Untitled Rob Greenberg Project

by

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COLD OPEN

INT. MINI COOPER CONVERTIBLE - DAY *

A ruggedly HANDSOME GUY, 30-ish, drives rapidly.

NARRATOR
There are moments in life that *
change everything.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - CONTINUOUS

The car whips around the corner, speeding down the block.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - DAY

It pulls up to the curb. He hops out, and RINGS THE DOORBELL.

WOMAN'S VOICE
If you're looking for Sara...

It's the NEIGHBOR, pushing a stroller down the sidewalk.

NEIGHBOR (CONT'D)
She's getting married today.

HANDSOME GUY
(frantic)
Where? Do you know where? I'm,
uh... supposed to... read a poem.

NEIGHBOR
First Presbyterian on Riverside.
You better hurry.

He dashes back to his car.

EXT. VENTURA BLVD / INT. MINI COOPER - DAY *

The Mini Coop weaves in and out, passing cars, until -- *

EXT. VENTURA BLVD - CONTINUOUS

Road construction. Traffic comes to a standstill.

INT. MINI COOPER - CONTINUOUS *

He pounds the dashboard in frustration, then pulls the car over to the curb. *

EXT. VENTURA BLVD - CONTINUOUS

He jumps out and starts running down the sidewalk. *

EXT. PARK - DAY

He dashes across the grass, through a touch football game.

EXT. ALLEY - DAY

He sprints by the trash bags and dumpsters.

EXT. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - DAY

He darts up the stairs two at a time and --

INT. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

Bursts in! The BRIDE and GROOM stand at the altar.

MINISTER
...to be your lawfully wedded husband...

HANDSOME GUY
Don't marry him! I love you, Sara!

The bride, SARA, stands there, confused and scared.

She looks back at the groom... then yanks off her veil and dashes down the aisle. The CAMERA FOLLOWS the exhilarated couple running out into the beautiful fall day. But then --

The CAMERA WHIPS back to the jilted GROOM. Meet CARTER, 28, handsome, charming, funny and... shell-shocked.

NARRATOR (AKA CARTER'S V.O.)
This was my moment. *

MINISTER
Oy.

<u>END OF COLD OPEN</u>

ACT ONE

INT. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

As we were. Carter stands at the altar, devastated.

CARTER (V.O.)
Losing love is like coming to terms with death. You have to go through the five stages of grief.

INT. BALLROOM, STAGE - DAY

The worst WEDDING RECEPTION of all time. A SMATTERING OF GUESTS mingle awkwardly. Carter swigs a champagne bottle, yammering into the mic. *

CARTER
She just got cold feet! She'll be back any minute! Let's party!

CARTER (V.O.)
Denial.

INT. BALLROOM, DANCE FLOOR - TWENTY MINUTES LATER

Carter screams, as he SMASHES the wedding cake with a chair.

CARTER (V.O.)
Anger. Next comes bargaining.

EXT. STREET - TWO DAYS LATER - DAY *

He walks down the sidewalk, on his cell, leaving a message.

CARTER *
I'll take cooking classes with you. *
I'll pick my clothes up off the *
floor. I'll never again ask you to *
do that thing in bed you don't want
to do. *

INT. CARTER'S CHILDHOOD BEDROOM - ONE WEEK LATER - DAY *

It hasn't been redecorated since he was sixteen. He sits on his old bed, comatose.

CARTER (V.O.)
Then depression.

His MOM enters, handing him a glass of juice.

MOM
It's so nice to have a man around the house again.

Carter's DAD pokes his head in.

DAD
Who ate my hard boiled egg?

CARTER (V.O.)
I had to find someplace else to live.

MATCH CUT TO:

Carter in the EXACT SAME POSITION. PULL BACK TO REVEAL...

EXT. OAKWOOD APARTMENTS, POOL - DAY

...he is now sitting on a lounge chair, poolside.

CARTER (V.O.)
The brochure says it "quality, furnished, short-term housing." After being here a few weeks, I'd say it's more like a way station for guys who just got divorced, or dumped, or are otherwise incapable of buying their own furniture.

The CAMERA FINDS a 50-year-old, floating on a raft, listening to his iPod. This is FRANK RUSSO.

CARTER (V.O.)
Frank Russo, successful clothing manufacturer. After sixteen years of marriage, he and his wife had grown apart.

INT. CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW, KITCHEN - FLASHBACK - DAY

A pretty FORTY-FIVE-YEAR OLD WOMAN stands by the sink.

FORTY-FIVE-YEAR OLD WOMAN
I hate you.

She throws a COFFEE POT at Frank, who runs away.

CARTER (V.O.)
But then Frank found true happiness with...

INT. CHURCH - FLASHBACK - DAY

Frank lifts the wedding veil of his new 35-ish wife. *

CARTER (V.O.)
Lauren.

He lifts another veil. This one is 30-ish.

CARTER (V.O.)
Then Stacy.

Another veil. 25-ish. *

CARTER (V.O.)
Then Jessica.

EXT. THE OAKWOOD, POOL - BACK TO PRESENT

On Frank floating by, a satisfied grin on his face.

CARTER (V.O.)
After his fourth divorce, Frank vowed the next time he found true happiness, he was just going to sleep with it for a few weeks.

The CAMERA FINDS a 34-year-old guy under an umbrella, doing a * crossword puzzle. This is GIL BARTIS. *

CARTER (V.O.)
Gil Bartis, small business owner. *
Separated.

INT. RANCH HOUSE BEDROOM - FLASHBACK - DAY

A woman lies naked under a sheet. GIL hurries in, taking off his clothes and joins her in bed.

HIM
The kid’s napping, we have twenty minutes.

HER
Not now. I had pizza for lunch.

HIM
Come on, we haven't had sex in weeks.

HER
No, I'm bloated.

HIM
We can do it from the side. I'll do all the work.

HER
I don't want you to touch me.

As the mood continues to sour, GIL'S WIFE enters.

GIL'S WIFE
Oh, my God!

CARTER (V.O.)
Gil got caught having the World's Worst Affair.

EXT. THE OAKWOOD, POOL - BACK TO PRESENT

On Gil, erasing a wrong answer.

CARTER (V.O.)
He moved here temporarily until he can convince his wife to take him back. That was a year and a half ago.

The CAMERA FINDS a SEXY, BIKINI-CLAD WOMAN sunbathing. *

CARTER (V.O.)
I don't know the first thing about her. I'm depressed, not dead.

The CAMERA FINDS a 38-year-old guy in a bathrobe and yelling into a cell phone earpiece. This is STUART STEGEMAN. * *

STUART
She gave me chlamydia once, see if she wants half of that back!

CARTER (V.O.)
Dr. Stuart Stegeman. *

INT. CHURCH - FLASHBACK - DAY

A black-tie wedding. A beaming STUART holds his bride's hand as they walk back down the aisle past the cheering guests. * *

CARTER (V.O.)
Stuart fell madly in love with a young divorce attorney. *

INT. LEGAL OFFICE - FLASHBACK - DAY

Stuart and his lawyer sit across from his estranged wife. *

CARTER (V.O.)
...who, turns out, was very good at her job. * *

EXT. WOODS - FLASHBACK - DAY

A hippy-dippy wedding. A beaming Stuart holds his new yogi bride's hand as they walk past the cheering guest. * *

CARTER (V.O.)
Next time, he fell for a more spiritual woman. Who unfortunately developed a taste for the material world... *

INT. LEGAL OFFICE - FLASHBACK - DAY

Stuart, again flanked by his attorney, sits across from his second estranged wife.

CARTER (V.O.)
She hired the most ruthless lawyer she could find.

Stuart's FIRST EX-WIFE enters, and joins her new client. *

CARTER (V.O.)
But Stuart was smarter this time... *

EXT. THE OAKWOOD, POOL - BACK TO PRESENT

Stuart stands, getting ready to take a swim.

CARTER (V.O.)
He's living here, hiding his assets until a settlement is reached. *

He removes his robe, revealing a skimpy speedo.

CARTER (V.O.)
Unfortunately, not all his assets.

As he dives into the water, the CAMERA TILTS with him, lingering on the AGITATED WATER. After a beat --

WE PULL OUT of the water, to the guys sitting in the JACUZZI. *

CARTER (V.O.)
Here's the thing. Since these guys had all been through horrible break-ups, I felt comfortable. Like I could open up and tell them how much I still miss Sara.

STUART
She's a whore.

FRANK
Time to move on. Where do you stand on Asian women?

CARTER
I'm not ready to start dating.

FRANK
Who said anything about dating?

CARTER
You guys don't get it. It's not that easy for me. Sara's the only woman I've ever been with.

GIL
Really?

STUART
That's impossible.

FRANK
I'm offended by it.

CARTER
I fell in love with her the first week of college. What was I supposed to do?

GIL
Junior year abroad? A semester at sea? An internship at American Apparel? These are just ideas.

FRANK
No, no. This is a blessing. She did you a favor. We're taking you under our wing.

STUART
We did the same thing for Gil.

GIL
I was here before you.

STUART
But you didn't use the time well.

FRANK
Carter, look around you. You're living in paradise. *

CARTER
This is paradise? It's temporary housing.

FRANK
Temporary housing with a killer gym. Indoor parking. Weekly maid service. Two Starbucks and a Coffee Bean in walking distance. And this is Hollywood. Actresses come through here all the time. Enter Frank stage left. Then upstage, downstage and backstage, if she'll let me. *
(sheepish smile)
And one did, last week, right here in this hot tub. *

Off looks of horror...

INT. THE OAKWOOD, REC ROOM - NIGHT

The guys shoot pool.

STUART
The point is, nobody knows more about break-ups than we do. Between the three of us, we have seven failed marriages.

GIL
Six. Any day now, Claire's going to forgive me and we're --

STUART
Yeah, yeah, you're going to renew your vows in Maui. Tell you what, I'll pay for the whole thing 'cause it's never going to happen.

GIL
You're no longer invited.

FRANK
Carter, come on, we're taking you out for drinks.

STUART
Introducing you to the wonderful world of women -- a sweet smelling land of surprise and delight.
(re Carter's argyle V-neck)
Just don't wear that sweater. We might go someplace from the present.

CARTER
What's wrong with this sweater? Sara bought me this sweater.
(proud)
It's reversible.

GIL
Much like her love for you. Up high, fellas. That was good, right?
(beat)
Come on, give me some love. I really need it.

The guys head out.

GIL (CONT'D)
Seriously? Nothing? I'm not putting it down until I get some.
(following them out)
How 'bout a fist bump?

INT. BAR - NIGHT

The guys sit at a table, drinking cocktails.

CARTER
So last night I went on her facebook page...

FRANK
Why? Why would you do that?

GIL
Guaranteed tears.

STUART
So you could look at her with that douchebag trainer she left you for?
(MORE)

STUART (CONT'D)
Let me guess. A lot of pictures of him shirtless on the beach.

CARTER
No. He’s mostly doing yard work.

GIL
Handy. Woman go nuts for that.

FRANK
There’s more than a few pictures of me shirtless on facebook.

CARTER
I shouldn’t’ve have looked. I just have too much time on my hands. I don’t even have a job anymore -- I was working for her dad.

STUART
He fired you?! This is a family of animals.

CARTER
No, he was totally cool about it. I quit. Believe it or not, marketing industrial paint is even more boring than it sounds.

FRANK *
So what are you going to do? World’s your oyster.

CARTER
I don’t know. I’ve always wanted to coach basketball, but Sara really hated the idea.

STUART *
You want to coach? That’s easy. I * know the principal over at Fillmore. *

CARTER *
You’d put a call in for me? *

STUART *
I delivered all three of his * homely, chubby girls. They’re like * family. Done. *

GIL *
You’re a free man now, Carter. You * can do anything you want. I mean, * Claire never let me wear Crocs.
(MORE)

GIL (CONT'D)
(re his foot)
Now, I wear ‘em all the time.

CARTER
Crocs with socks?

GIL
My toes get cold.

CARTER
Then wear sneakers.

GIL
My feet sweat.

CARTER
I don’t know how she let you get away.

GIL
Great. Even the new guy’s picking on me.

FRANK
(to Carter)
Love it! You’re coming out of your shell, my friend!

Stuart spies a pretty, 35-year old across the room. *

STUART *
Here we go. The blonde at the bar. *

Stuart’s phone RINGS. He holds up one finger, as he answers. *

STUART *
Dr. Stegeman. No, I asked you to * call when you started feeling * contractions... Okay, sounds like * you’re doing great. Take a warm * bath, try to get some rest, and when * they’re eight minutes apart, call me * back. Don’t worry about a thing... *

The blonde walks by. Stuart checks out her ass. *

STUART *
(covers phone, re blonde) *
I could do some damage on that. *
(into phone) *
...you’re going to have a * beautiful, healthy baby. *

He hangs up. *

FRANK *
Okay, enough chitchat, time to get young Carter back on the horse.
(to Carter, re women at bar) *
See anything you like?

CARTER
Um... I don't know. She's pretty cute, I guess.

Carter indicates an ATTRACTIVE WOMAN across the bar. Frank looks over -- oooh, not up to his standards.

FRANK *
Her? No, you're right, crawl before you walk. Go. *

CARTER
Nah, I don't have the stomach for another rejection right now.

FRANK
It's a numbers game. You ask a hundred women to have sex. You get slapped ninety-nine times, one says yes. Dare to be great.

CARTER
I'm not going to ask her to have sex with me.

FRANK
Fine. One will bake muffins with you. Now go.

Carter gathers his courage, stands, walks across the bar, cautiously approaches the woman, then... *

...walks right around her, and heads back to the guys.

STUART
Wow. Okay. We've got some work in front of us.

INT. CASA VEGA - NIGHT *

CARTER (V.O.)
The next night, we went out again. *

With the guys encouraging him from a nearby booth, Carter scans the crowd. A CUTE BRUNETTE approaches him.

CUTE BRUNETTE
Hey.

CARTER
Hi... I'm Carter.

CUTE BRUNETTE
Gaby. Um... can I get you a drink?

CARTER
Yeah, I'd like that. How about a margarita?

CUTE BRUNETTE
Be right back.

She heads over to the bar. Carter smugly turns to the guys.

CARTER
See that? A pretty girl's getting me a drink. She's the waitress, but I'm calling it a victory.

STUART
Nice eye contact, too. We're making progress.

ACROSS THE BAR, Carter notices Frank with his arm around an adorably pretty 24-year-old.

CARTER
We've been here twenty minutes. How does he get a girl like that to give him the time of day?

GIL
Charm. Confidence. And that's his daughter.

STUART
Frank won't let us near her.

Frank and JULIE step up.

JULIE
Hi guys.

GIL/STUART
Hey, Julie./How are you doing?

JULIE
Good. Good...
(then)
I'm sorry, I'm so bad with names.

FRANK
Gil, Stuart, and this is the new guy, Carter. His bride just dumped him at the altar.

CARTER
Do you have to lead with that?

GIL
It's really your defining characteristic right now.

JULIE
Ooh. Awful. You okay?

STUART
See? You're getting sympathy. We're going to be able to work with this.

JULIE
Totally. Woman love a fixer-upper. *

FRANK
So what brings you here? *

JULIE
Well, I went to the Clippers game * with some friends from work. *

CARTER *
Let me guess. A classic fourth * quarter meltdown? *

JULIE *
Eleven unanswered points. To be a * Clipper fan is to live with * heartbreak. *

He smiles. She smiles right back, then turns to Frank. *

JULIE *
Anyway, we decided to grab a beer * at what I thought was a cool place until I ran into my dad.

FRANK
Are these girlfriends from work?

JULIE
Yes.
(knowing her dad)
And no.

Her cell phone buzzes. She reads the text. *

JULIE
I gotta get back, they think I ditched them. See you.

She heads over to her friends. The guys watch her go, all clearly a little smitten.

FRANK
(to Stuart)
No.
(to Gil)
No.
(to Carter)
No... Maybe... No.

INT. GIL'S CAR - NIGHT

Gil drives the guys home -- all eating fast food burgers.

CARTER
This. This is what I've been missing. I was in a relationship for so long, going to dinner parties and farmer's markets, I lost touch with my guy friends. Sara and I never went out Saturday night because we woke up early Sunday to buy organic produce. Now who the hell knows what I'm putting in my stomach.

FRANK
(mouth full)
Food of the Gods!

GIL
Just keep it off the upholstery.

CARTER
I forgot how much I love all this. Going to bars, eating burgers in the middle of the night. I'm just going to say it. I love you guys. I know you think I'm drunk, and I am, but I do. I love you guys. Can I say that?

STUART
No. I'm not comfortable with that.

FRANK
Oh, loosen up. We're men and we love each other. Celebrate it.

Yelling out the window:

GIL
We love each other!

FRANK
Band of Brothers!

STUART
Next time I'm taking my own car.

INT. LOUNGE - THE NEXT NIGHT

Carter, Stuart and Gil check out the action.

CARTER (V.O.)
We went out almost ever night for the next few weeks. I was finally ready to meet someone.

Frank approaches with two ASIAN WOMEN -- a tipsy, attractive fifty-year-old, and an even tipsier twenty-six-year-old.

FRANK
Carter, there you are. This is May and her daughter, Jill.

As they ad-lib hellos, Frank WHISPERS in Carter's ear.

FRANK (CONT'D)
She's a sure thing. You can thank me later. Dare to be great.
(then, loud again)
Come on, let's let these two get to know each other.

Frank grabs Jill, the younger woman, by the hand and disappears into the crowd. May turns to Carter:

MAY
I can teach you things.

As Carter ponders this...

INT. THE OAKWOOD, POOL - DAY

Carter sits at a table drinking coffee and reading the paper on his iPad. Gil, Frank and Stuart approach.

FRANK
How did it go with Crouching Tiger? She beat you up pretty good?

CARTER
Nah, couldn't go there.

FRANK
What? I am deeply disappointed.

CARTER
Don't get me wrong, she was kind of hot in a weird sort of way. And we had a few drinks... it just made me miss Sara.

STUART
We've already got a Gil. We don't need another Gil.

GIL
Actually, when I move back in with Claire, you might.

STUART
Oh, my god, get him away from me.

CARTER
Look, I lost everything. I was crazy about Sara; we just bought a house; we were going to have kids. I had a life. And now I'm in temporary housing in Sherman Oaks.

FRANK
Know what I think? I think you're scared. I don't blame you. You've had one girlfriend, one job you hate, never lived on your own...

STUART
Yeah, I wouldn't be so quick to call that "a life."

CARTER
I don't want to talk about this. Our situations are different.

STUART
What's that supposed to mean?

GIL
I don't think I need him to elaborate.

CARTER
It's just that... I know I can fall in love again.
(MORE)

CARTER (CONT'D)
But you guys, I'm not so sure. You're all a little stuck.

STUART
I'm the farthest thing from stuck. *

CARTER
Come on, Stuart, you're so angry you can't move on. Gil, you're obviously holding on to something that's not there anymore.

GIL
I told you I didn't need to hear this.

CARTER
And Frank, really? You honestly * think you'll have a meaningful relationship with some random twenty-five year old you meet at a Jamba Juice?

FRANK
Is she Asian?

STUART
Let's get out of here. We've obviously been wasting our time.

CARTER
I'll save you the trouble. I'm going to the gym. *

GIL
We were going to go to the gym. *

CARTER
Fine. I'll go watch the game.

GIL
After the gym, we were going to go * to watch the game.

CARTER
Ping-pong? Were you planning on playing ping-pong?

GIL/FRANK/STUART
I don't think so./Nope./Go ahead. *

CARTER
Good. See you.

Carter leaves.

GIL
Damn. Now I feel like playing ping-pong.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. THE OAKWOOD, BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

Carter shoots hoops -- Swish, swish, swish.

CARTER (V.O.)
The next few days we all kind of kept to ourselves.

Gil approaches. The mood is a little awkward.

GIL
You're pretty good at that. Play college ball?

CARTER
Started for Northwestern all four years.

GIL
I was cut from my intramural team and replaced by a really good Norwegian girl from the dental school. Really good. Triple threat.

CARTER
So I feel bad about the other day.

GIL
Don't sweat it. Those other two can be real jerks.

CARTER
I don't know. Stuart's friend called. I've got that coaching interview next week.

GIL
Wow. That's--

Carter tosses Gil the ball, which SMACKS him in the face.

GIL (CONT'D)
Ow!

CARTER
Sorry. You're worse than I thought.

GIL
Look, I'm not here to play ball...

During the following, Gil's nose STARTS TO BLEED.

GIL *
You still wanna get back with Sara, *
right? It's written all over you. *

CARTER *
She's the best. *

GIL (CONT'D)
So's my wife. And after I messed up *
my marriage -- which I regret every *
waking minute -- I thought the best *
thing to do was give her lots of *
space, wait for her to forgive me
and --
(feels his nose)
Were you going to tell me my nose
is bleeding?

CARTER
You were on a roll.

Gil tilts his head back and squeezes his nose.

GIL
The thing is, I'm still waiting...
Now I only see her when I pick up
my daughter. If you really love
Sara, don't sit around, doing
nothing. That other guy made some
big, grand gesture. Guess what?
It's your turn -- Excuse me, I
think I swallowed a little blood.

EXT. VICTORY BLVD. - DAY

The car weaves through traffic.

INT. VOLVO STATION WAGON - CONTINUOUS

Carter drives fast, a man on a mission --

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

Carter fills the tank.

INT. VOLVO STATION WAGON - DAY

Carter drives fast again.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - DAY

The car pulls up in front of the house from the opening. With a head of steam, Carter marches up the path and bangs on the door. After a beat, Sara opens it.

SARA
Carter? What are you --

But he blows right past her...

INT. CARTER'S OLD HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

CARTER
Fighting for my woman! Where is he? *

He kicks open the bedroom door, and --

INT. CARTER'S OLD HOUSE, BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

CARTER
You and me, jackass! Right now!

But the bed is empty. He checks the bathroom. Also empty.

SARA
He moved out two weeks ago. *

Carter sits on the bed, relieved.

CARTER
Thank God -- he was big.

SARA
I've been dying to call you but I was embarrassed. I'm so sorry. I panicked. You probably hate me and I don't blame you, but being away from you made me realize I never want to be away from you again. *

Carter takes this all in. After a beat, he stands and... kisses her. It gets more and more passionate.

CARTER (V.O.)
I knew I wasn't like those other guys, who, at that moment...

EXT. THE OAKWOOD - DAY *

Establishing.

CARTER (V.O.)
...were back at the apartments... *

INT. THE OAKWOOD, GIL'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

CARTER (V.O.)
Gil was on a date with a lovely young lady. *

Gil plays checkers with his daughter, MAISIE. *

MAISIE
Dad, when are you going to start dating again? Fiona's mom would totally go out with you.

GIL
I'm not interested. Any day now, your mother and I --

Gil stops. Takes a deep breath.

GIL (CONT'D)
You know what? Why not? Maybe I'll ask her to have lunch with me.

MAISIE
Great. She's super nice and has really big boobs.

GIL
Or maybe dinner.

INT. THE OAKWOOD, STUART'S APARTMENT - DAY *

CARTER (V.O.)
Stuart was negotiating the terms of his divorce.

He putts golf balls, talking on his cell phone. *

STUART
I'm not giving her crap. I don't care if we're in court for a thousand years. Tell my first stupid, money-grubbing wife to tell my second stupid, money-grubbing wife to -- * * * * *

Stuart stops. Takes a deep breath. Thinks.

STUART (CONT'D)
Okay. Let her have the Dodgers tickets. But I'm not giving her the parking pass.

INT. THE OAKWOOD, FRANK'S APARTMENT - DAY

CARTER (V.O.)
And Frank, well, was... Frank.

Frank carries beers over to Jill on the couch.

FRANK
How old are you anyway?

JILL
Twenty-six. Why?

Frank thinks. Is this really appropriate? After a beat:

FRANK
No reason.

Frank kisses her, starting to unbutton her blouse.

INT. CARTER'S OLD HOUSE, BEDROOM - DAY

...Carter, smiling, and Sara lay in bed, post-coital.

CARTER
You know, later, we could spice things up and try that thing we're always talking about--

SARA
Not gonna happen.

CARTER (V.O.)
(happy)
My old life was back.

EXT. THE OAKWOOD, REC ROOM - DAY

Gil watches Stuart and Frank play Wii. On the couch next to Frank... JILL texts.

FRANK
Killing zombies is oddly relaxing.

Carter and Sara approach.

CARTER *
Hey, guys. I want you to meet Sara.

They ad-lib hellos.

GIL
So, things seem to be going well.

CARTER
Yeah, we're back together. We just *
came by to get my stuff. *

GIL
Awesome. No gifts, a simple thank
you will do.

CARTER *
We're even talking about picking up *
where we left off. *

SARA *
I spoke to the country club. We can *
get married as early as next month.

STUART
Great. Maybe this time you'll make
it all way through the ceremony.

FRANK
They worked it out, Stu.
(then)
I'm happy for you. But I gotta be
honest. Even though you said a lot
of things you obviously wish you
could take back... you're going to
be missed around here, pal.

STUART
Yeah, keep in touch. Let me know if
you get that coaching job.

SARA *
What coaching job?

CARTER
Oh, I was waiting for the right
time to tell you. There's a high
school in Woodland Hills that's
interested in me. They almost made *
it to the play-offs last year.
Lotta potential.

SARA
But my dad's dying to hire you back. Actually, act surprised, you're getting a promotion -- V.P. of exterior paints and sealants.

CARTER
That's nice of him, but coaching is something I've always dreamed of --
(then)
You know what? Let's talk about this later.

STUART
No, no, I'm enjoying this.

CARTER
Actually, we have to get going.

SARA
We're meeting another couple at the farmer's market.

STUART
Ooh, don't want to be late for that. The white nectarines go fast.

Sara and Carter say goodbye and head off.

JILL
He's never going to call my mom, is he?

INT. THE OAKWOOD, FRANK'S APARTMENT - THREE WEEKS LATER - DAY

Stuart, wearing his bathrobe again, Frank and Gil, hang out drinking coffee. Gil turns to Stuart.

GIL
For God's sake, there's a reason that thing comes with a belt.

STUART
I'm getting ready to do some laps.

FRANK
Speaking of which... Strip club?

STUART
On Sunday morning? Really?

FRANK
They started serving brunch.

STUART
No, how about a round of golf?

FRANK
We need a fourth. Should we call Carter? Haven't seen him in a while.

GIL
He's not free. He's getting married today.

FRANK
That's right. The ninth. Still miffed we weren't invited. But...
(raising his coffee)
To Carter. May he have a lifetime of happiness.

STUART/GIL
To Carter.

But before they clink --

FRANK
Who are we kidding? That is not a good match.

STUART
She'll cheat on him again. Poor guy will be back here in six months.

GIL
He's our friend. Shouldn't we say something?

FRANK
That always backfires. My brother still won't talk to me.

STUART
Screw it. You know what we need to do? We need to make a pact. Let's promise we won't let each other get into another crappy marriage. And yes, I know Gil, yours isn't crappy, it's wonderful.

GIL
We have our issues.

FRANK
Here here. To speaking the truth before it's too late. I love you guys.

STUART *
Oh, here we go again. *

GIL *
Just clink. *

They do. *

INT. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - DAY *

As in the opening -- Carter and Sara stand at the altar.

MINISTER
...to be your lawfully wedded
husband...

Just then -- there's a COMMOTION in the back of the room.

MALE VOICE
Don't do it!

MINISTER
(to Sara)
How many ex-boyfriends do you have?

But it's FRANK.

FRANK
Not her. I'm here for him. *

MINISTER
(under his breath)
Ay yi yi.

Stuart and Gil rush in to find all the WEDDING GUESTS staring and muttering angrily. The guys talk sotto voce.

GIL
They're all looking at us.

STUART
I know, say something. *

GIL
I told you we should have written
stuff down.

Frank spots an ATTRACTIVE ASIAN wedding guest.

FRANK
Hi, Frank Russo.

GIL
(to Carter)
Look, I know we probably could have timed this better, but... is this really what you want?

SARA
Carter, what's going on? They're ruining our wedding.

CARTER
I know. I know. This is crazy, but... I guess they're just making sure I'm doing the right thing.

SARA
Do you have concerns?

CARTER
No. Of course not. No. I don't have concerns.

MINISTER
I have concerns.

CARTER
...it's just that -- and I've tried to tell you -- but what's wrong with the produce at Ralphs? It's reasonably priced, it's open 24-hours, they have a great selection. Ralphs is America's supermarket.

SARA
Why are we talking about Ralphs?

CARTER
You're right, it's not about Ralphs. Forget Ralphs. If I'm being honest, I prefer Vons. It's more... your love of things being reversible. Why can't you get me a green sweater and a blue sweater? Not a greenblue sweater. That's still not what I'm trying to say. It's me. I'm the thing that's not reversible. You can't take me off, turn me inside out and suddenly, I'm an industrial paint kind of guy. I'm not. I'm a basketball coach. And we're getting married. I need to know you're okay with that.

SARA
You want a job where you can wear shorts to work? That's what this is all about. *

CARTER
Did you not hear a word I said?

SARA
It's like you've been brainwashed by these... idiots you've known two months.

FRANK
Just so you know, the acoustics are very good in here. *

SARA
This is ridiculous. Kick them out already. Do you really want to throw your life away?

After a long beat:

CARTER
No, Sara. No, I don't.

EXT. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - DAY

SLOW MOTION. Carter, with a big grin on his face, bursts out into the sunlight, followed by the guys.

CARTER (V.O.)
In case you're keeping track. That look on my face is the last stage... acceptance.

GIL
Why are we running?

STUART
No idea.

EXT. THE OAKWOOD, POOL - DAY

Carter, Gil, Frank and Stuart recline on lounge chairs, checking out the ladies.

GIL
Three o'clock. Red bathing suit. *

The others sneak a peak.

CARTER
The chubby guy with the hairy back?

GIL
Okay, more like 3:30, quarter to 4. *

Now they spot her.

FRANK
Too young. Even I have scruples. *

STUART
She already shot you down? *

FRANK
She was nice about it. *

CARTER *
So, I haven't really said it but, *
um thanks... For... you know. *

FRANK *
Band of Brothers, baby. *

Frank's daughter, Julie, approaches.

JULIE
Hey guys.

They all say hi, still smitten, as Frank gathers his stuff.

JULIE (CONT'D)
(she likes him)
Carter, right?

CARTER
(he likes her)
Yeah. You remembered...

FRANK
Ready to go eat?

JULIE
Let's do it. See you around.

Frank and Julie head off. But then he turns back to Carter.

FRANK
No.

Carter smiles. There's an upside to being single.

END OF SHOW *