SAVE THE DATE

"Pilot"

Written by

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Revised Network Draft
1/3/2014

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COLD OPENING

FADE IN:

INT. KATIE, HILLARY, AND ROGER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A small two bedroom apartment in Seattle. It's not messy but it's cluttered, like too many people live there. JERRY and ROGER sit at the breakfast table examining the sports page and eating pizza. Jerry is mid thirties, maybe a little heavy, not traditionally handsome but definitely has charisma. Roger is weatherman handsome, salt of the earth.

ROGER
Okay, so last one, we're taking Seattle at New England. We're idiots but we're doing it.

JERRY
(smiles at him fondly)
You miss this, Roger, admit it.

ROGER
We're doing it, how can I miss it?

JERRY
But now we're here. With her.

He points to HILLARY who's on the couch in the adjacent living area redlining expense reports. She's late twenties and buttoned down, not very girlish, kind of like if Rachel Maddow was your friend's girlfriend. She ignores them.

JERRY (CONT'D)
Since you moved out things aren't the same. Remember how we used to watch Family Feud? And I'd always get the number one answer and you'd be like, "How'd you do that?" I miss that. I'm lonely. Come back.

As Hillary gets up and crosses to them:

HILLARY
He's not coming back, Jerry. I lured him into my web with the promise of infrequent sex and constant criticism.

Roger laughs; Hillary kisses him on the head and crosses toward the kitchen as KATIE (35) bursts in from her bedroom -- made up, dressed up, haired up. She's worked hard to look good but somehow it doesn't quite come together. She's got a kooky, infectious energy.

KATIE
How do I look?

HILLARY
You look great, Katie. Never more beautiful.

JERRY
(to Roger)
Listen to her lie so easily to her own sister. I never lied to you.

ROGER
Yes you did. You told me you had night blindness so I would always be the designated driver.

JERRY
See what good times we had?

Jerry's attention goes to Katie as she fills a large water glass to the brim with wine. He watches, entertained.

JERRY (CONT'D)
What's happening here? You seem to be teetering even closer to the edge than usual.

KATIE
If you must know, jackass, I'm going on a very important date with my very tall boyfriend who is much taller than you.
(to Hillary, excited)
And I think tonight's the night.

JERRY
You're going to sleep with him?

KATIE
No, we've been dating eight months. I did that eight and a half months ago. I think he's gonna propose.

HILLARY
Oh my God, what are you going to say?

KATIE
Yes! I'm going to say yes!

ROGER
It appears she rarely says no.

JERRY
Well, good for you, you're getting it in just under the wire.

KATIE
What's that supposed to mean?

JERRY
You know, you're 35, getting desperate --

KATIE
You're 35 and you've been desperate as long as I've known you.

JERRY
It doesn't work the same for men. Yes, I was in the past what you callously call desperate --

KATIE
You just called me desperate --

JERRY
-- But time goes on and all things age, especially you and your lady friends. Whereas I'm becoming distinguished. A single guy like me, owns his own restaurant, I'm a hot ticket. To sum up, I'm happy and you're old.

KATIE
(re: Jerry)
Hillary, do something.

HILLARY
Roger, do something.

ROGER
Jerry, do something else.

JERRY
Fine, I'll go.
(meaningfully to Roger)
My door is always open.

He exits. Hillary turns to Katie.

HILLARY
I don't know, Katie, getting married is a big deal. Are you sure you're ready?

KATIE
Totally sure. All the signs are there. My horoscope said “embrace new beginnings”; My Best Friend’s Wedding was on cable last night; and when I got on the train this morning a copy of Modern Bride was waiting on my seat. Kabam!

ROGER
I’m sure, too. I wasn’t but then she said kabam and that sealed it for me.

KATIE
(to Hillary)
What? Don’t you like CJ?

HILLARY
No, it’s just... CJ’s really good-looking and flashy but you don’t buy a Ferrari to be your only car forever and ever. You buy something boxy and dependable, like Roger.

ROGER
Kabam.

HILLARY
Roger and I have been together four years. And in a real relationship, the ring, the ceremony, that stuff doesn’t matter because I know he’s solid.

KATIE
I guess I’m just looking for something a little more romantic.

HILLARY
You know what I think of when I think about Roger? A mudslide. Because I know that if I were buried in a mudslide, Roger would not rest until he dug me out. Being alive after a major catastrophe. That’s romantic.

ROGER
You know, if your sister gets married, she’ll move out.

HILLARY
(to Katie)
CJ is perfect. Go get 'em tiger!

INT. VICTOIRE'S RESTAURANT - LATER

It's an upscale, romantic spot. Small tables full of couples, candlelight etc. Katie and CJ are seated. Katie is trying and failing to play it cool. She takes a sip of wine.

KATIE
This place is really special. I can't imagine what could be so special that you would bring me to a place like this.

CJ
(smiles)
Well, Katie, I've been thinking about the future. Our future. And... wait, I wrote some stuff down.

CJ pulls some notes out of his pocket reads from them.

CJ (CONT'D)
When my father was my age, he had already started his own company and I just think it's time to make a commitment...

He drops a note on the floor, then goes to one knee. Katie grabs the arm of a passing WAITER, hands him her phone.

KATIE
Just start taking pictures! Go!

CJ
...to my career. So I don't have time for a serious relationship. I think we should break up.

He sits back in his seat.

KATIE
What? What the hell?

WAITER
(still clicking)
Don't worry, I'm getting all of this.

Katie snatches the phone from the waiter and turns to CJ.

KATIE
I thought you were going to propose.

CJ
Propose?

KATIE
You were in the proposal stance! You cannot take the proposal stance and then break up with somebody!

CJ
Look, I knew you would be upset. And we have had a lot of fun together. So... here.

He hands her a check.

CJ (CONT'D)
I'm sorry we couldn't go the distance.

KATIE
You're offering me money?? I put my heart and soul into this relationship, you can't put a price on that!
(off check amount)
Five thousand dollars? Really? You actually think I'm gonna accept this? Well, I am. 'Cause that's a lot of money. I was expecting much less so... classy move. Even more bummed now that we're breaking up. If you'll excuse me...

Trying not to cry she exits quickly.

FADE OUT.

END OF COLD OPENING

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. CONNIE AND ROY'S HOUSE - THE NEXT MORNING

A working class home. Katie is at the kitchen table with her mom, CONNIE -- 60's, vibrant, very attractive -- and her big burly dad, ROY. You get the sense he and Connie have an active, happy marriage. Hillary and Roger are also there.

KATIE
...I just don't know what I did wrong.

HILLARY
You didn't do anything wrong, Katie.

CONNIE
No, you're great.

ROY
On the bright side, hon, if I don't have to pay for a wedding I can get this boat I've had my eye on.

He shows Katie a brochure of a speedboat.

CONNIE
Mmm-hmm, now that I've lost 71 1/2 pounds, I'm going topless on that thing.

ROY
Love it, babe. Every boat needs headlights.

Connie giggles.

HILLARY
Oh my God.

KATIE
The one thing I've always known is I wanted to get married and now I have to start all over again. At 35!

HILLARY
At least you still have your career.

KATIE
I don't care about my dumb career, I want a house and family and to be there when my kids get home from school. I like soap operas and minivans and those casseroles with the onion rings on top. Feminism completely screwed me.

CONNIE
Well, speaking as a woman I'm disappointed in your attitude.

KATIE
Oh, topless is disappointed. Well I'm mad. I wasted my hottest years processing loans down at that stupid bank. The only reason I took that job was to meet guys that hang out at banks! I'm supposed to be living happily ever after by now.

HILLARY
You have it in your head that getting married is this romantic fairy tale but it's not. Best case scenario, marriage is just choosing the person you would least hate to be chained to until you drop dead.

ROGER
You're right, Hillary. Will you marry me?

HILLARY
What?

ROGER
I know this isn't the best time -- and Katie, we'll get right back to your breakdown in a second -- but all this talk has made me realize that the world is a cold, lonely place and I'm lucky to be with someone who makes me feel so safe. You're the woman I want to spend the rest of my life with so, Hillary Cooper,
(he gets down on one knee)
Will you marry me?

HILLARY
(girlish squeal)
Oh my God oh my God! Yes!!!!

Hillary has undergone a startling transformation from a rather serious young woman to a blithering emotional idiot. The family surrounds the couple, offering congratulations. Hillary throws her arms around Katie who is thunderstruck.

HILLARY (CONT'D)
I get it now, Katie! I didn't think any of this stuff mattered but when the man you love asks you to marry him, it all feels so different!
(then)
Oh my God, now I feel so bad for you.

KATIE
Thanks. Congratulations, Hillary.

Roy takes a look at the boat brochure he's holding, then:

ROY
(to Hillary, hopefully)
So I bet, knowing you, you'll just want a simple, inexpensive wedding down at the courthouse, right?

HILLARY
Yeah, definitely.
(then)
Although, we will want to have a party for our friends so we might as well have the ceremony before the party, which, I guess, is then technically the reception... which might as well be at a hotel for out-of-town guests... oh and I would like to have a killer dress so I can make, you know, a big entrance because it should be a special day... Would horses be crazy??

Roy sighs, crumples his boat brochure and tosses it away.

ROY
(to Connie)
I don't want to have the kids over anymore.

INT. FANCY HOTEL BAR - LATER

Katie, Jerry, Hillary and Roger are seated at the bar. Katie addresses the bartender, hands him a credit card.

KATIE
My name's Katie, I'll be here for awhile drowning my sorrows.
(re: Hillary and Roger)
They're celebrating their engagement, we're happy for them, whatever, here's what I need from you. I want to order once and have drinks keep magically appearing in front of me. I'm not driving so don't ask me and don't cut me off. If at a certain point you think I need something to eat, just handle that on your own. Onion rings, nachos, anything in the popper family I'm down with. Do all that and I'll make it worth your while.

The bartender starts serving up drinks.

JERRY
That's the most coherent thing I've ever heard you say.

ROGER
(holds up his glass)
To my beautiful bride to be.

JERRY
(to Hillary)
Well, I know you'll make him happy. Just be sure he gets a snack in the afternoon or he gets sleepy. But don't let him nap or he'll be up all night.

HILLARY
I just can't believe we're engaged! Starting our lives together, in our little apartment. Just you and me. Oh, and my sister. All living together. In our little, tiny apartment. Built for two.

KATIE
You're so lucky, finding a guy who'll commit. Every time I get serious with a guy, he bolts. Before CJ it was Howard.
(MORE)

KATIE (CONT'D)
Before Howard it was Howard's brother. What am I doing wrong?

Jerry opens his mouth to answer.

HILLARY
(to Jerry, quickly)
Not you.
(to Katie)
You're not doing anything wrong. You're great. And beautiful. Right guys?

JERRY
Um, yeah, when I first met you four years ago I thought you were cute.

KATIE
When you first met me?

JERRY
Then after spending so much time with you, there was maybe a little too much yap yap for my taste. For me you're more in the category of far away hot. Behind soundproof glass hot. In a box made of lead --

HILLARY
You're not helping.

JERRY
I think the truth is helpful. I mean, all these hurt feelings could be avoided if men were just honest with women from the get go. Just say "I'm not interested in getting serious, but I'm still willing to have sex with you." You know, like George Clooney does.

KATIE
You know what else George Clooney does? Acts in movies and makes millions of dollars and actually attracts women.

JERRY
(unperturbed)
You're a downer. Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm off to find some nice young woman and Clooney the living daylights out of her.

Jerry smiles and saunters away.

HILLARY
You know what I just realized? I don't have a ring.

ROGER
But honey, you always said they were a sign of ownership that offended you.

HILLARY
That doesn't sound like me.

Roger is taken aback, sees danger ahead.

ROGER
But, no... it sounds exactly like you. 'Cause you said it. A lot.

HILLARY
Well maybe I did, but people change, Roger.

ROGER
I'm starting to see that.

HILLARY
What's that supposed to mean?

ROGER
Why are you looking at me like that? You're starting to freak me out.

HILLARY
So I guess this whole marriage thing will be for better or worse, til death do us part except when I change my mind about something?

ROGER
I, uh... what?

Hillary puts her drink down and walks out.

ROGER (CONT'D)
What just happened?

KATIE
She wants a ring, dummy.

Roger quickly follows Hillary out. Katie swigs the rest of her drink and turns back toward the bar to find the bartender putting a fresh one in front of her.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Good boy. Wanna get married? I'm kidding. Sort of.

INT. FANCY HOTEL BAR - LATER

Katie is drunk now, idly looking around. Something catches her eye out the window. She gets up and walks over to the window, pressing her face up against the glass.

EXT. HOTEL GARDEN - KATIE'S POV

It's a wedding in progress. A gorgeous romantic garden wedding with the bride and groom standing under a pergola festooned with wildflowers and candles. It is the most beautiful wedding ever.

INT. FANCY HOTEL BAR - CONTINUOUS

Entranced, Katie opens the window, climbs out, falls down, gets up, and heads toward the wedding.

EXT. HOTEL GARDEN - MOMENTS LATER

Katie lurks in the garden watching the ceremony. A WOMAN wearing a headset and holding a clipboard stands near her. Katie sighs, weeps a little. The woman hands her a tissue.

WOMAN
It's beautiful, isn't it?

KATIE
I would love to get married here someday.

WOMAN
Well, book soon. We're the most popular wedding spot in Seattle. In fact, we don't have a single opening until...
(looks at her clipboard)
...May 17, 2016.

Katie gasps, startling the woman.

KATIE
May seventeenth? That's my birthday.

WOMAN
What a coincidence.

KATIE
It's not a coincidence, it's a sign. Can anybody book a date? I mean, do you need an actual fiance or whatever?

WOMAN
Well, no, but we do require a non-refundable deposit of five thousand dollars, so --

Katie gasps again, startling the woman again.

KATIE
I have a check in my purse for that exact amount from my skank ex-boyfriend! It's another, even awesome-er sign! Let's do this, headset!

INT. FANCY HOTEL BAR - MOMENTS LATER

Jerry sits at a small table by the window with an attractive young woman, CHERYL, who wears a bemused expression.

CHERYL
So let me get this straight. You're propositioning me with the George Clooney deal.

JERRY
Right.

CHERYL
The catch, however, is that you're not George Clooney.

JERRY
Right again.

CHERYL
That's ballsy. Maybe my parents raised me wrong, but I can't say no to something that ballsy.

JERRY
(trying to hide his surprise)
Really? Well that's just great. My name is --

CHERYL
Don't need it. Let's go.

JERRY
You're <u>great!</u>

They get up, head to the door. As they go, we hear a BANGING ON THE WINDOW. It's Katie.

KATIE
(yelling through the glass)
Jerry, I'm getting married!

But they're gone. Katie moves to the next window and barges straight into it, thinking it's a door that will open. It's not. She gets bounced back pretty hard.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Okay, that's not a door! I'm fine, gettin' married!

FADE OUT.

<u>END OF ACT ONE</u>

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. KATIE'S ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Katie, still in her clothes from last night, awkwardly sleeps on top of the covers with her laptop open in her lap. Hillary bursts in and shakes Katie awake.

HILLARY
Katie, oh my God, what happened?

KATIE
What? What happened?

HILLARY
Let me read you a little email I got at 4:42 this morning from, oh look at that, Katie Cooper.
(reads)
"Please save the date for the wedding celebration of Katie Elyse Cooper and A Player To Be Named Later. Come share their joy at the Grand Excelsior Hotel on May 17th, 2016."

KATIE
Oh my God.

HILLARY
Who else did you send this to?

Katie quickly checks her laptop. Hillary looks over her shoulder. They both gasp.

KATIE
Everybody. I sent it to everybody.

BEGIN QUICK CUTS:

INT. CONNIE AND ROY'S WORKOUT ROOM - MORNING

Connie opens her iPad as she gets on the treadmill and starts to walk. She checks her email. Stunned by Katie's email she forgets to keep walking and shoots off the back of the treadmill, falling down out of frame. At that moment, Roy enters looking at his phone.

ROY
Good God, Connie, did you see this? Connie? Where the hell are you?

Roy exits without having seen her.

INT. LUMBER TRUCK - MORNING

Roger rides next to his coworker, BILL. Roger's phone rings, he sees it's from Hillary and hits speaker.

ROGER
Hey babe.

HILLARY
(almost indecipherable yelling)
Have you seen the garble garble ruining everything garble first no ring then Katie garble garble what the hell garble get your ass home!

She hangs up. A beat.

BILL
She always like that?

ROGER
No, that's new. I think I've unleashed something.

INT. JERRY'S BEDROOM/LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - MORNING

Jerry's in bed alone, checks his email.

JERRY
(chuckles)
That girl's not right.

Jerry gets out of bed and heads out of his room. As he enters the living room/kitchen he is startled to find... Cheryl, who is drinking coffee and reading the paper.

CHERYL
There you are, sleepyhead.

JERRY
Hey. I didn't think you were still here. You know, because of what we talked about... the Clooney deal.

CHERYL
Yeah, that was last night when I thought you were just some bozo in a bar but I've had a look around, Jerry, you've got clean towels, fresh fruit in a nice bowl...
(MORE)

CHERYL (CONT'D)
(holds up envelope)
and a pretty healthy bank balance.

JERRY
Wow. How long have you been up?

CHERYL
Long enough to know you're good raw material so I'm all in.

Off Jerry's look...

END QUICK CUTS:

INT. KATIE, HILLARY, AND ROGER'S APARTMENT - LATER

Katie hurriedly enters from her bedroom with a duffle bag. Hillary stops her.

HILLARY
Where do you think you're going?

KATIE
I gotta get out of town until this blows over. People are going to have reactions to this.

HILLARY
Yeah, well I have a reaction. Your crazy fake engagement is stealing focus from my real engagement.

KATIE
Look, I had too much drink, okay? I didn't mean --

The door flies open, it's Connie and Roy.

CONNIE
Well, there she is. You were wrong, Roy, she hasn't been kidnapped and forced to write ridiculous emails.

KATIE
Mom, don't overreact --

CONNIE
People have been calling all morning.

ROY
Your ninety two year old grandmother said she had a mini stroke when she read that email. She said it pretty clearly so I don't think she actually did, but still she's very upset.

Connie and Roy cross to Katie as Roger runs in.

ROGER
I came as fast as I could.

HILLARY
I'm so glad you're here! She's ruining our engagement!

ROGER
Come on, Hillary, this is actually really sad for Katie. And our engagement can't be ruined because it's all about our love.

HILLARY
That's not what the engagement's about. It's about wearing a giant dress and getting a shiny ring and being the most special girl of the day.

ROGER
Okay, I need to talk to Hillary, I know she's in there somewhere. I've never seen this side of you and it's making me feel very scared and cold.

HILLARY
Well put on a sweater, Roger.

She crosses to Katie, Connie and Roy. Roger follows.

CONNIE
Katie, you don't even have a boyfriend. You have to cancel this absurd wedding date.

KATIE
No. I mean, I know it seems crazy and when I booked it obviously I was drunk --

ROY
That's wonderful.

KATIE
-- and I wish I hadn't sent out that email, but even sober -- or mostly sober -- I really do think this feels right. All the signs were there.

CONNIE
Oh God, with the signs now? You can't go insane, it's too expensive. Your father wants a boat.

ROY
You know, one of the things we love most about you is the way you throw yourself completely in to anything you do. The problem is that the things you do are stupid.

KATIE
It's not stupid. Setting the date, that's just positive visualization. It's like self help 101.
(to Connie)
When you wanted to lose weight and bought dresses four sizes too small nobody said you were crazy.

CONNIE
Yes, but... when I wanted to lose weight all I had to do was follow a diet, I didn't have to make the diet fall in love with me. I mean, how are you supposed to make this happen?

KATIE
Well, all I have to do is... I mean, now that I've set the date I just...

Katie realizes she doesn't have an answer. Awkward silence.

KATIE (CONT'D)
I don't want to talk about this anymore. I'm going for a walk.

ROY
What about work?

KATIE
I'm taking a mental health day.

ROY
I think you're going to need more than a day.

INT. JERRY'S BASEMENT PIZZA - LATER

This is Jerry's bar/pizza joint. A popular locals spot, it is, indeed, a basement with stairs coming down from the street. The decor is cool retro, modelled on a teenager's basement -- wood paneling, posters from the 90's (Baywatch girls, Lara Croft video game, X Files, Nirvana, etc.) There is a bar along one wall and mismatched tables and chairs. To complete the basement effect, there's a washer and dryer along the back wall. Jerry is behind the bar reconciling accounts. Roger is glumly eating a sandwich at the bar.

ROGER
...Hillary never wanted a ring, suddenly she wants a ring. So fine, I go to the jewelry store this morning but there's like a million rings and I know if I pick the wrong one, the way she's been lately, well... so I start sweating and shaking and, like, breathing real fast... they had to call the paramedics.

JERRY
So no ring.

ROGER
Just a lollipop from the EMT.

JERRY
See this is why I don't get involved in relationships. Too much stress. You gotta live like me. Be free.

At that moment Cheryl enters, looks around for him.

JERRY (CONT'D)
Uh oh.

He drops to the ground behind the bar to hide.

ROGER
Yeah, Jerry, your life is fun but --
(notices Jerry is gone)
Jerry?

EXT. PARK BENCH - LATER

Katie sits glumly on a bench. Jerry, driving a car with a big pizza on top, pulls up. He sees Katie, gets out.

JERRY
Did you order a pizza to
(reads ticket)
“the third bench from the entrance to Freeway Park?”

KATIE
Hillary’s mad at me so I can’t go home. Can’t go to work. I needed cheese. This was my only choice.

JERRY
How about actually coming to my restaurant?

KATIE
Didn’t think of that. Still a little foggy today. Thanks for coming all the way out here.

He hands her the pizza, she hands him some crumpled bills.

JERRY
No biggie, I had to get out of there anyway. There’s this woman, I’m in kind of a light stalking situation...

KATIE
Let me guess, the one that went for your Clooney offer? Hard to believe she’s crazy.

JERRY
Okay, I’m gonna go.

He starts to head to his truck, looks back, sees how sad and alone Katie looks. He sighs. Wants to walk away. Can’t.

JERRY (CONT’D)
Let me give you a ride somewhere.

KATIE
I’m fine.

JERRY
Auugh.

He sits next to Katie on the bench.

JERRY (CONT'D)
Go ahead, you know you want to.

KATIE
What?

JERRY
The yap yap. Bring it.
(sets his watch)
You have three minutes.

KATIE
I don't have anything to say.

JERRY
Great.

He starts to get up.

KATIE
Except that I'm realizing that if I had the first clue how to get a guy to marry me, I'd be married.

Jerry sits back down.

KATIE (CONT'D)
I mean, do you think I can do it?

JERRY
Not a chance. I mean, just based on how bad you blew it with CJ.

KATIE
Hey, that was all on him. He dumped me through no fault of my own. I'm the victim, everybody thinks so.

JERRY
No, everybody's just trying to be nice.

KATIE
Obviously not a problem you have.

JERRY
Okay, you want to know why CJ dumped you? You talked too much about marriage and here's something everybody in the world seems to know but you: guys don't really want to get married.

KATIE
I guess that's why nobody in the world is married. Oh wait...

JERRY
You put too much pressure on CJ. You scared him away. My guess is you misplayed every beat of this relationship.

KATIE
Where do you even get that?

JERRY
Remind me, what did you give CJ for Valentines Day again?

KATIE
I had our pictures digitally blended so he could see what our baby would look like.

JERRY
You know what guys <u>want</u> for Valentines Day? Nothing. Because they don't give a crap about Valentines Day. Somewhere between nothing and your creepy baby picture is a sweet spot you are just not hitting.

KATIE
Huh.

JERRY
You gotta start playing a finesse game. You never should've mentioned marriage. And if you were really serious about this guy, you maybe should've considered sweetening the pot with some bigger boobs.

KATIE
Oh my God, I was actually listening to you.

JERRY
Men like big boobs and once they have a set they're not eager to give them up. It's not nice, but it's true.
(watch beeps)
Time's up. You're welcome.

As he heads off, leaving Katie dumbfounded...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. KATIE, HILLARY, AND ROGER'S APARTMENT - LATER

Katie enters, finds Roger laid out on the couch, exhausted from his day.

KATIE
Roger, why did you propose to Hillary? Because you wanted to get married, right?

Roger sits up, thinks.

ROGER
Well... no. I mean, I love her, but I proposed mostly because she seemed so not into the idea of marriage that I was afraid I'd lose her. I'd say it was a fear based move. Most of my moves are fear based.

Katie sighs in frustration.

SMASH TO:

INT. CONNNIE AND ROY'S HOUSE - JUST LATER

Katie has cornered Roy.

KATIE
Okay, be honest dad, men want to get married, right?

ROY
Of course, men love marriage.

KATIE
And that's why you proposed to mom?

ROY
Well... every story's different. I mean, the actual reason I proposed is I got drafted to go to Vietnam and wanted to, you know, have some sex before I left. And Connie wasn't giving it up without a ring on her finger.

KATIE
Wow.

ROY
Yeah, she had a strong hand and she played it well.

KATIE
So... do you think I misplayed my hand with CJ? Pressured him too much and that's why we broke up?

ROY
Of course not. It could never be your fault, you're perfect.

But that answer no longer satisfies Katie. At that moment, Connie enters.

CONNIE
Hey, sweetie, what are you doing here?

KATIE
Just talking to dad about why he proposed.

CONNIE
Oh, right. Vietnam. I really had him by the short hairs.

ROY
Eh, it all worked out.

He swings Connie onto his lap. They cuddle and kiss.

KATIE
Nobody likes a show off.

INT. DINER - LATER

Katie stands outside, looking through the window to a table where CJ is eating lunch and reading the paper. She takes a deep breath, steels herself and enters, crosses to him. CJ doesn't look thrilled to see her.

KATIE
I need to talk to you. Your office told me where you were.

CJ
Fantastic.

Katie sits.

KATIE
Why did we break up?

CJ
Uh, well, like I told you, I need to focus on my --

KATIE
CJ. Be honest.

They lock eyes for a long moment.

CJ
Okay, fine. It was the wedding magazines in my bathroom, and the baby name lists... And there's only so many ways you can casually mention your ring size and you found all of them.

Katie absorbs this for a beat.

KATIE
I can't believe he was right.

CJ
Who?

KATIE
Just this stupid obnoxious jackass I know.

She gets up, starts to go, turns back.

KATIE (CONT'D)
Would bigger boobs have made a difference?

CJ
Always.

KATIE
Dammit!

INT. KATIE, HILLARY, AND ROGER'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME

Roger jumps up as Hillary enters.

ROGER
Hillary, about this ring thing --

HILLARY
Sh, let me talk. I was very upset with you, so I went to the gym and kickboxed it out... and I realized I've been behaving terribly.

ROGER
Oh thank God. You're back.

HILLARY
I've just been having all these feelings and I can't really control them. And I want you to know I'm sorry.

They hug.

ROGER
I'm just so glad you understand our relationship is more important than any stupid ring.

Hillary suddenly stops smiling.

HILLARY
(low and terrifying voice)
You haven't gotten the ring yet?

ROGER
What? Pfft, of course I have! It's... just that it's... in the bedroom on my nightstand.

HILLARY
(happy again)
Whoo!

She runs into the bedroom. As soon as she's gone, Roger bolts out the door.

INT. JERRY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A knock at the door. Jerry opens it. Katie stands there with a bunch of luggage.

JERRY
What --

KATIE
I had an idea. And at first it seemed like a terrible idea but then the more I thought about it, the more I realized how genius it is. I think I should move in.

Katie enters, dragging her bags. Jerry tries to block her.

JERRY
No, uh uh, you can't just --

KATIE
Let me walk you through this. I've been wracking my brain trying to figure out how to turn my life around and make this date happen and then I realized you're the answer. I've been repelling men and you're the only person who's been honest with me. I really think with you on my team --

JERRY
I'm not on your team --

KATIE
(ignoring him)
-- I can do this! Roger moved out so you need a new roommate. Roger and Hillary clearly want me out and I'm tired of pretending I'm oblivious. It's perfect.

JERRY
Okay, can I speak now? Because NO. I don't want to live with you. I don't like you.

KATIE
I don't like you either. That's what makes this so perfect. You won't try to protect my feelings. I mean, we only had one conversation about one topic -- I probably have lots of flaws I don't know about. I might be too shy or too thin.

JERRY
Holy crap. No. You lurch from one disaster to another. You indulge every whim that floats through the transom of your mind, you have no awareness of how you come off to the world. You think you're Kate Middleton but you're creeping up on Miley Cyrus.

KATIE
Wow. I can't say that doesn't sting. But see, this is going to be good for me.

JERRY
Uh huh and what's in it for me? And don't offer sex because I'm not interested.

KATIE
You're not interested? I'm not interested.
(bemused)
Although you saying you're not interested makes me a little interested.

JERRY
You're so weird. Please leave.

At that moment Cheryl walks in without knocking and gives Jerry a big hug and kiss.

CHERYL
Hey baby.

JERRY
Uh... you're here, but you didn't call first --

CHERYL
(notices Katie)
Who's this sad little person?

JERRY
No one. And she was just leaving. Hey, I have an idea, you can leave together. Safety in numbers, the buddy system --

CHERYL
I just got here, I thought we could order in some salads, fire up the Netflix. I am so glad to be out of that bar scene.

Jerry looks at Katie, totally flummoxed. Katie jumps in to help him out.

KATIE
I should probably introduce myself. I'm Jerry's common law wife, Malika. And I just came by to tell him that I'm carrying his baby. Again.
(to Jerry)
And this time I'm keeping it.

CHERYL
I can't believe this.

JERRY
Yeah, I know... wait, are you saying you don't believe it or it's just shocking?

CHERYL
I'm out of here.
(throws up her hands)
Why can't any stranger I pick up late at night in a bar turn out to be normal?

She exits. Jerry is looking at Katie in a new light.

JERRY
That was... you just kind of saved my bacon.

KATIE
Well, I guess maybe I'm not so terrible to have around.
(realizing)
Maybe this is how I can help you. What repels bar skanks better than a beautiful, classy lady roommate?

JERRY
Great idea. But who's the --

KATIE
I am, Jerry, I am!

JERRY
Well, one true thing in all of your raving, a woman is the perfect buffer against other women.

KATIE
Then I'm your girl. I'm great at driving people away.
(then)
Aw.

Jerry considers a beat.

JERRY
...Okay. You can stay. On a trial basis. I mean seriously, a short trial. You can't even unpack your suitcase.

KATIE
Yippee!

JERRY
And if you can help keep me single, I'll help get you married.

KATIE
You will not regret this.

JERRY
Oh, I think I will.

KATIE
In two years I will be at that hotel wearing a white dress with some poor bastard standing up there next to me.

JERRY
As long as it's not me.

KATIE
Look at that, something we agree on.

They shake on it.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW

TAG

FADE IN:

INT. JERRY AND KATIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jerry's on the couch watching TV. Katie joins him.

KATIE
Whatcha watching?

JERRY
Sh. Family Feud.
(then, to TV)
In the bathroom.

TV HOST (V.O.)
The number one answer is...
(DING!)
...in the bathroom!

KATIE
(truly impressed)
Oh my God, that was awesome!

Jerry smiles broadly. It's good to have an appreciative audience again.

JERRY
It's just a talent I have. If you like that, wait till the bonus round. I kill the bonus round.

KATIE
I can't wait!

As they settle in to watch, Roger throws open the door.

ROGER
Hey, gonna need to sleep here tonight.

He exits to the bedroom.

FADE OUT.

END OF TAG