CENTER - NIGHT 12

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

SALVATORE
I challenge you! "EARWAX" is two words.

MARY
It's one.

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

MARY
Oh Dad, not again.

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

Mary rolls her eyes.

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

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

BURT
For Chrissakes, leave her alone.

SALVATORE
Keep your big eyebrows outta this.

BURT
At least I have a chin.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (3) 12

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

MARY
How nice. Thank you.

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

MARY
Okay then.

She kisses Salvatore on his bald head and leaves.

SALVATORE
Mary! Wait, Mary!

MASSIMO
Why did not you tell me?

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

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

Massimo recovers. Claps Salvatore on the shoulder with confidence.

MASSIMO
Do not have the fear. She will marry me.

13 INT. MARY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 13

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

CUT TO:

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

CUT TO:

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

CUT TO:

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

MARY
Just made it...

CUT TO:

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

CUT TO:

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

A14 EXT. STREET - MORNING A14

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

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

MARY
Try "I am."

WILSON
That'll work.

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

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

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

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

14 CONTINUED: 14

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

They pass a FLORIST holding a big bouquet.

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

Mary hands her a newspaper with a circled wedding notice.

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

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

GERI
What's this?

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

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

Geri SHOUTS to her SECRETARY.

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

A15 INT. GERI'S OFFICE - NEXT MOMENT A15

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

A15 CONTINUED: A15

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

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

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

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

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

GERI
You wouldn't.

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

15 INT. OUTSIDE GERI'S OFFICE - NEXT MOMENT 15

PENNY
You're gonna be a partner!

MARY
Gotta get the account first...

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

15 CONTINUED: 15

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MARY
You talked to him?!

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

MARY
He is not adorable.

PENNY
How can you say that?

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

PENNY
What did you tell him?

MARY
I have to get out of here.

15 CONTINUED: (2) 15

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

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

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

MATCH CUT TO:

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

16 INT. MANSION. ATRIUM - DAY 16

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

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

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

17 INT. KITCHEN - SAME 17

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

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

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

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

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
You just fed the best man his lines...

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

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: 17

VOICE/FRAN
...Smooth. Real smooth.

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

As they exit into the reception...

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

MARY
Who?

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

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

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

ANGLE ON THE STAGE

The WEDDING SINGER steps up to the mic.

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

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

BACK TO FRAN AND MARY

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

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

17 CONTINUED: (2) 17

MARY
Very nice to meet you.

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

MARY
Actually, it's Veuve Clicquot.

MRS. DONOLLY
How enchanting!

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

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

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

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

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

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

MARY
You're kidding?

FRAN
Ma, please.

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

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (3) 17

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

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

MARY
Well, off the top of my head...

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

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

Fran and her parents just stare...

18 EXT. STREET 18

MARY
(on cellphone) I nailed it Geri!

Mary strides down the street, the thrill of victory.

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

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

MARY
Guess what, Miss Moneypenny...

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

A taxi speeds towards the intersection.

19 INT. TAXI - SAME 19

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

BACK TO MARY

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

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

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

Something BARRELS into Mary, HAMMERING her to the sidewalk.

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

STEVE
Howdy.

MARY
Hello.

STEVE
How you feeling?

MARY
(dazed) Great. You?

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

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

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

19 CONTINUED: 19

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

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

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

MARY
You...you saved my life.

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

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

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

STEVE
(bewildered) Yeah, I get that a lot.

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

A BRIGHT WHITE LIGHT fills the screen.

CHILD'S VOICE (O.S.)
Yup, she's dead alright.

CHILD #2 (O.S.)
Do you think she's going to heaven?

CHILD #3 (O.S.)
Definitely, she has the cleanest toes I've ever seen...

20 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY 20

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

MARY
Where am I?

20 CONTINUED: 20

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

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

MARY
Could someone tell me what the hell is going on?

BOY #1
Ooo, she said "hell."

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

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

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

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

MARY
(stops) Oh. Right.

At that moment, Steve enters with a clipboard.

STEVE
How's our patient?

GIRL
It was touch and go there for awhile.

BOY #1
I think she needs more fluids.

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

The kids laugh, disgusted and delighted.

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

20 CONTINUED: (2) 20

GIRL
You can't catch us Dr. Steve!

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

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

MARY
And I'm M...

He dives under the bed...

STEVE
Mary Fiore, I know.

...and comes up with a giggling boy.

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

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

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

STEVE
Not on my watch...

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

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

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

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

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

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: (3) 20

KIDS
Sorry, Ms. Fiore.

MARY
(smiling) Quite alright.

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

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

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

He turns back to Mary.

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

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

STEVE
You have a big neck.

MARY
I have a big neck?!

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

He gets the brace off.

MARY
What happened to your thumb?

STEVE
You fell on it with your big neck.

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

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

20 CONTINUED: (4) 20

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

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

STEVE
Hey, no picking up on my patients.

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

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

Steve laughs.

LOUDSPEAKER (O.S.)
Dr. Dojny, report to the front desk...

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

He exits. Then pops his head back in.

JOHN
Resistance is fu-tile.

He's gone.

MARY

Resistance is fu-tile?

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

MARY
What is midnight blue?

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

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: (5) 20

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

21 INT. STEVE'S OFFICE - LATER 21

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

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

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

MARY
So I'm okay?

STEVE
Better than new.

MARY
Speaking of new, she looks like a modern girl.

STEVE
Who?

MARY
Your girlfriend.

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

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

MARY
Oh my.

At that moment, Penny rushes in.

PENNY
MY GOD, YOU'RE ALIVE!

MARY
How did you get here?

21 CONTINUED: 21

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

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

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

STEVE (cont'd)
Are you okay?

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

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

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

She starts to usher them out.

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

PENNY
Oh come on, you must let us repay you.

MARY
Penny, leave him alone.

STEVE
You don't want me to go?

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

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

21 CONTINUED: (2) 21

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

MARY
Ah...sure.

PENNY
Then it's settled!

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

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

22 EXT. YERBA BUENA PARK - DUSK 22

MARY
Don't you dare!

PENNY
It's for your own good.

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

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

Penny runs off.

MARY
Penny!

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

CUT TO:

22A EXT YERBA BUENA PARK - NIGHT 22A

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

(CONTINUED)

22A CONTINUED: 22A

STEVE
No grass left.

MARY
Come on, I have reserved seating...

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

MARY
Hey, thanks for guarding my tree.

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

MARY
Burt, this is Steve Edison.

STEVE
Pleasure to meet you.

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

MARY
It's not a...

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

MARY
Burt!

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

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

MARY
Burt!

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

He lumbers off.

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

22A CONTINUED: (2) 22A

STEVE
Scrabble?

MARY
Please don't ask.

STEVE
Now you have to tell me.

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

STEVE
Wow, that is pathetic.

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

STEVE
I'm a gifted Yahtzee player.

She hits him.

STEVE
Seriously, how'd you get into it?

MARY
(grabs popcorn) No caramel corn for you.

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

She takes him in. He is serious.

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

CUT TO:

22B EXT. YERBA BUENA PARK - TREE - NIGHT 22B

Mary and Steve sit up in the tree.

22B CONTINUED: 22B

STEVE
...I have another one, "zoogloeae".

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

STEVE
Whoa, you're amazing.

MARY
I thought I was pathetic?

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

MARY
Thanks.

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

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

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

MARY
Wait till the musical numbers come on.

STEVE
Why?

MARY
You'll see.

TIME CUT:

22C EXT. YERBA BUENA PARK - TREE - NIGHT 22C

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

MARY
What are you doing?

STEVE
I only eat the brown ones.

(CONTINUED)

22C CONTINUED: 22C

MARY
Because...?

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

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

STEVE
You should hear my theory on blue cheese.

MARY
I'm afraid.

STEVE
You should be.

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

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

MARY
Told you it was cool.

They watch the crowd. After a time...

MARY
You wanna dance?

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

Burt steps out from behind the tree.

BURT
A girl asks you to dance, you dance!

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

Offers his hand. She takes it. They dance.

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

He twirls her around. They move beautifully together.

(CONTINUED)

22C CONTINUED: (2) 22C

MARY
How'd you learn to dance like this?

STEVE
Ballroom class in college.

MARY
Oh. You're gay?

STEVE
The gayest.

MARY
Oh.

Big pause.

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

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

STEVE
Not the right ones.

They dance on. Eyes locked.

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

They float over the grass. Faces close.

MARY
How's your thumb?

STEVE
Never been better.

MARY
Y.M.C.A.

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

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

(CONTINUED)

22C CONTINUED: (3) 22C

He smiles.

MARY
Maybe you should be there.

STEVE
Maybe you shouldn't step on my foot.

MARY
Did I?

STEVE
Yup.

MARY
Sorry.

STEVE
Don't let it happen again.

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

STEVE
Don't...

MARY
Don't what?

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

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

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

23 INT. MARY'S BATHROOM - LATER 23

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

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

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

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

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

FADE OUT/FADE IN:

25 OMITTED 25

26 INT. RITZ CARLTON. HALLWAY - NIGHT 26

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

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

FRAN
Not bad, huh?

MARY
You know all these people?

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

MARY
IÕm not different. How am I different?

FRAN
You can't stop smiling.

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

FRAN
Like a fool. Tell me.

MARY
It's nothing.

FRAN
Then stop smiling.

Mary tries. She can't.

MARY
I can't.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: 26

FRAN
Okay, who is he?

27 INT. GRAND BALLROOM - SAME 27

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

GREEK MEN
OOO-PA!!!

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

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

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

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

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

MARY
Almost kissed.

Several more plates CRASH all around them.

FRAN
What's going on?

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

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

MARY
Not really my style.

27 CONTINUED: 27

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

MARY
What do you think of the room?

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

MARY
Not enough?

FRAN
Not enough.

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

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

MARY
If you can't beat 'em...

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

PENNY
What's gotten into you?

FRAN
She met a guy.

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

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

Penny lets the entire stack CRASH to the floor.

PENNY
Yesssss!

GREEK MEN (O.S.)
OOO-PA!

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

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

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

SALVATORE
You ready?

MARY
I'm reviewing my "Q's."

SALVATORE
Look who came to cheer you on...

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

MARY
Why did you bring him?

SALVATORE
He wanted to see you. Give him a chance.

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

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

SALVATORE
But what about Massimo?

DOTTIE
Who cares, the other guy's a doctor.

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

SALVATORE
You would not.

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

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED: 28

Salvatore, Burt and Dottie are horrified.

DOTTIE
I think she means business.

CUT TO:

28B INT YMCA 28B

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

DISSOLVE TO:

28C INT YMCA 28C

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

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

BURT
She's looking for the doctor.

MASSIMO
Is she sick?

DISSOLVE TO:

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

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

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

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

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

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED: (2) 28

MARY
(to Burt) Did you see him?

BURT
No, kiddo. Maybe he had an emergency.

MARY
Maybe he can't be bothered.

Massimo steps up to her.

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

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

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

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

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

SCR(-)W U

The "(-)" being a blank.

29 INT. MARY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 29

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

CUT TO:

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

MARY
No...

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: 29

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

He hands her a single red rose. She softens.

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

She opens the chain. The door swings open.

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

Massimo picks up a decorative bowl.

MASSIMO
This looks expensive.

She snatches it from him.

MARY
It is.

MASSIMO
Why are you frustrated?

MARY
I don't want to talk about it.

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

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

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

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (2) 29

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

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

MARY
He what?

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

30 EXT. STREET - SAME NIGHT 30

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

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

WE PAN UP TO THE CRESCENT MOON...

MATCH CUT TO:

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

31 INT. DANCE SCHOOL 31

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

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

As the couple go off...

VOICE (O.S.)
Mary, what are you doing here?

Mary turns to see...

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

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: 31

MARY
I thought your class was Thursday.

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

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

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

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

EDDIE IS STEVE. MARY'S STEVE!

There is no movement. There are no words.

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

Mary and Steve are in utter shock.

FRAN
Mary, are you okay?

MALE VOICE (O.S.)
Let's go people, get your tootsies out here!

Meet intolerant dance instructor, GILBERT MOUNSEY.

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

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

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

MOUNSEY
Pronto people!

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (2) 31

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

Mounsey comes over.

MOUNSEY
You're holding up the class.

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

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

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

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

MARY
(to Steve) Good choice of words.

MOUNSEY
What we have here is a fear of dancing.

He shoves Mary and Steve together.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (3) 31

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

MARY
Old lady, huh?

STEVE
Listen, this is...

MARY
You told me your name was Steve.

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

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

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

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

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

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

MARY
Yeah, that was a special day.

STEVE
...I was running late...

MARY
How convenient.

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

MARY
Surprise, surprise.

STEVE
What are the odds?

31 CONTINUED: (4) 31

MARY
Don't dance around the issue.

STEVE
I'm n...

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

STEVE
You h...

MARY
I see it all the time.

STEVE
How d...

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

Good question. He doesn't have an answer.

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

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

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

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

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

STEVE
What are you talking about?

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (5) 31

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

He swings her into a perilously deep dip.

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

MARY
What?

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

MARY
I did not!

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

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

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

STEVE
Then why'd you ask me to dance?

MARY
I didn't!

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

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

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

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

31 CONTINUED: (6) 31

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

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

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

FRAN
We need to pow-wow...

32 INT. DANCE SCHOOL. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER 32

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

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

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

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

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

Fran jumps on him, psyched.

STEVE
(to Mary) Thanks for all your help. WeÕll let you know how it goes.

FRAN
What are you talking about? She coming with us.

CLUNK.

MARY/STEVE
I'm coming?/She's coming?

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: 32

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

Mary and Steve just look at her.

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

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

FRAN
Okay, whatever. We're going!

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

FRAN
Then I'll cut the guest list.

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

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

Oh crap. Oh crap.

MARY
Alright then. Let's go!

Steve takes a big breath.

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

Thrilled, Fran grabs them both.

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

33 INT. MARY'S OFFICE 33

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

Mary sits at her desk. Slumped over.

PENNY
This is about the doctor isn't it?

Mary looks at her. She knows?

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

She doesn't know.

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

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

BEAT.

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

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

She puts her face in her hands.

MARY
It's the doctor.

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

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

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: 33

PENNY
(disbelieving) Shut...up.

MARY
Now you see why I have to quit.

PENNY
Look how calm I am, are you looking?

Mary looks.

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

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

PENNY
Oh God, I've created a Weddingstein.

34 EXT. DRIVING RANGE - NIGHT 34

Steve and John tee-off.

JOHN
The dumpster girl is your wedding planner?

STEVE
I'm in hell.

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

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

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: 34

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

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

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

STEVE
You are not aligning with my wedding planner.

JOHN
Why not?

Beat.

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

JOHN
You mongrel. You banged your wedding planner.

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

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

STEVE
No.

JOHN
Puff her dragon?

STEVE
No.

JOHN
Twiddle her teasedales.

STEVE
No.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: (2) 34

JOHN
Did she...

STEVE
Stop it.

JOHN
Did you at least slip a lip?

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

JOHN
So what's the problem?!

Steve doesn't know what to say.

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

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

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

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

JOHN
Right.

34 CONTINUED: (3) 34

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

JOHN
Exactly.

STEVE
What was I thinking?

JOHN
You're an idiot.

STEVE
I am.

JOHN
You are. Now can you fix me up?

She hits the C

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

CUT TO:

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

35 INT. CAR - MORNING 35

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

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

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

FRAN
Whaddaya think of this Eddie?

STEVE
Like it. It's groovy.

FRAN
What about this one...

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: 35

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

STEVE
Like it. It's groovy.

FRAN
Nah, who wants a wedding song about rodents?

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

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

STEVE
Perfect honey.

MARY
HA!

FRAN
What?

MARY
Oh nothing. It's nothing.

FRAN
What? Bad song?

MARY
No. I think it's absolutely perfect.

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

Steve swerves.

FRAN
Eddie, pick a lane!

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

FRAN
(to Mary) So, what happened?

35 CONTINUED: (2) 35

MARY
It didn't work out.

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

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

FRAN
Mary...what...happened?

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

FRAN
No!

MARY
Yes.

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

MARY
Yeah Fran, you're really lucky.

A36 OMITTED A36

36 EXT. AUBERGE DU SOLEIL - DAY 36

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

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

MARY
Auberge Du Soleil.

Just then...

VOICE (O.S.)
Hello!

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

36 CONTINUED: 36

MARY
(aghast) What are you doing here?

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

FRAN
(taken) Who is this?

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

MASSIMO
I am her fiance.

FRAN
What?!

Steve soaks this in.

STEVE
You're her fiance.

MASSIMO
Buon Giorno, I am Massimo!

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

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

BERNARD
Who's engaged?

FRAN
She is!

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

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

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

36 CONTINUED: (2) 36

MASSIMO
And I am the fiance!

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

MARY
Really,that's not...

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

EMPLOYEES
(moved) Awwwww.

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

BERNARD
Certainly. If you'll follow me...

They start to go. Massimo stops Steve.

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

FRAN
How cute is he?

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

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

37 INT. RECEPTION ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 37

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

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

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: 37

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

MARY
It was all very sudden.

38 EXT. AUBERGE GROUNDS - SAME 38

Massimo and Steve make their way through the grounds.

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

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

STEVE
Cherry tomatoes.

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

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

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

39 INT. HOTEL GYM - MOMENTS LATER 39

MASSIMO
When I say three, help me to lift up.

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

STEVE
There's a lot of weight on this thing.

MASSIMO
If it is too heavy for you...

39 CONTINUED: 39

STEVE
That's not what I...

MASSIMO
Three!

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

MASSIMO
Now, let us see how strong you are.

STEVE
No thanks. I'll pass.

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

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

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

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

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

STEVE
Ever do a chin-up?

CUT TO:

39A INT. HOTEL GYM 39A

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

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

Steve drops.

(CONTINUED)

39A CONTINUED: 39A

MASSIMO
I win again!

CUT TO:

39B INT. HOTEL GYM 39B

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

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

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

MASSIMO
I used to dive off cliffs!

40 INT. AUBERGE LOBBY - LATER 40

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

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

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

FRAN
Mother, what's wrong with your eye?

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

40A INT. GYM - SAME 40A

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

Exhausted, Steve slows down his treadmill.

MASSIMO
I win again!

(CONTINUED)

40A CONTINUED: 40A

STEVE
I know, I was there.

41 EXT. AUBERGE GROUNDS - MOMENTS LATER 41

Mary and Fran walk with Fran's parents.

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

FRAN
I really like it here, Dad.

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

MR. DONOLLY
By how much?

MARY
Probably a hundred off the list I have.

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

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

FRAN
Mother...

MRS. DONOLLY
Eddie, what on Earth?

They all look over to see...

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

FRAN
What the hell are you doing?

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

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

41 CONTINUED: 41

MARY
(to Massimo) Good move, honey.

CUT TO:

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

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

WE'RE IN...

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

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

FRAN
Now where do I put Richard Green and friend?

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

FRAN
Why are you upset?

STEVE
Steve's not upset.

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

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

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

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED: 42

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

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

He looks over Fran's shoulder at the computer.

STEVE
Why isn't Erica sitting with us?

FRAN
You shouldn't concern yourself with this.

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

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

STEVE
Fran...

She sits him down and sits on his lap.

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

He rubs his forehead.

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

STEVE
We could always elope.

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

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED: (2) 42

She kisses him.

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

STEVE
I know. So do I, babe.

They kiss.

43 INT. MARY'S HOTEL ROOM - SAME 43

Mary meticulously irons a pillowcase. Massimo watches.

MASSIMO
Tell the truth, you have feelings for me.

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

MASSIMO
But we had such great times together as children.

MARY
Are you kidding? You mentally tortured me!

MASSIMO
What did I do?

MARY
Would you please just go home.

MASSIMO
You want me to leave?

MARY
I really, really do.

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

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

43 CONTINUED: 43

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

MARY
Come here, I want to iron your head.

44 EXT. TRAIL - LATE AFTERNOON 44

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

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

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

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

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

MARY
I'm not much of an equestrian.

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

MARY
Thanks, but I'm doing okay...

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

Mary can barely control her horse.

MARY
Really, I'm fine.

44 CONTINUED: 44

ANGLE ON STEVE AND MASSIMO

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

STEVE
(dry) Thanks.

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

Steve feels bad for him. They shake.

STEVE
You're okay, Massimo.

45 EXT. TRAIL - DUSK 45

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

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

MARY
He wants to give up his patients?

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

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

45 CONTINUED: 45

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

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

MARY
Heel, boy! Heel!

She kicks and the horse goes faster.

MARY
Wrong! Wrong!

FRAN
Pull on the reins!

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

MASSIMO
Not to worry, Mary! I am coming!

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

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

MARY
Oh no! Oh no! Bad horse! Bad!

Steve speeds after Mary. Gains on her.

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

MRS. DONOLLY
Oh shit, there goes dinner.

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

MARY
Not good.

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

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

45 CONTINUED: (2) 45

MARY
You saved my life. Again.

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

STEVE
...You okay?

MASSIMO
Mary!

Massimo and the others arrive.

FRAN
My God! You could've been killed!

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

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

MARY
I've ruined dinner.

FRAN
Stop that. Eddie, ride back with Mary.

MARY
No, really...

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

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

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

46 EXT. TRAIL - NIGHT 46

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

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

MARY
Thank you for what you did.

46 CONTINUED: 46

STEVE
No problem.

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

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

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

STEVE
You want a confession in blood?

He stops walking. Looks up at her.

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

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED: (2) 46

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

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

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

47 INT. HOTEL FOYER - LATER 47

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

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

Massimo stumbles over to Mary.

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

48 INT. MARY'S HOTEL ROOM - LATE NIGHT 48

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

49 INT. HOTEL LOBBY - A LITTLE LATER 49

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

MARY
(to Bartender) Can I still order food?

BARTENDER
(handing her menu) Sure.

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

The bartender heads off.

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

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED: 49

VOICE (O.S.)
If it isn't the Nostradamus of wedding predictions.

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

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

An uneasy silence sets in. Then...

MARY/STEVE
I'm sorry.../I'm sorry...

STEVE
There it is again. You go...

MARY
No, you go...

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

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

STEVE
And so will you and Massimo.

Mary's food arrives.

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

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

STEVE
At least I have a 50/50 chance.

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

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

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED: (2) 49

MARY
Okay. Truce.

STEVE
So everything's fine now?

MARY
Absolutely.

STEVE
Cool.

MARY
Yeah. Well, good night.

STEVE
Good night.

50 EXT. HIGHWAY - MORNING 50

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

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

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

51 INT. MARY'S BEDROOM - MORNING 51

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

MARY
What's going on?

SALVATORE
I'm measuring you for a wedding dress.

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

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

SALVATORE
Now you can finally get rid of this...

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED: 51

MARY
PUT THAT BACK!

Burt enters holding cream cheese and a butter knife.

BURT
Mary, what do you want on your bagel?

MARY
No bagel, no wedding dress, no wedding!

SALVATORE
But Massimo said you announced your engagement.

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

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

MARY
That's disgusting.

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

SALVATORE
Mind your own business and go toast the bagels!

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

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

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

MARY
What are you talking about?

SALVATORE
Your mother and I had an arranged marriage.

51 CONTINUED: (2) 51

CLUNK.

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

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

MARY
You lied to me?

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

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

He sits down on her bed.

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

Mary is speechless. He takes her hand.

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

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED: (3) 51

SALVATORE (cont'd)
Maybe then you would feel differently about love.

MARY
I don't feel anything about love.

CUT TO:

52 EXT. GOLDEN GATE PARK - DAY 52

STEVE
I think I feel the same way...

A vast and seemingly endless expanse of land.

STEVE
...It's just too small.

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

Mary's off in another world.

FRAN
Mary?

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

FRAN
Dad would love it.

MARY
And what about the bride and groom-to be?

Fran and Steve look at each other.

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

It's an awkward moment.

MARY
Maybe I should give you guys a minute.

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

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED: 52

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

STEVE
Gone?

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

MARY
Fran, this is a critical time.

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

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

53 OMITTED 53

54 OMITTED 54

55 EXT. STATUARY GARDEN - DAY 55

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

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

STEVE
Isn't that a little...menacing?

MARY
No, it's dramatic.

STEVE
O-kay.

They wind down the path.

55 CONTINUED: 55

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

Unsure of what to say, she says...

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

They stop in front of a nude statue of Samson.

STEVE
What about this guy?

MARY
No. All wrong for a wedding. Too masculine.

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

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

STEVE
Look how sturdy...

With that, CRASH! The statue falls over.

STEVE
Holy...

MARY
Pick it up! Before someone sees!

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

MARY
Thank God it's okay.

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

PLOP. Samson's penis falls off.

STEVE
What the...

55 CONTINUED: (2) 55

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

MARY
You castrated Samson.

He picks up the broken penis.

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

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

STEVE
You think?

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

STEVE
What do I do?

MARY
Oh my God, a guard's coming.

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

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

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

STEVE
What am I gonna do with this thing?

MARY
Wait...

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

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

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

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

55 CONTINUED: (3) 55

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

MARY
Hurry!

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

STEVE
It's stuck. Steve's stuck.

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

STEVE
Howdy.

GUARD
Sir, touching the statues is not permitted.

STEVE
Yes sir...

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

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

GUARD
Sir.

STEVE
Yes, sir?

GUARD
You're hand.

STEVE
Yes, sir.

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

STEVE
Just having a ball over here.

55A OMITTED 55A

55B EXT. STATUARY GARDEN - LATER 55B

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

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

MARY
At least you got to keep it.

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

MARY
The entire universe.

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

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

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

STEVE
Making deals. Kicking butt.

MARY
How'd you two meet?

He's thrown. Where did that come from?

STEVE
College.

MARY
She was in one of your classes?

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

(CONTINUED)

55B CONTINUED: 55B

MARY
You were a couple of tree huggers.

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

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

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

MARY
Sure.

She sticks it in her utility belt.

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

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

Steve tries to hide his surprise.

STEVE
Really.

MARY
Really.

STEVE
You okay with it?

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

STEVE
Why would he do that?

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

They take in the peaceful surroundings.

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

56 INT. SALVATORE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 56

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

MASSIMO
Mary, how nice to see you!

MARY
Where's my father?

MASSIMO
He is out buying plastic spoons for his birthday cake.

MARY
Tell him I was here.

She starts to go.

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

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

Mary's exhausted.

MASSIMO
I am sorry. I will leave you alone.

MARY
Oh please.

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

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

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

56 CONTINUED: 56

MARY
Is this a trick?

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

Mary eyes him suspiciously.

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

57 INT. SALVATORE'S KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER 57

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

MARY
That's your speciality? Instant Macaroni and Cheese?

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

MARY
Nothing like a well-balanced diet.

MASSIMO
(flattered) Thank you.

He brings two bowls to the table. Mary eats.

MASSIMO
You look like you have things on your mind.

MARY
Not at all.

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

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

57 CONTINUED: 57

MASSIMO
Ahhh...

He rattles off in Italian. Mary understands.

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

MASSIMO
You remind me so much of your mother.

MARY
You don't remember my mother.

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

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

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

Mary considers.

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

Massimo nods.

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

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

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

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED: (2) 57

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

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

MASSIMO
You think I am nice looking?

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

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

MARY
(stunned) My mother used to say that.

MASSIMO
Your mother was a wise woman...

58 OMITTED 58

59 OMITTED 59

60 EXT. FLOWER MARKET - LATE AFTERNOON 60

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

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

STEVE
What about this one?

She chuckles.

STEVE
What?

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

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED: 60

STEVE
Right. What about those?

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

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

MARY
OH MY GOD.

STEVE
I guessed right?

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

STEVE
What's the matter?

MARY
No.

STEVE
No what?

MARY
No way. Hide me. Now.

She ducks behind Steve.

STEVE
What are you doing?

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

STEVE
Did you lose something, Mary?

MARY
Shhh! Don't say my name!

STEVE
What...

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

60 CONTINUED: (2) 60

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

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

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

MAN
Mary?

Trapped.

MAN
Hi.

Mary tries to be cool.

MARY
Hi.

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

STEVE
Steve Edison...

MAN
(shakes) Keith Richmond.

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

WOMAN
Mary, nice to see you. You look great.

MARY
Wendy, you look...pregnant.

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

STEVE
Congratulations! When are you due?

WENDY
Eight weeks. We're very excited.

STEVE
That's great. Congratulations again.

KEITH
Thank you.

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED: (3) 60

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

STEVE
So, how do you all know each other?

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

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

CUT TO:

61 EXT. MARY'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT 61

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED: 61

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

She presses a buzzer.

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

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

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

MARY
Oh Nancy, what the hell...

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

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

Steve puts his arms around her.

STEVE
It's okay.

MARY
I want to go home.

STEVE
We are home...

She clutches his shirt in her fists.

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

He sweeps Mary up in his arms, honeymoon style.

STEVE
He didn't look that good.

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

62 INT. MARY'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 62

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

STEVE
Can I make you some coffee?

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

STEVE
What do you have?

MARY
Marshmallows.

CUT TO:

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

MARY
You really don't think he looked good?

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

MARY
(smiles) Be quiet.

They are. For a long moment.

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

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

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED: 62

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

STEVE
It's getting late. I better go.

Mary and Steve walk to the front door.

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

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

MARY
Shut up.

STEVE
You gonna be okay?

MARY
Of course.

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

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

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

STEVE
Do you ever think about that night in the park?

MARY
What?

STEVE
I do. All the time.

She can't speak.

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

62 CONTINUED: (2) 62

Silence.

STEVE
Please say something.

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

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

63 OMITTED 63

64 EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - DAWN 64

The cling peach sun rises over the city.

65 INT. "HERE COMES THE BRIDE" - MORNING 65

Mary walks down the hall. Benton joins her.

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

Mary keeps walking.

BENTON
Mary? Did you hear me?

MARY
What? What is it?!

Benton's blown back.

BENTON
Whoa, a little tense.

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

66 INT. MARY'S OFFICE - NEXT SECOND 66

Frazzled, Mary enters her office to find...

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

MARY
Fran, what's the matter?

FRAN
(cold) I came back early.

MARY
Why? I mean, is everything okay?

FRAN
I've discovered something...

Mary's heart skips a beat.

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

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

FRAN
Yes it is.

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

FRAN
I'm not going through with this wedding.

MARY
Fran...

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

(CONTINUED)

66 CONTINUED: 66

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

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

Fran throws her arms around Mary.

FRAN
Thank you. Thank you...Thank you.

67 EXT. CEMETERY - DUSK 67

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

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

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

She starts to cry.

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

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED: 67

MARY (cont'd)
I felt like I was suffocating. Then Steve showed up and made me breathe again.

She chokes back sobs.

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

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

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

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

68 INT. SALVATORE'S TAILOR SHOP - NIGHT 68

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

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

Salvatore blows out the candles. Everyone applauds.

DOTTIE
Hope he didn't spit on the cake.

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

The room quiets.

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

Moved, everyone takes a celebratory drink.

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

(CONTINUED)

68 CONTINUED: 68

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

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

Tentatively, Mary looks into the doll house...

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

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

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

OK

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

69 INT. MARY'S BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT 69

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

70 EXT. MARY'S FIRE ESCAPE - NEXT MOMENT 70

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

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

(CONTINUED)

70 CONTINUED: 70

START MONTAGE

71 INT. MARY'S OFFICE - DAY 71

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

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

72 INT. TUXEDO SHOP 72

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

73 INT. SALVATORE'S TAILOR SHOP 73

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

74 INT. WORKSHOP - DAY 74

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

75 INT. GERI'S OFFICE 75

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

END MONTAGE

76 INT. STRIP CLUB - NIGHT 76

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

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

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

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

(CONTINUED)

76 CONTINUED: 76

CROWD
Why?!

STRIPPER
They have cotton balls!

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

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

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

77 INT. STRIP CLUB. BACK ROOM - LATER 77

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

STEVE
Hey...

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

STEVE
John!

JOHN
What?! I'm working here!

STEVE
I need to talk.

JOHN
Now?!

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

JOHN
I'm very proud of you.

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

77 CONTINUED: 77

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

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

JOHN
Oh my...Oh my...

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

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

STEVE
What?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(CONTINUED)

77 CONTINUED: (2) 77

JOHN
Which means?

STEVE
Marry Fran.

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

STRIPPER
Ooo, sorry little man.

78 EXT. GOLDEN GATE PARK - DAWN 78

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

A79 EXT. WEDDING SITE - DAY A79

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

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

79 INT. BRIDAL TENT - DAY 79

Mary finishes buttoning up Fran's wedding dress.

FRAN
What would I do without you?

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

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

Mrs. Donolly pokes her head in the tent.

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

Mary winks at Fran on the sly.

80 INT. CATERERS TENT - MOMENTS LATER 80

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

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

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

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

MARY
And? Look, the entire commission is yours.

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

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

MARY
Then we'll have to go shopping next week.

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

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

PENNY
(worried) Where?

81 INT. CEREMONY TENT - LATE AFTERNOON 81

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

81A EXT. GROOMS DRESSING ROOM TENT 81A

ANGLE ON STEVE

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

81 CONTINUED: 81

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

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

STEVE
Hello?

WOMAN (O.S.)
Nice socks.

Steve turns to face a lovely young woman.

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

WOMAN
You never had a flair for fashion.

STEVE
I'm sorry, do I know you?

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

STEVE
Erica? Erica!

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

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

WOMAN/ERICA
It's a long story.

STEVE
I have (looks at his watch) two minutes.

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

(CONTINUED)

81 CONTINUED: (2) 81

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

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

STEVE
I'm proud of you.

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

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

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

They hug.

STEVE
I'm glad you're here.

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

Steve's smile fades.

82 INT. BRIDAL TENT 82

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

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

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

STEVE
You look beautiful.

82 CONTINUED: 82

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

STEVE
Let's go for a walk.

FRAN
A walk?! What....

STEVE
Come on, take my hand.

82A EXT. JAPANESE GARDEN - NEXT MOMENT 82A

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

STEVE
Where did they get the word 'cumberbun?'

FRAN
What?

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

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

STEVE
I do. I care.

FRAN
Why?

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

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

She tries to pull him back towards the wedding tent.

STEVE
Why do you want to marry me?

82A CONTINUED: 82A

FRAN
What?

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

FRAN
Steve, you're scaring me.

STEVE
You never call me Steve.

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

STEVE
I never said I didn't like it.

FRAN
Where is this going?

He turns to her, gently.

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

FRAN
Are you kidding me? ARE YOU KIDDING ME? You're trying to dump me the day of my wedding?!

She snatches the cumberbun from his hands and starts hitting him with it.

STEVE
(covering his head) I'm not dumping you, I'm just asking you a question.

FRAN
This isn't happening! THIS IS NOT HAPPENING!

STEVE
Franny...

FRAN
Don't Franny me, you bastard! You selfish bastard!

(CONTINUED)

82A CONTINUED: (2) 82A

STEVE
Here me out! The reasons we were together in college don't hold up anymore. We're different people now.

FRAN
AND?!

STEVE
And I think you know that.

She stops hitting him. Starts to cry.

STEVE
Fran, if you really want to marry me, I'll put on the cumberbun, we'll go back to the big tent right now and we'll get married.

Fran stares at him in disbelief. Desperate, she tries to process the whole thing.

FRAN
All those people...

STEVE
And you don't know half of them. So, what do you think? You want to get married?

FRAN
YES, OF COURSE!

STEVE
Alright then. Come on.

He looks at her. She looks at him. Then it hits her...

FRAN
NO! I DON'T WANT TO GET MARRIED!

She can't believe she said it. Tears stream from her eyes. She plunks down on the ground, the wind knocked out of her.

FRAN
I don't want to get married. I had doubts but I just couldn't...Oh my God. Oh my God...I can't deal with this! Oh my God...

83 EXT. CITY HALL - SAME 83

Mary walks up the front stairs of the building, tote bag over her shoulder.

84 INT. CITY HALL RESTROOM 84

Mary has changed into a simple, beige suit. She looks in the mirror. Puts on an pillbox hat, pulls down its thin veil...

85 INT. CITY HALL 85

Mary steps out of the bathroom. The awful florescent lighting hits her hair. Her steps echo through the empty hallway. She seems black and white in a Technicolor world.

86 EXT. GOLDEN GATE PARK - LATER 86

Steve and Fran sit side by side on a rock.

FRAN
How did we let it get this far?

STEVE
I don't know.

FRAN
What are we going to do?

STEVE
That's the beauty of it, anything we want.

FRAN
I haven't thought about what I really want in so long.

STEVE
Me neither. We're quite a pair.

Pause.

FRAN
What about Daddy?

STEVE
Yeah, what about Daddy?

FRAN
You're right.

Beat.

FRAN
Is there someone else?

STEVE
I hope so. For both of us.

(CONTINUED)

86 CONTINUED: 86

He puts his arms around her. She kisses him lightly on the lips. Brushes a tear from his eye.

FRAN
You're a good man, Steve Edison. A piece of shit with a lousy sense of timing, but a good man.

STEVE
I guess we should go back and tell everyone.

FRAN
You want to tell my father, who thinks he's about to close a ton of business deals? Or my mother, who bought a bigger, more expensive gown than I did? (pause) I'm taking off...and if I were you I'd do the same.

STEVE
But all those people...

FRAN
And we don't know half of them.

87 EXT. STREET OUTSIDE PARK 87

Fran gets lost in a sea of tulle as she enters a taxi. She waves good-bye to Steve. He waves back, just as Penny comes up behind him, frantic.

PENNY
We've been looking all over for you and...(seeing Fran) Holy crap, is that the bride?

STEVE
Yup.

An expression of sheer horror washes over her.

STEVE
Would you, by any chance, happen to know where I could find Mary?

PENNY
She's at City Hall, getting married.

He stares at her stunned. Then races off.

87 CONTINUED: 87

PENNY
And there goes the groom...along with my career.

88 INT. CAB - NEXT MOMENT 88

Steve yells at the driver.

STEVE
City Hall! Hurry up!

89 INT. CITY HALL. COURTROOM 89

Mary enters the drab room.

Massimo stands at the front next to a JUSTICE OF THE PEACE. The Scrabble Club are the only guests present. Proud, Salvatore steps up. Mary takes his arm.

Dottie hands her a small bouquet.

Together, father and daughter reach Massimo in just two steps.

90 INT. CAB - SAME 90

The cab is stuck in traffic.

STEVE
Don't you know any shortcuts?

CABBIE
No.

Steve gets out, opens the driver's door, SHOVES him into the passenger seat and takes the wheel.

CABBIE
What are you doing?!

STEVE
Whatever I have to, pilgrim.

He drives onto the sidewalk and down an alley.

91 INT. COURTROOM - SAME 91

JUSTICE
We are gathered here in the presence of these witnesses to join this man and this woman together in matrimony...

Mary shifts uncomfortably. Salvatore looks at her.

(CONTINUED)

91 CONTINUED: 91

JUSTICE
...The contract is not to be entered into lightly, but thoughtfully, seriously and with a deep realization of its obligations and responsibilities...

Massimo dabs his forehead with a hanky. Salvatore studies his daughter.

JUSTICE
If anyone can show just cause why they should not be lawfully joined together, let him speak now, or forever hold his peace.

Salvatore and Massimo raise their hands at the same time. Mary's completely confounded.

BURT
Hell, I object too!

MARY
What is going on here?

JUSTICE
(flat) I'm on the edge of my seat.

SALVATORE
(to Mary) I look in your eyes and it hurts my insides. This is not what you want, this is what I want. Shame on me! I've been trying to force your life into a place where it does not belong. I love you so much, it's made me blind to the truth. Cara mia, it does not matter whether or not you're married. It only matters if you're happy.

MARY
I'm lucky to have a father like you.

She takes his hand.

SALVATORE
And I appreciate that you object too, Massimo, that you understand.

MASSIMO
Yes. Thank you. But I have the objection for another reason. I want to marry your daughter to get a green card and become a citizen. Then I plan to divorce her and live the big life.

(CONTINUED)

91 CONTINUED: (2) 91

EVERYONE
WHAT?!

Salvatore lurches at Massimo, spewing a stream of CURSES. Burt and the others restrain him.

MASSIMO
It was good plan, but something went wrong. (to Mary) I did not expect to fall in love with you...

Salvatore stops struggling.

MASSIMO
But then I learn you are in love with another. So why you would agree to marry me is a wonder in my mind. Mary, you should be with him. I would never forgive myself if I step in the way. The worst thing in this world would be to see you without your smile.

She kisses his forehead.

92 EXT. STREET - LATER 92

The cabbie SCREAMS as the cab SCREECHES around a corner. It stops in front of city hall. Steve jumps out.

CABBIE
You crazy son of a...!

Steve gives him a look. Scared, the cabbie jumps back in the cab and takes off.

On the front steps sits Mary's wedding party, including Salvatore and Massimo.

BURT
Hey it's the doctor.

MASSIMO
Steve!

BURT
You know the doctor?

STEVE
Where's Mary?

SALVATORE
I'm her father. Who the hell are you?

(CONTINUED)

92 CONTINUED: 92

BURT/MASSIMO
He's the doctor./He is Steve.

STEVE
And I'm in love with your daughter, sir.

MASSIMO
(shocked) You are the one?!

STEVE
I'm sorry, Massimo.

MASSIMO
What of Fran?!

STEVE
We didn't get married.

DOTTIE
That's been happening a lot today.

STEVE
You mean...

BURT
She means...

SALVATORE
They didn't get married! Now who are you?

MASSIMO
This is the man that Mary loves. I did not know until now.

SALVATORE
WAIT A MINUTE! You mean to tell me you love her and she loves you and neither of you got married today?

STEVE
It looks that way, sir.

SALVATORE
Then what the hell are you standing around talking to us for?!

Beat.

STEVE
I don't have a car.

93 EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER 93

Massimo drives Steve on his little moped. On the back, a JUST MARRIED sign. A string of CLANKING CANS hang from it.

They turn a corner and find themselves in the middle of HUNDREDS OF MEN running in the 10TH ANNUAL AIDS RACE. They spot Steve, Massimo and the JUST MARRIED sign and let out a CHEER.

GAY MEN
CONGRATULATIONS!/WHERE'S THE HONEYMOON?!/
YOU GO, GIRLS!

94 OMITTED 94

95 EXT. CURB 95

Massimo drops off a rumpled looking Steve.

STEVE
Thanks man, Grazie.

MASSIMO
Be good to her.

As Steve rushes off. Massimo calls after him.

MASSIMO
I can still do more chin-up's than you!

CUT TO:

A CLOSE-UP of Fred Astaire in "ROYAL WEDDING." PULL OUT to see...

96 EXT. YERBA BUENA PARK - NIGHT 96

"ROYAL WEDDING" plays on the big screen in front of a large crowd.

Mary sits up in the tree, still in her wedding suit. She smiles at the sweet movie, eating brown M & M's.

VOICE (O.S.)
How come you're only eating the brown ones?

On the ground below stands Steve, looking up at her. Mary is thunderstruck. She finally manages to speak.

96 CONTINUED: 96

MARY
Someone once said they had less artificial coloring than the others because chocolate's already brown. It kind of stayed with me.

STEVE
And you kind of stayed with me.

Beat.

MARY
Where's Fran?

STEVE
Tahiti. On our honeymoon. We didn't get married.

MARY
Because...

STEVE
Because she wants to find her own life. And I...

MARY
You what? What does Steve want?

STEVE
Steve wants to dance. With you.

Her eyes well up.

He helps her down from the tree. They merge with the dancing crowd as the song "WEDDING BELLS" rings out.

He stops. Takes her face in his hands.

She smiles a smile that couldn't be further from her wedding planner smile.

STEVE
So given all the evidence, how long do you figure we'll last?

MARY
I don't know, my guess would be... Forever.

They fall into a kiss. A deep, wonderful kiss.

Mary and Steve continue to kiss as the DANCING CROWD swirls around them.

(CONTINUED)

96 CONTINUED: (2) 96

WE MOVE UP from the park and past the tree where WE FIND...

Mary's old wedding gown, stuck in its branches, flapping in the wind.

Suddenly, the dress TEARS away from the tree and FLIES AWAY, over the city and into this glorious, starry night.

FADE OUT.

OVER END CREDITS:

97 INT. CEREMONY TENT - NIGHT 97

The guests at Steve and Fran's wedding are still waiting for them to show. In the meantime, WAITERS pass around hors d'oeuvres. Mrs. Donolly is at the altar performing for the crowd, "If I Could Save Time In a Bottle."

THE END.