HOW I MET YOUR DAD

"Pilot"

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1 EXT. NEW YORK SKYLINE - NIGHT 1

SHOTS OF NEW YORK CITY AT NIGHT.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Kids, this is the story of how I met your dad. The story starts in 2014, when I was 27 years old. I know, you guys are probably picturing a 27 year old version of how I am now...

CUT TO:

2 INT. KITCHEN - DAY - FANTASY 2

FANTASY BORDER AROUND THE FRAME. SALLY JAVITS, 27, SHARPLY-DRESSED, IMPECCABLY-COIFFED, EXPERTLY COOKS AN AMAZING MEAL, WHILE SHE TALKS ON HER BLUETOOTH. AN ASSISTANT SWOOPS IN WITH A DOCUMENT TO SIGN. SHE SIGNS IT. ANOTHER SWOOPS IN WITH A PIE CHART FOR HER TO APPROVE. THUMBS UP. A "WOMAN OF THE YEAR" BACKDROP IS WHEELED IN BEHIND HER, AS A CLATCH OF DIGNIFIED LADIES PUT A MEDAL AROUND HER NECK. FLASHBULBS. APPLAUSE. SHE MODESTLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE HONOR, WITHOUT SKIPPING A BEAT COOKING.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

This dynamic, hyper-competent renaissance woman who's got it all figured out, loved and admired by her peers, respected even by her detractors--

FUTURE SALLY'S SON (V.O.)

Um, we get it, mom. Move it along.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

(CLEARS THROAT, EMBARRASSED). Right.

Sorry. Point is, at age 27, I wasn't

exactly marriage material.

HARD CUT TO:

3 INT. BAR - NIGHT 3

SALLY BURSTS IN. SHE LOOKS GREAT -- POSITIVELY CARBONATED, FULL OF LIFE AND HEART -- BUT LET'S BE REAL: IF SHE'S NOT A HOT MESS, SHE'S AT LEAST A VERY WARM ONE. SHE'S ALREADY A COUPLE DRINKS IN...

SALLY

Attention New York drunk people...of

New York! M'name's Sally Javits.

FREEZE-FRAME.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

That's me.

UNFREEZE.

SALLY

And this is Juliet Thorpe.

JULIET ENTERS DRESSED IN TOTAL "DYNASTY" CRYSTAL CARRINGTON GLORY. POOFY SILVER GOWN, BIG HAIR. SHE IS A GOOD TIME, ALL THE TIME. **FREEZE.**

NARRATOR (V.O.)

And that's Aunt Juliet.

UNFREEZE.

SALLY

This girl right here is having a full-

on, 1980's excess moment because she

(MORE)

SALLY (CONT'D)

just secured capital for a brand new

web-site that's gonna change the world!

THE BAR TOTALLY IGNORES THEM.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Let me try that again: Tequila shots

for everyone on us!

THE BAR ERUPTS IN CHEERS.

MUSIC: "THAT'S NOT MY NAME" BY THE TING TINGS

QUICK SERIES OF CELLPHONE SHOTS:

--SALLY AND JULIET DO SHOTS WITH BAR PATRONS.

--JULIET SEES A HANDSOME MAN ACROSS THE ROOM...

--SALLY RIDES A MECHANICAL BULL.

--JULIET MAKES OUT WITH THE HANDSOME MAN...

--SALLY AND JULIET TRADE BREAK-DANCE MOVES AS PEOPLE CHEER.

--JULIET AND THE HANDSOME MAN ARGUE DRAMATICALLY...

--SALLY SLICES OPEN CHAMPAGNE WITH A LARGE SWORD.

--JULIET SAYS A TEARFUL GOODBYE TO THE HANDSOME MAN, HANDS A RING BACK TO HIM.

--SALLY AND JULIET LIGHT SHOTS ON FIRE!

--SEVERAL ANNOYED NYC FIREMEN PUT OUT A FIRE FOR A SHEEPISH JULIET AND SALLY.

--THE FIREMEN (SOME OF THEM SHIRTLESS) DRINK AND PARTY WITH SALLY AND JULIET.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Hard to believe, but this was just a

normal Tuesday night for us.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

In fact, Aunt Juliet later called that night, and I quote: "Boring."

CUT TO:

4 INT. GAVIN AND SALLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 4

MODEST APARTMENT IN QUEENS. SALLY STUMBLES IN, DRUNK, TRYING TO UNDRESS AS SHE GOES.

SALLY

Must get boot off. Cannot get boot off. (THEN) Okay boot. You can stay.

SHE COLLAPSES ONTO HER BED.

SALLY (CONT'D)

God...I love being married!

REVEAL HER HUSBAND, GAVIN (PREPPY, DRIVEN, SUCCESS-ORIENTED), WHO GROANS. HE LOOKS AT THE CLOCK.

GAVIN

Sally, it's four in the morning.

SALLY

Sorry. I lost track of time. And of my coat. And of my wallet. And my wedding ring may be inside a police horse Juliet dared me to feed beer to. Bright side: He really, really liked beer. 'Member when we used to go out?

GAVIN

Sally, I've got a full-time job now. That I have to be at. In three hours.

SALLY

I know, I know, Mr. Grumpyface. It's just nice knowing I can go out, crazy it up with Juliet, and know that you'll be here waiting for me. And you always will be, for the rest of my life.

SHE SMILES, SUPER CONTENT.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Three days later, I was single again.

SMASH CUT TO:

5 MAIN TITLES 5

CUT TO:

6 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S LIVING ROOM - DAY 6

CHYRON: THREE DAYS LATER...

THE ROOM IS GORGEOUSLY APPOINTED AND PERFECT. SALLY'S BROTHER DANNY (NEAT, TYPE A, ALWAYS PERFECT, IF A BIT UPTIGHT) AND HIS HUSBAND, TODD (WARM, A HUGGER, ALWAYS SUPPORTIVE) OPEN THE DOOR TO SALLY, HOLDING SUITCASES. SALLY SNIFFLES.

SALLY

Thank you guys for letting me crash. It'll only be a few nights.

DANNY

Hey. Come on. You're my sister.

TODD

And that makes you my sister, too. Stay as long as you like.

OFF DANNY, SMILING WARMLY...

CUT TO:

7 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S KITCHEN - DAY 7

OUT OF SALLY'S EARSHOT, DANNY IS NOW SUPER TENSE.

DANNY

"As long as you like?!" Todd, do you have any idea how long "As long as you like" is with Sally? Infinity. (DAWNING HORROR) She's never leaving...

FREEZE-FRAME ON DANNY'S STRICKEN LOOK.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Here's a little secret about your Uncle Danny. You might look at Uncle Danny now and you see an old man, but once upon a time... he was always old.

CUT TO:

8 YEARBOOK PHOTOS 8

DANNY IN A SERIES OF CLUB PHOTOS FROM HIGH SCHOOL: "MAH JONG CLUB." "VARSITY SHUFFLEBOARD." "STUDENTS AGAINST SKATEBOARDING."

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Even in high school. It was a problem.

PHOTO FLASH TO:

9 PHOTO 9

SALLY, JULIET, AND TODD AT A COLLEGE 80'S PARTY. TODD IS A SHIRTLESS BILLY IDOL, DRUNKEN AND WILD.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

I thought setting Danny up with Todd, my craziest friend from college, might loosen him up a little. Nope.

PHOTO FLASH TO:

10 CHRISTMAS CARD PHOTO 10

DANNY AND TODD IN MATCHING SWEATERS BY A FIREPLACE.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Uncle Todd just got sucked right into Danny's black hole of grown-up-ed-ness.

BACK TO:

11 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S KITCHEN - DAY 11

UNFREEZE. TODD RUBS DANNY'S BACK, CALMING HIM DOWN.

TODD

Sally does things differently. That doesn't mean she's doing things wrong.

DANNY

Oh, Sally never does anything "wrong!" Especially according to our parents. Remember the wedding they threw her for a marriage that has now turned out to last less than a year?!

FLASHBACK TO:

12 QUICK SERIES OF WEDDING PHOTOS: 12

OUTSIDE A CHURCH, WEDDING GUESTS WAVE SKYWARD AS SALLY AND GAVIN FLOAT AWAY IN A HOT AIR BALLOON TOWARD A SINGLE WORD IN SKY-WRITING: "*FOREVER*..."

BACK TO:

13 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS 13

DANNY CONTINUES RANTING TO TODD:

DANNY

But for our wedding, which my parents didn't even attend, what'd we get?

FLASHBACK TO:

14 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S APARTMENT - FLASHBACK 14

DANNY AND TODD, IN TUXES, OPEN A WEDDING GIFT. INSIDE THE LARGE BOX IS ONE SMALL GIFT CERTIFICATE.

BACK TO:

15 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S KITCHEN - BACK TO PRESENT 15

DANNY SHAKES HIS HEAD BITTERLY.

DANNY

A gift certificate to Olive Garden.

With the inspiring words: "Good luck."

Period. Not even an exclamation point.

TODD

An exclamation point looks too much like a penis for your father. (THEN)

Look, none of that matters right now.

Sally needs us. Give her a chance.

She's grown up a lot lately.

CUT TO:

16 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S LIVING ROOM - DAY 16

DANNY AND TODD ENTER. THE ROOM IS SUDDENLY A DISASTER, SALLY'S CRAP EVERYWHERE. SHE SETS OUT A SPREAD OF MESSY FAST FOOD DANGEROUSLY NEAR THE COUCH.

SALLY

(RE: TAKEOUT) This is a "Comfort Food Tour" of Manhattan. Popeye's. Hunan Balcony. Ray's Pizza... I'm gonna be eating a lot over the next few weeks. Part of my process.

SALLY DRIPS A LITTLE SAUCE ON THE COUCH, DABS AT IT WITH A NAPKIN. DANNY STIFLES A GASP.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Spilling is also part of my process.

TODD

Do you want to talk about the breakup?

DANNY

No. (CATCHING HIMSELF) I mean... Sally probably doesn't want to talk about it. Right, Sal?

SALLY

Of course I do! So we're having this huge fight and do you know--

A HUGE GLOB OF NOODLES ESCAPES SALLY'S CHOPSTICKS. SHE CATCHES THEM IN HER HAND. DANNY AUDIBLY GASPS.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Don't worry, caught the noodles! (THEN) Do you know what Gavin called me?

FLASHBACK TO:

17 INT. GAVIN AND SALLY'S KITCHEN - FLASHBACK 17

GAVIN AND SALLY ARE IN A HEATED ARGUMENT.

GAVIN

You're a slob, Sally! Dishes everywhere, dirty laundry. And you always leave cabinet doors open! For a while, I thought we had a poltergeist.

WIDER, WE SEE EVERY CABINET DOOR IS WIDE OPEN.

SALLY

I'm sorry if I leave a door open now and then. I've been busy!

BACK TO:

18 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S APARTMENT - BACK TO SCENE 18

SALLY PIGS OUT. BEHIND HER, DANNY TURNS TO TODD.

DANNY

(MOUTHING SILENTLY) Busy doing what?

SALLY

And then, do you know what he had the nerve to ask me?

FLASHBACK TO:

19 INT. GAVIN AND SALLY'S APARTMENT - FLASHBACK 19

THE FIGHT CONTINUES OUT INTO THE LIVING ROOM.

GAVIN

Busy doing what?! What happened to you getting a job?

BACK TO:

20 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 20

AS THEY WERE.

DANNY

A job, at age 27? Gavin lives in a fantasy world! ("CASUAL") How are ya keepin' yourself busy nowadays?

SALLY

I didn't tell you? I'm studying to become a food personality. That's my new thing! Todd's a chef, he's gonna help me get my foot in the door!

DANNY

(TO TODD) You're supporting this?

TODD

I support Sally in everything.

DANNY

(SIGHS) Yes, you do.

SALLY

Just wait'll Gavin sees my segments on the Today Show where I make healthy fried chicken biscuits for diabetic people: "Thank you, Sally, for my low blood sugar!" "Um, you're totally welcome, FUTURE AMERICA!"

TODD

Ooh, you know, that could really help lower health care costs in this country.

DANNY SHOOTS TODD A LOOK LIKE, "*WHAT*?!" TODD SHOOTS HIM A LOOK BACK: "*I'M JUST BEING SUPPORTIVE!*"

SALLY

Oh! And then this was the kicker--

FLASHBACK TO:

21 INT. GAVIN AND SALLY'S APARTMENT - FLASHBACK 21

THE FIGHT CONTINUES.

GAVIN

You can't go out every night, Sally.

You're not in college anymore.

SALLY

Yeah, in college I could actually touch

things in my own apartment.

GAVIN

What are you talking about?

SALLY GOES OVER TO GAVIN'S BEAUTIFUL WINE FRIDGE, OPENS THE DOOR, STARTS TOUCHING VARIOUS BOTTLES.

GAVIN (CONT'D)

Don't touch that.

SALLY

(DEFIANT) Let's have some wine.

GAVIN

Sally, we don't drink those. Those

are investment wines!

BACK TO:

22 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 22

SALLY CONTINUES:

SALLY

"Investment wines!" Gavin actually

says stuff like that now!

FLASHBACK TO:

23 INT. GAVIN AND SALLY'S KITCHEN - NIGHT - FLASHBACK 23

SALLY KEEPS TOUCHING BOTTLES. GAVIN MAKES A NOISE WITH EACH BOTTLE, LIKE SHE'S PLAYING AN INSTRUMENT.

GAVIN

Stop. In a few years, ooh, stop, the

re-sale value, ah-- Ughgshgno!

FINALLY, GAVIN MOVES HER AWAY FROM THE CABINET.

GAVIN (CONT'D)

Sally, it's time to grow up. You're

27. That's the cut-off.

BACK TO:

24 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 24

AS THEY WERE.

SALLY

Gavin thinks "The Cut-Off" is 27. Uh,

the cut-off is not 27!

TODD

Totally! Look at Goldie Hawn!

SALLY

She is in her 60s and she still wears...

SALLY/TODD

White leather pants!

SALLY AND TODD HIGH-FIVE.

DANNY

I mean, yeah, I made partner at the law firm when I was 27, but everyone's on a different schedule, right?

SALLY

Exactly! Okay, good talk, boys. Can I dump my stuff in the guest room?

TODD

Yeah. About that...

SALLY FLINGS OPEN THE DOOR TO THE GUEST ROOM...

CUT TO:

25 INT. NURSERY - NIGHT 25

...THAT IS NOW A BABY NURSERY. A BEAT.

SALLY

(REALIZING) Oh my god...AHHHHHH!

SALLY JUMPS UP AND DOWN AND HUGS THEM.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Details! Details!

DANNY

It's a woman in Delaware...eight and a half months pregnant. She saw our ad on the open adoption website, we met her a few weeks ago, and...

DANNY SHOWS SALLY A PIC OF AN ULTRASOUND.

SALLY

Oh, you guys, you're gonna be daddies! And I'm gonna be the coolest aunt!

TODD

(LAUGHS) Yeah, you are!

SALLY

We're doing this! I love you, guys!

SALLY HUGS THEM AGAIN, THEN LOOKS AT THE ULTRASOUND ONE MORE TIME...AND GETS A LITTLE FORLORN.

CUT TO:

26 INT. BAR - NIGHT 26

SALLY HAS A DRINK WITH JULIET.

SALLY

I thought I'd be the one having kids.

With Gavin. This is really hard.

JULIET

(STILTED) I know, sweetie. Nightmare.

JULIET'S FACE IS MAKING A STRANGE EXPRESSION. HER NOSTRILS FLARE AND HER LIPS UNDULATE.

SALLY

Juliet. What is your face doing?

JULIET

(STILTED) What do you mean?

SALLY

Your face. It's doing this:

SALLY MIMICS EXACTLY WHAT JULIET'S FACE IS DOING.

SALLY (CONT'D)

You look...constipated, or about to sneeze-- wait, are you trying not to smile? I'm getting a divorce and you're trying not to smile?!

JULIET

(STILTED) No, my face is making an appropriate frown because this is a horrible situation.

SALLY

Oh stop, I know you're happy. Relax your face and crap out a smile already.

JULIET LETS LOOSE WITH A GIANT GRIN.

JULIET

BYE, Gavin! So long, Gavin! So boring! (ROBOT VOICE) "I'm Gavin. I'm aerating my wine. I'm holding a document. I'm weirdly tan even though it's February!"

SALLY

Is it odd that I kind of miss him?

JULIET

YES! Gavin made you feel trapped and small. You weren't really in love. You rushed into that marriage to please your parents with that showy, poof-bomb of a wedding, with that white wedding helmet...

SALLY

Veil...

JULIET

And the dangerous-looking frosting silo...

SALLY

Wedding cake.

JULIET

And those horrifying white flower grenades...

SALLY

Hydrangeas.

JULIET

And how many of our nights have been ruined because, oh no, it's 3 AM, Sally has to go home early to GAAAVIN! Now we can finally start to <u>really</u> go out!

SALLY

We haven't really been going out?

JULIET

Not even remotely! And do you have any idea how BORING, and how LONELY it is for me when you have to go home? I mean what am I supposed to do with myself from 3 to 8?

SALLY

I dunno. Sleep?

JULIET

(TRULY BAFFLED) What? (BEAT) Sally, I'm gonna get down to brass tags here...

SALLY

I think it's tacks...

JULIET

You need to do it. With a dude. Fast.

SALLY

Really? It's been less than 24 hours.

JULIET

Breakups are like kidnappings: The first forty eight hours are crucial. You gotta blow up the bridge behind you! And the only way to do it is by doing it...with a dude. Fast. Nail it and bail it. I have just the guy...

FLASHBACK TO:

27 INT. JULIET'S OFFICE - DAY - FLASHBACK 27

IN THE TRES CHIC OFFICE OF JULIET'S FASHION WEB-SITE, ZHUZH.COM, JULIET'S WELL-MEANING, SHY I.T. GUY, FRANK, UPDATES HER. JULIET'S WEARING A "POWER SUIT" AND BIG GLASSES. SHE SIZES FRANK UP.

FRANK

...And I installed a search engine script so if...

JULIET FLUFFS HIS HAIR, EXAMINES HIS FACE. HE IS CONFUSED. (EVERYTHING ABOUT ZHUZH.COM AND JULIET IS COMPLETELY CONFOUNDING TO FRANK.)

FRANK (CONT'D)

So if girls wanna search for, let's say...Ugg Boots? The search results will be your advertisers, please stop poking my face.

JULIET

Hahaha. Sweet, sweet Frank. I'm the number one fashion blogger in America right now due to me blowing the whole "indigo blue is the new black" thing wide open. Also for 2014: (GESTURING AS IF ON A MARQUEE) "Designer Boxes." There'll be no Ugg Boots on Zhuzh.com.

FRANK

How do you pronounce it again? Shhhh...

JULIET

Zhuzh. Zhuzh.com.

JULIET POINTS TO A GIANT WALL LOGO: "ZHUZH.COM"

FRANK

The way it's spelled doesn't at all correspond with how you say it...

JULIET STRAIGHTENS HIS COLLAR.

JULIET

Is this shirt vintage?

FRANK

No. Oh, vintage like in old? Yes.

JULIET

Oh sweet, sweet, boring Frank...

FRANK

(BEAT) I'm so lost.

JULIET

No, you're found. Congratulations: you're my new project. I'm gonna fix you.

FRANK

Sounds like I'm getting neutered.

JULIET

Oh sweetie: It's the exact opposite.

BACK TO:

28 INT. BAR - NIGHT 28

JULIET SMILES AT SALLY.

JULIET

Once I'm done with him, he's gonna be Mark Wahlberg meets Mark Zuckerberg! Oh, I'm gonna dress him up all pretty for you! He used to be a Navy Seal!

SALLY

Really?

JULIET

(SHRUGS) I'm rounding up. He was in the Navy on some lame sub. But he's your perfect nail-and-bail!

CUT TO:

29 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 29

SALLY GETS READY FOR HER DATE. SALLY DRINKS A SWEATY 32-OUNCE SODA SHE SETS DOWN ON THE COFFEE TABLE RIGHT NEXT TO A COASTER. DANNY GLARES AT THIS.

DANNY

It's too soon for this date. Coaster.

DANNY MOVES SALLY'S DRINK ONTO THE COASTER.

TODD

(NODS) "Nail it and bail it." That Juliet knows what she's doing.

DANNY

No, she doesn't! Why does everyone think Juliet knows what she's doing? This is a woman who once said she had the key to world peace, and when I asked what it was, she said: "Hats."

SALLY

How do I look?

TODD

Um, how about gorgeous?!

DANNY

No! Stop encouraging this! Sally can still salvage things with Gavin!

SALLY

No, I can't. I didn't tell you the worst thing Gavin said to me...

FLASHBACK TO:

30 INT. GAVIN AND SALLY'S APARTMENT - FLASHBACK 30

THE FIGHT RAGES ON. SALLY IS UPSET.

SALLY

How can you talk about ending things?

We were about to start a family...

GAVIN TAKES A DEEP BREATH, PULLS THE TRIGGER:

GAVIN

Sally, I think you'd be a bad mom.

BACK TO:

31 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S LIVING ROOM - BACK TO SCENE 31

TODD GASPS. SALLY SLAMS HER SODA DOWN (NOT ON THE COASTER). ANNOYED, DANNY PUTS IT ON THE COASTER

SALLY

Can you believe he said that?

SALLY REALIZES DANNY IS BITING HIS TONGUE.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Can you believe he said that? Danny?

SHE MOVES THE SODA OFF THE COASTER ONTO THE WOOD. DANNY PUTS THE DRINK ON THE COASTER. STAND-OFF.

SALLY (CONT'D)

I can feel you thinking it, so if you're

gonna say it, just say it...

DANNY

(SNAPPING) Fine, I agree with Gavin!

You wouldn't be a good mom!

OFF SALLY, HURT...

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

32 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 32

ON SALLY, BRUISED BUT DEFIANT. **FREEZE FRAME**.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Hearing my brother say I'd be a bad mom felt like taking a bullet. But I'd be damned if I was gonna let him see how much it hurt...

UNFREEZE. SALLY ADORABLY MELTS, FIGHTING TEARS.

SALLY

(HIGH, SQUEAKY) Whhhhaaaaat?!?

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Well, I tried.

SALLY

How could you say that to me? On the night I'm about to move on with my life! I mean, this is the first time I've put on make-up in days...

TODD

You had on bronzer the other night.

SALLY

That was Taco Bell Border Sauce. I didn't have a napkin so I just smeared it around my face till it thinned out.

TODD

Oh. Well, you looked radiant, princess!

DANNY

No, stop coddling her! Everyone coddles her! Sally, if you ever want to be a mom, Gavin's right: act your age.

SALLY

Act my age! You need to act your age!

DANNY

Excuse me?

SALLY

You live like a senior citizen! And not a fun, feisty movie senior citizen! A real, actual senior citizen! A catheter/reverse mortgage commercial senior citizen! What did you do last Saturday night? Or should I say last Saturday late afternoon?

FLASHBACK TO:

33 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 33

DANNY AND TODD PLAYING MAH JONG WITH TWO OTHER VERY OLD COUPLES FROM THEIR BUILDING. ON THE TABLE IS A CHEESE-BALL, WHICH DANNY AND TODD ENJOY.

DANNY

Janet, this cheese-ball is literally everything in this world!

TODD

To die!

WE HEAR A LOUD CLOCK TICKING AS THEY EAT.

BACK TO:

34 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 34

THE FIGHT CONTINUES.

SALLY
You're barely thirty! Why are you hanging out with the Oldersons!

DANNY
They're our neighbors and they're fascinating, wonderful people!

TODD
And Janet's cheese-balls are amazing.

DANNY
Go back to Gavin! He's a good guy who put up with your crap. Sally, I forbid you from going on this date.

SALLY
I'm sorry, did you just "forbid" me?

DANNY
Yes. I forbid you.

SALLY STORMS INTO THE GUEST BEDROOM.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Thank god. Coming to her senses.

SALLY (O.S.)
You're right Danny. I'm not going on this date.

SHE RE-ENTERS IN A SKIMPY BANDEAU TOP, SHORT SKIRT.

SALLY (CONT'D)
(RE: OUTFIT) I'm going on this date!

DANNY

(APPALLED) You look like Jenny Ozment.

TODD

Who's Jenny Ozment?

SALLY

Girl from high school. Did it with the debate coach in a Nissan Sentra.

TODD

Debatable ethics. And car.

SALLY

Going on this date. Gonna do it with him. And he's really, really gonna give me the business. Hard. Hard business.

DANNY

(CRINGES) Oh, please stop...

SALLY

It's gonna be like "9-and-A-Half Weeks" madness. Feeding each other weird foods. Ice on boobie nips...

DANNY

(COVERS EARS) Don't tell me that!

SALLY

(STORMING OUT) Too late! It's in your head! Enjoy that image next time you're snacking on Janet's dusty cheese-balls!

CUT TO:

35 INT. BAR - NIGHT 35

SALLY AND JULIET ARE AT THE BAR.

JULIET

Um, Grandpa Danny better back off: You are not crawling back to Gavin.

SALLY

Oh, I am not. Trust me.

JULIET

I trust you completely. (BEAT) Give me your phone.

SALLY

I'm not gonna call Gavin!

JULIET

Says the sober girl at eight P.M.

SALLY SIGHS, HANDS OVER HER PHONE.

JULIET (CONT'D)

Oh look, there he is!

FRANK ENTERS WEARING A DORKY BRIGHT RED FLEECE.

SALLY

I guess he's kind of cute.

JULIET

(SIGHS) I told him not to wear that fleece, it's covering up the cute outfit I put him in. Frank! Over here!

FRANK JOINS THEM AND JULIET ZIPS OFF HIS FLEECE. HE'S GOT ON A TIGHT, DEEP V-NECK T-SHIRT.

JULIET (CONT'D)

Frank, Sally. Sally, Frank.

FRANK

(UNCOMFORTABLE IN SHIRT) Hi...

SALLY

Hi.

JULIET

(POINTS) Jon Varvatos T with plunging V. Rock n' roll chest hair wisp. ("BOINGS" HIS CHEST HAIR) It wasn't popping enough so I used some molding gel and blow-dried it. Perky, right?!

FRANK

(BEAT) I wish this part would stop.

JULIET

(TO SALLY) You know what to do. Bye.

JULIET EXITS.

CUT TO:

36 EXT. BAR / INT. GAVIN AND SALLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 36

THE SECOND SHE'S OUT OF THE BAR, SALLY'S PHONE RINGS.

JULIET

Hello?

GAVIN

Juliet? It's Gavin.

JULIET

Nope.

SHE HANGS UP. HE CALLS BACK. SHE ANSWERS.

JULIET (CONT'D)

Sally's phone, this is her better

judgment speaking...

GAVIN

Juliet, put Sally on, it's important!

I want to get back together!

JULIET

Not gonna happen. Sally's moved on.

GAVIN

I know for a fact she loves me and she

can't live without me.

JULIET

Where'd you hear that?

FLASHBACK TO:

37 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S LIVING ROOM / GAVIN AND SALLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 37

A MISCHIEVOUS DANNY IS ON THE PHONE WITH GAVIN, WHO, BLUETOOTH IN HIS EAR, IS WORKING OUT ON A BOWFLEX. WE HEAR "THE HEAT IS ON" BY GLEN FREY.

DANNY

She loves you and she can't live without

you...

GAVIN

She really said that?

DANNY

Yes, she really said that!

CUT TO:

38 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 38

LATER, DANNY'S TAKING OUT THE TRASH. TODD'S ANNOYED.

DANNY

It's for her own good. I'm nudging her in the right direction.

TODD

Don't you mean kicking her out of our apartment as quickly as possible?

DANNY

If the added bonus to saving my sister from the worst mistake of her life is rescuing our home from an avalanche of churro powder (WIPING OFF COUCH) And (GRABBING SEVERAL CURLING IRONS) Curling irons (IMMEDIATELY DROPPING CURLING IRONS) That are not turned off, then all the better!

TODD

There's gonna be repercussions.

DANNY OPENS THE DOOR WITH THE TRASH. THERE'S JULIET. SHE WEARS MIRRORED AVIATORS AND A TRENCH-COAT.

JULIET

Danny, as you can see I'm wearing my Klute trenchcoat! (PULLS DOWN GLASSES) Which means I'm furious!

CUT TO:

39 INT. BAR - NIGHT 39

SALLY AND FRANK SIT ACROSS FROM EACH OTHER, AWKWARD.

SALLY

So...you were in the military?

FRANK

The Navy, yeah. I was on a submarine actually. For a long time.

SALLY

I bet you have tons of exciting stories.

FRANK

Yeah. (BEAT) Oh, you wanna hear one?

SALLY

Yes.

FRANK

There's a lot of 'em. Just trying to think of a good one. Ummmmm....

SALLY

"Hunt for Red October" took place on a sub. Was it anything like that?

FRANK

Yeah, yeah, it was just like "Hunt for Red October," if it had been about, like, working in an office. Underwater.

SALLY

I'd love to work in an undersea office. Have like, a dolphin assistant. Or a little red crab.

FRANK

Like Sebastian! Or a workplace friend, like Flounder. Even though Flounder wasn't really a Flounder.

SALLY

You really know your "Little Mermaid."

FRANK

(IMMEDIATELY WISHING HE WASN'T SAYING THIS) Kind of a Disney nut.

SALLY

(DOWNS HER DRINK) So...Juliet told you what this night was about, right?

FRANK

What is this night about?

SALLY

We're gonna sleep together.

FREEZE ON FRANK.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Most guys in this world would love to find out at the beginning of a date that they'll be getting lucky that night. This was <u>not</u> one of them.

UNFREEZE. FRANK IS IMMEDIATELY QUEASY.

FRANK

How could you say something like that?

SALLY

Say what? That we're gonna sleep together?

FRANK

Said it again...

SALLY

Do you not want to?

FRANK

Of course I do! But when you just announce it like that...Look at me, I'm sweating, and my stomach... I'm sorry, it's just... It's like being on a plane about to take off, and the stewardess comes up and says, "Oh, by the way, fifteen minutes before we arrive, the Captain's gonna get sick and you're gonna have to land the plane." I don't want to hear that at the beginning of the flight! Let me enjoy my meal, watch the movie, marvel at some Skymall. Now I gotta spend the whole flight thinking, "Can I land this plane? How's this plane different from other planes I've landed? Am I gonna have to land it more than once?"

SALLY

I'm sorry, I'm not usually so forward, it's just-- Juliet really didn't tell you what's going on with me?

FRANK

Just that you're really funny. And beautiful, (SUDDENLY LOUD) WHICH YOU ARE BOTH OF THOSE THINGS! My stomach is making weird noises. TALKING LOUD TO COVER IT UP! NERVOUS ABOUT SLEEPING WITH YOU! END OF THE NIGHT! Stomach's done now no it's not. YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL! WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU?

SALLY

My husband and I split up three days ago.

THIS PAUSES HIM.

FRANK

Husband?

CUT TO:

40 <u>INT. DANNY AND TODD'S LIVING ROOM / INT. BAR - NIGHT</u> 40

JULIET AND DANNY HAVE IT OUT AS TODD WATCHES, ENJOYING THE DRAMA.

JULIET

Where do you get off thinking you're qualified to make decisions for Sally?

(MORE)

JULIET (CONT'D)

(BEAT) I'm the only one qualified to make decisions for Sally!

DANNY

Um, I'm her brother!

JULIET

So take her side, ever! Root for Team Sally! Stand up for her for once!

DANNY

Oh, I've tried many times...

FLASHBACK TO:

41 EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - DAY - FLASHBACK 41

CHYRON: 1993. YOUNG, EFFEMINATE DANNY (10) STANDS UP TO A BIG BULLY AS SALLY (8) WAITS BEHIND HIM.

YOUNG DANNY

You stay away from my sister...mister!

THE BULLY LAUGHS AND PUNCHES DANNY IN THE STOMACH.

YOUNG SALLY

(SMITTEN) God, you're hot.

YOUNG SALLY AND THE BULLY START MAKING OUT.

BACK TO:

42 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S LIVING ROOM / INT. BAR - NIGHT 42

AS THEY WERE.

JULIET

But was the bully cute? Answer the question.

DANNY

(BEAT, SIGHS) Yeah, he was cute.

JULIET

Well, there ya go!

JULIET'S PHONE RINGS.

JULIET (CONT'D)

(ANSWERING) Hello?

BEGIN INTERCUT WITH FRANK IN THE BAR.

FRANK

Hey Juliet, it's Frank.

JULIET

Hey. What's up?

FRANK

I just want to thank you for introducing me to Sally. We had a nice time.

JULIET

It's only been like, twenty minutes! You couldn't possibly have banged Sally yet! (TROUBLED) Could you?

DANNY

(QUEASY) Okay, people have to stop talking about my sister having sex...

FRANK

Well, the truth is...

FLASHBACK TO:

43 <u>INT. BAR - NIGHT - FLASHBACK</u> 43

SALLY AND FRANK ARE NOW IN A HEART TO HEART.

SALLY

I liked Gavin cause he always told me what I was doing wrong.

FRANK

That's awful.

SALLY

No, I mean, in a good way. You know that little voice in your head that constantly reminds you that you're screwing everything up? Well, mine doesn't work so well. That's why I needed Gavin as my "little voice."

FRANK

That... still sounds awful. Your little voice should be your own...little voice.

SALLY

Gavin put up with a lot. Most people recognize when they're making a mess. I don't realize until it's way too late. And I don't know what I wanna do with my life yet. I'm trying, but once you choose a track, you're on that track, and what if it's the wrong track?

(MORE)

SALLY (CONT'D)

Sometimes I get stuck thinking too much about the past...like if I hear certain songs, I literally die twelve times. "Shady Lane" by Pavement came on yesterday and boom, I'm back in high school. Everything all out in front of you, exciting. But when you get out in the real world, exciting becomes confusing. So what do you do?

FRANK

Join the Navy?

SALLY

...have a big ol' wedding and get married.

FRANK

Right.

SALLY SINKS, GETTING TRULY SAD...

SALLY

And I even found a way to screw that up. What if Gavin was really the only person capable of loving me?

FRANK

(FALLING FOR HER) Not possible.

SALLY

(BEAT) I'm sorry, I have to go...

TO FRANK'S SURPRISE, SALLY DASHES OUT.

BACK TO:

44 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S LIVING ROOM / INT. BAR - NIGHT 44

JULIET LOOKS STRICKEN:

JULIET

She's going back to Gavin. I have to stop her!

JULIET HANGS UP AND RUNS OUT. DANNY LOOKS STRICKEN:

DANNY

I have to stop her from stopping her!

DANNY RUNS OUT. A BEAT. TODD LOOKS STRICKEN:

TODD

I'll be bored if I stay here!

TODD RUNS OUT.

CUT TO:

45 EXT. GAVIN AND SALLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 45

GAVIN OPENS HIS DOOR TO FIND A REPENTANT SALLY THERE.

SALLY

Hi...Wanna get back together?

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

46 INT. GAVIN AND SALLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 46

SALLY AND GAVIN LOOK INTO EACH OTHER'S EYES.

GAVIN

I missed you. I really did.

SALLY

So... we're still married?

GAVIN

Of course! It's not like in three

days, either of us started dating!

SALLY

(AWKWARD BEAT, THEN) Exactly.

GAVIN HUGS SALLY.

DISSOLVE TO:

47 EXT. GAVIN AND SALLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 47

SALLY AND GAVIN ARE COMING OUT THE DOOR. A CAB PULLS UP. JULIET, DANNY AND TODD ALL HOP OUT.

JULIET

Sally! You can do better than Gavin!

DANNY

Sally, you're doing the right thing!

THEY RUN UP AND BOTH START TALKING SIMULTANEOUSLY.

JULIET

Being single is awesome! You can have sex with whoever you want, watch whatever you want on TV, and if you ever get lonely you'll always have me!

DANNY

Marriage is a beautiful thing, there's something rewarding in being with the same person for years and years, Mom and Dad spent seven billion dollars on your wedding!

SALLY

Todd?

SALLY IS LOOKING PAST THEM AT TODD WHO STARES AT HIS PHONE IN TOTAL SHOCK.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Todd? Are you okay?

TODD

The girl in Delaware... she gave birth this morning. It's a boy. 6 pounds, 1 ounce. (BEAT) She's keeping him.

A BEAT AS EVERYONE PROCESSES. DANNY SITS DOWN ON THE STEPS, DEVASTATED. TODD SITS DOWN NEXT TO HIM. THEY'RE SHAKING. SALLY SNAPS INTO ACTION.

SALLY

Gavin, go inside, make one tea, chamomile, slice of lemon, one hot chocolate, marshmallows, <u>huge</u> shots of whiskey in both! Go!

GAVIN NODS, RUNS INSIDE. SALLY WRAPS HER COAT AROUND DANNY, AND JULIET'S COAT AROUND TODD.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Let's get you two warm...

DISSOLVE TO:

48 INT. GAVIN AND SALLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 48

FEW MINUTES LATER. DANNY AND TODD SIP FROM MUGS.

SALLY

This is just a setback. That girl kept that baby because she looked at it and knew it was her baby. And thank God she did, because your baby? Your baby's still out there waiting to be born. And that's gonna be the luckiest kid in the whole world.

TODD PUTS HIS HEAD ON SALLY'S SHOULDER. SHE SMOOTHES HIS HAIR. DANNY LOOKS AT HER, REMEMBERING SOMETHING.

FLASHBACK TO:

49 EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - DAY - FLASHBACK 49

CHYRON: 1993. IT'S LATER ON THE DAY YOUNG DANNY "STOOD UP" FOR SALLY. HE SULKS ON THE CURB. YOUNG SALLY RE-ENTERS, CONTRITE, WITH A MUG OF COCOA.

YOUNG SALLY

I'm sorry...

SHE HANDS HIM THE COCOA, DRAPES HER COAT ON HIM AND SITS DOWN NEXT TO HER BROTHER. IT'S A NICE MOMENT.

BACK TO:

50 INT. GAVIN AND SALLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 50

DANNY REALIZES SOMETHING:

DANNY

You're gonna be a great mom, Sally.

SALLY IS TOUCHED. A BEAT. DANNY TURNS TO GAVIN.

DANNY (CONT'D)

(TRYING TO BE TOUGH) And you! Where do you get off thinking you can do better than my sister... mister?

GAVIN

Excuse me?

SALLY

Danny? What are you doing?

DANNY

Standing up for you. She can do a heck of a lot better than you, Gavin!

TODD

(LEANS IN TO GAVIN) Be a peach and pretend this is even remotely scary.

DANNY

Sally, tell me you didn't get back together with this loser!

SALLY

I did. For about eighteen seconds.

FLASHBACK TO:

51 INT. GAVIN AND SALLY'S KITCHEN - NIGHT - FLASHBACK 51

GAVIN AND SALLY HUG, AS SEEN EARLIER.

SALLY

Let's celebrate! Open some champagne!

SHE GOES TO THE WINE FRIDGE, REACHES FOR A BOTTLE.

GAVIN

Ooh, yeah, that's an '82 Pol Roger. Kinda want to hold onto that one.

SALLY

For what?

GAVIN

Re-sale. Or a special occasion.

SALLY

You just reunited with your wife, that's not a "special occasion?" Come on, we deserve something classy -- I'll go grab my champagne-opening sword!

GAVIN

Sally. Come on.

SALLY STOPS, THINKS FOR A BEAT.

SALLY

This...isn't gonna work, is it?

OFF GAVIN, UNABLE TO DISAGREE...

BACK TO:

52 INT. GAVIN AND SALLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 52

THE OTHERS TAKE THIS IN...

SALLY

We've decided we're gonna call it a day on the whole being married thing.

JULIET STARTS TRYING NOT TO SMILE AGAIN.

JULIET

(STILTED) Oh no! That's terrible are you sure this is what you want?

SALLY

Juliet, please, you're gonna blow a face muscle, just smile already.

JULIET GIVES IN TO A GIANT GRIN. THEY HUG.

DANNY

You know what? Let's go to the bar.

SALLY

On a school night? What about acting your age?

DANNY

(SHRUGS) I'm barely thirty.

JULIET, DANNY AND TODD EXIT. SALLY TURNS TO GAVIN.

GAVIN

You're sure you're okay with this?

SALLY

I am. You?

HE NODS. THEY HUG. SALLY EXITS.

CUT TO:

53 INT. GAVIN AND SALLY'S KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER 53

GAVIN ENTERS, HE NOTICES THE WINE FRIDGE IS SLIGHTLY OPEN. HE INVESTIGATES, DISCOVERING THE '82 POL ROGER IS GONE.

GAVIN

Dammit, Sally!

CUT TO:

54 INT. BAR - NIGHT - A LITTLE LATER 54

USING A LARGE SWORD, SALLY SLICES OPEN THE '82 POL ROGER. POP! EVERYONE CHEERS.

SALLY

To new beginnings!

DANNY

Hear hear!

JULIET

We need glasses.

SALLY RUNS OVER TO THE BAR.

SALLY

Five champagne glasses, please!

FRANK APPEARS NEXT TO SALLY.

FRANK

Hey. Juliet told me it didn't work out with you and your ex. Sorry.

SALLY

Thanks, Frank.

FRANK

I thought of a good submarine story. No spoilers, but it involves a giant exploding whale carcass. Maybe I could tell you about it over dinner? Anything but seafood. Which you'll understand after the giant exploding whale carcass story.

SALLY

Yeah, Frank, listen. Tonight was fun, and you seem like a really nice guy, but... is it okay if it's just friendship for you and me?

FRANK TAKES THIS IN.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

It's never fun to let someone down like that...

FRANK

Of course. Friends it is. Lemme help with those.

HE TAKES THE GLASSES. SALLY WATCHES HIM GO.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

But I have to say, kids...

AS SALLY REJOINS FRANK AND THE GANG AT THE BOOTH...

CUT TO:

55 INT. FUTURE SALLY'S HOME - THE YEAR 2044 55

SALLY'S KIDS, WHO BEAR A CERTAIN RESEMBLANCE TO SOMEONE WE'VE SEEN, LISTEN ON:

NARRATOR (V.O.)

...Your dad took it like a champ.

FADE TO BLACK.