# FIFTH WHEEL

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COLD OPEN

INT. MALIBU ESTATE - EVENING

A WEDDING RECEPTION IS IN FULL SWING. AN ATTRACTIVE BRIDE AND GROOM ARE SLOW DANCING, THE GROOM DIPS HER AND THEY KISS - LONG AND PASSIONATELY.

WE PAN ACROSS FACES OF FRIENDS AND FAMILY WATCHING ADORINGLY AND LAND ON TWO WOMEN OBSERVING THE KISS - NOT IMPRESSED.

THEY ARE: **LUCY HART** - LATE TWENTIES, ATTRACTIVE, FIERCELY INDEPENDENT, SPITFIRE; AND HER BEST FRIEND AND SIDEKICK **RACHEL ALBRIGHT** - IMPULSIVE, FREE-SPIRITED, AND SASSY.

AS THE NEWLYWEDS' KISS CONTINUES ON AND ON, LUCY ROLLS HER EYES AND MAKES A "HAND JOB" MOTION.

RACHEL

Don't give 'em any ideas.

LUCY

Can you believe we've been to eight

weddings in six months? Every one of

our college friends is married now.

RACHEL

Every one? No.

LUCY

Every. One.
(pointing to various girls)

Married. Married. Married. Goose!

WE SEE A GOOSE WANDERING THE GROUNDS.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Looks like it's just you and me Rach.

The last two unmarried girls on earth.

Give it up.

THEY HIGH-FIVE.

RACHEL

It is weird how everyone has dropped like flies.

LUCY

Not weird at all, in fact *very* predictable. Once women see thirty approaching, they panic. Their fragile ego structure causes them to feel incomplete without a husband, a house, kids-

RACHEL

Hey Luce - slow your pretentious therapist roll.

LUCY

Pretentious *awesome* therapist roll.

**GABY ANDERSON** - BUBBLY, TYPE-A, HALF-MEXICAN; AND **MATT ANDERSON**, GABY'S HUSBAND - NERD-CHIC, HIGH-STRUNG - WALK UP.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Hey, we were just talking about your kind.

GABY

Half Mexican former child models?

RACHEL

No. Married folk.

GABY

Well, nosotros were just talking about how beautiful this wedding is! Did you see that kiss?! So romantic!

LUCY

I saw some of it, then I had to leave to go throw up, then I came back and saw the rest.

MATT

It was nineteen point two seconds shy of a minute!

GABY

Same length as our “before work” sex! We should bring that back, but call it “put a baby in Gaby” sex.

MATT

Before work?! That’s when I make up captions for The New Yorker cartoons.

LUCY

A baby? What is this Sixteen and Pregnant?

GABY

We’re almost thirty.

**ALEX MORRETTI**, RACHEL’S BOYFRIEND - CHARMING, OFF-BEAT, ARTIST TYPE - KISSES RACHEL AND HANDS HER A PAPER ROSE.

RACHEL

Oh my god! You made this out of our place card?!

ALEX

Yeah - picked up a little origami when I lived in Osaka.

MATT, GABY AND RACHEL ARE ALL VERY IMPRESSED.

LUCY

That'll come in handy if you ever want to be a camp counselor.

ALEX

I know, right? The kids I coach in little league love it.
(to Rachel)

I'm gonna grab another beer, you want anything babe?

RACHEL

I'll have whatever you're having!

ALEX WALKS OFF, RACHEL WATCHES HIM - CLEARLY SMITTEN.

ANGLE ON: GABY AND RACHEL - OUT OF EARSHOT FROM MATT AND LUCY.

GABY

Look at you! You're glowing! You're totally in love with him.

RACHEL

What? No... Okay, yeah I am. I mean, he's an amazing artist, he cooks for me, gardens, tunes my ukulele! I've never felt this way before.

GABY

What's your sex like? Describe it. In detail. Very. Very. Slowly.

ANGLE ON: MATT AND LUCY.

MATT

Rach really scored big time with Alex. Did you see his moonwalk? Not many people can dance like an idiot without looking like an idiot.

LUCY

Keep your boner in your khakis dude.

MATT

I just like his vibe. I've always wanted a cool friend like him. He'd come up to me and say "Hey bro", and I'd be like, "Whattup." Then we'd fist bump like...

MATT ACTS OUT AN ELABORATE FIST BUMP THAT SEGUES INTO THE RUNNING MAN, AND ENDS IN AN EXPLOSION OF SPIRIT FINGERS.

LUCY

Wow. Well, Better get on it. Rachel cycles through boyfriends quicker than tampons on a heavy flow day.

MATT NODS AND QUICKLY DARTS OFF TOWARDS ALEX AT THE BAR.

MATT

So, weddings huh? Wed. Ding. *Sah*.

ALEX

Hey Matt, mind if I ask you a personal question?

MATT NODS EAGERLY. ALEX IS GAZING ACROSS THE ROOM AT RACHEL.

ALEX (CONT'D)

When did you know you wanted to marry Gaby?

MATT

When she kept bringing it up. Why?

ALEX

But was there ever a moment that felt like... like when you're surfing, and you watch one wave go by, then another, and then there's that one where you say to yourself - this is *it*! This is the one. Did you have that moment?

MATT

I'm fair skinned, so I avoid sunlight, but yeah! I probably did.

ALEX TURNS AND LOOKS AT RACHEL AGAIN. HE DOWNS THE REST OF HIS BEER, CRUSHES THE CAN WITH ONE HAND, TAKES A DEEP BREATH.

ALEX

Thanks. Good talk.

ALEX CROSSES AWAY, MATT TRIES TO ENGAGE HIM IN THE FIST BUMP, BUT ALEX IS LONG GONE.

MATT
(calling after)

You should follow me back on Instagram! At HeyMattaMattaMatta. That's three Mattas - two "T"s.

ANGLE ON: RACHEL AND LUCY NOW SITTING DOWN AT A TABLE.

RACHEL

...I'd kill Larry, marry George, and

screw Ben again...

LUCY

Good call. Not many people can say

they've slept with a blue-eyed Asian.

ALEX STEPS OVER TO THE TABLE.

ALEX

Hey, do you mind if I steal this bird

away for a sec?

LUCY

Not the best time, they're about to do

the cake.

ALEX IGNORES LUCY, TAKES RACHEL'S HAND AND THEY CROSS AWAY. ANNOYED, LUCY LOOKS AROUND FOR GABY, WHO'S KISSING MATT. UGH.

SHE TURNS BACK TO LOOK FOR ALEX AND RACHEL - STRAINS TO SEE PAST THE PEOPLE DANCING TO "GANGNAM STYLE!", PAST THE BUFFET LINE, THROUGH THE WINDOWS AGAINST THE GLARE OF THE SUNSET... AND FINALLY SHE SEES THE SILHOUETTES OF ALEX AND RACHEL BY THE EDGE OF THE BLUFF. SHE WATCHES FOR A MOMENT, THEN HER EYES GO WIDE WITH HORROR AS ALEX GETS DOWN ON ONE KNEE!

LUCY (CONT'D)
(to herself)

What are you doing you freak?! No.

No. No. Get up, get up, GET UP!!

ALEX TAKES RACHEL'S HAND. LUCY TAKES IN A BIG BREATH... AND RACHEL THROWS HER ARMS AROUND ALEX IN AN ECSTATIC EMBRACE. LUCY DROPS HER CHAMPAGNE GLASS. IT SHATTERS ON THE FLOOR.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Son of a farmer's bitch!

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. JACK'S BAR - LATER THAT NIGHT

RACHEL, ALEX, GABY, AND MATT ARE CROWDED INTO A TINY BOOTH.

ALEX

I think the "the big moment" was when we were watching The Biggest Loser, and Rachel cried when the guy fell off the treadmill. I just knew.

GABY AND MATT AWWWW.

RACHEL

Really?! I knew when you surprised me with the watercolor of my feet.

ALEX

You got the cutest little feet.

ALEX AND RACHEL START CANOODLING. LUCY WALKS UP.

LUCY

Well, I can finally knock peeing in a urinal off my bucket list.
(to Alex)

Hey you! That's my spot.

ALEX AND RACHEL ARE IN THEIR OWN WORLD. LUCY TRIES TO SQUEEZE INTO THE BOOTH, BUT THERE IS NO ROOM.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Guess I'll grab a chair.

SHE GRABS A CHAIR FROM BEHIND HER AND SITS. SHE IS A GOOD FOOT LOWER THAN EVERYONE - HER CHIN BARELY CLEARS THE TABLE.

GABY

Lucy! Will you take a picture of us with the newly engaged love birds?!

LUCY GRABS GABY'S PHONE AND AIMS IT AT THE BOOTH.

LUCY

Say, "Tomorrow's going to be awkward

when we're sober!"

THE GROUP

Tomorrow's going to be awkward...???

LUCY HANDS THE CAMERA BACK AND PULLS A BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE AND A PIECE OF CAKE WRAPPED IN A NAPKIN FROM HER PURSE.

LUCY

Can you believe someone left half a

bottle of Veuve at the wedding?! This

stuff is like liquid gold!

A FRAT BOY FROM THE NEXT TABLE POPS HIS HEAD OVER THE BOOTH.

FRAT BOY

Yo! I'll hit that!

LUCY

You smell like youth and optimism.

Get out of here.

LUCY PUSHES HIS FACE AWAY. TAKES A BITE OF CAKE.

RACHEL
(turning aside to Lucy)

Luce! Isn't this surreal?! I'm going

to be a bride! You're going to be a

maid of honor! Eeeeeee!!!!

LUCY
(mirroring Rachel, mouth full of cake)

Eeeeeee! I can't really hear you down

here!

RACHEL

Oh my god! MASH was right! It always

said I'd marry an artist!

LUCY

Yeah, well, we were ten when we played

that... it always told me I'd be a

ballerina but, you know, bunions -

RACHEL
(to Alex)

We're getting married!

ALEX AND RACHEL KISS. LUCY ROLLS HER EYES AND TAKES A SWIG OF CHAMPAGNE. A WAITRESS APPROACHES HER.

WAITRESS

I'm sorry, but I'm going to have to

ask you to put that away.

LUCY

But I'm celebrating my friends

impromptu engagement!
(pulls the waitress down to
her level and whispers)

Between you and me- it ain't gonna

happen. They've only known each other

five months - total crap shoot!

THE WAITRESS TAKES THE BOTTLE.

LUCY (CONT'D)

I need a drink - anyone want anything?

NO ONE IS LISTENING.

LUCY (CONT'D)

They're giving free elephant rides outside. Nope. Still nothing? Okay.

LUCY CROSSES OFF.

GABY

You guys are too cute. You remind me of me and Matt at your age.

RACHEL

We're all the same age.

GABY

Soon you'll be walking down the aisle like us, buying a house like us, and having babies like us!

MATT, RACHEL AND ALEX ALL RESPOND WITH "CONGRATS!", "YOU'RE PREGNANT?!", "WHAT?!".

MATT

Excuse us for just a moment. Gaby?

MATT PUTS UP A TWO HAND HAND-CURTAIN FOR PRIVACY.

GABY

What's up honey? Why the hand curtain?

MATT

We didn't officially decide about a baby yet, did we?

GABY

Yeah we decided the day I asked you about it - four months ago.

MATT

Was I there?

GABY

What difference does it make - we're having a baby!

RACHEL

You guys want another round?

MATT
(Matt parts the hand curtain)

Yeah that would be great, just give us another minute.
(closes hand curtain)

So... I was thinking... maybe we could start small, with like... a poodle?

GABY

Remember that life plan I showed you?

MATT

Yeah, on our first date! It was ten years ago but I remember it like it was yesterday. You wore a beret.

GABY

It said by age thirty: BABY... I'm deep into twenty nine.

ANGLE ON: LUCY AT THE BAR TALKING TO A RANDOM GIRL, **BRIT** - MID TWENTIES, BUBBLY, OVERLY DONE UP.

LUCY

As you approach thirty you begin to realize you don't need a man to feel complete-

BRIT

Wait, you're thirty and still single?

LUCY

I'm twenty nine honey.
(holding up her glass)

A toast! To not giving in to

society's demands - screw marriage!

ANGLE ON: GABY, MATT, RACHEL AND ALEX IN THE BOOTH.

GABY
(holding up a glass)

To marriage! I usually just watch

clips of proposals on YouTube, so

getting to see someone you actually

know get engaged... is *really* special.

MATT

I've always wanted a brother!

ALEX

Thanks! I already have three, but you

can join our fantasy football league!

RACHEL

Where's Lucy?

THEY LOOK OVER AND SEE LUCY STILL GIVING HER SPEECH.

ANGLE ON: LUCY AND BRIT.

LUCY

Cause if you pin your hopes and dreams

on a man, you're doomed -

THE FRAT BOY FROM EARLIER WALKS UP AND BEGINS TO KISS LUCY'S NECK, SHE'S OKAY WITH IT. THEY START MAKING OUT.

ANGLE ON: RACHEL, ALEX, GABY AND MATT IN THE BOOTH.

RACHEL

Change is hard for her. She cried in

fifth grade when I got a perm.

EVERYONE NODS AND AD LIBS, “RIGHT”, “OF COURSE.”

INT. ALEX’S BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

WE PAN ACROSS A ROOM THAT HAS CLOTHES STREWN ABOUT, AN EMPTY BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE, AN AL GREEN RECORD, A CAN OF WHIP CREAM, A BLIND FOLD, AND THEN WE LAND ON RACHEL AND ALEX SPOONING NAKED ON A YOGA MAT BENEATH SOME SHEETS.

INT. GABY AND MATT’S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

MATT IS SITTING AT THE KITCHEN TABLE WORKING INTENSELY ON A SUDOKU IN THE PAPER, DRINKING COFFEE. GABY JOINS HIM IN A MATCHING TERRY CLOTH ROBE. SHE SITS DOWN AND PICKS UP A BOOK TITLED, “BABY NAMES”. WE SEE MATT GLANCE OVER, A LOOK OF PANIC WASHES OVER HIS FACE.

INT. FRAT DORM ROOM - CONTINUOUS

LUCY WAKES UP TO SUNLIGHT POURING IN THROUGH GREEK LETTERS TAPED TO THE WINDOWS. SHE IS HURTING FROM THE NIGHT BEFORE. SHE ROLLS OVER AND SEES THE FRAT BOY PASSED OUT NAKED NEXT TO HER. SHIT. SHE WRAPS HERSELF IN THE SHEET TO SNEAK OUT OF BED ONLY TO FALL SIX FEET TO THE DIRTY CARPET. THERE’S A FLAMIN’ HOT CHEETO AN INCH FROM HER FACE. YUMMMMMMM.

INT. GABY’S MINI COOPER - LATER THAT MORNING

THE BACKSEAT OF THE CAR IS FILLED WITH BALLOONS THAT ARE SPILLING INTO THE FRONT. LUCY, STILL IN HER DRESS FROM THE WEDDING, SITS IN THE PASSENGER’S SEAT AS GABY DRIVES.

GABY

Did you sleep with Varsity Blues

because you’re upset about Rachel’s

engagement? Is this a cry for help?

LUCY

No. And I’m the shrink here, so leave

the psychoanalyzing to me. Plus, this

engagement’s not going to last.

(MORE)

LUCY (CONT'D)

She was wasted and got swept up in the moment.

GABY

Of course it’s going to last! They’re perfect for each other! And you know Rachel, when she’s in, she’s ALL in.

LUCY

Yeah, she was “ALL IN” with that puppy she adopted, and then two weeks later - Craigslist. Mark my words, she’ll get over it like I’ll get over this UTI.

GABY

Luce, I thought you’d sober up and recognize this is the real thing.

LUCY

I thought *you* guys would sober up and realize this is a sham. There wasn’t even a ring!

GABY

Matt didn’t have a ring when he proposed to me.

LUCY

That’s only cause you had it specially made and it wasn’t ready in time for your Valentine’s Day deadline.

GABY

Well it was worth it. I get compliments on it all the time.

GABY HOLDS UP HER HEART SHAPED DIAMOND RING.

LUCY

From who? A blind guy... with... bad taste?
(pushes a stray balloon away)
What are all these balloons for?!

GABY

Tonight's Sunday Night Dinner is engagement-themed!

LUCY

What?! Sunday Night Dinner doesn't have a theme! It's Dinner. On a Sunday. No themes!

GABY

Well, this one does. And might I add, you are acting really immature.

LUCY

*You* are. I can't believe you're wasting money on something that's not even going to happen. Rachel just needs some guidance, and some sweet pistachio froyo with fruity pebbles and mochi. She'll see the light.

GABY

She better not! Matt and I have been waiting forever for one of you to get married so that we can have couple friends we like - don't ruin this for me!

(beat)

Which do you like better, Mariah or Whitney?

LUCY

For what? Are you getting a dog?

GABY

No! For the unborn baby Matt doesn't realize he wants to have yet.

LUCY

Whitney if it's a lab mix, Mariah for anything else.

INT. JEWELRY SHOP - LATER THAT DAY

ALEX AND MATT ARE IN AN ANTIQUE JEWELRY SHOP BROWSING ENGAGEMENT RINGS.

ALEX

What do you think about this one?

MATT

Let me share something with you that I've learned from three years of marriage - ladies love flair.

ALEX

Really?

MATT

Oh yeah. They want a ring that's going to make a statement. Something like this.

MATT PULLS OUT HIS PHONE AND SHOWS ALEX A PHOTO OF A PINK HEART ENGAGEMENT RING.

ALEX

I don't know, that doesn't look like Rachel to me. My gut is saying something simple.

MATT

Well, Gaby's gut told my gut to tell your gut to get a ring just like -
(shows the phone again)
- this.

ALEX
(taking a deep breath)

Okay... I'm going to trust you, man.

MATT

I trust you too, that's why I put you as my emergency contact at the gym.

ALEX

Yeah, I got that call the other day. Did your dizziness go away?

MATT

Oh yeah, was just my first step aerobics class. Harder than it looks.
(then)

(MORE)

MATT (CONT'D)

Since we're operating on this deeper level, can I bounce something off you?

ALEX

Sure thing.

MATT

Gaby wants me to have a baby. Well, not me. She'd have it. Duh. It's kinda freaking me out. And I love her, but whenever we're about to DO IT, all I can think about is poopy diapers, burp cloths, and sympathy weight gain. It's boner Kryponite.

ALEX

Right, right... Look, no one's ever really ready for kids, or marriage, or natural disasters - but you just gotta let life carry you to the well. It's up to you whether you sip from it or not...

MATT

I'd sip from it if I got a raise... And knew how to perform infant CPR.

INT. RACHEL AND LUCY'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

LUCY ENTERS CARRYING TWO FROYOS AND A DVD.

LUCY

Hey! I'm home! I stopped at our

favorite place on earth - Froyoland -

AND I found HOOK in the dollar bin!

RACHEL (O.S.)

Awesome!

LUCY PLOPS ON THE COUCH WITH HER FROYO. AS SHE BEGINS TO RANT, WE SEE RACHEL QUIETLY MOVING BOXES FROM HER BEDROOM TO THE FRONT DOOR BEHIND LUCY'S BACK. LUCY IS OBLIVIOUS TO THIS.

LUCY

I slept with a twenty-one year old

last night, Rach. It was so

spontaneous, what was I thinking?

RACHEL SLYLY WALKS BY CARRYING A MOOSE-HEAD, SETS IT DOWN BY THE FRONT DOOR, WALKS BACK TO HER BEDROOM.

RACHEL

Crazy!

LUCY

I guess there were a lot of bad

decisions made yesterday. It really

takes a level of maturity to admit

that. Like, I can say it was probably

a mistake to sleep with a boy who has

name tags in his underwear...

RACHEL PASSES BEHIND HER WITH A GIANT FLAMBOYANT SUN HAT AND CARRYING A BOX. LUCY STILL DOESN'T NOTICE.

LUCY (CONT'D)

... and if you want to say, "Hey, maybe I was drunk, and rushed into this engagement thing", then I am here for you.

RACHEL

Thanks...

LUCY
(re: froyo)

Rach, this is amazing! What are you doing? Yours is gonna melt!

LUCY FINALLY TURNS AND SEES RACHEL WHO FREEZES IN HER TRACKS - SHE IS PUSHING HER MATTRESS TOWARDS THE DOOR, STILL WEARING THE SUN HAT. LUCY RISES, INCREDULOUS.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Where are you going with that?

RACHEL

Oh this? I'm taking it to Alex's. He doesn't have one, sleeps on a Manduka...

LUCY

So... what will you sleep on?

RACHEL

I think, um... I guess... on this?

RACHEL PATS THE MATTRESS.

LUCY

So... you'll be sleeping at Alex's house... every night? You're moving in with him?

RACHEL

Ummmm.... Yeah. Yeah. Looks like it!

LUCY

Wow. We've only lived together nine years, but okay. Sneaky.

RACHEL

Look, I know I should have told you first, but Mercury is in retrograde, and I was afraid you'd freak out and scream at me and say that I'm being impulsive and stupid.

LUCY

What? Rachel, I'm a professional therapist. I don't "freak out."

RACHEL
(sigh of relief)

Wow. Thanks, Luce.

LUCY

I'm trained to *help* people who are being impulsive and stupid.

RACHEL ROLLS HER EYES AND HEADS TO THE KITCHEN. LUCY PURSUES.

LUCY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, but I don't get how you could make such a huge, life changing decision without even consulting me!

RACHEL

I would have but I didn't know what frat house you were getting gang-banged at.

LUCY

I texted you which one!

RACHEL

Look, we're engaged! Why wouldn't I move in with him? What's the difference?

LUCY

There's a huge difference! When you get engaged it means ya, maybe you'll marry this guy in a year, or *two* - but it's really just an excuse to get a free diamond ring - which you didn't even get - and change your Facebook status. But moving in? That is a real commitment! When's the wedding? Tonight?

RACHEL

I know what I'm doing!

LUCY

Do you? Do you even know Alex? You've only been dating five months.

RACHEL

Yeah, and they've been the best five months of my life. Why can't you just be happy for me?

LUCY

Cause you're acting like a sociopath! Last night we high-fived to not needing marriage like everyone else.

RACHEL

I didn't want to leave you hanging.

RACHEL TAKES THE PAPER TOWEL STAND (WITH THE PAPER TOWELS) AND PUTS IT INTO HER BOX.

LUCY

What do you think you're doing?

RACHEL

I bought this.

LUCY GRABS THE ROLL OF TOWELS OFF THE STAND.

LUCY

Ok, well I bought these. So nice try.

RACHEL PICKS UP HER BOX AND WALKS TO THE DOOR. LUCY FOLLOWS.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Rach, I'm only saying all this cause I care about you.

RACHEL

Really? This is you caring about me? You don't think this could possibly be about you?

LUCY

Me? No.

RACHEL

No? This isn't you freaking out cause you're losing your roommate? Your wing-man? Someone around all the time to tell you you don't look fat, or that your six-hundred dollar sweater was a SMART investment? Someone to pick up your UTI prescription, cause you're too embarrassed? Or to climb into bed with after watching one too many Paranormal Activities? So, no. This isn't you freaking out cause you're almost thirty and the last single girl left?

LUCY

That's the meanest thing you've ever said to me... You really think I overpaid for that sweater?

RACHEL

I don't know... I have to go. Alex'll come by later to get the rest of my stuff. It's time to grow up, Lucy.

LUCY

Okay Robin Williams in Hook. When you come to your senses and want to hang out with The Lost Boys again, we'll be here, eating froyo with our paper towels. Having a grand ol' time!

DOOR SLAMS. RACHEL'S GONE.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Bangarang.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. ALEX AND RACHEL'S APARTMENT - A LITTLE LATER

RACHEL WALKS INTO THE APARTMENT WITH A BOX AND A DUFFLE BAG.

ALEX

Hey! I've got a surprise for you.

Come sit.

RACHEL

Okay, but if it's going to be a life

changer I have to put a call in to

Sigma Nu to get Lucy's advice.

ALEX

She's still acting out?

RACHEL

Like Robert Downey Jr. circa Ally

McBeal.

ALEX

Did you give her my olive branch?

RACHEL
(pulling an olive branch from her purse)

Didn't get the chance.

ALEX

Bummer. Well, right now, let's focus

on us.

HE PATS THE SOFA, RACHEL SITS DOWN. HE TURNS A PROJECTOR ON AND A PHOTO COMES UP OF THE ENTIRE STAFF OF JACK'S BAR.

RACHEL

Cool, it's everyone from work...

ALEX

It's us the first week we met! You didn't know who I was yet, but I knew who you were.

RACHEL

I knew who you were - we called you "Slow Busser"!

ANOTHER PHOTO CLICKS ON THE SCREEN - IT'S A BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO OF A COUPLE LOVINGLY HOLDING EACH OTHER ON A BEACH.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Who are they?

ALEX

Just a nice photo I found in a picture frame. It's the same beach we went to on our first date.

RACHEL

No it's not.

ALEX

Well same ocean.

RACHEL LOOKS AT HER WATCH.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I'll skip forward to the last one - seriously we only have two photos together, hence the fillers.

ALEX SPEEDS PAST PHOTOS OF ANIMALS IN THE WILD, SUNSETS, AND THE WORLD FROM THE HUBBLE TELESCOPE.

THE LAST SLIDE COMES UP - IT'S A PICTURE OF THE MOMENT ALEX PROPOSED. HE THEN GETS DOWN ON ONE KNEE AND PULLS OUT A BOX.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I know last night wasn't planned like most proposals are, but it felt right. It felt perfect. And I want you to know that I'm serious about this... So, I'm gonna put a ring on it.

RACHEL LOOKS EXCITED AND TOUCHED. BUT THEN, ALEX OPENS THE BOX, REVEALING THE PINK HEART RING. HE PUTS IT ON HER FINGER.

RACHEL
(masking her disappointment)

Oh my god! Wow. You got me a heart shaped ring! And it's pink! Thank you!

ALEX

You like it? Matt helped me pick it out... That guy's a little high strung, I like him, but... he sang the alphabet backwards to me. Twice.

RACHEL
(transfixed by the ring)

It's so. *Not*. What I was expecting!

ALEX

I love surprising you.

SHE KISSES HIM, PUTS THE RING IN THE OPEN BOX, GETS UP, AND RUNS TO THE DOOR.

RACHEL

Okay, I'll see you after work!

ALEX
(holding up the ring)

Aren't you going to put it on?!

RACHEL

Oh right! Duh!

SHE PUTS IT ON AND RUNS OUT THE DOOR.

INT. JACK'S BAR - A LITTLE LATER

RACHEL POLISHING GLASSES BEHIND THE BAR, LOST IN THOUGHT. GABY AND MATT WALK IN FULL OF ENERGY, THEY SPOT THE RING.

MATT

He gave it to you!

GABY

Looks just like my ring - only pink!

RACHEL

It's a six year old's dream come true.

GABY

I know!
(in a whisper)

If you build it, it will come.

MATT

So happy for you Rach. Where is Buck,

anyway?
(off Rachel's look)

That's my nickname for Alex!

RACHEL

Does he know that?

MATT

Not yet! I'm still deciding between

Buck, Al-Pal or..."The Senator".

Whataya think?

RACHEL

I don't know...

GABY
(shooing Matt away)

Move, move. She doesn't like you.
(to Rachel)

Okay so I know I have very little, well, *no* experience as a wedding planner, BUT -- just hear me out. I have a vision for you. Royal wedding meets Malibu.

GABY WHIPS OUT A SCRAPBOOK 100 PAGES THICK.

GABY (CONT'D)

Here it is - easy breezy, beach wedding. Think bare feet in the sand, sunsets, BUT -- Mai Tais in tea cups.

RACHEL

I hate the Royals. Does anyone in my life even know me?

GABY

I do! Which is why I am tearing this page out.

RACHEL

I really appreciate this, but I might hold off on the wedding planning for a bit. Feeling a little overwhelmed.

MATT

Whoa! Hey! Come on, let's put some socks on those cold feet- Alex is an amazing guy. Speaking of, where is The Senator?

RACHEL

At our apartment. Whoa, that feels weird to say.

MATT

Okay, cool! You know, I'm just gonna -

MATT SPRINTS OUT THE DOOR.

GABY

Give it to me straight. You hired a wedding planner already didn't you?

RACHEL

I'm not even over my hangover, you think I've hired a wedding planner?

GABY

Oh thank god. I don't think I could handle any more rejection right now. Matt won't even touch me since I brought up having babies.

RACHEL

He probably just needs some time to process the idea. We should get him and Lucy to hang out, they could process together.

GABY

Are you and Lucy having a baby?

RACHEL

We got into a huge fight when she realized I was moving out.

GABY

Oh no! I'm sorry. She was a little salty this morning. What'd she say?

RACHEL

She's just wrong about everything. I mean, who cares if Alex and I have only known each other five months, or we were a little drunk when we got engaged, or if he doesn't have enough closet space for all my shoes? Well, she didn't say that last one, but it's true. *LOVE* is what makes a marriage work! Not the perfect ring! I mean, you're completely happy being married to Matt, right?

GABY HAS BECOME DISTRACTED BY THE ATTRACTIVE COP SITTING ACROSS THE BAR.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Did you hear anything I just said?

GABY

Hmm?

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

LUCY SITS ON HER COUCH EATING RACHEL'S FROYO AND WATCHING "HOOK", JULIA ROBERTS IS CRYING.

LUCY
(to the TV)

You're going to be fine Tink! Don't waste your fairy tears on Peter - that little bitch never cared about you anyway...

LUCY GETS A TEXT FROM BRIT, A.K.A. "RANDOM GIRL FROM BAR": "BIRTHDAY PARTY TONIGHT AT BARDOT!"

LUCY (CONT'D)

We're gonna go out, put on a hot little number and go make some *new* friends!

LUCY TEXTS BACK: "I'LL BE THERE."

LUCY (CONT'D)

Sunday night dinner is going to feel lonely tonight suckahssss! In yo face... And, I'm talking to myself.

INT. JACK'S BAR - NIGHT

GABY AND RACHEL ARE DEEP IN CONVERSATION.

RACHEL

So you fantasize about other men?

GABY

Just since Matt stopped having sex with me four months ago. I told him I want a baby, but it's like he heard me say I have piranhas in my pu-

RACHEL
(plugging her ears)

No I hate that word!
(then)

Who exactly do you fantasize about?

GABY
(leans in, whispers)

Authority figures.

RACHEL

Really?

GABY

Ya. Cops, judges, locksmiths, Obama - anyone in power. I can't believe I'm saying this out loud!

RACHEL

But that's just a fantasy. Everyone has fantasies. I fantasize about Sting, but that doesn't mean I won't be happy with Alex. Right?

GABY

Of course you'll be happy! But marriage is weird. People change.

RACHEL

What do you mean "people change?" I see you every Sunday for Bad Mexican Food Night - you guys act exactly like when you first met in college!

GABY

Well, it's different in priv - wait, what did you call my Sunday Fiesta?

RACHEL

I'm just saying you're the same! Matt's the same! Your marriage is the same.

GABY

It's not, Rachel. Matt used to know what he wanted - he'd take control. But now I want a baby and he's running away like a scared little boy.

RACHEL

Great, what does this mean for me?! My entire marriage is starting out with a ring that I don't even like!

GABY

You don't like it?! It's a replica of the ring Ben Affleck gave J.Lo!

RACHEL

*Exactly*! Look what happened to them!

GABY

You always tell me you love my ring.

RACHEL

I love it for *you*! Please, just tell me you guys are going to be okay?

GABY

If Matt and I can get on the same page, maybe. But really, I don't know!

RACHEL

What do you mean you don't know?!

GABY

I don't know! How could I know?!

The cop walks over.

COP

Everything all right over here?

GABY
(a little flirty)
No.

RACHEL
(panicked)
No!

INT. ALEX'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

ALEX IS IN THE KITCHEN COOKING, MATT IS LOOKING AT HIS BOOKSHELF, RIFLING THROUGH MAPS, BOOKS, ETC.

MATT

Wow - have you read all these books or are they for decoration?

ALEX

I've read most of them - I did a lot of traveling by myself - so books were kinda my Rachel for a while.

MATT

Aw nice. World of Warcraft was kinda my Gaby for a while, but then she canceled my subscription. Now Gaby's my Gaby.

(MORE)

MATT (CONT'D)
(Matt pulls out a painting)

Whoa! What’s this?

ALEX

Keep that under wraps - new painting

I’m working on for Rach.

WE SEE IT’S A PAINTING OF RACHEL AND ALEX - COOL AND VIBRANT.

MATT

Wow. It’s really, like... amazing.

RACHEL WALKS IN. MATT QUICKLY HIDES THE CANVAS.

MATT (CONT’D)

Hey Rach! Alex, keep up the good work.

See you guys at Sunday Night Dinner!

MATT LEAVES, RACHEL SITS AT THE KITCHEN COUNTER - LOOKING SHELL SHOCKED.

ALEX

Hey chicken. I put some of your stuff

away. Didn’t have enough space in my

closet for all your shoes, so I put

some in the dishwasher... Now I just

have to figure out where to put all

these records.

WE SEE A PILE OF RECORDS SITTING ON THE KITCHEN COUNTER.

RACHEL
(staring at the wall)

Wait, where did the watercolor of my

feet go? I love that painting.

ALEX

Oh, um, I took it down. Kinda tired of it. Time for a change, ya know?

RACHEL

No. I don't know.

ALEX

Well, sometimes something feels right - then all of a sudden it doesn't?...

RACHEL

So what? You put your heart and soul into something that you love, and then suddenly you decide it's old and fat and ugly?!

INT. TRENDY BAR - NIGHT

LUCY WALKS IN TO THE BAR ALONE, LOOKS A LITTLE UNSURE IF SHE REALLY WANTS TO BE THERE. SUDDENLY BRIT RUNS UP TO LUCY.

BRIT

I can't believe you actually came!

LUCY

Me either. Happy Birthday! You look great!

BRIT

Thanks! Wait... Can you tell I got a nose job? First of all, I had to because I had a deviated septum. However, I will be the first to admit that the boob job was extraneous. But they look good right?

LUCY

Oh yeah - what is that, like a full C?

BRIT
(spotting another friend)

Stephie! You came, you skinny bitch!

BRIT RUNS OFF. LUCY IS LEFT STANDING AWKWARDLY ALONE.

INT. ALEX AND RACHEL'S APARTMENT - LATER

RACHEL, CLEARLY FRUSTRATED, IS TRYING TO FIT ALEX'S RECORDS INTO THEIR TINY PANTRY WHILE ALEX IS COOKING.

ALEX
(holding up a fork of food)

Babe, try this.

RACHEL

Wait, what is it?

ALEX

Pesto, from my herb garden. To take to Matt and Gaby's.

RACHEL

Are you JOKING?!

ALEX

No. It was your idea to bring food so we don't have to eat her enchiladas.

RACHEL

I mean the pesto! I'm deathly allergic to pine nuts, Alex! How do you not know that?! That's one of the first fun facts I tell people!

ALEX

The first one you told me was that your middle name is Walter.

RACHEL

My point is, apparently there's a lot we don't know about each other!

ALEX

Babe, it's okay. You're allergic to pine-nuts, this incisor's an implant. Now we both know something new. I hope we never stop discovering new things.

RACHEL

You have a fake tooth?!

ALEX

A couple. What's going on with you?

RACHEL

I'll tell you what's going on with me. Twenty-four hours ago I was unattached, living a pesto-free life with my best friend, and now I'm married to a guy with fake teeth and my shoes are in a dishwasher! That is a lot of change for one day! One day!

ALEX LOOKS AT HER FOR A BEAT.

ALEX

That is a lot of change. I know. So,

is this a bad time to tell you your

jewelry is in the fridge?

RACHEL

I need some space!
(she grabs her jacket)

I'm going for a walk.

SHE STORMS OUT. ALEX IS LEFT ALONE WITH HIS PESTO.

INT. TRENDY BAR - LATER THAT EVENING

LUCY WANDERS UP TO THE BAR.

LUCY
(to bartender)

I'll have a Makers on the rocks.

SHE LOOKS OVER AND **REMY** - A DARK HAIRED GIRL, WEARING DARK FRAME GLASSES - IS STARING AT HER. LUCY SMILES.

LUCY (CONT'D)

You here for Brit's party?

REMY

Yeah, but I'd rather be home watching

"Say Yes to the Dress", and I HATE

that show.

LUCY

I hate that show too!

REMY

It's like, we get it. You're getting

married, get over yourself. You're not

the princess of Borneo!

LUCY

Yeah, more like the princess of San Bernardino!

THEY LAUGH.

LUCY (CONT'D)

If I have to pretend to cry during one more maid of honor speech, I will go Taylor Swift on everyone's ass.

REMY

Right?! Or if I have to pretend to like any more of my friend's stupid fiances, I *will* murder someone.

LUCY

Oh my god! I'm going through that right now! My best friend just got engaged to some hippy artist, who, let's be honest, is just a glorified bar back.

REMY

Nooo! Okay, I've never shared this with anyone, but I feel like I can trust you... You're like a taller, prettier, dumber version of me.

LUCY IS ABOUT TO INTERRUPT, BUT DECIDES TO LET IT GO.

REMY (CONT'D)
(pulling out a vile)

Take this vile, and when your friend's fiance isn't looking, slip some into his drink. It won't kill him, but, it *will* send him to the hospital.

LUCY
(slowly walking backwards)

Well this has been really fun... I... am going to change my number.

LUCY SPRINTS OUT OF THE BAR.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. GABY AND MATT'S DINING ROOM - EVENING

THE DINING ROOM IS DECORATED WITH OVER THE TOP WEDDING PARAPHERNALIA - GIANT ENGAGEMENT RINGS, BELLS, BOUQUETS.

GABY, MATT, AND ALEX ARE SITTING AT THE TABLE IN AWKWARD SILENCE, THERE ARE TWO NOTICEABLY EMPTY CHAIRS. ALEX'S HEAD IS IN HIS HANDS AND HIS PAINTING IS PERCHED ON THE TABLE.

MATT

Just can't get over that painting.

GABY

So, should we wait to play "The Happy Couple" game until Rachel gets here?

ALEX

I wish I knew where she was. I checked all her usual spots - the park, Yoga Vibes, the free sample station at Trader Joes...

A TEXT GOES OFF - THEY ALL JUMP AND GRAB THEIR PHONES.

MATT

It's me!
(then)
Just my mom. She says "hi" and don't forget to pick up your new inhaler...

Oh, the last part was just for me.

ALEX AND GABY LOOK DISAPPOINTED.

GABY
(looking at her phone)

Wait! Rachel just checked into Froyoland!
(beat)

(MORE)

GABY (CONT'D)

Every five check-ins you get a free yogurt.

MATT

Oh yeah makes sense.

ALEX

Free yogurt.

MATT

What are we waiting for?! Let's go!

THEY ALL GET UP TO GO.

ALEX

Maybe I should handle this on my own.

MATT

You got it Senator.

ALEX LOOKS AT HIM FOR A BEAT, NODS, THEN LEAVES.

GABY

One more minute then we'll follow?

MATT

Definitely.

THEY STARE AT A CLOCK. FUCK IT. THEY GET UP AND RUN OUT.

<u>INT. FROYOLAND - NIGHT</u>

LUCY WALKS INTO FROYOLAND- WHEN EVERYTHING ELSE IN LIFE IS SHITTY - FROYO WILL ALWAYS BE THERE WITH OPEN CREAMY ARMS. AS LUCY WALKS IN SHE SEES RACHEL AT A YOGURT PUMP - HER BACK TO LUCY. LUCY PANICS, ALMOST WALKS OUT, BUT DECIDES TO STAY.

SHE GRABS A CUP, TRYING NOT TO BE NOTICED BY RACHEL, AND STANDS WITH HER BACK TO HER A FEW PUMPS DOWN. RACHEL GLANCES OVER, NOTICES LUCY, THEN HEADS TOWARDS THE TOPPINGS. SHE HIDES HER FACE BEHIND HER CUP AND WALKS PAST LUCY. LUCY WATCHES RACHEL'S YOGURT-CUP-HEAD GO BY.

WE SEE RACHEL, FROM BEHIND, PILING ON THE TOPPINGS. SHE GLANCES AROUND LOOKING FOR LUCY AND SEES HER STANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SHOP WITH A HOODED JACKET DRAPED OVER HER HEAD - COVERING HER FACE. RACHEL STARTS TO CRACK UP. LUCY TAKES THE JACKET OFF AND LOOKS FOR RACHEL, BUT CAN'T FIND HER.

FINALLY LUCY SEES A FAMILY SEATED AT A TABLE. THEY LOOK AT HER AND POINT DOWN, INDICATING “UNDER THE TABLE”. LUCY CROUCHES DOWN, SEES RACHEL NEAR THE FAMILIES FEET.

LUCY

You moved out of our apartment and

into Froyoland?

THE GIRLS CRACK UP, LUCY HELPS RACHEL UP.

RACHEL

No, just needed a breather.
(to the family)

You dropped a Sacagawea.

A LITTLE BOY GRABS THE COIN AND RUNS OFF. LUCY AND RACHEL SIT AT ANOTHER TABLE WITH THEIR FROYO.

LUCY

So what’s new since I saw you last?

RACHEL

Uh, let’s see. Alex gave me a hideous

ring, I went to work, cried for an

hour in the walk-in freezer, found out

Gaby wants to have a threesome with

Obama and a crossing guard, ranted at

my amazing fiance like a psycho bitch,

then came here.

LUCY

Wow. Uneventful. Can I see the ring?

RACHEL HOLDS UP HER HAND. LUCY YELPS.

LUCY (CONT’D)

Yikes! It’s worse than Gaby’s. Why

didn’t he come to me?!

RACHEL

If you weren't acting so nut-so he would've, and *this*-
(holding up her ring)
- never would have happened.

LUCY

I was acting nut-so. I'm sorry. I've been selfish. I shouldn't have gone off on you about moving out. It was really about me.

RACHEL

I know. Pretty sure I said that.

LUCY

Yeah, *but* - I've moved past that. I went to a party tonight, and got a little sample of what my future is going to be without you. And I thought, "I have to kill Alex and force Rachel to stay my roommate until we're eighty."

RACHEL

I kinda believe you would do that.

LUCY

But then I met a girl who really does kill her friend's fiances, and I realized that's totally insane!

RACHEL

Wait what?

LUCY

Don’t worry I threw the poison out. The point is I love you, Rach. I want you to be happy more than I want you to be what I want you to be.

RACHEL

Thanks, Lucy. I am happy. But I do kinda feel like I just jumped into the deep end - and you know I can only doggy paddle.

LUCY

I’m not worried about you. You’re a terrible swimmer but you always killed it in Marco Polo. Your instincts are spot on. I obsess and over-analyze everything. And so what if you were a little drunk? You did what felt right. I envy that.

RACHEL

You do?

LUCY

Well, yeah, but probably just like the same amount that you envy me. I don’t want to lose you Rach, you’re like the sister I never had - that’s why I boss you around and borrow your underwear.

RACHEL

You've borrowed my underwear?
(beat)

Look, I know you think I'm better off cause I'm not alone, but I'm about to commit myself to one person *forever*. It's scary.

LUCY

Alex is a good guy. He clearly loves you, and makes you happy, and that's all that really matters.

RACHEL

You're right. It's just, we're crazy about each other now, but what if things change like with Matt and Gaby?

LUCY

I'm starting to realize there's no reason to be afraid of change as long as you have your best friends around. AND, I think Matt and Gaby are going to be okay, I mean, look at them -

LUCY NODS TO THE WINDOW. RACHEL TURNS AND SEES MATT, GABY, AND ALEX OUTSIDE, FACES PRESSED AGAINST THE GLASS. MATT AND GABY ARE HOLDING EACH OTHER. LUCY AND RACHEL WAVE TO THEM.

RACHEL

Looks like you'll never get rid of this group of lunatics.

ALEX, MATT AND GABY HOLD UP OLIVE BRANCHES AND WAVE BACK.

INT. GABY AND MATT'S DINING ROOM

RACHEL AND ALEX ARE IN THE KITCHEN, WHILE MATT AND LUCY SIT AT THE DINING ROOM TABLE.

ANGLE ON: MATT AND LUCY IN THE DINING ROOM. GABY WALKS IN WITH A HUGE PLATE OF NACHOS.

MATT

Wow! Your world famous Nachitos!

LUCY

These are Doritos with salsa on top.

GABY

Yes they are. Yes. They. Are.

ANGLE ON: RACHEL AND ALEX IN THE KITCHEN.

ALEX

I'm sorry I freaked you out with that cheesy ring and the pesto.

RACHEL

Wait, you think the ring is cheesy?!

ALEX

Cheesier than my knock-knock jokes.

RACHEL

You think those are cheesy too?!

ALEX

I may not know all the little things about you yet, but I do know you Rach. And I love you. Even if you wouldn't go on a first date while Venus was in retrograde.

RACHEL

I love you too. I'm sorry I freaked out. I just got in my head and started doubting everything, but then Lucy helped me realize that I'd be an idiot to mess this up and that I should put a lock on my underwear drawer. I'm so sorry...

ALEX

It's okay. Once we get you a drawer for your underwear, I'll put a lock on it. But first, let's go pick out a new ring.

LUCY RUNS INTO THE KITCHEN AND EMPTIES OUT THE NACHITOS THAT WERE STUFFED DOWN HER SHIRT INTO THE TRASH.

LUCY

Psst, I need help! I've ran out of places to hide the "Nachitos".
(then to Alex)
I'm uh, sorry, for... almost ruining your engagement.

ALEX

All good. Sorry for stealing your roommate.

LUCY

We're going to be seeing a lot of each other, so I've figured out a schedule that should work for all of us.

(MORE)

LUCY (CONT'D)

You can have Rachel Monday through Friday, and I'll get her on weekends.

RACHEL

Lucy!

LUCY

Fine, every other weekend?

SHE GOES TO SHAKE HANDS, HE GIVES HER A HUG.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Okay, I get it! You're a good hugger.

RACHEL, LUCY AND ALEX ALL SIT DOWN AT THE TABLE.

MATT

Rach, you like the new masterpiece?

MATT NODS TO THE PAINTING. RACHEL'S EYES LIGHT UP.

RACHEL

Oh my god! Is that us?!

ALEX

Yeah, I made it for our apartment.

RACHEL

So you didn't throw away my feet?!

ALEX

No, they're out on the fire escape.

LUCY

I'm sorry, is there a naked cop somewhere in your apartment?

LUCY POINTS AT A UNIFORM HANGING ON THE BACK OF THE DOOR.

MATT

It's a Halloween costume Gaby got me!

LUCY

Halloween isn't for three months.

GABY
(winking)

Shhh... He's already blindfolded me and put me in cuffs for trespassing-

ALEX

I don't think cops use blindfolds...

GABY PINCHES HIS TUSH.

MATT
(in a forceful voice)

Hey! Don't make me read you your Miranda rights again!

LUCY

Wow, I thought the worst had passed with the nachitos. But now I think I really might vomit.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

INT. MATT AND GABY'S APARTMENT - LATER THAT EVENING

GABY, MATT, LUCY, ALEX AND RACHEL ARE IN THE LIVING ROOM.

MATT
(singing)

H - G - F - E - D - C - B - A!!!!

THEY ALL SLOW CLAP, AD LIB, "WOW", "IMPRESSIVE".

GABY

Okay, time for Yahtzee!

SHE GRABS YAHTZEE FROM THE BOOKCASE. LUCY LOOKS PANICKED.

GABY (CONT'D)
(opening the box)

What is this?!

GABY HOLDS UP THE BOX REVEALING ENCHILADAS.

LUCY

Your enchiladas from last week.

ALEX

Yahtzee!

LUCY

Who wants to play that game anyway?

We should play Scattergories!

GABY REACHES FOR SCATTERGORIES AND WE GO INTO SLOW MOTION: RACHEL, ALEX AND MATT JUMP UP OFF THE COUCH AND TACKLE GABY TO THE GROUND.

MATT ALEX AND RACHEL

No!!!!

THE BOX FLINGS OPEN AND NACHITOS FLY OUT OF THE BOX AND RAIN DOWN WHILE EVERYONE LOOKS UP IN HORROR.

END OF SHOW