PULLING

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COLD OPEN

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - NIGHT

To establish. Golden Gate Bridge. Painted Ladies Houses. The neo-hippies on Haight Ashbury.

Over the WHOOSHING sounds of an aerosol foam can...

DONNA (O.S.)
Maybe this was a terrible idea.

INT. DONNA AND KARL'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

CLOSE ON whipped cream containers, cherries, sprinkles and fudge on a counter top. It looks like a sundae bar.

We pan over to DONNA, 30, standing nude, hands akimbo, as her two friends, KAREN, 30, and LOUISE, 30, apply a THICK COAT OF WHIPPED CREAM to her lady parts.

KAREN
If you really wanted to spice things up, you would've gone with my idea.

DONNA
I'm not bringing another woman into my bedroom a week before my wedding. Or ever.

LOUISE
I think this is great! Everyone loves whipped cream.

Louise grabs a container of sprinkles from the counter and disappears below frame.

DONNA
Louise, what are you doing with the sprinkles?

LOUISE (O.S.)
I'm trying to make it realistic. Do you want a triangle or a landing strip?

DONNA
I'm not an arts and crafts project.

Louise stands back up.

LOUISE
Fine, maybe we go the other way with it and make it a one-piece. Leave a little something to the imagination.

Donna's phone RINGS. She answers.

DONNA
(into phone)
Hey, baby. I'm making your favorite dessert.

She winks at Karen and Louise.

DONNA (CONT'D)
(into phone)
Okay, see you soon.

She hangs up.

DONNA (CONT'D)
Hurry up.

LOUISE
Wait. What did we decide with the sprinkles?

INT. DONNA AND KARL'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

KARL, 30s, enters in his business casual-wear. He looks up, notices Donna in the doorway in the whipped cream bikini.

KARL
Whoa!

DONNA
You like it?

KARL
Are you kidding? Yeah! This and peach cobbler? Does it get any better?!

DONNA
Yeah, baby...
(then, confused)
What about peach cobbler?

KARL
It's just, you said you were making my favorite dessert, so I assumed -- cobbler.

DONNA
(motioning to herself)
I am the dessert.

KARL
Oh, cool. We can have cobbler another time.

DONNA
Enough with the cobbler!
(then, off his look)
I'm sorry. It's just -- work's been crazy and all the wedding stuff --

KARL
We're getting married in a week. You have a right to be stressed out.

He walks over and leans in to hug her, extremely careful not to get any whipped cream on his clothes. His body is as far away from her body as possible.

KARL (CONT'D)
So where should we do the deed? We could do the couch -- though it's micro-suede... maybe in the shower -- kill two birds with one sto --

DONNA
(sexy)
Why don't you just take me right here?

KARL
Right here on the floor? You're bad.

DONNA
Yes I am, big boy.

KARL
Let me just get something to put down!

He races down the hallway leaving Donna just standing there. The sounds of Karl struggling with something can be heard.

ANGLE ON Karl attempting to pull a futon out of a bedroom.

KARL (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Damn this thing's heavy!

Donna scoops some whipped cream off of her and sadly eats it.

KARL (CONT'D)
Almost there, baby.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. GYM - MORNING

San Francisco trendy. Our girls are on three side by side treadmills. Donna walks at a steep incline; Karen leans on her non-moving treadmill sipping a coffee; and Louise runs at full speed.

DONNA
As soon as I'm zipped into my wedding dress, I'm canceling my gym membership forever.

LOUISE
Good luck. They make it really hard to cancel.

A PERKY WOMAN, late 20s, approaches.

PERKY WOMAN
Hey, girls! Donna, heard about the wedding... Sooooo happy it's finally happening for you. Are you soooo excited?

DONNA
I really am.

PERKY WOMAN
Yeah, we were starting to get worried about you.

DONNA
Wait, who's "we?"

PERKY WOMAN
I don't know. People. Everyone.
(then)
Anyway, I gotta run, but watch out, you two, you're next.

KAREN
(smiling menacingly)
You're next.

The Perky Woman looks creeped out.

DONNA
(sweetly)
Let's get coffee soon.

The Woman exits.

DONNA (CONT'D)
Ugh.

KAREN
Nice sneakers, dummy.

LOUISE
(breathing heavy)
She's actually doing really well. Her husband just made partner and they have a kid on the way. From Malawai. That's where Madonna bought her baby.

KAREN
I'm so sick of stupid babies.

LOUISE
Shh. You can't say that. You can only think it.

DONNA
It's like, you've gotta have kids, get married, buy a house, have a career. All these boxes we're supposed to check off... Who created these boxes?

LOUISE
Those boxes are there for a reason, Donna.

KAREN
Louise, don't be desperate.

LOUISE
I'm not. I just really, really want to get married and I'll do whatever it takes.

KAREN
Yeah, that's exactly what guys want.

LOUISE
Guys don't know what they want, so you have to show them what they want. Sometimes you have to get creative.

DONNA
Yeah, Louise, you sound desperate.

LOUISE
We can't all have what you have... you're marrying this awesome guy, you've got a great job, you have your own washing machine...

DONNA
The job's okay, I guess. The money's good, but I just want... I'm looking for something -- I don't know -- more.

KAREN
Then get your ass in gear. I've never seen someone complain more and do less.

DONNA
Do less? I did more in my twenties than anyone I know. I went to grad school, contributed to my IRA, had two long-term relationships, and found time to train for a 5K. I did everything I was supposed to do, so I deserve to be happy!

LOUISE
Who needs to train for a 5K?

An ELDERLY WOMAN approaches Karen.

ELDERLY WOMAN
People are waiting for treadmills and you're --

KAREN
I'm in my cool down, grandma.

The Elderly Woman walks off. Karen turns back to Donna.

KAREN (CONT'D)
(noticing)
Oh, crap, she's getting the manager.

INT. PRIMROSE PUBLISHING - DAY

Donna sits at her cubicle, staring at a stack of manuscripts.

DONNA
(to herself)
Get your ass in gear.

Donna's cubicle-mate spins around.

CUBICLE WORKER
Sorry, you're right.

Donna takes a determined breath and walks down the hall.

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO STREET - DAY

Louise checks her watch and then notices a pleasant-looking guy, JUSTIN, exit a restaurant with a couple of co-workers. She fixes her hair in a store window, then casually “bumps” into him.

LOUISE
Hey, stalker! Are you stalking me?

JUSTIN
Oh, hey, Louise.
(then, to co-workers)
I’ll see you guys in a sec.

LOUISE
I had so much fun at dinner last week.

JUSTIN
Yeah, that fish was really good.

LOUISE
I thought we had a strong connection. I reached out a few times after our date, but I didn’t hear back. Justin, have you been getting all of your texts?

JUSTIN
... No... It’s a new phone.

LOUISE
Same number though, right?
(she smiles)
Anyways, my friend’s getting married next weekend and I was wondering if you’d like to be my date.

JUSTIN
Oh, I’d love to, but next week is a little busy for me...

LOUISE
If it’s only a “little busy,” you should have time to come to the rehearsal dinner on Friday night and then the wedding on Saturday.

JUSTIN
Yeah, I don’t think I can swing that. But thanks. Better get back.

Justin hustles off. Louise calls after him.

LOUISE
I understand. I'll call to confirm your final answer.

INT. PRIMROSE PUBLISHING – IAN'S OFFICE – MOMENTS LATER

Donna hesitantly knocks and enters her boss, IAN's, office.

DONNA
If this is a bad time, I can come back.

IAN
Please, please, come in. Have a seat.

Donna takes a seat. Ian leans in, waits.

DONNA
So, Ian, I'm not sure things are, well, entirely working out for me here.

IAN
Now that you're getting married, you're not leaving us, are you?

DONNA
Well, actually yes. Ian, I've been thinking a lot and, no disrespect to you, but I'm starting to feel like there might be more to my life than being an editor.

IAN
(laughs)
But you're not an editor.

They share an uneasy laugh.

DONNA
Yes, I am.

IAN
Uh, no you're not.

DONNA
I am. I've been an editor for the past six months since my last pay review. That's what we're talking about.

IAN
Donna, you're not.

He pulls up a file on his computer.

DONNA
I'm not saying I'm not grateful for the promotion. But if I'm being totally honest, I've always seen myself as more creative, not some stupid office drone. Not that you are.

IAN
(re computer)
Oh, that's a mistake.

DONNA
That's just the way I feel.

IAN
(looking over file)
No. You're not an editor -- looks like HR put in the wrong job code. You're supposed to be an editorial assistant.

DONNA
Assistant? If I were just an assistant, how could I have rejected all those "50 Shades" knock-offs?

IAN
Were you the one that passed on "Tuscan Nights?!"

DONNA
...I don't remember.

IAN
I fired Susan over that! Did you honestly think you went from receptionist to editor?

DONNA
Mm hmm.

IAN
Didn't you see Jackie doing the editor job?

DONNA
I thought she was being helpful.

IAN
When your pay didn't go up, didn't you think --

DONNA
It did go up.

IAN
What?!
(then, re computer screen)
Oh my god. This is twice what you should have been making. Didn't you think that was a bit much?

DONNA
Actually I thought it reflected my potential.

IAN
You're going to owe us a ton of money!

DONNA
(backing away)
You know what? Forget I said anything. I'll be at my desk if you need me. Love that tie!

INT. POTTERY BARN - LATER

Karen, holding salt and pepper shakers, stands with a SALESPERSON.

KAREN
Look, I understand she registered for it, but there's no way my friend would want me to spend this much on salt and pepper shakers. So what can you do for me?

SALESPERSON
We don't negotiate prices here at Pottery Barn.

KAREN
Ugh, fine. What's the cheapest thing on the stupid registry?

Karen notices a HANDSOME MAN in a suit smiling at her. She hands the set to the salesman and walks over.

KAREN (CONT'D)
I know you, don't I?

HANDSOME MAN
Yes, you do.

KAREN
We slept together, didn't we? I feel like it was last summer?

HANDSOME MAN
Umm...

KAREN
I think I was wearing thigh highs... Maybe it was a wedding or a funeral?

HANDSOME MAN
I'm Jason's father.

KAREN
Fantastic. Who's Jason?

HANDSOME MAN
Your student. We met at parent / teacher conference.

Suddenly, a YOUNG BOY, 5, runs up.

YOUNG BOY
Hi, Ms. Davies!

KAREN
... Hi, Jason.

YOUNG BOY
I can count to twenty-nine!

The Young Boy starts counting.

KAREN
Well, I'm gonna get going. Jason's doing great, by the way.

Karen starts to walk away, then --

YOUNG BOY
I'm not done counting!

The Young Boy tugs at her arm to stay.

YOUNG BOY (CONT'D)
Twenty-five, twenty-six...

Karen stands there. It's excruciating.

<u>INT. DONNA AND KARL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT</u>

Donna comes downstairs in a sexy cocktail dress. Karl sits at the table eating Chinese food with two strapping men, GABE and CALVIN (think Taye Diggs), Gabe's husband.

KARL
Hubba hubba!

DONNA
Just keeping it classy for my bachelorette party.

KARL
(to Gabe)
Hey Gabe, be honest... seeing Donna dressed like that... does that make you question your sexuality?

GABE
That's my sister.

KARL
But you know what I mean. Calvin, back me up here.

CALVIN
That's my sister-in-law. But that dress is for real, Donna.

DONNA
Thanks, Cal.
(to Karl, re Chinese containers)
Bamboo Garden? What is that, three times in one week?

KARL
Four times, if you count that leftover fish with black bean sauce I had for breakfast.

GABE
We're gonna watch "Safe House" after dinner.

KARL
Guys night in!

DONNA
You've seen "Safe House" fifty times.

KARL
What can I say? When I like something, I like it. And that's the guy you're marrying. You have my word: I will not surprise you.

DONNA
Super.

KARL
You know what I mean. I'm fun, but in a safe way. Like...

GABE
A condom.

KARL
Yeah, exactly. Now get over here. Boys, avert your eyes.

Karl quickly pecks Donna on the lips.

DONNA
Okay, you guys can look again.

As TECHNO MUSIC pre-laps, we --

INT. CAVIAR NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Techno music continues. Donna, Karen, Louise and a handful of other BACHELORETTES stand in the doorway, looking in.

TURN TO REVEAL OLD RUSSIAN MEN in tracksuits smoking cigarettes. A few women (who may or may not be prostitutes) linger at the bar. A few RUSSIAN THUGS argue in the corner.

DONNA
This looks like the bar from “Taken.”

LOUISE
According to Yelp, the borscht is supposed to be delicious.

KAREN
You can get ten shots for eleven dollars, Donna.

DONNA
And how much to hire a hit-man?

INT. CAVIAR NIGHTCLUB - LATER

The Bachelorettes are all dancing, drinking, and having a good time. Louise sips borscht at the bar. Karen comes up with a Russian Thug who keeps dancing in place.

KAREN
(shouting over music)
Where’s Donna?

INT. WOMEN’S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Donna is staring at herself in the mirror. A toilet FLUSHES and then EMILY, eight months pregnant, steps out of the stall.

EMILY
I have to go to the bathroom so much, I don't know why I bother ever leaving.

Emily starts washing her hands.

EMILY (CONT'D)
So you having fun?

DONNA
Yeah! Just getting some fresh air -- in the bathroom.

EMILY
Everything okay?

DONNA
Yeah, it's just work, I guess. Feeling a little lost.

EMILY
Then quit.

DONNA
Really? I was thinking of trying sculpting or learning Portuguese --

EMILY
No, I meant quit so you can focus on starting a family.

DONNA
Yeah, maybe. That could be cool.

Emily smiles, then heads for the door. Donna follows.

DONNA (CONT'D)
Em, are you happy?

EMILY
Well, Max is doing well. He just got his green belt in Tae Kwon Do. And Josie's finally on the right medication and Toby just got a promotion, so...

DONNA
But what about you? Are you happy?

Instead of answering, Emily suddenly hugs her, taking Donna by surprise. It lasts a little bit too long.

EMILY
Let's get you back out there where the fun is!

INT. CAVIAR NIGHTCLUB - LATER

Donna, Louise, and Karen are sitting in the bar area of the club. They are quite drunk. There are loads of empty champagne bottles on the table. A RUSSIAN MAN is passed out next to them. Karen takes his cocktail and drinks it.

LOUISE
When was the moment that you knew Karl was the one?

DONNA
Well, we've been together for five years and it was just... seemed like the logical next step.

LOUISE
One nice thing about Karl is that he'd never hit you.

KAREN
Okay, Donna, I want you to imagine that Karl died.

DONNA
No, that's horrible.

KAREN
Just imagine he's dead. A crane fell on him. Died instantly. Painless.

Donna closes her eyes. After a beat, she opens them.

DONNA
So he felt nothing?

KAREN
(leaning back, takes a sip)
Better, isn't it?

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO STREET - NIGHT

Donna, Louise, Karen and the rest of the bachelorettes are buying food from a STREET VENDOR. Donna bites into her gyro as the group hoots and hollers.

BACHELORETTES
(to passers-by)
She's getting married!

DONNA
(drunk)
I am!

Her friends cross the street as she lags behind. Donna notices an ad for a new online bill pay option from Wells Fargo:

"Isn't It Time For A Change?"

She stares at the sign. Without thinking, she steps into the street. People yell, "Watch out!"

But it's too late. A SMART CAR bumps Donna, lightly KNOCKING her to the ground.

DONNA'S POV: a CROWD forms around her -- a mix of bachelorettes and others. They peer down at her.

DRIVER
She came out of nowhere!

LOUISE
Are you okay?

Donna checks her head -- no blood.

DONNA
I don't want to get married.

LOUISE
She's not making any sense! I think she has a concussion!

KAREN
(to Donna)
You should probably tell him before the wedding.

In bg, the Smart Car driver hops into his car and peels out.

DRIVER
(out his window)
She doesn't have a concussion! She just wants to be free!

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. DONNA AND KARL'S BEDROOM - MORNING

CLOSE ON Donna's face, asleep. Karl's face leans into frame and whispers in her ear.

KARL
Morning, sleepyhead.

Donna wakes with a JOLT, knocking the BREAKFAST-IN-BED TRAY that was carefully resting across her chest onto the floor.

DONNA
What the hell?!

KARL
(hurt)
Figured you might be hungover, so I made you breakfast!

Donna looks at him -- the sweet, thoughtful man that made her breakfast. Guilt washes over her face.

DONNA
That was really sweet of you, Karl.

KARL
I know. And if you like that, you're gonna love this: remember on our first date, when we played pinball all night? Well, I found the pinball machine and I bought it for you!

DONNA
Dammit, Karl! That's really, really unnecessary.

KARL
I thought you'd be happy.

DONNA
(angry)
... I am happy! It's just -- we don't have anywhere to put it.

KARL
We'll figure something out, my bride to be.

INT. KAREN AND LOUISE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

A starter apartment for women right out of college (except these women are not right out of college). Louise, her phone to her ear, flops down onto a bean bag chair.

JUSTIN (O.S.)
Hello?

LOUISE
Hey, baby bear!

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. JUSTIN'S APARTMENT - SAME

Justin sits on his couch.

JUSTIN
Who is this?

LOUISE
It's Louise!

JUSTIN
Oh, hey. Look, Louise, this isn't a good time for me --

LOUISE
You want me to call you back in five minutes?

JUSTIN
Well, no --

LOUISE
Okay, then let's just talk now. So, I know you said you had plans on Friday, but I seem to remember you being a big Giants fan and I just got two seats behind home plate --

JUSTIN
(considering)
Well --

WIDEN TO REVEAL a wall entirely devoted to the Giants.

LOUISE
And I can't use them --

JUSTIN
Oh, ok, great!

LOUISE
You can pick them up Friday before the game.

JUSTIN
Works for me!

LOUISE
Cool. It's a date.

INT. KARL'S CAR - DAY

Karl sings along to Tom Sawyer, banging the steering wheel to the beat. Donna is deep in her own thoughts.

KARL
(singing loudly)
"Catch the mist/Catch the myth/Catch the mystery/Catch the drift!"

He motions for Donna to join. Donna's phone RINGS. She answers it. [INTERCUT WITH KAREN]

KAREN
How'd it go?

Donna glances over to Karl, then:

DONNA
I'm not registered to vote, but thanks for your call.

KAREN
This is just sad, man. You've gotta rip the band-aid --

Donna hangs up.

KARL
Who was that, Karen?

DONNA
Yup...

KARL
Why were you talking about voting?

Donna turns up the radio and sings with gusto.

DONNA
"And what you say about his company / Is what you say about society."
(then, motioning for Karl)
Catch the witness / Catch the wit / Catch the spirit / Catch the spit."

EXT. PACIFIC HEIGHTS STREET - DAY

Donna and Karl stand outside of a beautiful condo. Karl knocks on the door. Nothing. He knocks again.

KARL
You tell someone you're gonna be there and then you're not home. Great!

DONNA
Can we forget about the pinball machine? Let's go somewhere and talk.

Karl tries the door and it OPENS.

KARL
Looks like it's my lucky day.

He enters and motions for Donna to follow him inside.

INT. DUPLEX - CONTINUOUS

An unfurnished beautiful room with tons of natural light, mouldings, etc. In the middle of the room is an vintage pinball machine with a note on it. She looks at Karl, confused.

KARL
Read the note.

Donna walks over, picks up the note and reads it.

DONNA
(re note)
"Welcome home."

KARL
I got us a house! In Pacific Heights! Just like you always dreamed!

Donna just stands there, speechless. He snaps a picture of her on his iphone.

KARL (CONT'D)
You should see the look on your face right now.
(as Donna)
"Aaaaaahhhh! My fiancé's so impulsive! Aahhhh!"

DONNA
Aaaahhh! AAAHHHH!!

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - DAY

Karen, dressed conservatively, walks past the Principal's office. She stops in her tracks when she spots Jason's Father.

He shakes hands with the Principal and exits. Karen looks concerned.

INT. DUPLEX - DAY

Karl and Donna head up the stairs. They reach the landing.

KARL
Check it out: a laundry chute!

DONNA
Karl --

KARL
We could send each other messages.

Karl opens the chute and yells into it.

KARL (CONT'D)
"If you shave my back, I'll shave your front!"

DONNA
Karl! I'm serious.

KARL
Ooh, sounds serious. What is it?

DONNA
... I'm not sure I want this.

KARL
The laundry chute?

DONNA
I don't want to get married, I don't think.

KARL
You don't want to marry me?

DONNA
I just feel that I'm in a rut. That the reason we were getting married was because that's what people expect us to do.

KARL
What people?

DONNA
People. Everyone.

KARL
We've been together for five years.

DONNA
I'm not the same person I was in my 20s. I was just excited that I finally had a boyfriend who had a job, remembered my birthday, and liked the food channel as much as I did.

Karl takes a step back in shock.

KARL
What are you saying? I don't understand what you're saying. I love you.

DONNA
I can't... I just...

Karl continues backing away from her.

KARL
I don't understand. I don't --

DONNA
Watch out!

Karl TUMBLES down the stairs. It's loud and painful. Donna runs down the stairs after him.

She cradles his head in her lap. He opens his eyes.

DONNA (CONT'D)
Oh my god, Karl, are you okay?

KARL
I bought us a home. I got us a place that's just for us. I imagined us up on the roof drinking Champagne --

DONNA
I can't --

KARL
In the hot tub.

DONNA
I just can't -- wait, there's a hot tub on the roof?

KARL
Please don't do this! I'm begging you, please! You can't call it off.
(MORE)

KARL (CONT'D)
The wedding is in three days!
(losing it)
Oh my god, what am I going to tell Mom?!

DONNA
Just tell her it was my fault.

KARL
Of course it’s your fault!

Karl struggles to his feet.

DONNA
Well, who just goes and buys a house?!
(then, collecting herself)
But it’s very nice. Beautiful mouldings.

EXT. BREW PUB - DAY

Donna sits with Karen and Louise.

LOUISE
There’s a hot tub on the roof?

DONNA
That’s not the point.

KAREN
But it would be pretty cool.

DONNA
Well, obviously.
(then, collecting herself)
I just hope more than anything that Karl will be okay.

Donna’s phone RINGS. She checks the ID.

DONNA (CONT’D)
Oh no, it’s Karl’s mom.

KAREN/LOUISE
Leatherface! Leatherface!

DONNA
(into phone, nervous)
Hi, Margaret...

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. UPSCALE LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Karl's no-nonsense MOTHER, who clearly did not use sunscreen when she was younger, talks into her phone.

KARL'S MOTHER
I was going through the seating arrangements and I'm switching your Canadian cousins back to table 21. This is not up for discussion.

DONNA
...Okay. Have you spoken with Karl?

MOTHER
Of course I've spoken to Karl! He's right here next to me.

WIDEN TO REVEAL a sheepish KARL seated next to her.

DONNA
... Oh! Well, then that's fine. Tell him I'll see him back at the house soon.

INT. DONNA AND KARL'S HOUSE - LATER

Donna enters with a head of steam. Karl is playing with his expensive home brewery kit.

KARL
Hey! You want some beer? I put pumpkin in it.

DONNA
Karl, are you insane?

KARL
I tried telling Mom, but I just couldn't.

DONNA
Whose mom?! Whose mom?!

KARL
...My mom.

DONNA
Then say "my mom."

KARL
Look, Grammy's been working on her speech for months. And she's so old and this is so important to her. I don't know how I'm going to tell her...

Karl starts blubbering. Donna takes a deep breath.

DONNA
I'll go.

Karl stops crying, lights up.

KARL
Really? You'd do that for me?

DONNA
... Yes. But then you have to tell them. Just for tonight, I'll do it for Grammy ... your Grammy.

INT. RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL - NIGHT

Donna, dressed in a beautiful cocktail dress, and flanked by Karen and Louise, enters the ornate lobby.

DONNA
This is crazy. What am I doing? I I'm not going to do this --

An OLDER COUPLE walks up to Donna.

OLDER WOMAN
Congratulations! Are you excited?!

DONNA
So excited! I'll see you inside!

OLDER MAN
Such a special day.

KAREN
What's the plan exactly?

DONNA
I just need to make it through dinner and then I'll be fine.

LOUISE
Exactly. Well, until tomorrow when you have to change your facebook status to "no longer in a relationship."
(then, seeing caterer)
Do you think they'll have empanadas?

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. RITZ-CARLTON - BANQUET HALL - EVENING

Karl, sharply dressed, has his arms around Donna. Karl smiles wide. Donna forces a smile. A FLASH goes off.

PARTY GUEST
You guys look amazing. Alright, now make funny faces.

Karl makes a funny face. Donna makes a sad face. Another FLASH.

PARTY GUEST (CONT'D)
Oh, that's great. Now do one where you're both --

DONNA
Okay, enough with the fucking pictures.

Gabe pulls Donna aside.

GABE
I know you're trying to help Karl, but this whole thing makes me very uncomfortable.

DONNA
You feel uncomfortable?! Karl's sister just asked me to be the godmother to her son.

GABE
What'd you say?

DONNA
Obviously, I said yes!

GABE
Well, I'm here if you need me.

Gabe hugs her. A GUEST walks by.

GUEST
Heard about the hot tub on the roof... Congrats!

GABE
You didn't tell me there was a hot tub on the roof.

Donna groans.

INT. RITZ-CARLTON - LOBBY - EVENING

Louise lights up as Justin, dressed head to toe in San Francisco Giants gear (including a mitt), enters.

LOUISE
Hey, Justin! Thanks for coming!

She gives him a hug.

JUSTIN
Thanks again for the tickets.

LOUISE
Yeah, about that, the tickets fell through. Something about some nonsense or something. But now that you're here, you should stay for the dinner since I know you don't have any plans.

She smiles.

JUSTIN
Oh, well, I...

He's stuck. She takes his hand.

LOUISE
Come on, everyone's dying to meet you.

INT. RITZ-CARLTON - BANQUET HALL - EVENING

Karen gets her drink from the bar. As she turns she spots Jason's Father. She walks over with a head of steam.

KAREN
You have a lot of nerve to show your face around here.

JASON'S FATHER
I'm one of Karl's clients.

KAREN
I can't believe you reported me to the principal. So I had some Merlot and had sex at the funeral. It happens. That doesn't give you the right to judge me, jackass.

JASON'S FATHER
I was there about you. I want to discuss Jason's drooling.

An OLDER WOMAN, early 60s, approaches him with a plate of appetizers.

JASON'S FATHER (CONT'D)
(to Woman)
This is Jason's teacher, Ms. Davies. We were just talking about the drooling.

Karen shakes her hand.

KAREN
You have a very sweet grandson. You should be proud.

JASON'S FATHER
This is my wife, Eileen. Jason's mother.

Beat.

KAREN
You are a timeless and regal beauty. I should go.

INT. RITZ-CARLTON - BANQUET HALL - LATER

The rehearsal dinner guests (including Karen, Louise, and an extremely uncomfortable Justin still wearing his Giants gear) watch as Karl's 95-year-old GRANDMOTHER shuffles -- with the aid of a walker -- the three feet to the podium. It takes a very long time. She takes a piece of paper out of her pocket and reads from it.

GRANDMA
(reading)
I was married for fifty-three years.
(applause)
And then again for eleven.
(less applause)
And then again for one year.
(no applause)
A lot of men are scumbags.
(only Karen applauds)
I wish you two a lifetime of health, happiness and prosperity.

Grandma shuffles off. People applaud. Donna turns to Karl.

DONNA
That was the speech?

Karl downs the rest of his drink -- he's clearly wasted.

KARL
I would've given you a hundred years of happiness, sex, and friendship. I know I'm not cool. And I know you think I'm this predictable, unadventurous guy. But I'm a rock. I'm a provider. And maybe that isn't sexy, but where will you be when your sexy new boyfriend rides off on his sexy motorcycle at the first sign of trouble?

DONNA
Are you drunk?

KARL
No, but I have taken a lot of pain killers.

He stands and starts to walk away. He turns back.

KARL (CONT'D)
And by the way, you're not going to find what you're looking for.

INT. RITZ-CARLTON - BANQUET HALL BAR - LATER

Karen sits with Gabe and Calvin. Louise and Justin walk over.

LOUISE
Guys, this is the famous Justin.

They all give his outfit the once-over.

KAREN
Nice mitt.

LOUISE
Classic Justin. He marches to the beat of his own drummer.

JUSTIN
You tricked me! And stop saying classic Justin. You barely know me!

LOUISE
Classic Justin. Freaking out over nothing.

JUSTIN
I'm leaving!

He storms off. Louise calls after him.

LOUISE
You know what, you're clearly not ready for something serious, so don't call me.

INT. RITZ-CARLTON - BANQUET HALL - LATER

The MC stands at the front of the room next to a collage of pictures of Donna and Karl and a sheet cake that reads "Donna and Karl: An Eternal Love" in flowing script.

MC
... And now, I think our groom-to-be -- or as I know him, my pledge-brotha-from-another-mutha -- wants to say a few words.

A round of applause for Karl, but Karl doesn't move. Donna nudges him -- nothing. She's pissed, but decides there's nothing else to do, so she stands up.

DONNA
Karl's just... hungover.

She laughs. Everyone else laughs. There's a pause while she thinks of something to say.

DONNA (CONT'D)
... So I'm going to speak for him.

MC
Get used to it, Karl!

DONNA
Yeah, hilarious. Anyway, seeing so many of you here means the world to us and as we start, um, our new life together...

Donna starts to crack and takes a minute to compose herself. Karen and Louise exchange looks. "Where is this going?"

DONNA (CONT'D)
This man, this... Karl is a good man, a fine man who deserves so much; better than me, actually. This man is, without a doubt, one of the most caring, loving... loyal and... really loyal people that I've ever met and I can only say --

KARL
Donna's cancelled the wedding. She doesn't love me anymore. Thank you all for coming.

He sits back down. Karl's Mother's jaw drops.

LOUISE
Should we do something?

KAREN
What're we supposed to do?

DONNA
-- that, that, that, that, that, that, that... just trying to think of... that, that, that, that... can't think of the thing --

Everyone stares at her, open-mouthed. She stands there, feeling the full force of the humiliation.

MC
Okay, so we're going to take a short break, and then we'll be back with, um, a video of how Karl and Donna met.

Chaos. Yelling. Karl is now openly weeping. Karen and Louise whisk a dazed Donna away from the table.

KAREN
Louise, grab the jackets. I'll get a cab.

INT. RITZ-CARLTON - LOBBY

Donna and Louise are hastily exiting.

LOUISE
I thought your speech was really nice until the end.

A BREAD ROLL hurled from inside bounces off the back of Donna's head. She turns to Karl's Mother.

KARL'S MOTHER
Where do you think you're going?

DONNA
I'm sorry it ended like this. I just don't think this is what I want right now.

KARL'S MOTHER
Karl's better off without you. And let me tell you, do not expect him to be there when you come crawling back, because I will tell you one thing about my son: he has more dignity than to hang around here waiting for you to --

At that moment Karl hurls himself out of the ballroom and prostrates himself at Donna's feet.

KARL
Donnadonnadonnadonnadonnadonna...

INT. KAREN AND LOUISE'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Donna, in sweats, and Karen sit on the couch. Donna's suitcases are stacked beside her.

DONNA
What have I done? I've ruined a man's life! A sweet, kind man who would've made me very happy. I'm a terrible person.

KAREN
Stop it.

Louise crosses behind Donna, prancing in DONNA'S WEDDING DRESS.

KAREN (CONT'D)
Louise! Not okay!

Louise quickly disappears. Donna turns around, but doesn't see her.

DONNA
If you'd seen his face... he was so hurt. I'm evil.

KAREN
You're not evil. I know evil and you're not evil.

LOUISE
(re-enters)
Yeah. Anyway, you've done it now, there's no going back.

KAREN
Thank you, Louise.

LOUISE
No, I'm just saying even if she did, it's too late. Too much pain there now.

KAREN
She's in a weird place. She just walked out on the guy, she got demoted from a job she hated and instead of moving into a new house, she's moving into the spider cave.

Karen motions to a bedroom.

DONNA
I can't believe I lived in the big bedroom when I was twenty-five, and now at... this age that I am, I'm back and living in the cave.
(then, to Louise)
Are the spiders really back?

LOUISE
Not really, the mice get most of them.

INT. DONNA'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

She flips on the light. The room is cramped, dusty, and usually used for storage. There's a ratty mattress in the corner. She enters the room and walks DIRECTLY INTO AN ENORMOUS SPIDERWEB.

DONNA
(flailing, spitting)
Pffffff! Pffff!

She rips at the web and collapses onto the bed. The weight of her decision has finally settled in. She BURSTS into tears. She pulls out her phone and clicks on Karl's contact. She's about to hit CALL when there's a KNOCK on the door.

KAREN
(through the door)
You hungry?

DONNA
(covering)
No I'm fine, thank you!

LOUISE
Mind if we come in to eat?

DONNA
(wipes her nose)
Um, sure. Okay.

Karen and Louise enter with the CAKE from the rehearsal dinner.

KAREN
Louise stole it.

LOUISE
It was just gonna go to waste.

Donna smiles. They put the cake on the bed.

DONNA
We need to cut it.

KAREN
Oh! Wait! I have something.

Karen runs out for a beat. Louise smiles at Donna.

LOUISE
We're going to have so much fun.

DONNA
Thanks.

Karen runs back in with a pie slicer.

KAREN
It's your wedding gift.
(hands to Louise)
Just be careful with it because I'm going to return it.

Louise hands them slices of cake.

DONNA
(mouth full of cake)
Mmmn. I should ask Leatherface where she got it.

Donna snorts, sending a piece of cake across the bed, which causes Karen and Louise to crack up. Everything will be okay.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

INT. PRIMROSE PUBLISHING - IAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Donna sits across from Ian.

IAN
I talked to HR and figured everything out about your pay and the position snafu, and I think we have a plan.

DONNA
Okay...

IAN
Well, the good thing is, we caught this before we gave out bonuses, so you only owe the company thirty-one thousand six hundred fifty-eight dollars in back pay.

Donna laughs, then quiets, realizing he's dead serious.

IAN (CONT'D)
Now there's two ways for you to pay it back: one, you write us a check for that amount or two, we'll dock your pay for the next sixty-three months.

DONNA
What if I quit?

IAN
We'll have to sue you.

Donna takes a deep breath.

DONNA
Well, can I at least keep my laptops?

IAN
You bought laptops plural?!

DONNA
I like to keep one at home and one at work. And then one for just my personal stuff.
(off Ian's look)
Just add it to my tab.

END OF SHOW *