

How Do You Know?

by

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FADE IN:

1

EXT. STREET - SUMMER NIGHT

1

Romantic night - and now moving into camera the couple to prove it. LISA, a really pretty 27 year old woman who has made every sacrifice of mind, body and spirit in order not to feel the way she does at this moment: self-conscious and threatened by a vague set of ordinary emotions which, worst of all to her, serve no constructive purpose whatsoever. Still, here she is, after a lifetime unafraid of anything, with fear poking secretly away at her while her date, Matty, (a "hunk" who is frequently mistaken for a "catch") is in the background causing a small flurry of excitement signing an autograph..He looks and sees her failing to make the turn to his building..

MATTY
(calling out)
Left!

Lisa bobbles with distraction and then makes the turn. She is quickly ensnared by her persistent troubling thoughts.

ON Matty..

As he looks at her and grins with impulse and a veteran's sense of mischief based on deep appreciation of the night, her swirling skirt and the promise of simple pleasures. He comes up behind her ear and responds to her yelp with the absolute truth.

MATTY
Night's so great. You look so good.
Just need to grab you.

LISA
Huh..Sorry I didn't..

But that quick he has lifted and swirled her. Then, maybe as she was just getting into the ride, drops her.

MATTY
We're here..

He gestures with his head to a nearby apartment building, the best apartment building in town.

2 EXT. APT. BLDG. - NIGHT

2

He walks toward the front door - the doorman greets him by name..Lisa hesitates, ambivalent..not her usual decisive self.

LISA

Hey..Matty..I may have to go back on what I said about finally seeing your place tonight..there's a lot on my mind right now and..

Matty, unaccustomed to even minor adversity, has a flash of well, not depression..a flash of not feeling fantastic.

MATTY

You sure?

LISA

(light..half
laughing..honest)

Well, no.

MATTY

(cowboy justice)
No pressure here. It should feel right.

His John Wayne moral center impresses Lisa..but then he takes several steps back..

LISA

That's nice. Thanks. Why are you moving away?

MATTY

Give you room to think and decide.

The doorman also backs off a few spaces. Lisa looks at the two men staring at her.

MATTY

Take your time. I get a kick out of watching you make up your mind.

He means it. He is having a good time giving her space and enjoying the mystery. She moves forward toward the door.

LISA

You have all the signs of a handful.

MATTY

Hope so.

She takes a swing at him, a solid fist and perfectly balanced arc to his stomach...she is surprised by her own action....

3

INT. ELEVATOR - NIGHT

3

LISA

I'm sorry did I hurt you?

MATTY

Just got me more interested.

He kisses her.

4

INT. MATTY'S APT. - BEDROOM - MORNING

4

This is a truly expensive apartment -- we are now in the bedroom where there are a great many trophies in evidence besides our Lisa, who now lies next to her spanking new lover having more than held up her end of the just concluded lengthy and athletic night of love making. She can't, however, quite match his grin. Matty's in a state of some wonder - celebrating the fact that his expectations have been exceeded.

MATTY

Amazing..Female jocks are amazing.

LISA

(a level look)

Could you personalize it a little?

Matty cracks up..

MATTY

(enthusiastically)

Right, right, right..I meant it as tribute to you, Lisa Jorgenson. Come on, it was amazing, huh? That was unbelievable.

LISA

Fishing for a compliment?

MATTY
(exuberant)
I'm fishing for a celebration.

LISA
I have to get going.

She scoops up her clothes and groans over how wrinkled her dress is as she moves toward the bathroom. We move with her -- perhaps noting perfect long smooth muscles in her arms and legs.

MATTY
(o.c.)
There's a fresh toothbrush in the right hand drawer.

5 INT. MATTY'S APT. - BATHROOM - DAY 5

She stands in front of the sink now and opens the right hand drawer.

ANGLE ON DRAWER

Two dozen unused toothbrushes lined up -- all in unbroken glass containers. She takes this in then breaks open the container and is brushing her teeth when there is a.. knock on the door..She opens it..

MATTY
You don't have to wear that dress home.

He moves past her and opens a cabinet where there is a stack of unopened women's sweats.

MATTY
Medium?

He hands her a package. She reacts with extreme distaste..

MATTY
What?

LISA
The stack is a little --- repulsively unromantic.

MATTY
No it's not. It's classy. I'm being a good host here.

LISA
It's like I'm on an assembly line
spitting out girls.

MATTY
That's just negative. Aren't we all
on an assembly line - going through
each other's lives until one day we
close down the factory, take home a
product and use it monogamously for
the rest of our lives?

She starts putting on her dress.

LISA
Matty, my mistake..forget about it.

MATTY
If I hid the rest and gave you one
I'd be a great guy..but because I
am open with you...

She moves past him heading for the front door.

LISA
Just forget it!

MATTY (CONT'D)
Too bad.

CAMERA MOVES AHEAD OF THEM

6 INT. MATTY'S APT. - HALLWAY/BEDROOM

6

This is purposefully a traditional romantic vignette of hurt
woman, with a backbone, about to express herself with
forceful exit..it's why doors were made to slam.

And then that quick she catches herself - holding the door in
pre-slam wind-up then turns toward him, genuinely apologetic.

LISA
Hey Matty...What am I doing? I know
better.. "Don't judge anybody
before you check yourself out.
You're lucky when it's your fault
because then you can correct the
situation."
(working it out as if with
a friend)

LISA(cont'd)

I'm nervous over something and a little worried so I ended up with an attractive guy who you'd have to be an idiot to mistake for serious material..for anything but a fun friendship -- and rather than accept the evening as a chance to hide out from myself with some really amazing sex, I start to give him a hard time for just being who he is. I really apologize. Please, forgive me.

MATTY

You may be my "dream girl."

She grabs her panties and exits.

LISA

You take care.

MATTY

What are you worried about, anyways?

LISA

(forcefully)

Nothing! I can't believe I'm whining about it. Crap!

As she turns away.

7 EXT. STREET - DAY

7

Lisa -- wrinkled dress -- stops -- takes running shoes from her purse and puts them on..She then moves purposefully..her walk arresting in its precision and power...passing people...she is in a hurry..

8 INT. SUBWAY - DAY

8

Lisa standing -- her face tight

9 EXT. MIDDLE CLASS STREET - NEAR LISA'S APT. - DAY

9

As Lisa moves down a lower middle class block to her apt.

10 INT. APARTMENT HOUSE - DAY 10

As she stops at the foot of the stairs to open a compartment and withdraw a weighted vest which she puts on..and then begins to hop up the stairs two at a time..It's a hell of a stunt..as hard as it looks and this image, of athlete straining, while wearing a hopelessly wrinkled party dress is strangely a very appropriate image for what awaits her.

11 INT. LISA'S APT. - DAY. 11

Easily as many trophies as Matty (including two Olympic gold medals)..inevitable rows of team pictures, she cares about team. (Note: how they are displayed is a project for us.) Furniture is very basic..one of those L shaped rooms with the bend of the "L" considered the bedroom -- pullout sofa..She walks directly to a desk on which sits her computer.

CLOSE ON COMPUTER

Lisa pauses over the keys. She sniffs the air, oxygen her long time elixir. She does not touch the keys; instead moving off and leaving the scene. We hear the shower start.

12 INT. LISA'S APT. - CLOSE ON LISA - A BIT LATER 12

As she sits again at the computer. Here's the thing about this moment. In the truest sense of the word we are witnessing an act of private bravery. Lisa's life, as she knows it and has lived it, is on the line. Yet, the signs are small as she weighs her dicey options for survival.

CLOSE ON COMPUTER

As Lisa hits the site of the "UNITED STATES NATIONAL SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION." She clicks on "NEW ROSTER OF PLAYERS"..And then reads: "THIS YEAR'S ROSTER IS DELAYED."

ON LISA

She is struck by foreboding and simultaneously beats the feeling back. Her fingers take action..she clicks her way to on-line ticketing and confirms "least expensive" trip to Phoenix. A cute tone confirms she has scored for a ticket.

13 EXT. NATIONAL TEAM ATHLETIC COMPLEX - TRACKING WITH LISA 13

It is off-season but there are college athletes and national players working on some drills which look enormously hard to do. When the players spot Lisa they stop immediately..a subtle flurry of hero worship ensues.. She exchanges a deep hug with one or two of her teammates..

14 INT. ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT - WOMEN'S WING - EDIT BAY - DAY 14

This is the home of champions. Olympic memorabilia in evidence. NCAA Champion cups, etc. She is drawn to one crowded editing bin cubicle where coaches and a few athletic tech support persons watch a television set in a darkened area. As she passes SALLY, an assistant coach (late 30's-early 40's -- clearly athletic looking) calls to her.

SALLY

Hey..my fave. What are you doing here? I didn't think I'd see you till the Jersey clinic. We're just editing the promotional video.
(to student editor)

Show her part..

Lisa indicates she'd rather not..Sally gestures forcefully that she should see it.

LISA

Just for a minute.

Before the student editor scrolls the images, Lisa is there sticking out her hand.

LISA

Lisa Jorgenson.

The student is flattered and gives her name, Jane.

LISA

Good to meet you.

Lisa retreats to the background. We alternate between THE MONITOR and Lisa, who is a little self-conscious being eyed by others as she witnesses her own past glories.

ON MONITOR

ANNOUNCER

Co-captain and second baseman Lisa Jorgenson - ended Australia's rally..and secures the cup..The United States wins its 7th world championship.

We see a montage of Lisa's stellar play in this game ending with a backdoor slide, scoring the winning run, after which she roars in competitive exultation at the opposing catcher.

ANNOUNCER

(horribly fake chuckle)
Captain Jorgenson is the mother hen of the celebration.

VARIOUS SHOTS..Lisa making sure everyone is taken care of..she stops one of the players from taking off her shirt ala Brandy Chastain ..she is also trying to gather her teammates to shake hands with the Australian team..she herself providing spirited consolation to the Australian girls, simultaneously fighting off her own teammates who are trying to lift her on their shoulders and somehow getting them to lift the coach instead..we additionally see her lifting Sally--a tearful moment for each.

ON LISA

Strangely turned shy by the feelings evoked. Enough.

LISA

Enough..

On the video, the stars and stripes are raised..She successfully fights off emotion but comment is required.

LISA

Whew.

As Lisa prepares to leave the room.

SALLY

Did coach call you here?

LISA

Nope. Just thought I should speak to him while it could still maybe do some good.

15

INT. ATHLETIC DEPT. HALLWAY/COACH'S OFFICE - DAY

15

Sally follows her into the hallway.

SALLY

Wow...The roster's never been this late..but no..you can't be on any bubble..

LISA

I was in the top box of his triangle of success chart in 17 of the 19 categories.

SALLY

Well, oh my God then, so why? You think 'cause Cam is on the college team here he could go with her? No. she's not there yet..Just honestly.

LISA

It's just the last couple of days an alarm's gone off and it feels more like..truth than nervous crap.

SALLY

Well, hell -- go in. Find out for sure you're okay and we'll grab a beer.

Lisa nods...and walks toward the office. The nameplate next to the door reads "WILLIAM SMITH Head Coach." Sally can't resist getting in her ear to render last minute coaching when she sees Lisa tense.

SALLY

(sotto)

Confident, confident, relaxed, confident.. You are the best.

Sally peals off and Lisa pauses a beat. It's game face time.

16

INT. COACH SMITH'S OFFICE - DAY

16

She enters the coach's office overplaying her sense of security and confidence by a mile or so.

LISA

Hey, coach. How's it going?

WILLIAM SMITH is a good looking guy who excels at pushing and manipulating others. He is surprised to see Lisa.

COACH SMITH

Hey, you. What's doing?

LISA

You have a minute?

COACH SMITH

Sure.

LISA

I've been following the training guide you sent but doing two a days and I have shaved my time where you wanted by point 8.

COACH SMITH

Really good...but two a days can create different kinds of problems.

LISA

Okay, I'll stop. Good seeing you. Thanks for the time.

COACH SMITH

Sure.

She exits.

17 INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

17

As she sits in a full plane returning to Washington D.C...opens an old play book -- she is "acting" as if she were untroubled even though no one is watching.

18 EXT. ATHLETIC FIELD - DAY - VERY CLOSE ON LISA

18

Lisa working out with several girls from the national team..She is fielding hot fungoes in a circle with teammates..little grunts..small off-camera utterances, as they encourage each other..Lisa's phone starts to ring -- she hears the distinctive music, turns, and, not seeing the ball coming at her, takes one hard on the face. She has a bloody lip..The injury is close to an absolute non-event for her. She spits some blood with enviable expertise as she walks to her bag on the sidelines.

LISA

It better be worth it.

(she answers her phone)

Hello.

Intercut with:

19

INT. OFFICE - DAY

19

GEORGE MADISON, in his mid 30's. If anyone faults him as colorless it is because they have never paused on a foggy morning to consider the vibrancy of grey.. He is solid: solidly educated, solid in thought and deed and carry through. And, of course, so many mentions of the word "solid" portends that he will soon break apart from the intensity of some serial misfortunes which will make it forever impossible (as a character will soon remark) to ever again be the person he is at this moment.

GEORGE

Hi.

(checks a piece of paper)
Lisa... This is George Madison. Did Riva tell you that she gave me your number?

LISA

No.

GEORGE

She said it might be a good idea for us to have dinner together.

LISA

Oh..well, let me call her...when did you have in mind?

GEORGE

No. I wasn't calling to set a time. She didn't know I was seeing someone -- well, she didn't know that it had escalated a bit, at least on my part -- it just added up for me suddenly and...

(catching himself at giving too much information)

Well, anyway...

Lisa seizes on the fun of his oddness..she grins, blood from the hit on her lip covering her front teeth.

LISA

...so you're calling me to break up.

Her teammates gather around on hearing this -- she grins a bloody grin and gestures that the call is off the charts goofy. So much so she is enjoying herself.

GEORGE
I just didn't think...

A woman enters his office with George's secretary, ANNIE, a few steps behind trying to stop her..they are briefly out of focus, as we remain concentrated on the phone call as George attempts to do the same.

WOMAN
George Madison?

He nods - but indicates he has a call to complete. Annie gives a short hand whispered message.

ANNIE
She just..the rudeness..

George nods, pats the distraught Annie on the back.

GEORGE
(into phone)
I'm sorry..I got distracted. What was I saying?

LISA
"You just didn't think.."

GEORGE
Right..thank you.
(to Annie)
Thank you.

The woman is surprised, unaccustomed to being thanked.

WOMAN
(ironically)
You're welcome.

She exits.

GEORGE
(into phone)
Thank you for holding..I just didn't think it was right not to phone you once I took your number in case she had talked to you and you were expecting my call.

LISA
Uh-huh. Okay, then...It was nice of you to call in a way I guess.

GEORGE
Right. Sorry for interrupting your
day.

LISA
Yeah.

GEORGE
Goodbye.

He hangs up and mutters to himself..unconscious to the fact
that he is doing so..

GEORGE
CouldIhavesoundedstranger?

He looks down at the folder for the first time.

GEORGE
Oh my God.

20 INT. UNIVERSITY HALLWAY - LATE AFTERNOON

20

As a class breaks the students..(grad students) flow
out...signs, blackboard, etc. indicate that it is a PHYSICS
CLASSROOM...George is off to the side sending a text
message...We read it.

GEORGE'S TEXT MESSAGE
Dad? It's important that we talk. I
need some guidance and maybe Ron
should be folded in as well. I'll
be in early - Okay - be well.

He finishes and looks off into space and shudders suddenly
and unexpectedly..registers surprise. It's a first. He has
never shuddered before. Now the Physics professor comes into
view. This is TERRY DREISER, she is in the argument for the
smartest woman alive - a physicist whose mind holds the
promise of one day explaining it all to us. She is surprised
to see him..

TERRY
George, am I wrong, didn't I tell
you I'm crashing on the book
tonight?

She holds up the portable data plug which contains all her
work...

GEORGE
Yeah, you did..I just..I'm not
going to stay around.

21 INT. CRAMPED ACADEMIC OFFICE - DAY

21

As they enter --- her work is all laid out for her.. A waiting work cocoon of perfect reading light..books..two computers and many, many stacks of research..She must move sideways to get into the cramped work area where she puts HER DATA PLUG into its computer port and the screen comes alive with physics..words and computations.

TERRY
Maybe that's better for tonight. I don't know why I agreed to this delivery date..damn me and my need for approval..Sorry.

She slides into the cocoon -- no small feat.

GEORGE
Sure. It was nice seeing your face for a minute. Settles me down.

TERRY
Anyway, I think I know what it is that's bothering you..

George is puzzled by this.

TERRY
(crossing to him.)
If you're concerned about us now that we've intensified..we're okay. I am busy so I can't demonstrate to you that we're okay in all the little ways like paying attention to you..but if you could just take my word for it until the work lets up that would really help me... and us.

(beguiling)
I think I like that word better.
Us.

GEORGE
Ok.

TERRY
Thanks. Kiss.

She slides out with some difficulty..He kisses her.

TERRY

Hot kiss.

He hot kisses her. She moans, pulls him closer with a long leg..Terry has the ability to get instantly hot... and when her very plump brain cells get that blood flow, insights result.

TERRY

(hot and free)

Don't let me get away with too much
- that will never work for me -
don't be too low maintenance that's
a ticking bomb.. but thanks for
understanding this one.

George is getting aroused... but not for long. She breaks off.

TERRY

See. We're good.

He nods and exits as she turns back to her work, then turns realizing a beat late that her turn-on and sudden turn-off was sort of funny/strange..she flashes a good guy smile and shrugs.

22 EXT. GREAT CAMPUS - DAY

22

As George walks off -- he moves past an outdoor job fair where dozens of corporations are interviewing soon to be MBA's potential employees..an assembly line where the biggest start to package the best.

23 EXT. RUNNING AREA - NATIONAL MALL - EARLY MORNING

23

A foot race in progress...Lisa pounding the composite surface alongside a girl, RIVA, maybe eight years younger. Lisa, even while running remembers something suddenly..

LISA

(gasping)

Gotta talk to you after.

RIVA

(gasping less)

I'll wait for you at the finish.

LISA
Sense of humor.

She turns it on and it is fiercely competitive -- "full out" as few experience the term. Riva wins barely. CAMERA REMAINS LOOKING STRAIGHT UP THE TRACK as each of the women goes to a different side of frame to heave. It is a common occurrence.

24

EXT. OUTDOOR AREA - DAY

24

The two women have just ordered breakfast.

LISA
So... You gave my number to a guy?

RIVA
Yeah. I hardly know him..he went to business school with my brother..

LISA
How come you gave him my number anyway?

RIVA
You don't remember Wednesday night-- you said you had never dated a non-athlete and maybe you should try one..

LISA
I did?

RIVA
Yeah.

LISA
Don't listen to me when I'm drinking Guinness.

RIVA
It's the only time you really say stuff.

LISA
(briefly worried)
I hope that's not true.

25

INT. GEORGE'S OFFICE - DAY

25

George is seated at a side chair.. Annie opens the door and is quickly shoved aside by George's father CHARLES, vibrant with an energy which leaves no doubt he came up through sales and RON, the company's legal counsel, who seems to squirt Protestant genes as he walks with perfect posture.

GEORGE

Good morning, Dad...

CHARLES

You said, bring the company lawyer..

George hands his father the subpoena..Ron reads over Charles' shoulder. They each react instantly -- simultaneously shaken...Charles doesn't trust himself to speak..he hands the paper to Ron and paces off.

RON

(to Charles)

They are apparently investigating us for possible misstatement of receivables to inflate earnings.

CHARLES

What do you know about this?

GEORGE

Nothing. But I'm responsible.

CHARLES

What are you being noble..?

GEORGE

I'm telling you what all recent legislation says. If it's true and I didn't know, I should have.

CHARLES

The goddamn government's become like this horrible, punishing Mommy.

RON

Could you ask your assistant to come in -- we're going to have to respond immediately.

GEORGE

Excuse me, Annie...could you please
come on in and bring your laptop?

Annie enters and looks at George -- worried about him..She
has worked for him for some time. She adores him. Ron is
clearly grave.

RON

All these items mentioned -- you
must have checked whether we had
actual receipt of funds before we
talked to the analysts..

GEORGE

No..most of them came from Dad's
office so I assumed..

His father makes a strangled half-bark of a noise and George
glances at him.

CHARLES

You don't assume or trust anyone..
not him..certainly not me..

RON

Good guidelines I'm afraid.

GEORGE

(continuing)
..with everyone working creatively
on the new line I thought I'd wait
until..

Another noise from Dad. Annie stands just behind him -- she
is unable to conceal the concerns and emotions born of her
ferocious loyalty to George.

GEORGE

Just a second, Dad... There's an
overall involved here. My approach
is different than yours was, which
I tried to make clear when I took
over. And it's to get finance and
legal out of the way of the
creative.

Charles makes a disparaging noise then:

CHARLES

(about to take over)
Okay, now...

GEORGE
(softly but firm)
Let me finish, please.

CHARLES
No. Drivel doesn't get to finish.
Drivel gets interrupted.

George continues nonetheless. His earnestness is palpable and, given his audience, ill advised.

GEORGE
So...shaping the corporate culture may not bring results as quickly on the income statement as just eliminating jobs and wacking expenses. But, with patience it will work and, when it does, you've built something.

CHARLES
(shouting)
You are a fucking moron.
(catching himself)
Too rough..

RON
Much too rough.

GEORGE
Don't use that language in front of Annie.

CHARLES
Okay. I caught myself. Now may I get back to the fucking, sorry Annie, the fucking, sorry again Annie...point!
(to George)
You talk "creativity" to me? You M.B.A./C.P.A. You are a numbers man. You have one job you are suited for and that's to be practical pig and make sure we build with bricks here. You are supposed to know the temper of these times -- in particular....the one SPIRIT DRAINING FACT of our lives:
(resuming)

CHARLES (cont'd)

We are potential raw material for the blame industry..all it takes is for one of us to stumble on any of the trip wires our government has planted.. and the booby trap is sprung... How many former major men must shuffle past you into ruin before you realize our lives depend on never forgetting that any executive stupid enough...

(having committed to anger he taps into a well of genuine rage)

...to sell his product with too much enthusiasm or optimism...

(parenthetical thought)

...and God forbid cause anyone to expect that his firm may make an extra penny or two in whatever quarter is about to sucker punch us with more competition from an UNREGULATED foreign country..

Charles stumbles with near miraculous smoothness to his original thought.

CHARLES

(continued)

...will be buried alive..

CAMERA MOVES to feature Annie who is having an out-of-body experience hearing the favorite boss of her life so raked over the coals.

CHARLES

(continued)

I've overlooked every limitation I know you to have because you are my son. And you're a good guy, as every prick with half a brain who ever took advantage of you knows absolutely. But there is a bottom line which, because of your notions of trust and...

(none have said the next word with such sarcasm)

"creativity," we may inevitably be forced to crawl on by some assistant U.S.

CHARLES (cont'd)

Attorney who at this moment is answering a roommate wanted ad in Brighton and, as his first professional act, will slay us for his 80 thousand a year, as he migrates to a future of defending us for millions a year..and if this almost-made-the-law review creature pins me between a choice of saving you or the company I founded and you preside over I think you should know that I will choose the company even though doing so may break my life forever...which is finally my fault for handing you a job where your assumptions or notions of trust can cause such calamity!

Suddenly, in a visceral reflex, Annie takes a swing at Charles.. George grabs her hand stopping her just in time. She is shocked by her own action.

ANNIE

(sotto to George)

My god, sorry.

Charles hasn't noticed..Ron, who witnessed the episode, is about to confront Annie but George moves quickly, addressing his father and thereby forces a change of focus.

GEORGE

That might have been better in private.. To my knowledge I did nothing wrong but, even if I did, I don't want anyone saving me. Ron, why don't you have Annie take down what you need?

(pointedly)

Okay?

He is clearly asking Ron to overlook Annie's swing.

RON

(a beat then)

Alright..You should go home now and think about interviewing attorneys. I don't know whether circumstances will allow the company to pay...

CHARLES

The company will pay!

Charles crosses to George as Ron begins dictating to Annie whose fingers fly across the keys with world class speed, even while trying to get the upper hand on her emotions. A legalize preamble begins in the background..NOTE RESEARCH FOR EXACT COPY.

George begins to feel his life slipping on its foundations. His father interrupts his dismal reverie.

CHARLES

George, don't take what I just said personally.

Charles' lips pucker and he moves in for a kiss on George's cheek. As George moves his head out of range.

GEORGE

(incredulous)

Don't take it personally?

CHARLES

(anguished)

I was out of body. Non-specific anger. It was strange. I care about two things: you and this place. So I went off.. But, no matter what, I love you.

Charles' lips pucker again. George decides to accept this, nonetheless he has found his own bottom line.

GEORGE

I'd rather you didn't kiss me right now.

CHARLES

Understood.

As George prepares to exit, Annie, even as she continues to type, feels the need to call out to him.

ANNIE

George, everything will be fine.

GEORGE

Thank you.

Ron gives Annie an admonishing look.

ANNIE

(decisively to Ron)

It will!

RON

To the Justice Department..the individual's name is on here....All documents relating to loan applications..All financial statements, including but not limited to general ledgers, journals, balance sheets and income statements of George Madison, Chief Executive Officer...

Ron has paced the the window and looks out as he continues

RON

(continuing)

All documents relating to corporate travel...

RON'S POV

26 EXT. OFFICE BUILDING/INT. GEORGE'S OFFICE:INTERCUT - DAY 26

George has exited the building and stands momentarily dazed before moving on.

RON

Just a minute..
(he speed dials his phone)

Following is intercut between Ron at the second floor window and George who stops in the street, others flowing by.

GEORGE

Hello?

RON

I've been through things like this and I'd like to give you some difficult advice..if you'd like to hear it.

George pauses..actively considering whether he does..finally:

GEORGE

(into phone)

Okay.

RON

Accept the enormity. Give up illusions of containment.

RON(cont'd)

The hardest fact of all is that, no matter what the outcome, it is unlikely that you can ever again be the person you've been until now.

GEORGE

Okay, thanks. Look, let me call you later.

RON

Sorry. Any other contact now would be inappropriate. Good luck, George.

He hangs up and as Ron continues in the bg George continues his walk toward his be-clouded future as we lose him in the crowd.

RON'S VOICE

All documents relating to business expenses including but not limited to consultant salaries, petty cash and temporary employees. All personal records of George Madison C.E.O., including but not limited to general ledgers, journals, balance sheets and income statements. The term "document" includes but is not limited to all personal files, telephone messages and logs, including but not limited to e-mails, schedules, work sheets, books pamphlets, summaries, proposals, photographs, work data, graphs, research material, prospectuses...all document requests expressed as "herein" shall also be taken to mean related to, concerning...

The voice trails off as we leave the scene.

27 EXT. GREAT APT. BLDG. - NIGHT 27

We recognize Matty's neighborhood...the doorman.

28 INT. MATTY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 28

Total darkness..

MATTY'S VOICE

Now?

LISA'S VOICE

No..wait.

MATTY'S VOICE

(straining)

Now?

LISA'S VOICE

(passionate yet strangely
polite)

Well, I'd rather you waited.

MATTY'S VOICE

(attempting confidence)

No problem.....Now?!?

LISA'S VOICE

Could you please stop asking that?

MATTY'S VOICE

Sorry....but...well..n...soon,
eventually, sometime?

LISA'S VOICE

Now.....

(visceral orgasmic
comment)

Thank you.

MATTY'S VOICE

(equally impassioned and
earnest)

You're welcome..

Great mutual expressions of pleasure in a jumble..i.e.
"Ladies and Gentlemen, a ten.." "You're good..." "You're
Good..." leading to:

LISA'S VOICE

It takes two.

MATTY

At least.

In the dark we hear Lisa laugh despite herself.

LISA

Creep..I'm glad I came over. I was
just getting so, what's the word?
Anxious.... because...

MATTY

Sure thing..

He claps his hands simply and quickly, the lights come on.
Lisa shields her eyes and yelps...

LISA
You clap your hands to bring on the
lights the minute we finish?!?

MATTY
Why? What's wrong?

LISA
Clapping your hands and those dumb
lights makes me feel like.....

MATTY
Wait no..don't tell me...I think I
get it. Like I'm not thinking about
you .. Sorry. What should I do?

LISA
Turn them off.

MATTY
You wanna turn them off yourself?
(holding programmer)
It's kind of..

LISA
Grow up.

MATTY
(earnestly)
No...

She swats him..the lights go off.

MATTY'S VOICE
It is a little fun to do, isn't it?

She laughs despite herself. Matty, pleased that he has
disarmed her, presses the point, broadly reading her mind.

29 INT. TERRY'S APT. - NIGHT

29

Terry is sitting at her work space..looking uncomfortable.
George is sitting -- working his phone and his psyche.

GEORGE

(as he dials)

Hi. This is George. Is he there?

(incredulous)

He still hasn't checked in?!? Well,
tell him I need to talk to
him..thank you..have a good day.

(after hanging up)

Where is everybody? Anyway, the
basics are all in my favor.. I
wrote them down.

(reading from list)

One..I didn't do anything. One "b"-
I don't agree with my father.. The
legal system, though overloaded, is
about finding the truth. Two..."
You haven't said a word..

TERRY

I'm sorry..just thinking.

A beat as she gnaws at her lip..glances at him then away. He
tries another speed dial.

GEORGE

Hi, is Bryant there yet? This is
George. I need to speak with
him..reach him as soon as you can.

(then to Terry)

Well tell me. You must have some
reaction.

TERRY

I have one. I'm just not proud of
it. It's just me being analytical.
(realizing she must offer
more)

I was thinking of my work and how
weak gravity is ...

(on his confused reaction)

Let me explain the thought.. We
build these elaborate machines-
these giant colliders to amplify
gravity just to get something
measurable.

GEORGE

(mumbling)

IsitmeorisitherIbetitsme.

TERRY

(making her point)

While you were talking, I related the weakness of gravity to your capacity for feeling good right now and how I would fail if I tried to be one of those machines for you. Using all my energy to produce a drop of well being in you. That's what I thought.

George doesn't follow at all.

GEORGE

Since I'd really like to understand what you just said, could you do me a favor and talk down to me?

She smiles, truly enjoying his remark, takes a breath (something like an athlete getting ready for exertion) and then whispers a final intimacy to him before concluding.

TERRY

This is for us. I swear it.

She kneels before his chair, looking up at him. Okay, maybe that's not love light in her eyes but it sure contains some kindness and affection as it get to the core truth.

TERRY

We are not well matched for this interval in your life. Not with me against this deadline. And you -- being investigated. We would not survive. I don't want our relationship to become cannon fodder for this apparition in your working life. I'll be there for you at the end. You can count on that.

George has to maneuver past some disbelief before he gets it.

GEORGE

You want to split up until I'm problem free..?

TERRY

No.

GEORGE

You're breaking up ...

TERRY
(correcting him)
...Hitting the pause button..Us on hold so we don't waste precious energies on...stuff. You think I'm being horrible. I think I'm being smart..for us.

George has an adrenaline rush which cracks his composure..maybe even a slight stutter as he says:

GEORGE
Okay. Just explain to me..Would you mind telling me.. 'cause this part seems to be bothering the hell out of me..how can you be so perfectly composed right now?

TERRY
No, you're misreading me. I'm rattled.
(on his reaction)
Yes..This is me rattled.

GEORGE
Well, I disagree.

TERRY
I think I'm the best source for my own feelings.

Calmly, studiously even, George goes to her desk and grabs HER DATA PORT from the computer...she screams and shouts as a mother would for an endangered child..

GEORGE
THAT is you rattled!

He puts the port on her desk and exits. She calls after him.

TERRY
Cheap parlor trick. I mean it! I'll be here at the end. I do love you.

He exits.

30

INT. STAIRWELL - NIGHT

30

George, barrelling down the stairs and then, quite suddenly, he stops - stark still and shouts to the heavens. (alt. sudden quiet realization..)

GEORGE
I have terrible taste in women.

31 INT. GEORGE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 31

A decorated upscale apartment. George just sitting there, propelled by a gust of anxiety, he goes to the refrigerator.

OTHER ANGLE

As he makes himself a Bloody Mary: vodka, mix, tabasco, and, since we're civilized here, a stalk of celery in glass..

32 INT. GEORGE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 32

TIME PASSAGE..FOCUSING ON THE DRINK

We note the time passage by watching the celery stalk wither from the frequent sprayings of alcohol, mix and tabasco, then the last of the mix -- then straight vodka and celery stalk alone at last..

33 INT. GEORGE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 33

ON GEORGE

He is looped. It helps his perspective...He is even able to go for another round with his phone.

GEORGE
Hi, this is George..you still haven't gotten back to me...
(new number)
Hi, George..I've left four messages with you which said they were "urgent"..and you know I tend to underplay, so I can't understand your failure to call back.
(new number and horrible imitation of a game host)
"Hi, George here..you may have just won thousands of dollars" - will you call back now..
(he cracks up)
You still haven't lost your sense of humor, have you, pal?

He hangs up. Stillness then the phone rings. He does a broad, "things are looking up take" then answers.

GEORGE

Hello..

34

INT. ANNIE'S APT/INT. GEORGE'S APT: INTERCUT - NIGHT

34

Annie is wearing jammies.

ANNIE

Hi, Boss..How you doing? It's not too late?

GEORGE

No, fine and thanks for the call.

ANNIE

I can't sleep. I don't know what got into me this morning..I never took a swat at anyone but..well, I do know. I'm almost seven months pregnant and I'm sure it's a girl because it's this hormonal mushroom cloud inside me.

GEORGE

Hey, you're pregnant?..So good..huh? That guy who picks you up sometimes..Al?..
(a little emotional)
He lights up every time he sees you.

ANNIE

Yeah..we really..thanks.. He's great but out of work and we've just been marathon worrying, so I'm not me lately.. so this morning when your father...

GEORGE

Don't worry about it.

ANNIE

Did you tell Terry about what happened to you?

GEORGE

I'd rather not go into that.

ANNIE

She bailed? She is such a cun...
What's wrong with me? I never said that word in my life. I'm nuts.

GEORGE

Well, to be honest..I appreciate
the sentiment.

They have a small, self-conscious laugh together..hers marked
by abiding affection which leads quickly to a misstep.

ANNIE

You're a great boss. You go call
another girl...forward motion;
distract yourself..they can't stop
outside girls from talking to you.

GEORGE

Is that it? They're directing
people not to talk to me?

ANNIE

...the lawyers had me sign a
confidentiality statement where I'm
liable financially if I..and with
this new situation...Oh, the hell
with everything -- what do you want
to know? So I lose a job -- wait
no, I can't... the medical would
lapse.. and I've got to take care
of my baby..Al hasn't proposed yet
and even if he does we can't afford
to..

She starts to cry.

GEORGE

You will not lose your job. I
promise.. that is not going to
happen. Don't tell me anything.
Good night, Annie.

ANNIE

Good night boss. I'm just dying for
you.

GEORGE

(what does he do with that
one)

Well..I.. thanks.

He hangs up..now too drunk to be scared he does something
approximating thinking....then goes to "calls dialed" on his
cell..find's Lisa's name and hits the button. We HEAR HER
ANSWER.

GEORGE

Hello..

(checks name he dialed)

Lisa....George.....George Madison.
Well, I'm not sure how to identify
myself further.

35

INT. BUS/INT. GEORGE'S APARTMENT: INTERCUT - NIGHT

35

Lisa on her phone on the way home. She is wearing one of
Matty's sweat shirts. The following is INTERCUT.

LISA

Your voice sounds a little
familiar.

GEORGE

I made this incredibly stupid phone
call to you a couple of days ago?

LISA

Oh, sure..How you doing, George?

GEORGE

Sorry to be calling so late. Not
right.

LISA

It's okay. What's up?

GEORGE

Would you have dinner with me?

LISA

But aren't you..?

GEORGE

No, no..I'm not..No...I am not. I
was mistaken to think that. It
seems very clear that I am not. You
see...

LISA

You don't have to explain. We can
have a meal. When?

GEORGE

Anytime.

LISA

Well, tomorrow's clear. Yeah,
okay..I can find it..I'll meet you
there. But it has to be early..
6:00. I'm in training.

GEORGE

(delighted)

Okay..It's a date.
(pleased with himself)
I made a date. Goodnight.

He hangs up, leaving Lisa to react.

36

INT. LISA'S APT. - MORNING

36

She is fast asleep on her pull-out sofa as she is awakened by a phone ringing in the b.g...She has slept so fitfully that it takes her a bit of time to free herself from the sheets and blankets; which she does with great energy..by the time she gets to her cell phone, which is attached to its charger, it has stopped...She looks at the name of the person who has called, "Sally." She clenches..She goes to her computer and starts it...under her e-mail is an unopened correspondence from "The United States Softball Federation....Subject: U.S.A NATIONAL TEAM ROSTER." She goes for the moment of clicking it open, almost as a weight lifter summoning all strength for the lift..but, at the last minute, foreboding stops her cold and she doesn't hit the key. The phone rings again..in retreat from the decisive event of her life she exits to:

37

INT. BATHROOM - MORNING

37

She takes a toothbrush and starts to cry so suddenly that it comes as a shock to her...she begins to vigorously brush her teeth, all the while the phone ringing in the bg..stopping and ringing again..a great many people are calling her. She looks in the mirror giving herself a ferocious, get a grip, look. She exhales with power and reenters the living room.

38

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

38

She sits down and writes a note to herself. It steadies her. She picks up the phone. Scrolls past the names of the teammates who have called her...She shuts off her phone -- and with enormous suddenness hits the computer key and engages the document and whatever it states..

LISA AND THE ROSTER

It takes considerably longer to catch on when your name isn't there than when it is..And her's is nowhere to be found. Her gaze pauses over the name Cam Austin, 2nd base. There is no way to exaggerate the scale and heft of this trauma. Even the word "rape" is no exaggeration - a sudden and perverted intimacy with the core of your identity. So the moment is odd... out of body..She goes to the phone..hits a speed dial.

LISA

Daddy? Hey. I just hate to have to tell you this..They took Cam over me. No..I'm sure. They did. I have really double checked..trust me.
 (life long habits have her respond to his urging despite her own feelings)
 Okay, Once ~~more~~ (MORE).

And so she looks at the list again. She is starting to feel the upset of it all --

LISA

Well, it still isn't there..well, I don't think it makes sense either but they made their choice. No, I don't want to get mad. That's not going to help. Daddy, I called because you had to hear it from me and to ask that you do me a favor and not get too ----
 (tries to find the word and when she does it's a tough one)
 "Sad"..over this..sure..Okay..maybe I'm a little angry. ..maybe.
 (a dutiful daughter she is beginning to feel rage)
 Because I want to take this in without being a jerk about it. Can we please drop it? PLEASE!! I don't want to be angry right now.

She throws the phone suddenly and violently across the room where it shatters something.. A beat..she walks over and picks up the phone.

LISA (CONT'D)

Daddy? Yeah, hi..the phone slipped. Look..would you mind if I got off now..just don't be sad..I don't know what I'm going to do..I have a goal Treat it like an injury...
 (reads from her note)

LISA(cont'd)

"Which requires more toughness than the game itself and is the ultimate test of character." Love you.

39 EXT. GEORGE'S OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

39

About to enter. His father intercepts him.

CHARLES

I needed to catch you before you went in. I was with the board all night. I almost quit..but they said that would make things worse. They have cut you loose. You have to lawyer up immediately.

GEORGE

We don't have to do this on the street. Let's go to my office and...

CHARLES

There is no office.

40 INT. GEORGE'S OFFICE BUILD. - OUTSIDE GEORGE'S OFFICE - DAMO

CLOSE ON DOOR LOCK

As a locksmith punches it out leaving a neat hole and takes out the new lock he is about to install. George looks on with four security officers and Ron, the company lawyer.

RON

Your copies of the subpoenaed documents requests are filed meanwhile you can only remove absolutely personal items not paid for in full or part by the company or having any connection to the....

(on George's look)

I'm not the bad guy, George.

George, standing with a large cardboard box, looks over his desk for anything fitting the lawyer's description. Finally he takes from atop his desk a BARTENDER'S GUIDE, a ZAGAT'S GUIDE and a CAN OF PLAY DOH.

GEORGE

I didn't do anything.

RON
That may help your chances a
little.

George takes this in and exits to the outer offices.

41 INT. GEORGE'S OFFICE BLDG. - OUTER OFFICES - DAY 41

Annie sits at the first desk -- but the outer office is a large one with many desks stretching out as far as we can see. Annie takes one look at George and stands at her desk where she calls out.

ANNIE
Hip...hip..

Absolute silence..Finally Annie stares down one very young intern so that he says, "Hooray" faintly and with great uncertainty..

42 INT. LISA'S APT. BLDG. - STAIRWELL - DAY 42

As Sally walks the stairs to a distant sound which becomes clear as women crying..As Sally opens the door.

43 INT. LISA'S APARTMENT - DAY 43

SALLY'S POV

Lisa surrounded by teammates who are stricken in her behalf. Very much like a funeral with weeping of all sorts as Sally works her way to Lisa, who is gamely trying to improve the atmosphere.

LISA
A little grip, okay?

She spots Sally and gestures her helplessness.

SALLY
Worst decision he ever made. I hate the creep.

They hug.

SALLY
How come you called everyone but me to come over?

LISA

I didn't call anyone..They came down from Jersey on their own. Who would want this?

A particularly emotional power hitter grabs Lisa.

PARTICULARLY EMOTIONAL GIRL

We're not a team without you and everyone knows it. He just wanted Cam because she plays for his school..we should protest and I don't care that it wouldn't do any good..a futile act which may do nothing but destroy all our careers could be just the thing we need to bring us together.

Lisa disengages herself and immediately sees...

LISA'S POV

Three of her teammates on the sofa looking at her with extremely intense empathy.

LISA

(broadly sharp..joking)
Stop staring at me!?!)

There is a knock at the door...someone nearby opens it...an exquisitely beautiful female athlete of 18 enters. There is an immediate effect...the room stills creating the aura of hostility..Lisa, however, feels differently.

LISA

Aw, Cam, honey..you didn't have to come.

She almost runs to her..As Lisa hugs her, there is the following whispered, intimate conversation between them:

LISA

But really something that you did..congratulations.

CAM

You're so much better than me.

One girl on the sofa turns to her seatmate.

GIRL

What'd she say? What'd she say?

SEATMATE

They don't want us to hear.

BACK TO LISA AND CAM.

Still hushed intimacies..

CAM

He just picked me because I'm on
his college team.

LISA

Nope. Don't you buy into that
one...he gets three positions with
you which allows him more room to
coach..and you are young, baby..
That counted for me when I
started..let it count for you..

(turns to room)

Hey everyone, how about Cam coming
here...

(shouts and whistles)

Cam...Cam...Cam..

Reluctantly and half heartedly others join the chant,
gathering steam, making Cam feel more welcomed than
outcast..Lisa has stepped back and finds herself next to
Sally.

SALLY

The way you're acting gives class a
bad name..

Lisa puts her arm around the older woman..

SALLY

You know you're allowed to cry.

LISA

I just wish everyone would stop
giving me instructions on how I
should handle this..I gotta go.

SALLY

No you don't -

LISA

Yes I do. I have a blind date.

SALLY

What are you talking about? We're
here to take care of you. This was
brutal. Stop acting tough.

LISA
(loudly)
Look at the time. Hey, everyone..

SALLY
(a reprimand)
Lisa!

LISA
I have to leave. I have a date.

Everyone is bemused..Lisa has grabbed her purse...does some trick with her clothes to look more datey. And then, out of respect for her teammates, she stops working so hard at false energy and faces them for an open moment.

LISA
(MORE)
Thanks for coming everyone...

But the need to go out like a champion is complex...so she says some words (albeit broadly) joking the heaviness of the absolute key fact..

LISA
(broadly)
I loooooove you all.

And then, because she is a champion, she gets real and says it simple and true.

LISA
I do.

Various teammates ad lib similar sentiments...including Riva, (the girl who fixed Lisa up.)

RIVA
What can we do for you?

LISA
Oh, please..I've been through a lot worse..when they dropped softball from the Olympics, when we lost the Gold to Japan ..it's not about me.
(on their reaction)
Okay...there's one thing..
(enormously self-conscious)
When I come to the training camp while you guys are getting ready...please don't feel funny talking to me..don't feel.....
(finds the word)

LISA(cont'd)

..sad for me..my biggest fear is
that you won't be yourselves around
me..because I've seen that happen
and if that happened with me it
would mean I didn't really know you
anymore..and I want to..need to..
(feeling awkward..changing
the mood)
Say, "okay Lisa."

Though some chorus "okay, Lisa" granting her the light
moment..there are other ad libbed words of earnest and
serious support.

LISA

Gotta run.. love you.

(MORE)

44

EXT. GEORGE'S APT. BUILDING - DAY

44

George exits..dressed differently for the evening. As he
starts down the street he is stopped by:

CHARLES

(calling)

George.

He moves to his son's side.

CHARLES

Can we go someplace?

George is having a hard time breathing though he is working
to conceal that fact more from himself than others.

GEORGE

I'm late now.

CHARLES

It's urgent. I was afraid to use
the phone..

George continues to drift in the direction he was
heading...his father following.

GEORGE

Because?..No, you know something -
don't tell me right now. I figured
out how to handle everything..

(with some pride and
excitement equalling
hope)

I'm going to treat myself like a
company in trouble.

GEORGE (cont'd)

Depersonalize everything, use what I learned in business school.. start with absolute basics.. First step, identify the problem. For example, I'm aware I'm talking too fast right now but, as yet, I don't have the solution to that problem..but what's my take-away in the meantime?

CHARLES

I think you're just indulging a lot of neurosis.

GEORGE

Business textbook..you start taking on too much before you're ready and the game becomes how much you can handle instead of how well you handle it. That applies right now.

George is backing up pretty quickly now.

CHARLES

You don't have the luxury of not hearing this.

GEORGE

Are you going to make me literally run from bad news?

CHARLES

The Board has...

But George has broken into a run...pretty good one too..

CHARLES

(calling back)

I'm very disappointed in our interaction here..very!

WIDE SHOT

George fleeing his father who has stopped in his tracks before going off in the opposite direction..

ON GEORGE

As he breaks into a walk..smooths himself..looks around self-consciously to other pedestrians..they clearly see him as weird. Maybe they're right.

45 EXT. WIDE SHOT - OTHER CITY STREET - LISA 45

She is heading, as well, toward the rendezvous..She looks especially pretty...the stride powerful, graceful...the face soft..CAMERA BEGINS TO MOVE TO..

OTHER ANGLE

Now following Lisa from behind..and, after a beat, we begin to notice people looking at Lisa before the camera moves past them..and now as she turns toward us to cross the street..we see that some tears are flowing down her face..then her jaw sets with resolve..she flicks the tears away..and continues..

46 INT. RESTAURANT - DAY 46

Lisa enters and approaches the Maitre'd

MAITRE'D
Name please?

LISA
(helplessly)
I'm meeting George..ummmm

MAITRE'D
Madison?

LISA
I'm not sure..

MAITRE'D
Could that be him?

He points to the restaurant floor below.

THEIR POV - ELEVATED SHOT

George slumped at a table his head in both hands in abject worry.

LISA
I'll bet that is him..I'm having
that sort of day.

The maitre'd starts off to lead her to the table..she makes a gesture to stop him, not sure she wants to go through with the evening...then the maitre'd turns toward her, leaving no choice. She crosses to the table.

LISA

George? Are you George? I'm Lisa..

He stands up.

GEORGE

It's nice of you to join me.

Small thing: he takes half a step to help her with her chair and she is already in it.

LISA

So, how ya doing?

GEORGE

How are you doing?

LISA

I'm great.

GEORGE

Well, treasure it.

His head goes into his hand again.

LISA

You okay?

GEORGE

(realizing)

Sorry..I wasn't even aware.. I have to apologize this might not be a great first impression. I've had a really...

(small laugh)

"unusual" 24 hours.

LISA

(not wanting to get into it)

Okay. Don't worry about it. Is this an Italian restaurant?

GEORGE

Yes.. A really good one.
29..26..30.

(seeing her confusion)

The Zagats rating.

(seeing her confusion)

Let's get some drinks.

He gestures for the waiter.

LISA

Not for me.

GEORGE

I probably shouldn't have anything
either.

LISA

Well, don't let me..

GEORGE

No. Drinking too much two nights in
a row could be a real mistake.

LISA

(now REALLY not wanting to
draw him out)
Uh-huh. I have not eaten since
lunch yesterday..

She picks up the menu.

GEORGE

You don't drink at all?

LISA

I follow my father's rule on
drinking.

(to waiter)

Could I start out with one of those
little pizzas and, oh look at that,
you have spaghetti and meat balls..

WAITER

Kobe beef meatballs..it's a
signature dish.

LISA

(cheering)

Outstanding!

(a glance at George who
seems to have momentarily
plunged into an emotional
abyss)

Plenty of garlic, please..and that
tomato and onion salad.

The waiter looks at George -- who cannot focus on ordering.

GEORGE

Oh..I'll..wait.

(to Lisa)

Which is?

She doesn't know what he's talking about.

GEORGE
Your father's rule on drinking?

LISA
Never drink to feel better. Only
drink to feel EVEN better.

GEORGE
Pretty great.

LISA
(cutting him off)
Yeah, it's a good one.

GEORGE
But you know sometimes one drink
can give you a better perspective.

LISA
Well, I don't think so but maybe it
depends on the person. Look, have a
drink if you want.

GEORGE
(snapping)
I wasn't looking for permission. If
I want to drink I know I can
just...

LISA
(an exclamation)
Jesus! You know I don't know you.

GEORGE
(getting it)
Yeah..I'm not good tonight. I'm
sorry. If you want I can explain
it. Maybe it's good to talk about
it. I haven't really done that yet.

LISA
(like a shot over him)
No! I don't think that's a good
idea. Maybe what you need..I know I
do..is to somehow take the strain
out of this dinner. When you feel
yourself trying too hard at
something that should be simple you
know you're in trouble. You have to
wait till it's natural.

GEORGE
Yes. Yes. Yes. Exactly..

He starts to vigorously rub his forehead.

LISA
What's wrong?

GEORGE
I'm just trying to figure out.. Is
everything you say that smart or
am I that desperate?

Her pizza comes.

LISA
Well, I've had a lifetime of great
coaches..

Even that small thought about her athletic life gives her a
flash of the creeps. She takes a quick cleansing breath.

LISA
So what I'm suggesting is that we
eat. Order something yourself
which, all by itself, will make me
more comfortable, and that we don't
work at conversation. We cut
ourselves a break here and give
ourselves permission to be
quiet...for the whole
dinner...completely quiet.

He takes this in for a beat then:

GEORGE
Can I talk to the waiter?

George indicates he's kidding, she smiles back half-
heartedly.

LISA
As long as you don't tell him about
your day.

He laughs..For a few seconds anyway he has enjoyed life.

The two of them silently eating..every once in a while catching each other's awareness and making a gesture to disengage that contact with a smile or little wave. But make no mistake, even though one person is eating while the other falls in love...there is no flirtation or charming subtext going on. There is no subtext when two people are in this kind of trouble, so Lisa's rules suit them both for this hour of their lives..hell, it may even be some solution to dating in general, where someone warms your space while you are knee deep in your own troubled thoughts; it may be some flawed kin of early intimacy, though Lisa becomes so lost in her own thoughts that she almost forgets George is there.

48 EXT. RESTAURANT - TWILIGHT (REMEMBER THEY ATE EARLY) 48

They each take a breath about to go back to their lives.

GEORGE

Thanks. In a strange way it was relaxing.

LISA

Yeah. This could have been the worst and it wasn't. Thanks for dinner.

GEORGE

Thanks too. It feels great meeting you.

Little nods. She pats his arm or some such and walks off. He digs hands in pockets and walks in the other direction.

49 EXT. STREET - NIGHT - GEORGE WALKING 49

Passing a really good hotel George makes a sudden decision and enters.

50 INT. HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT 50

George moves to a lobby sofa and hits a button on his phone.

MECHANICAL VOICE

Say a command.

GEORGE

Father.

51 EXT. MATTY'S APARTMENT BLDG. - NIGHT 51

Charles, well dressed, is leaving the building. The same doorman greets him. We thereby know Charles and Matty live in the same apartment building.

DOORMAN
Good evening, Mr. Madison. Taxi?

CHARLES
Thanks, Tom..

They stand curbside as Charles' cell phone rings. He answers.

52 INT. LUXURY LOBBY - NIGHT 52

GEORGE
Okay, Dad. I'm ready. What happened?

53 EXT.MATTY&CHARLES APT BLDG/INT.LUXURY LOBBY:INTERCUT-NIGHT 53

CHARLES
I'm just leaving my place to go to dinner. What if I come by your place later - the phone isn't...

GEORGE
Just tell me. I'd rather use the rest of the night processing the information.

CHARLES
(to doorman)
I'm sorry..this is private.

The doorman is puzzled...usually his spot is in front of the door...but he moves off. The coast is clear.

CHARLES
(into phone)
The board, under extraordinary, let's-get-drunk-and-fuck-the-constitution pressure from the government, is refusing to pay your legal bills. Do you have a million dollars?

GEORGE
No.

CHARLES
Then you have to let me help. Do
you hear me, you have to!

GEORGE
(simply)
I sure do...

Charles is taken aback.

CHARLES
Well, start your processing..

GEORGE
I think I just met a GREAT girl..

CHARLES
As you pointed out, you can't trust
your emotions right now.

GEORGE
Ah, Dad.

54 INT. LISA'S APT. BLDG. - STAIRWELL - NIGHT 54

As Lisa decides there will be no stair hopping tonight. She
moves slowly up the stairs to her apartment..then catches
herself wearing her oppression physically and picks up the
pace a bit.

55 INT. LISA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 55

She arrives at her door and opens it. Sally looks up..Then
Lisa spots something which alarms all her senses.

LISA'S POV

On the computer table is a bouquet of flowers and 20 little
handwritten notes stuck to the side of the table..little
drawings on some of them, some in color.

SALLY
The girls needed to tell you how
they felt. Something, isn't it?

LISA
The last time I saw anything like
this is when a kid in another high
school died and they left this
stuff at the scene of the accident.

SALLY

No. Don't do the negative take!
Pull out the positive.

LISA

(this actually helps her)
Yeah. Okay. They care. They respect
what I've done. The flowers are
pretty..good...thanks..

SALLY

Come on - head up. Do the right
body language and the spirit might
follow..How about some straight
talk?

LISA

Sally...right now...

SALLY

Right now you have taken the blow
of your life. Very few people take
a hit like this at your age where
the thing they love most, that they
have given every possible moment to
from very early childhood, that
contains all the identity they ever
had or needed is suddenly gone..I'm
very sensitive to what you're going
through..

Sally's straight talk, usually balm for her fighting spirit,
is experienced by Lisa as daggers to the heart..she reacts
with tight horror to hearing the truth said out loud.

SALLY

(continued)

I have been through this myself and
with others. So we're going to have
a little pajama party where you get
to talk it all out..this is a
fragile time. When it happened to
me I was lucky enough to have
someone with the *sensitivity* to
help me deal with this. Do you know
what you need most right now?

LISA

Yes.

SALLY

What?

LISA
Insensitivity..

56 INT. MATTY'S APT. FRONT DOOR - CLOSE ON MATTY - NIGHT 56

He is scrolling through some text messages. There is an urgent knock at the door.

MATTY
Who is it?

LISA
(muffled)
Lisa!

MATTY
(a beat then sincerely)
Could you narrow it down?

LISA
No kidding right now.

He realizes it's her and quickly opens the door.

LISA
You're alone, right?

MATTY
Yeah. I was just working up the night.

LISA
You want me to be here?

MATTY
Yes, I do.

LISA
Ok. This is what I need. If in the middle of the night I start crying or shaking or get enormously upset I don't want you asking, "what's wrong?" I want you to just ignore it. Is that okay with you?

MATTY
Actually, it's my preference.

And so she can finally relax. As they walk toward the bedroom Matty repeats his budding conviction.

MATTY
You may be my dream girl.

57 INT. LARGE OFFICE BUILDING - DAY 57

To show George and his dad walking past a massive directory -- ALL law offices. Something a bit surreal in this shot.. indicating George has entered a process.

58 INT. LAW OFFICE RECEPTION ROOM - DAY 58

A tall grey haired man, TOWER ENDMAN, enters with his hand extended..very expensive suit.

TOWER
Hi. I'm Tower Endman. Hello, Charles.

CHARLES
This is my son, George. Good to be in your hands.

TOWER
That's my favorite compliment. Thank you. Why don't you two come in?

Charles starts to get up. George is thrown..the other two walk several paces away so that George has to raise his voice to be heard.

GEORGE
I think I should do this on my own.

Tower nods. Charles nonplussed as the other two move off.

59 INT. LAW OFFICE - TOWER'S OFFICE - DAY 59

Pictures of Tower with Presidents, etc...

TOWER
There's a change of venue I'm involved in so, no promises

GEORGE
(mumbling)
Boythisdoesn'tfeelgood.

Tower doesn't notice as he rolls along.

TOWER

But I think I can maneuver the trial date so I can take your case. First there's a little talk I have to give so you'll understand my requirements as to..

GEORGE

Excuse me. I did the due diligence on you and there were just a few facts not listed. Would it be okay if I asked a few questions?

Tower, though uncomfortable losing absolute control, nods.

GEORGE

What was your class standing in law school, as an undergraduate and then again for the bar exam?

TOWER

(disbelief)

You want to know how I did in college?

GEORGE

Yes. Please. I have everything from the time you were a U.S. Attorney on but not those.

TOWER

That's an inane question.

GEORGE

I don't think so. I mean this is the most important hire of my career so naturally...

TOWER

(insulted/diminished/
defensive)

Hire?

GEORGE

(honestly)

I'm just trying to be thorough. I mean, really, don't I have to find out if your pomposity is justified?

TOWER

I don't wish to be your lawyer.

60 INT. LAW OFFICE - WAITING ROOM - DAY 60

His father caught off guard at how quickly George has arrived. As they walk to the elevator bank.

GEORGE
He's not right.

CHARLES
He was the U.S. Attorney in Baltimore. He is connected.

The elevator arrives.

61 INT. LAW OFFICE - ELEVATOR - DAY 61

There are seven or so men and women on board all evidently lawyers.

CHARLES
Don't I get a little say in the choice when I'm willing to pay anything.

This stops all the lawyer's conversation.

GEORGE
You were going to "help" not pay..and is it right for a lawyer to interview a potential defendant and allow you, someone else involved in the issues, to be present at the first interview?

The other lawyers - some nod "no"..some mumble "no" One older lawyer reacts viscerally and shouts it.

OLDER LAWYER
SHIT NO!

GEORGE
Are you a litigator?

OLDER LAWYER
Yes.

GEORGE
Can we get together sometime?

OLDER LAWYER
Would now do?

GEORGE

Sure.

CHARLES

No.

The door opens and George and the lawyer each step out..leaving Charles inside. The doors close.

62 INT. LAW OFFICE - DYLAN LAURIE'S OFFICE - DAY 62

This is the law office of DYLAN LAURIE (the older lawyer.)
Dylan is Irish... Juries and people in general love him.

DYLAN
(MORE)

I recall there was only one "B" and that had to do with being drunk in class.

(George likes the answer)

I have an important question of my own.

George treats his answer to the obvious unstated question as if it were an oath uttered to Saint Peter.

GEORGE

I did nothing to exaggerate earnings. To my knowledge, I did not engage in any wrongdoings involving payouts to falsify income..nor anything else illegal or even questionable.

DYLAN

No not that...Can you afford me?

GEORGE

The firm refuses to pay legal bills
But my father is willing to help.

DYLAN

You can't take money from your father because of his position on the board. It would look terrible.

This is a blow..though George attempts to cover it.

GEORGE

Oh..That makes sense. But the company has frozen my options and the stock itself has broken down..

GEORGE (cont'd)
so my net worth is... What would
the amount of your retainer be...

DYLAN
Well, young man, unfortunately we
stand at the gates of hell's toll
booth. Three hundred thousand as a
retainer and another three in
escrow in the event the government
heads toward trial.

GEORGE
I'm afraid I only have a bit more
than 80 thousand liquid.

They look at each other for many beats..Finally...

DYLAN
This is not a silence I break.

GEORGE
Alright. Maybe I can sell...

DYLAN
(with genuine sympathy)
Everything you can.

GEORGE
(accepting his fate)
Alright.

63

EXT. RUNNING AREA - NATIONAL MALL - DAY

63

Lisa and Riva racing..with two other girls..Lisa wins by a
discernible gap..Riva second..the win, though, has taken it's
toll on Lisa...she is breathing heavily....she is furious
about something but cannot speak yet...she glares at Riva.

RIVA
What's wrong?

LISA
You let me win!!

RIVA
I did not.

Lisa actually advances pugnaciously on Riva while the others
the others seek to cool things..ie.."Hey, guys..come
on..nothing's wrong.."

LISA
(in Riva's face)
The one thing I ask is don't treat
me differently and you do this..

RIVA
(firmly and loudly)
Hey, I did not!!!

LISA
I'm not faster than you..how could
I win if you didn't hold
back..you're always point four
better..point four better..always,
always...

RIVA
I don't know. Maybe just because
this is just practice. I guess this
meant more to you.

The ring of truth is unmistakable. Lisa knows exactly what
she has just done and it is without precedent. She says her
sin aloud, almost unconsciously...

LISA
I embarrassed myself..
(then to Riva)
Sorry..So sorry, hon. Really..

A helpless gesture as she begins to walk away..The others
have seen her only as a champion of great class; so they find
her confession heart breaking..they go after her..she tries
to wave them off but they hang in..embracing Lisa as they
walk away from camera.

64

EXT. PARTY TERRACE - DRIZZLY NIGHT

64

Lisa, dressed for a night out, stands alone, underneath an
awning steadily beating with rain, as a large party takes
place inside. She looks sad, isolated and introspective..all
brand new elements in her life. Behind her we see...

THE PARTY

There are about 15 of Matty's teammates here with their gals
and would be gals; all of the players making well over a
million dollars a year. Matty is on the food line. The player
next to him has his hand underneath his girl's shirt and is
rubbing her breast. She is turned on and rubs his crotch
some. Impressively they manage to continue loading their
plates.

Matty considers this poor manners. He catches Lisa's eye as she turns his way and forces the player to stop groping the girl. The indignant player puts his hand back on her breast. Matty takes it away and gestures toward Lisa. The girl now puts the hand back on her breast. Matty accepts defeat.

65

EXT. PARTY TERRACE - NIGHT

65

As Matty, bearing two plates, joins Lisa.

MATTY

(to Lisa)

I apologize. I thought some of them were bringing their wives and that changes the behavior considerably. Ramino had this maybe the best barbecue anywhere flown in from Houston special..I mean he bought an extra first class seat so a friend could fly it up...wait till you taste it...

LISA

No hard feelings. You stay. I just can't do this now.

MATTY

Come on, there's Christian athletes in the game room..we'll eat with them.

LISA

Are you interested at all in what is going on in my life? You never ask.

(catching her attitude)

Why am I being pissy? What I mean, I guess, is that I think you should finally know what's going on with me.

He gestures she should go ahead. She does..first time she's said it and it doesn't feel good.

LISA

(her voice catching)

I got cut.

66 EXT. STREET - RAINY NIGHT

66

As Matty and Lisa walk under a huge umbrella..well, not quite under because Matty is trying to hold the umbrella to shelter the massive plate of food he holds -- Lisa yanks the umbrella to shelter her..Matty realizes..makes the tough decision and tosses the meal.

67 INT. MATTY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

67

As he finishes stacking some firewood and then presses a hand remote control which lights the gas starter underneath.

LISA

I'm going to go to graduate school at night..and, of course I have to work a few jobs. I've got that lined up. But, I've got this problem with my attitude..and what I have to do is just get to the place where I appreciate what the game gave me and accept and even embrace the obvious..that the time comes for every athlete where...

MATTY

It won't come for me.

LISA

Your career will never end?

MATTY

(proud secret)
I'm working on a knuckleball.

LISA

Okay. Thanks. Going home, Matty.

MATTY

Okay, this will help. I knew a real good player once and the coach cut him and he just felt impotent...you are probably feeling whatever the female version of that word is..

His strange remark snaps Lisa out of it...

LISA

It's the same word.

MATTY

Don't let what's going on with you
make you give me a hard time.
That's not productive.

LISA

I'm not giving you a hard time.
It's the same word for women.

He stares at her - wondering whether she's messing with him
and then decides to let it slide.

MATTY

Okay. The tie goes to the pretty
one..so it's the same word and he
was feeling impotent just like you
may be feeling..so...

LISA

I don't think that's what I'm
feeling.

MATTY

Can I just finish my thought here?
Maybe it will help, maybe it won't
but I'm trying.

LISA

I'm sorry.

MATTY

It's okay. So his girl had a
cat..and he started to save all the
cat's shit.

(on her reaction)

A little trust...And every few days
or so he took a huge amount and
wrapped it in a different package --
like a gift or a magazine roll..or
something you ordered on line.
Every few days, for eight months,
he sent these cat turds to the guy
who cut him.

Lisa makes a gesture of appealing to the heavens for help.

MATTY

File it away. It worked for this
guy..

LISA

And he stopped when his anger went
away?

MATTY

Well, the cat died.
(she laughs briefly)
You feel better?
(she nods)
Great. I hated seeing you touching
bottom.

Lisa looks up with a jolt..shocked.

LISA

That was sweet.

MATTY

(weirded out)
Yeah, you're right.

68

INT. GEORGE'S NEW SECOND FLOOR APT - NIGHT

68

This is a humble abode..very small one bedroom where George is surrounded by boxes filled with copies of all documents subpoenaed by the government..just a few key pieces of furniture. On some built in book shelves are his possessions: sheets, towels, some silverware and glasses..The place does have one real feature.. overly large windows which give us a small view of a low middle income neighborhood.. George has his laptop open working on evidentiary spread sheets.

CLOSE ON GEORGE

As anxiety grips him. He scratches at himself..gets up..the key is to keep moving but where and for what? He eyes packed liquor bottles on the floor..actually goes to the frig for a celery stalk..but he stops himself with a suddenly powerful voice.

GEORGE

No..NOPE..Settled.

He reluctantly heeds the voice from nowhere and not drink. He bites on the celery stalk. There is a knock on the door..

ANNIE'S VOICE

It's me, boss.

He opens the door to Annie. She is carrying some wrapped home-made food. As she walks toward the kitchen.

GEORGE

Ah, Annie.

ANNIE

Did you call that girl?

GEORGE

No. You've got to stop cooking for me. It was enough you found this place.

ANNIE

That was selfish. You dress up my neighborhood.

She has put her packages on the counter and now goes to the outer hall to pick up a few more packages. On his reaction:

ANNIE

Cooking relaxes me when I can't sleep. Why don't you just call her?

GEORGE

Honestly? Because my first impression wasn't great. I'd rather be more myself when I see her next...

ANNIE

What if someone beats you to her?

He's stunned. The thought had never occurred to him..but he has something of a strategy and he's sticking to it.

GEORGE

Optimism is sanity for me right now.

She marches over to his refrigerator and begins loading the stuff in..Then she turns...her demeanor changing.

ANNIE

Look...I'm in such a funny position but I need to tell you something.. Just so I don't feel creepy. I know stuff about what happened at work.. I can't tell you what because of the thing I signed but if you start guessing..I can't help it if my face is an open book....and maybe I can give you one hint which..

George goes out of body -- almost jumping across the room -- this is a visceral, instinctive, reflexive, urgent action to save what he holds dear.

GEORGE

Stop! You can get in genuine trouble..And just listening could be serious wrongdoing on my part.

ANNIE

I haven't slept..it's killing me -- this information. It's like someone's going to shoot you and I can't scream...

(she screams)

"WATCH OUT!"

(still screaming)

PLEASE PLAY THIS GAME WITH ME. Or else I'll just tell you. I have to.

GEORGE

No!

ANNIE

For god's sake let me unburden.

GEORGE

You've got to understand what it's like for me right now.

(he takes a shot)

Annie, picture a very angry ocean storm and I'm on this very little boat..

ANNIE

(touched by the image)

Ohhhh..

GEORGE

And miraculously this little boat is still afloat and that boat is that I haven't done anything wrong. Like allowing you to tell me something you are legally constrained from revealing. Not doing anything wrong is keeping me afloat..If I lose that..I'm gone. Don't rock the boat!

ANNIE

But I know something about the boat.

GEORGE

Please, stop.

ANNIE

It's a terrible boat. You have to get out of the boat.

GEORGE

You have to respect me on this..And, for what it's worth, it doesn't matter. I think I've guessed the same stuff you know.. I think I know what you do.

This slows her. Then...

ANNIE

Nope..You couldn't be functioning if you knew the stuff I'm talking about.

GEORGE

I think I could. I think I am. We're going to leave it there. Don't make me leave my own apartment?

He puts his hand on the doorknob. He wins.

ANNIE

Okay..Eat something...

He walks back to her..starts helping load the refrigerator..

GEORGE

This is great of you..

69 EXT. BASEBALL STADIUM - DAY - ESTABLISHING SHOT 69

70 EXT. BULLPEN - DAY 70

We see Matty on the bench...a game in progress on the other side of the bullpen gate. The bullpen coach is focused on a relief pitcher warming up...on the bench with Matty, who is deep in thought, is a cute Japanese pitcher, TORI, and a pitcher in his 30's - DOUG. Tori is eyeing the bullpen coach and the girls in the stands alternately...he points to one very pretty girl..and gestures to Doug..the girl looks over..Tori makes eyes at the girl who smiles. He makes a hand gesture indicating she should phone him..she is confused...how could she know the number? He looks over -- acting involved in the warm up as the coach looks his way..and then, the coast clear again, reaches under a towel.

INSERT

There is a long printout of his phone number again and again on a perforated sheet and a sling shot..he tears off one of the numbers..balls it, loads it and shoots it at the girl -- it goes down her blouse. Doug reacts to the shot.

DOUG
 Legendary...
 (noticing Matty's
 preoccupation)
 You didn't see it

MATTY
 (shakes his head)
 Hey, let me ask this, how do you
 know when you're in love?

DOUG
 Intriguing.

The coach eyes the field on a noise from the crowd.

COACH
 Got him out...You can sit.

As the pitcher who had been warming up, RYAN, puts on his jacket and joins the others on the bench.

RYAN
 Well, I've got a way..whenever this
 one thing happens I know I'm gone..
 I'll tell you but it's personal and
 I don't want anyone making fun of
 me for it.

This is a historically "getting down" bullpen moment as Matty's demeanor reflects.

MATTY
 Go.

RYAN
 Okay. I figure I'm in love with
 someone when I wear condoms with
 the other girls.

DOUG
 Massive!

They take this in. Then:

MATTY
 (struck)
 Holy shit, I'm in love.....
 (almost to himself)
 What do I do?

TORI
 Make a move.

71 INT. LISA'S APARTMENT - DAY

71

Lisa is on the phone..

LISA
 Yeah.. Well, I don't want to hold
 you. Have a great season, Riva.
 I'll be following things on-line..
 And find somebody to do my job of
 telling you not to press. You're
 great..Trust the talent - trust the
 training..don't press. Ok..hug
 everybody for me..Enjoy Tokyo. Get
 even for the Olympics. Okay, I'll
 let you go....I'm great. Yeah.
 Stop..I'm fine.

She picks up a big piece of cardboard which she has color coded. It is titled "To Call Before Team Leaves." There are close to 40 names..in columns with boxes marked. Each name has a thought of what to say. Riva is the last name. This is not a good moment....Her phone rings.

INTERCUT BETWEEN

72 INT. NATIONALS TRAINING ROOM - DAY

72

Matty going upstream in the pool treadmill..

MATTY
 Hey you up for a crazy idea?

LISA
 (oh so fast)
 Yes.

73 INT. LISA'S APARTMENT - FOUR DAYS LATER

73

Sally sits with her as Lisa closes a third suitcase and packs a fourth..Sally is shaking her head.

SALLY
This is such a mistake.

LISA
(through her teeth)
Overstepping alert.

SALLY
Nope. You don't make important life decisions when you are mush. It's too dangerous. You fight low self-esteem you don't give it the wheel.

Lisa is raw, passionate and emotional..game face extremis. She actually pounds at herself during the following:

LISA
I get him. He gets me.

SALLY
He does not get you.

LISA
Yessss. He gets that I get him which is, in fact, getting me. I'm actually doing what you drilled into me. "I am committing to the win." "Don't wait for your ship to dock, swim out to meet it."

Sally remains enormously worried.

SALLY
But, every cute story you tell about him has to do with his selfishness. That is not going to stay cute.
(quoting the advice she often gave)
"Date up - not down..."

LISA
Matty is every guy I've ever known...teammates, dormmates, boy friends. I am packed here. So either back the hell off coach or do what you have always done for me and help me pull out some damn positives because I'm..

Lisa suddenly pauses. She has suffered some sort of emotional hiccup; losing her full head of steam to a sudden and surging vulnerability.

LISA
(softly/naked truth)
It feels weird fighting with you.

Sally moves quickly to embrace her.

SALLY
I'm sorry, honey. Positives! Hell,
the guy has a 94 mile an hour fast
ball and a 40 million dollar
contract. So go get him. I hope he
has some idea of how lucky he is.

Lisa takes this as an endorsement. She is moved and relieved.

LISA
Thanks.

But, as they break the coach looks around.

SALLY
But why are you taking this much
luggage?

Lisa feeling defensive, begins to lift her five pieces of
luggage..She points at Sally as she quotes her.

LISA
The best thing you taught me,
"Don't do anything half-way unless
you're willing to be half-happy."

SALLY
Okay, but what does that mean in
this context?

LISA
I sublet my apartment.

SALLY
(genuinely alarmed)
NO! You have no plan B. This is
hysteria.

Lisa gathers her many cases, opens the door, shifts the cases
to the hallway and stands there. She is pugnacious in an
attempt to conceal her own insecurities from herself.

LISA
I am sorry that you lack confidence
in me. But I still appreciate that
you have trained me to go full out.

It's her exit line but she can't help adding a p.s.

LISA

The tenants don't move in 'till
after the weekend so you don't have
to pay for a hotel room tonight.
Love you.

She closes the door.

74 INT. MATTY'S APARTMENT - DAY 74

As Lisa is embracing Matty.

MATTY

I cleared some space for you.

He then, over her shoulder, eyes the five bags. They break
and she picks up some of the bags and exits to...

75 INT. MATTY'S APARTMENT - WALK IN CLOSET - DAY 75

As they stare at the one small drawer he has cleared for her.

DISSOLVE TO:

76 EXT. STREET - DAY - THREE WEEKS LATER 76

George walking. His cell phone buzzes.

GEORGE

Hi, Dad.

CHARLES

Are you coming to my place?

GEORGE

Almost there.

CHARLES

Good. I have some disturbing news.

GEORGE

What?

CHARLES

I'll wait till you get here.

And now we see our familiar doorman in the immediate
background.

77 EXT. MATTY & CHARLES' APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

77

GEORGE

Tell me.. It would be nice to get one piece of bad news without anyone studying my face to see how I'm taking it.

CHARLES

Anger can be useful. Watch out for the bitterness.

GEORGE

What is the news, Dad?

CHARLES

There are strong indications that they are going to indict you. I've cancelled everything I've got. I'm dedicating myself to this.

GEORGE

Um...

That's all he can manage. He makes a helpless gesture then pockets the phone and enters the building, going past the doorman who, seeing him so stricken, smiles encouragement.

78 INT. MATTY AND CHARLES' APT. BLDG. - ELEVATOR - DAY

78

George enters..and stands there..a beat and Lisa enters. She is carrying several bags of groceries. George is looking down and doesn't see her. She leans forward...then:

LISA

George?

George looks up to see literally the girl of his dreams.

GEORGE

(mumbling)

Godpleasedon'tkidme.

LISA

How are you?

GEORGE

Uh, Really Good to see you...

79 INT. MATTY'S APARTMENT - DAY

79

As George helps her carry in the bags of groceries.. She takes them and walks off-screen into the kitchen. He is so stunned to have run into her that he doesn't note the surroundings or respond to verbal stimuli.

LISA'S VOICE

You don't live in this building, do you? Hello?...Did you leave?...are you still here?

GEORGE

(coming around)

Yes. Absolutely. Here I am.

She appears wearing a quizzical expression. He tries smiling. It comes off a bit weird.

LISA

Look, sorry if I can't be hospitable right now but I have to...

GEORGE

Can I go first?

LISA

Huh?

GEORGE

I want to explain why I haven't called.

LISA

(actively confused)

I don't understand.

GEORGE

I think I've made a really bad assumption that we've been on the same wave length..Well, I didn't mean to quite say that either. Did you ever want to delete every sentence you were saying even as you were saying them?

LISA

No. Look, sorry I'm rushed but I'm glad to have bumped into you because I bit your head off when we had dinner and I have a thing about rudeness so I'm glad I get to...

The door opens and Matty enters.

MATTY

Lisa?

LISA

Hey. George, this is my boyfriend, Matty.

George takes in the news. And damned if some protestant gene pool doesn't have him treat the moment with some class.

GEORGE

Nice to meet you...

MATTY

(as if George is not standing there)

Who is he?

LISA

You didn't say, "hello."

MATTY

Well, I think you should check with me before you invite a guy over so I'm a little too pissed off to say, "hello."
(on her ferocious look)
Just a little.

Lisa heads for the bedroom and summons Matty to follow.

LISA

Please.

He gives George a territorial look and then follows her.

ON GEORGE

As he overhears the brief conversation in the kitchen.

LISA'S VOICE

Why would I have to check with you?

MATTY'S VOICE

You just want me to state the obvious so you can act mad.

80 INT. MATTY'S APT. - BEDROOM - DAY

80

Where Lisa and Matty maneuver on the precipice of fatal disagreement. Lisa forthright, Matty, a veteran of skirmishes with women who feel wronged, doing the dance.

LISA

(puzzled)

There's an "obvious" reason why I should check with you before inviting someone who offered to help carry our groceries?

MATTY

I didn't know about the groceries..maybe that changes things. Yeah, I think it does. Okay, good talk.

LISA

(simply)

No. I want to know the obvious thing I'm missing.

MATTY

Okay..You want my foot in the trap? I'll put it there.

LISA

There is no trap. Let's just show up here. What obvious thing am I missing?

MATTY

Okay. That this is my place!

Lisa did not see this coming. It takes the wind out of her. They look at each other for several beats..as the moment sinks in.

LISA

Oh, boy. So long, Matty.

She opens the closet door where we see she has been living out of her suitcases..She empties her one small drawer.

LISA
Congratulations. You get your sock
drawer back.

MATTY
Okay..you can have somebody up
without asking..it's not like
you're going to abuse the
privilege..

She moves past him...

81 INT. MATTY'S APT. - LIVING ROOM - DAY 81

As she moves past George..

LISA
Sorry. Could you get the door?

GEORGE
You bet.

He opens it.. She moves past George briefly leaving Matty and
George alone together.

MATTY
I think I screwed up.

GEORGE
Not from my perspective.

MATTY
Thanks, pal.

George nods and exits the apartment.

82 INT. MATTY'S APARTMENT BLDG. - HALLWAY - DAY 82

As George sees he missed the elevator and takes to the stairs
full speed.

83 EXT. MATTY'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY 83

As the doorman holds the door open for Lisa who is quickly
followed by George.

ON LISA..

At a loss..dazed

DOORMAN

Taxi?

LISA

No, thanks, Tom..I have to figure out where I'm going first.

She takes out her cell phone..It beeps "low battery." Her back to the wall of life, Lisa suddenly turns to George.

LISA

(continued)

Do you live ~~near~~ here?.I have to recharge... my phone.

GEORGE

Not that far.

(sudden confession)

Well, an hour..by bus. I don't want to mislead you. Okay?

He lifts some of her bags..

LISA

Yeah, I guess.

As they begin to walk off, the apartment's intercom phone rings and the doorman steps inside to answer it as we overhear a last word from George.

GEORGE

An hour ten maybe.

84 INT./EXT. MATTY'S APT. - VESTIBULE - DAY

84

DOORMAN

Oh, hello sir..Yes, she just came down. Okay, I'll try.

He puts the phone down and scurries back to the street..He sees George is carrying the luggage. George catches the doorman's eye and breaks into a grin, then turns back to Lisa to indicate the bus stop.. They stand at the bus stop not 10 yards away from the doorman.

DOORMAN

(calling in a whisper)

Lisa, there's a phone call for you.

DOORMAN (cont'd)

(he cups his hand into a megaphone but still whispers at the same low volume)

Lisa..

He goes back to the phone and picks it up.

DOORMAN

Sorry, sir..I just wasn't able to catch her for you.

He hangs up and looks on as the bus arrives.

85 INT. GEORGE'S SECOND APT. - DAY

85

As they enter. Lisa digs in one of her bags to find her charger, looks around then goes directly to an outlet to plug in her phone. As she looks at the phone...

LISA

Boy, so dead.

GEORGE

This is a new place. I'm not totally moved in yet. Hey, you hungry?

LISA

Lately, always. Why you asking, you have nibbles?

He opens the refrigerator where we see some 30 containers showing great home made ziti, chicken pot pie..puddings..

GEORGE

Yes.

George's cell vibrates. He reads "Dad" then turns it off..

LISA

I'm not going to be great company...

GEORGE

Are you kidding? Even right now this is the best conversation I've had since the night we didn't say a word to each other.

Lisa has a delayed amusement..a half laugh.

LISA
Well, that's sort of funny.

GEORGE
Flying start.

86 INT. GEORGE'S SECOND APT. - SMALL KITCHEN AREA - DAY 86

As he sets the oven and Lisa enters...

LISA
What can I do?
(startled)
You make your own chicken pot pie?

GEORGE
A friend. All the plates and
silverware are over there..

She goes past him and grabs some silverware and paper napkins..it feels "datey" to him..yup, "flying start." Then her phone rings, she crosses to where it lies on the floor, unplugs it, checks whose calling, brightens despite herself and answers.

LISA
Hey..
(listens then)
It doesn't matter where I am.
(disbelief)
You're going to yell at me? That's
it? That's why you called? Well..I
think..

There is a low battery beep. She looks down.

LISA
Wait a minute..you're going to lose
me..

In the background George reacts to "you're going to lose me" with a small fun "take" to himself. His mood has lightened for the first time in months. Meanwhile, Lisa's phone goes dead. She stares at it.

LISA
Just as well..it wasn't going to go
well from there. I think we need
some time to think..

A pause and then reluctantly she turns off the phone.

LISA
Do you have Guinness?

GEORGE
I will get Guinness. And I make a great drink, if you want to try it. It's not an idle remark. Really, I do.

LISA
Okay.. I'll try something..Just not strong...
(to herself)
Oh, what am I doing? "Stay honest with yourself when you know you're making a mistake and at least there may be a takeaway."
(to George)
I am going to get drunk because I am too lame to stand the way I feel.

GEORGE
Great choice.

He starts moving away.

LISA
But, could you do me a favor?

He stops.

GEORGE
Yes, absolutely....and thanks for the opportunity.

LISA
Could you not...I have a boyfriend...could we just..

GEORGE
Yes..

LISA
Really?

GEORGE
Yes.

LISA

I have a teammate..ex-teammate who said the only time I say anything is when I drink Guinness..so watch out.

George is "up"... Uncensored words spill out.

GEORGE

Well, I think you have been saying a lot without drinking. You are truly something.

(getting briefly excited)

Which means my thinking about you wasn't just an aspect of the trouble I'm in.

LISA

I've gotta tell you..I don't follow you.. You are in trouble?

GEORGE

First things..Be back in a second..make yourself at home.

He exits the apartment. Now alone, Lisa sinks rapidly.. briefly forlorn..in mid-fall she attempts to summon her will..She paces actively then she goes to the window.

HER POV

As George dangerously challenges traffic..Lisa is just about to shout a warning when he stops of his own volition. Sees her looking and gestures that he's anxious to get back.

87

EXT. GEORGE'S SECOND APT BLDG-GEORGE MOVES TOWARD CAMERA 87

As he enters the door of his building, flushed, we see a cab pull curbside in the background. The person in the back of the cab calls to him. He turns to see Annie paying the driver. He reacts viscerally.

GEORGE

Don't get out!

ANNIE

Your father sent me to find you..

GEORGE

"She's" up there.

Annie takes his measure.

ANNIE

Aw...you're like a person...what do I tell your father?

GEORGE

Tell him the truth...that against all the laws of God and Science I am having a great day! And I refuse to talk about it because it's private and personal and everybody must keep the hell away.

ANNIE

If I say that he'll be right over. I'll tell him you're clinically depressed -- and you haven't slept - so you took a pill.

GEORGE

Much better.

88 INT. MATTY'S APT. DAY/NIGHT..MONTAGE

88

He is no longer a stranger to sadness. Some latent abandonment issue has hit like an unexploded bomb from a past war...we see him sliding into increased anxiety and sadness through the eyes of those who serve him.

SHOT. A Mexican maid sees him acting out over another unanswered call to Lisa as she irons one of his expensive shirts on a pro pressing machine.

Shot. The man working with the terrace plants looks up from his crouch and see a forlorn Matty hit his head against the inside of the glass terrace door right above him, unmindful of the gardener's presence.

Shot. Matty standing still..another man in the shot..he is concerned for Matty..we then reveal that the man is from Major League Baseball when Matty hands him a urine sample and he take it and gives Matty's back an encouraging rub.

89 INT. GEORGE'S SECOND APT. - LISA AND GEORGE - NIGHT

89

Lisa sits comfortably on the floor, leaning back against a bed pillow. She has two empty Guinness bottles alongside her but is now drinking, as is George, from a pitcher of a unique vodka based drink which features red grapes. George sits in a low slung canvas chair. Lisa crunches on her drink. Nobody is bad drunk here...rather just right..speech is clear -- maybe imperceptibly slow...it could pass for thoughtfulness..

GEORGE
 My father is..would rather..that I
 was more...dynamic. Pause for the
 mob of fans to chant, "Oh, you're
 dynamic, George."

George had hopes for his beau geste. Lisa simply stares at
 him. This pattern continues throughout the following.

GEORGE
 (cont'd)
 It bothers him that I'm not as....
 "vibrant" as he is. He raised me
 alone since I was seven because,
 and wait 'till you hear this..
 People go nuts over it. Be prepared
 to see me with new eyes. I become
 very appealing. My mother left us
 after seeing "Kramer vs. Kramer" at
 the movies one afternoon.

LISA
 Oh.

GEORGE
 Do you know the picture?

LISA
 No.

GEORGE
 It's a movie about a woman who
 leaves Dustin Hoffman and her son
 because she had to find who she
 was.

LISA
 That's strange.

GEORGE
 This is early feminism. She comes
 back.... In the movie.

LISA
 Oh.

90 INT. GEORGE'S SECOND APT. - 90 MINUTES LATER

90

Lisa has been talking for some time.

LISA

I've got to make those old lessons work for me now. Like when we lost the NCAA final by one run and coach made us smile and sign autographs for hundreds of young girl fans..and we all just sucked it in and instead of some self-indulgent, self pitying kleenex party we did a little good for the girls and the game..are you bored?

GEORGE

Transfixed.

LISA

Cut it out. (MORE) I honestly don't understand what you're doing. These can't be moves..

(before George can answer..alarmed)

Do I sound like I'm feeling sorry for myself because I'm really just trying to size things up..get the ambition right, figure the challenge. And then..

(self derision)

Yak yak yak. Right?

GEORGE

Sometimes you have to hear what you say so you know what you think.

LISA

Huh? Yeah..maybe so. Okay..so the real thing is with most girls I know..their plan B is meeting someone..love..have a baby..maybe work..or more school..I'm doing both of those but..okay..I'll say it..my problem..challenge..

(suddenly)

SHUT ME UP SHUT ME UP SHUT ME UP.

GEORGE

No. I think what you're doing now is exactly what you..

LISA

(shutting him off)

You shut up too. What the hell do you know except looking at me like Bambi. Did you see THAT movie?

LISA(cont'd)

Gee whiz..sorry..I'll bet you're
really glad you fed me some
drinks...

GEORGE

(quietly)

Your problem?

LISA

(gets a breath then
vulnerable/earnest)

I don't know if I have what it
takes for that regular Plan B. I
don't ever..have never felt that
love like the guy is the whole
deal, or to be honest, the baby
thing..not that either. I'm just
good at this one thing..When girls
talk about how much in love they
are or how a baby is everything..

(a shamed, scared whisper)

I think they're pretending....And
now a little event I was worried
would never get here..I am going to
stop talking about myself. ..What
trouble are you in, George?

GEORGE

Simply put. I'm currently
unemployed. My girlfriend has
recently broken up with me. I will
soon be out of money and I'm the
target of a federal investigation.

LISA

Boy, you're a real chick magnet,
aren't you?

She cracks up..He enjoys the joke and is playfull in return.

GEORGE

Well, we'll see. The thing we have
in common is...

Lisa gets up and stands next to him, propelled by a thought.

LISA

(almost simultaneously)

I'll tell you what impresses me
about you..Oh, I'm sorry I
interrupted.

GEORGE
(strongly)
NO! GO AHEAD!!

LISA
Well, it's that you sure haven't
let anything take your spirit.

GEORGE
No. Not tonight. Tonight, you have
done me a great turn. You have
given me temporary amnesia.
Because, right now, you're the only
thing on my mind.

LISA
I can't believe you tell me all you
just did and then you flirt. Why is
the government..

GEORGE
Don't know. Truly.
(a pause then awkwardly)
Um, I'm honest.

Lisa is touched. There's something sweet about earnestness
that simple. She puts a hand on his face. Her phone rings.
She makes a helpless gesture and answers it.

LISA
Hi, Matty.

INTERCUT BETWEEN

91 INT. MATTY'S APT/INT. GEORGE'S SECOND APT: INTERCUT-NIGHT 91

MATTY
First of all, I'm not going to ask
you where you've been..I get points
for that, right?

LISA
Well, not after you put it that
way.

MATTY
Okay. I screw up. That's why I
wrote something out to say to
you..this will be good. Okay. Is it
bad that I wrote it out?

LISA
Unusual, not bad. Stop asking me things like that. It's weird.

MATTY
Okay. Sorry. I went nuts when you left. I broke a lamp.

LISA
Okay, read me the thing.

MATTY
That was the thing.

Lisa laughs. George, in the background, reacts appropriately.

OTHER ANGLE ON Matty

Showing that he holds a piece of paper which reads: "I went nuts when you left. I broke a lamp."

LISA
(broadly)
Well, then..I'm deeply touched.

MATTY
So what else do I do here? Okay.
"Please, come back." You know,
that's giant for me to say.
(He works hard to squeeze
another good one out)
"I don't know that I'll do great
but I know I'll do better." This is
breakthrough stuff here.

LISA
Oh, God..Okay. See you soon. Bye

She hangs up.

GEORGE
I'll help you get a cab.

92

EXT. GEORGE'S SECOND APT. BUILDING - NIGHT

92

As he signals for a cab. She feels bad for him.

LISA
George. Thanks for being such a great listener. And, hey, no matter what, I get to have friends.

He has hailed a cab. He thinks - then turns to her.

GEORGE

I'll take you up on that?

LISA

That's why I said it. Slump city
can be murder. So call whenever. I
feel blessed that we made friends.

The cab driver begins to put her luggage in the trunk. The driver has finished. She touches George's arm and gets in.

GEORGE

Okay..Of every thought I had about
you and there were millions...the
one that never occurred to me was
that my mind wasn't exaggerating.

LISA

(scolding)

Cut it out. I go boyfriend.

The cab pulls away. George, with some effort, decides not to watch it move off in the distance. He turns and heads home.

93 INT. OFFICE WITH CUBBIES - DAY

93

We are in a large room with cubbies filled with men and women primarily in their 20's. We do not know what we are doing here.

94 INT. OFFICE - CUBBY - DAY

94

Where a young attractive (though chunky) man works at his computer. He is about to finish a bit of work when an attractive female intern (whom he secretly pines for) comes in and gives him a take-out lunch. She leaves without taking any notice of him. He looks at his sandwich. Shit..they put mayo on his sandwich. It is really annoying. He leaves frame. Comes back with a kleenex and tries to wipe the mayo off the bread. It is not a good decision..pieces of tissue cling to the bread. He reacts with some good humor to having done something moronic and leaves frame for a second and now comes back with a paper towel..he wipes the bread and it falls apart..He throws that slice of bread away and takes a messy bite of the remaining sandwich..the mayo tastes pretty good. Back to work. He hits his print key while wiping at his mouth..THE CAMERA FOLLOWS A CORD FROM HIS COMPUTER TO A PRINTER SITTING ON THE FLOOR.

ANGLE ON PRINTER

As out comes a UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CRIMINAL COMPLAINT:
THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT VS GEORGE MADISON.

95 INT. MATTY'S APARTMENT - TERRACE - NIGHT 95

Another party...lap sitting..beer..long wooden tables on the terrace where men with very good hand eye are smashing hard shelled crabs which are on brown paper..very pretty dresses are getting splattered with each swing, so it becomes a repeated chain reaction..slam, crab juice splatter, dismayed squeal from a girl...Tori, the Japanese pitcher who tossed his phone number into the stands, is in the company of the girl whose bodice received it..He is very nice..noting the splattered dress on his girl, he covers her with a bib..She rewards him with a kiss. Tori loves his crab meat. He tosses a question to a strolling Matty.

TORI

Flown in?

MATTY

Driven..but from the best crab house in Baltimore. That sauce with beer it's...

DOUG

Crazy.

MATTY

Anyone see Lisa?

RYAN

She was inside. By the way, interesting woman. Beautiful guns.

He indicates upper arm muscles.

MATTY

(sincerely)

Thank you.

96 INT. MATTY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 96

Matty moves inside and sees Lisa on the sofa - next to a couple necking in good taste. She is about to get up and move on when she spies the corner of a sport magazine...She grabs it..instantly in a bit of a state.. Matty arrives.

LISA
Did you see this?

She flips to show him the cover..A headline reading "BEAUTY AND THE BUDGET." And the visual is an arrestingly subtle but brilliantly sexual photo of CAM, the girl who replaced Lisa on the roster, wearing her USA uniform with tags hanging from every garment detailing what amount corporate sponsors had ponied up to be part of U.S.A. Softball. A tag line streamer reads.."IF YOU SHAKE IT THEY WILL COME."

MATTY
Who is she?

LISA
The girl who replaced me. They do only her and she hasn't even played yet. What do you think?

MATTY
Gorgeous.

LISA
Thanks, that helps.

She gets up.

MATTY
Well, they have to market the program.
(sotto)
You can't be pissed about it now, you're the hostess.

LISA
Okay, okay..I am furious but not at you.

She touches his arm, as in no hard feelings, then moves past him to pick up her cell phone from a hall table.

97 INT. MATTY'S APT. - BEDROOM - NIGHT 97

As Lisa enters and sees a male guest sitting on the bed, seriously pitching a girl who is crying. She exits.

98 EXT. MATTY'S APT. - LARGE TERRACE - NIGHT 98

As she finds a lonely windblown corner. She holds her phone..considers..locates a number..

99 EXT. CITY STREET/RESTAURANT - NIGHT 99

As George stands outside an ELEGANT BAR, partially in the shadows as he looks through the window at his father, who drinks at a table for two.

100 INT. ELEGANT RESTAURANT BAR - NIGHT 100

Charles looks at his watch (one of the great watches) impatiently and reacts angrily. He takes out his cell phone and barks a command.

CHARLES

Son!

FILTERED MECHANICAL VOICE

Son!

As it clicks into a ring.

101 EXT. ELEGANT RESTAURANT BAR- NIGHT 101

George is just about to suck up the spirit to join his father when his phone rings. He sees it is his father.

GEORGE

Hi, Dad. I'm just about to..

A call waiting tone and he looks at the face of his phone which says, "LISA."

GEORGE

Sorry. I can't talk right now..

CHARLES

You need my help!

GEORGE

Might have to reschedule - sorry.

He hangs up. And hits another button.

GEORGE

Lisa, how are you?

102 EXT. ELEGANT RESTAURANT BAR - WIDE SHOT 102

As George turns away from the restaurant to continue the conversation while, in the background, his seriously miffed father places a bill down and exits the restaurant and, as he takes a few steps, looks as if he will bump into George but then turns to his parked car.

103 EXT.MATTY'S APT TERRACE/EXT.ELEGNT REST BAR:INTERCUT-NIGHT103

Lisa is into her conversation with George. She is also shivering a bit from the night wind.

LISA

A little crazy...I'm trying to figure something out so, you're smart so see what you....

GEORGE

I'm okay. Not smart smart.

LISA

Good enough. In a nutshell.. I'm tempted to call my old coach and unload on him. I did everything he asked and now I know he bumped me for someone because she is...

(really hard to say)

better looking..some use the word "gorgeous." But I wanted to check with a relatively clear headed person before I..

ON GEORGE

Truly concerned on whether he meets the qualification.

GEORGE

I'm not sure I'm clear headed when it's you.

LISA

Please, stop being so....precise. It's not about me. It's about the damn game. Just tell me what you honestly think. Should I cream him?

GEORGE

Is it okay if I think about it for a minute? Should I call you back?

LISA
No. I'll wait. I can use the
breather.

There is a gust of wind and she audibly shivers.

GEORGE
What was that?

LISA
Nothing. I'm cold. I never was cold
before I went girlie. Hurry up and
think, okay?

104 EXT. NICELY LIGHTED BUS STOP - NIGHT 104

As George ponders the variables present in Lisa's question
and considers the best advice.

LONG SHOT

Revealing that George's location is just a short distance
from Matty's terrace as is made clear by something
architecturally distinctive.

105 EXT. MATTY'S APT/EXT. ELEGANT REST. BAR:INTERCUT - NIGHT 105

ON LISA

Agitated, as she paces in place, not knowing whether it's
good or bad for George to be taking time like this. Matty
strolls over.

MATTY
Who you talking to?

LISA
George. The guy you met.

MATTY
(carefully)
Uh-huh.....You going to be long?

LISA
I'm on hold sort of..

MATTY
You want privacy?

LISA

Well, I'm on the phone.
(George has resumed
talking)

Hi..So what do you think?

She listens as Matty monitors.

GEORGE

I'm not sure it fits you but for
me, and maybe it's because my
father has always been such a hot
head, I don't know. But a lot of
the time, I feel like I've really
accomplished something when I keep
a lid on. The minute you go off on
someone you lose all other options.
And, the worst thing for me these
days is how much is out of my
control. You understand?

LISA

Fantastically, yes.

GEORGE

So, I would want to keep all
options open.

ON Matty AND LISA

As he watches her hold one ear closed so she can listen hard
to George. Matty is about to say something but Lisa straining
to catch George's words holds up her hand to stop him.

GEORGE

Well, that's me. I wouldn't call
him. But these days, in particular,
I'm not a get it off your chest
person. Okay?

LISA

Okay..thanks.
(double checking)
So, you're saying, don't call him?

GEORGE

Yeah, I am.

LISA

Thanks. And look anytime I can
return the favor...well good, I
want you to remember that. It's why
I said it.

LISA(cont'd)
 (Matty is about to speak)
 Got to go.

GEORGE
 Nice talking to you.

LISA
 Right. So long.

She clicks off..and looks to Matty to say his piece. She is ready for a skirmish. But Matty fakes her out and goes high road.

MATTY
 You look cold. Would you like my jacket?

LISA
 (disarmed)
 Okay, sure.

He puts his beautiful tan cashmere jacket on her shoulders. As they walk back to the party-goers, we notice in the deep shadows of the terrace, where Lisa was just standing, a couple romantically engaged in active foreplay.

106 EXT. STREET - CAFE - DAY

106

Annie and George sitting at a cafe of some sort.

ANNIE
 You have to see your father.

GEORGE
 Why?

ANNIE
 He's one of the few people willing to talk to you.

George is silent.

107 EXT. MATTY AND CHARLES' APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

107

As George approaches. He looks perhaps more troubled than we have seen him.

GEORGE
 (to doorman)
 How are you?

DOORMAN

Fine thank you...Lisa just came back from her run.

GEORGE

No, I'm here to see my father.
(a little hopefully)
Is he out?

DOORMAN

I'll check.

As he dials the house phone George fidgets.

DOORMAN

Your son is here to see you, Mr. Madison?

The doorman nods and George enters.

108 INT. MATTY AND CHARLES' APT. - ELEVATOR - NIGHT 108

George combatting some enormous tension.

109 INT. MATTY AND CHARLES' APT. BLDG. - HALLWAY - NIGHT 109

As he knocks on his father's door... A housekeeper opens it and, having been told to leave when George gets there, carries her things with her so what follows between father and son will take place in privacy...

110 INT. CHARLES' APARTMENT - NIGHT 110

As he enters George takes a quick and enormous breath. He is vibrant with conflicting emotions which makes even his first word difficult to utter...

GEORGE

Dad.

Charles has a drink in his hand. He is glad to see him.

CHARLES

Finally..... Have you been avoiding me?

GEORGE

Yes. Absolutely.

CHARLES

Why?

GEORGE

(that quick)

Did you do it?

They are now looking at each other. Charles slowly enunciating his words...

CHARLES

Did..I..?

GEORGE

Do it?

Charles half laughs. George is focused, forceful, wound tight so as not to shake.

GEORGE

So?!?

His father takes some stock as he sits down. They are now quite close.

CHARLES

My gosh...you're not asking..

GEORGE

(pressing but calmly so)
Did you do something to fabricate earnings for the analysts and either knowingly or accidentally put me in this spot? Did you do that? And, if you did, are you still looking, even at this moment, for a way to handle it and me without telling me that you committed a criminal act?

CHARLES

Easy..easy. This ground we are on is wall to wall mine fields.

GEORGE

Oh, for God's sakes, you're a goddamned crook..... Am I right?

CHARLES

Well, how about one question of my own. Am I talking to my son or a recording device?

George lifts his father to his feet..and shakes him..Charles in trying to free himself actually slaps his son who doesn't even feel it. He pushes his father away and heads for the door. His father calls out his concession.

CHARLES

Sorry I asked that. Awful.

GEORGE

(turning)

Do you have any idea whatsoever who I am? How could you think...

CHARLES

You're right to be offended.

GEORGE

What exactly did you do?

CHARLES

If I did something and if I told you I would be putting you in a seriously, legally compromised position. So will you let me proceed carefully here?

GEORGE

No, I won't. Just...tell Me. Now. What did you do, Dad?

CHARLES

I did what everyone who does business in the Mid-East does..and I mean everyone..as in every...boddyy ...who is not Microsoft or selling something indispensable...You pay a toll in the Mid-East no matter what the country is. If you want to sell in Egypt you go there, rent an office and bribe an Egyptian. That's what I did.... like Every...boddddy does. I bribed the Egyptian. They put money on our books with an order knowing I would slip the money back to them.

George makes a sound.

CHARLES

(continued)

The stock moved more than I thought. It attracted attention.

CHARLES (cont'd)

I didn't think it would ever touch you..and I wish I could somehow express how what is happening to you is the most wrenching experience of my life. And it's not just emotional.

(telling his truth)

It's physical. It hurts in a profound and deep way..my muscles, my skin..like those side effects I got from Lipitor. I am anguishing in every way because of what you are going th.....

Charles voice cracks..he is about to cry.. A fact which is more than George can take. He wigs out -- moving his face close to his father as he speaks with loud urgency.

GEORGE

(sputtering poetically)

Stop. You damned narcissist..No you don't.. You can't cry. You ethical mutant..

George is breathing a bit heavily never having come close to talking to his father like this. Charles wipes his eyes and meets his son's gaze and gives him some fatherly advice that is delivered with strange calm and intimacy.

CHARLES

Better pace yourself, son. It gets worse.

As George reacts.

DISSOLVE TO:

111 INT. MATTY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

111

Matty is working his phone with a pleasant frenzy. His bags packed and standing. He is about to leave for a road trip. Lisa calls from the next room.

LISA

(o.c.)

I'm going to miss you.

He smiles at a message he just received and taps out an answer.

MATTY

Echo that. What are you going to do with yourself?

LISA
Coach the rich twins..maybe hang
out with George a little. I'm
seeing him later.

He sends off his reply.

MATTY
What?!?

LISA
No worries. It's always athletes
for me. And, the team is training
in town and..I dunno..I was
thinking of dropping by. The only
thing is...

But Matty is distracted as a tone signals a reply to his
reply which makes him laugh a little so that, as he continues
to read, he does not sense Lisa's presence when she enters
to see him enjoying the text..

LISA
Matty?

He immediately disengages the phone, his attitude very caught
in the cookie jar.

LISA
We need to talk for a second.

MATTY
I'll call you from the car.

LISA
Are we monogamous?

MATTY
You're feeling this way because of
the road trip. But we don't have
the time to do this.

LISA
How much time does it take to
answer?

MATTY
The answer is, yes, of course,
essentially.
(on her look)
That's the truth. And my rule
because I love you, is to always
tell you the truth.

LISA
You love me?

MATTY
I've told you that.

LISA
No, you haven't.

MATTY
Well, I told the whole bullpen.

LISA
What's "essentially?"

MATTY
I am not anything like the wild man
I used to be. If it bothers you, I
will attempt to cut out even the
anonymous sex..

(before she can speak)
BECAUSE..I think we may be heading
for the biggest result that can
happen to a dating couple.

LISA
Oh, Jesus, you stinker.

MATTY
A guy is willing to go one thousand
miles for you and you criticize him
because he 'ADMITTEDLY' hasn't
covered the last yard yet.

Lisa has had the wind knocked out of her. This goes
deep..shivering legs, a flash of some prescient terror, the
whole deal..She is briefly helpless to do anything but sort
of hold herself and take stock. She is stunned by her own
sense of internal devastation.

LISA
Um..Whew..does this feel like shit.
Boy! So this is what everybody is
always talking about.

She takes a breath...her freshly oxygenated brain kicks in.

LISA
You have to get the team bus. You
don't miss the team bus no matter
what. We'll talk. I'm moving out.
But we'll talk.

MATTY

Don't break up with me.

LISA

Well, that's the thing, I don't know if what we have is even anything breakable.

MATTY

Where you gonna go?

LISA

Well, I'm in luck because my tenants hate my place - they've been trying to get out of the deal.
(emphatically)
Don't miss your team bus! We'll talk this out when you get back. You can't miss a team bus!!!

MATTY

Okay, I decided. I'm going to be monogamous while I'm away. You too?

She nods -- it is the furthest thing from her mind.

MATTY

(continued)

This will be okay.

LISA

Go!

He cups her face..her eyes glisten..He means what he says next but, still, he is also consciously playing his "A" game.

MATTY

Why do women always look best just as they are shifting away from you?

He gives her a light kiss.

LISA

Oh, stop it! Jesus.

She shoves him toward the door.

112 INT. CHARLES APARTMENT - NIGHT

112

George is slumped in a cushy chair, virtually asleep....Charles is on the phone in the next room.

CHARLES

(into phone)

Well, I'm going to possibly go into all the ramifications with my son. Then I can meet with you and the other lawyers..Okay, then.

He hangs up and enters. He nudges George.

GEORGE

Weird. Never felt this tired.

CHARLES

Take my advice. I think you should get away from me. Cut me off. I've just been trying to avoid an inevitable here. Have to give up on that. I tried to steer you to the right lawyer. Your guy was wrong. I could have paid your bills - used money to make the government lose heart in a minor matter. But, no, you picked a shmoe.

GEORGE

I just work better with facts. Just tell me.

CHARLES

George, I worked for a boiler stock operation when I was 19. There was a violation and I got one year probation.

GEORGE

Why are you bringing that up now?

Charles is reluctant to continue.

GEORGE

Go.

CHARLES

Because of that if they find me at all responsible for the current problems I would be a repeat offender and could get 25 years in jail...that's why I didn't come forward.

They look at each other...that fact produces a genuine, though brief, transcendent moment. In a fleeting gesture George touches his father's arm in sympathy.

GEORGE

Wow Dad, what are we going to do here?

CHARLES

Finally and at last not your problem. I need you to go because I am in some wrestling match with myself here. I can't trust myself not to manipulate you - I don't know if I'm doing it now.

(gives it some thought)

I think I am.

GEORGE

Has it occurred to you, as a possibility, that you can just say what happened..without trying to control the outcome?

CHARLES

Honestly, no.

George gestures that it is worth a shot.

CHARLES

If you pled out the sentence would be three years with a chance of getting it down to less than two..

GEORGE

And you'd....

CHARLES

Get off. Maybe. Probably.

George feels a sudden thrust of energy..

GEORGE

That's everything?

Charles nods.

GEORGE

Okay. I think this was a good visit.

113

EXT. TRAINING FACILITY - DAY

113

A practice game has just finished..the U.S.A. beating a solid college team...one of the U.S.A.'s beefier players (who we know as PARTICULARLY EMOTIONAL GIRL) hits a home run and wins the game..some photographers shoves the home run hitter out of the way to take pictures of Cam, who was on base at the time...

LONG SHOT

A figure on a hill taking in the action.

CLOSE ON LISA

Gnawing on her lip in anxiety. She is actually considering leaving before anyone sees her.

BACK TO THE ACTION

As the teams line up to shake hands..Riva hurries through the line spots Lisa and dashes up the hill...at least half her teammates join her...including the home run hitter.

ON LISA

Even as she shouts an admonishment...

LISA

Did you even finish shaking hands
with the other team? Coach'll blame
me.

But, here come the hugs and oh, God she loves them -- Even as she experiences the rush of being with them, she is working her ass off to appear light-hearted. She puts her face close to the beefy girl.

LISA

Look at you..Little Miss Home Run
to the Opposite Field.

PARTICULARLY EMOTIONAL GIRL

Insane that you were here for it.
(to other teammate)
She worked on opposite field power
with me.

114

EXT. FIELD AREA - DUSK

114

As Riva and Lisa sit on the grass together, having a beer. The vibe is clearly intimate. They look down on the well-lit playing field...

RIVA.

You're doing okay. Your making the adjustment. Give it time. Maybe grad school and odd jobs aren't the right thing. Anybody would want you as an assistant coach.

LISA

I have to wait on that one.

(MORE)

RIVA

Till what?

LISA

Till I won't envy my players.

RIVA

Holy shit, Lise.. This isn't you.

LISA

I hope not. Don't tell anyone I'm this bad, or did I show it?

(genuinely alarmed)

Does everybody see it.. Is it leaking out of me? And all of this whining I do serves nothing ...like my mother said to me when she was sick, "you can't cry and fix something at the same time."

(dabs at her eyes)

Now I'm going to feel sorry for myself for losing my mother. Just wallow, wallow, wallow.

Riva moves closer to put her arm around Lisa, who immediately shifts away, waving it off, not feeling deserving of comforting. And then, instead, grabs her friends two hands in an attempt to give instead of take.

LISA

(continued)

Listen to me, Riva, 'cause this is my gift to you for putting up with me tonight. Stay 'till they tear you away, honey.

LISA(cont'd)

Play your heart out and when that's not enough..kiss ass, have sex with a booster, do whatever it takes to hang on..because after what we had...you have.. real life is a killer.

115 EXT. RAILROAD TRACKS - NIGHT 115

To see Lisa in a very underpopulated commuter train car. She simply must find surcease.

116 INT. GEORGE'S APT. - NIGHT 116

As he sits at his computer trying to write a letter. It is a warm night and his large window is open at his elbow. We move in on his computer..but just as we begin to read he hits the delete key sweeping away two paragraphs and leaving just, "Dear Dad." His phone rings. He mishits the phone as he answers.

GEORGE

Hello.

Even though he has yet to engage the phone he vaguely hears Lisa.

LISA'S VOICE

Hello?

He hits the right phone key.

LISA

Hi.

Puzzled now by having seemingly heard Lisa's distant voice without benefit of a phone connection. He leans out his window.

HIS POV

Lisa standing beneath his window..phone in hand. She is working real hard at being the casual, immediate, uncomplicated girl she was so recently. But in this time of distress it is just faux real folk.

LISA

How you doing?

GEORGE

Good. You okay?

LISA
Uh-huh. Sure am. Hope it's not too
late to call.

She turns around and looks up at the window..he leans away
from the window.

GEORGE
No. What's going on?

LISA
Nothing. Just that we made
indefinite plans to hang out and I
was trying to nail them
down..schedule my week.

GEORGE
Well, anytime, though soon would be
advisable.

LISA
(snorting at the
preposterous thought)
I guess it's too late for tonight.

GEORGE
No. Not at all. I am waiting for a
call from my friend if she has her
baby tonight..but we can deal with
that if it happens.

LISA
Okay. Well, what the heck. Let's
take a shot. I can be there
in...less than a half hour.

GEORGE
Good.

LISA
This time of night it could be
faster.

GEORGE
Good. I hope so.

LISA
Okay. I'll see you soon and we'll
just hang out. I mean, do you feel
like hanging out?

GEORGE
Yes.

LISA
Okay, so we'll do it.

117 EXT. GEORGE'S APT. - NIGHT 117

NEW ANGLE ON LISA

20 minutes later as she kills time. She glances at her watch.

118 INT. GEORGE'S APT - NIGHT 118

There is a knock on the door...he opens it and Lisa enters.

LISA
I think I should go.

GEORGE
Huh?

LISA
Because I'm nuts and I seem to be
going around dumping this nutty
person on every nice person I know.
I was downstairs when I called you.

GEORGE
I know.

LISA
And you weren't going to say
anything?

GEORGE
No.

LISA
Why not?

GEORGE
I just didn't want to...

LISA
Embarrass me?

GEORGE
Some cousin of that.

LISA
You look good. You look rested. But
everyone looks rested to me.
George, help me out.

He stands poised to do anything.

GEORGE

With?

LISA

I can't stop griping. You're the one who said it. "Did you ever want to delete everything you said just as you finished saying it?" And I thought that was the strangest thing and lately I hear myself being so weak, and whiny and needy that I wish I could dele...

George quite suddenly clamps a hand over her mouth..She is surprised..feels a little violated, in fact..the observant will note that she actually has made a fist.

CLOSE ON LISA'S EYES

As they appear over George's hand and she tries to make sense of the situation.

GEORGE

I think the answer to what you're talking about is to stop talking. Just deny a voice to the thing that is falling apart. No lip service. That's my advice. Which I think I got from you. Sorry to handle you and the situation like this but it was an impulse. I'm letting go now.
(noticing the fist)
Don't hit me.

ON LISA'S EYES

As they reflect understanding and gratitude just before he releases her...She takes a breath..touches him lightly in gratitude and moves away to sit down. The phone rings.

GEORGE

(into phone)

Hey. Really...how much? How do you feel?...Yeah sure..now..can I bring a friend? See you soon.

He hangs up.

GEORGE
 (to Lisa)
 She had the baby. I'm going over.
 You want to come?

LISA
 No. I'd be in the way and..
 (she stops herself/mock
 stronger)
 Sure. Okay. Thanks.

119 INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

119

As George and Lisa sit in Annie's hospital room..Her parents are just leaving. Annie has a sleeping baby in her arms..and is trying to hostess the coming and going..

ANNIE
 Hey, boss..Look what I found..
 (to Lisa)
 And you're?

LISA
 Lisa.

ANNIE
 (enormously pleased)
 Wow. Mom..Dad..that's boss and..

GEORGE
 George Madison.

MOM
 Good to see you, George.. Lisa..
 Annie has told us about you both.

Lisa is mystified. As they turn to wave to Annie..

ANNIE
 Thanks guys and remember Dad there are lots of tv shows with single mom heroines.

DAD
 I'm fine. It's fine. Everybody's healthy. That's it.
 (to Lisa)
 That's it, right?

Lisa is mystified.

LISA

Yes, sir.

They exit.

ANNIE

It's killing him..

(to Lisa)

Nice to meet you finally.

Lisa is distracted by the size of the baby.

LISA

Gee whiz.

ANNIE

(proudly)

10 pounds 10. And I'm three days early.

LISA

You exhausted?

ANNIE

Oh..I'm slap happy.

GEORGE

World's luckiest baby.

ANNIE

(pointedly to Lisa)

Leave it to boss to say the great thing.

The phone rings.

ANNIE

(into phone)

Hello..You're here? Fourth floor.
Oh well, then just ask for Double
Didget's room. That's what we're
all calling him for now.

(sheepishly to her baby)

Your dad is here.

George and Lisa smile and start to go. Lisa lingers for a second to peek at the baby..they turn and George turns to see his father enter the room. This Chinatown moment is immediate and visceral --- George speaks in the hushed tone of the broken.

GEORGE

No..NO.

Lisa glances up. George is on the verge of a seizure as Charles is nudged out the room's doorway by a heavyset man carrying flowers and an old model video camera..His name is AL.

GEORGE
(quickly transitioning to
Al)
Hi. Congratulations on the birth of
your baby.

Al leans forward and hugs Annie, kisses the baby on the head.

ANNIE
(to Charles)
It was very nice for you to come
by, Mr. Madison.

CHARLES
Just wanted to drop this off..Tell
you not to worry about your job in
any way.

ANNIE
Well, that's oh-my-God great to
hear.

Charles, having scored his point, looks around.

CHARLES
(to George)
You okay?

GEORGE
Tops.

CHARLES
Thought you might be here. Would
you like to talk - go over
anything..Any new thoughts?

GEORGE
No. Not yet.

CHARLES
You're thinking things out.

GEORGE
Not at this precise moment. I'm on
a break.

CHARLES

There's a time factor that I can no longer shield you from.

(noticing Lisa)

You a relative of Annie's?

LISA

I'm a friend of George. Lisa.

Charles eyes her more closely and extends his hand.

CHARLES

Good to meet you. Call me Charles.

LISA

Okay.

CHARLES

I spoke to George minutes after he met you for the first time.

Lisa is mystified.

LISA

No kidding.

CHARLES

Yes..So I was the first to know.

Lisa is mystified.

LISA

Outstanding.

CHARLES

I'm his father.

LISA

Oh. Good to see you.

CHARLES

That's nice of you to say. Okay, all..I Love you, son. Goodnight everyone.

Charles exits. George is still coming down from what he briefly thought.

ANNIE

(to George)

Boss, when he walked in..You didn't think?

George concedes that he did with a look.

ANNIE

You poor guy.

Al and Lisa exchange greetings. Al is flushed with visceral pleasure. Annie looks over at him...eye contact that contains the d.n.a. of all that is good and produces huge grins.

ON AL

The moment of his life is upon him. He walks over to George and whispers as he hands him his video camera.

AL
(MORE)

Hey?! I'm going to do something
record it..Red button.

(he sits on the bed facing
the mother of his child)

I got to say something..to you. For
christ's sake to the two of you. I
don't want you to think the reason
we aren't married is because I
think anyone else is anything. It's
because I am 47 and a failure.

ANNIE

I'll kill you - you talk like that.

During this exchange Lisa feels she is somehow violating their privacy and is trying to make her getaway but she can't get George's attention. Nonetheless she decides to exit and walks to the door.

AL

I'll get work I guess..but no
seniority anymore or...but don't
get me sidetracked. The reason I
didn't talk marriage is I couldn't
stand to see you -- the princess of
worry -- weighted down by me and my
limited prospects.

And now he has Lisa's attention. She pauses at the door.

AL

Because I get your worry. And
people could think that's the bad
thing about you but I get that it's
because of your great heart..and I
love you for it.

AL(cont'd)

And then I worried about what would happen to you - and now the little hulk - if you ended up with someone who thought your worry was --

ANNIE

Neurotic?

AL

Yes. Someone who didn't get you..who made you feel bad about yourself..who wanted you to be more normal..who wanted you to like yourself more. Who wanted you to change. Who didn't love all of it. Who wouldn't leave great enough alone. And, -- I didn't sleep, man...I thought I can do that for you...and that was a legitimate function for me in your life.

Annie cheers as if at a ballgame.

AL

And that allows me to propose to you that we get married.

Annie blubbers. Al is emotional. Lisa is rapt. Al hugs Annie..Lisa and George applaud as Annie and Al have a brief and intimate exchange.

ANNIE

You're not scared anymore.

AL

I am. But scared is a step up from terror and terror is what I feel about losing you.

Annie gasps. Al holds her in this, their quintessential moment. Al looks at George and says through tear glazed eyes.

AL

Did you get it?

GEORGE

(stricken)

Oh my God..I just got caught up with what you were saying..

AL

(this can't have happened)
You didn't get it?

GEORGE

No.

Annie has missed this exchange due to being blissed out.

AL

He didn't get it.

ANNIE

(stricken)

He didn't get it????

GEORGE

I can't tell you how...

LISA

(driving force)

Come on..right away - let's do it
again. Just do it now..go ahead,
Al. We'll record it.

Al is willing but there is a problem.

AL

Who knows what I said?

GEORGE

I sure do..

LISA

Let's just think and piece this
together right away..

Everyone is wiping tears away as they agree to try. Al gets to his initial position when he said his piece. George, as deliberately as possible, pushes the record switch. What follows is very informal..some improvs called for; people talking on top of one another..this group exercise is marked by great spirit and enormous light heartedness..but still real dedication to the task at hand..recreating the proposal.

ON AL

As he takes his highly self-conscious shot.

AL

I didn't want you to think that the
reason I didn't ask to get married
was because I ever had a thought of
anyone else...

He's stuck.

GEORGE
(to Al)
You said it was because you had no prospects. You used the word "failure."

AL
(to Annie)
It's because I don't want to saddle you with a 47 year old failure.

Lisa comes in quickly.

LISA
Annie.."I'll kill you if.."

ANNIE
(laughing)
Thanks. "I'll kill you if you talk like that."

GEORGE
Then you said that you didn't want her to end up with ..

ANNIE
Someone who wanted her to change what she couldn't change..

Annie's line grounds things. The laughter stops---the import and dignity return -

ANNIE
(cont'd)
Someone who didn't get me.

GEORGE
There was that whole list.

LISA
(primarily to Annie)
He was worried that you'd be with someone who made you feel bad about yourself...who wanted you to like yourself in a different way. Who wanted you to change. Who didn't love all of you.

GEORGE

(primarily to Al)
 You said that protecting her from
 that - appreciating her the way you
 do..was a legitimate function for
 you in her life.

AL

Wow. I said that?

ANNIE

I feel like you're all proposing to
 me.

AL

And then I asked you to marry me.

LISA

No, no, no! What you said was...
 (enunciating very
 carefully)
 "I propose to you that we get
 married."

ANNIE

And you called him, "little hulk,"
 which, I don't know why, is my
 favorite thing. I love you so much,
 Al. Thanks everybody.
 (to George)
 I think we have it.

He stops recording. She holds her arms out and gives him a
 hug.

ANNIE

I'm so worried about you.

GEORGE

Please don't.

AL

Let her be.

George nods..claps Al on the back. Lisa approaches Annie and
 has to laugh even as she says the nuclear understatement.

LISA

Well, it was nice meeting you.

They hug. Annie laughs as well.

ANNIE

Nice meeting you too. I love you.

And that cracks them up because, like they say, "it's funny because it's true."

LISA

(helplessly)

Me too.

George is truly digging Lisa. And now the awkwardness as they nod and exit.

120 INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - NIGHT 120

The awful thing is the sharp change in their ethos. A second ago they seemed a couple..and now, that quickly, much like Double Digit so recently experienced, they are thrust from that warm, safe, womb like space into the awkward starkness of the real world. There is considerable culture shock as they walk toward the exit of the hospital self-consciously, the space between them as they walk widening in small increments.

121 EXT. HOSPITAL - BUS STOP - NIGHT 121

As they exit - (some horrible but legit sign about health insurance regulations in the background.) It's a warm night, light breeze blowing, streetlights providing just the right light and each of them still looking for a proper punctuation to the recent experience. A small but persistent shyness has come into their atmosphere.

LISA

Thanks...

She is surprised that the word comes out with difficulty .. She is still a bit choked up. She laughs slightly and gives it another go. There is an unmistakable shyness.

LISA

Thanks for the soul food. I'll just catch my bus over there?

GEORGE

I'll wait with you.

LISA

(softly)

Okay, good. Thanks.

And then, with such ill timing that they each take it in with a bit of horror, the bus turns the corner. Lisa shrugs. And then, as she boards the bus, notes that George already has his back to her and is walking away. As the bus starts up.

ON GEORGE

So sullen at being cheated out of his moment with Lisa that an outburst escapes him just as Lisa, aboard the bus, passes unnoticed in the background.

GEORGE
(to the heavens)
I can't catch a break!

FULL SHOT - THE STREET

As George continues to walk and sees that Lisa has gotten off the bus at the next street. She jogs his way.

GEORGE
What?

LISA
What? I saw you..shouting and all
crazy.

GEORGE
No. Just weird that you were off
that fast.

LISA
Well, I can wait for the next bus.
You just charged away.

GEORGE
Yeah. Okay.

Looking up the deserted street.

GEORGE
Well, I think we'll have some time
now. Won't....

Another bus appears...

LISA
What is this?

GEORGE
I think it's the opposite of a bus
strike.

She nods with a half smile -- it was sort of clever. As they let it pass.

GEORGE
(continued)
Won't Matty be worried?

LISA
Ummm. I didn't tell you we're not living together right now? I thought I did.

GEORGE
No. I would have remembered.

The bus stops near them. The driver steps out and lights a cigarette. The bus' sign shows a change of route

DRIVER
You've got till I finish this.

GEORGE
Okay. Thanks.

GEORGE
(to Lisa)
Go ahead..Matty?

LISA
We're still working on it from a different slant..he gets back tomorrow. He's throwing me a belated birthday party tomorrow night. Going all out. Not my choice but when you're in something you've got to give it everything you have.

GEORGE
Makes sense. Am I invited?

LISA
(totally thrown)
Sure..but it's a very testosterone group.

GEORGE
So I am invited?

LISA
Sure. What are you talking about?
Of course.

The driver tosses his cigarette and reboards the bus as Lisa starts to follow him.

GEORGE
When is your birthday?

LISA
Tonight...

She leans over and gives him a kiss on the cheek.

122 INT. GEORGE'S APT. - NIGHT

122

As he enters propelled by the confusion flying away from his mind and spirit. One shouted word...

GEORGE
Clarity!

He goes to the table near the ever open window where we briefly see and read bits of the worksheets (reading REASONS FOR AND REASONS AGAINST...The top line on one, "I don't want to go to jail." On the other, "I don't want my father to spend the rest of his life in jail.") He crumples the sheets, tosses them and speed dials his father who answers before one ring is finished.

INTERCUT BETWEEN

123 INT. CHARLES'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

123

CHARLES
George.

GEORGE
I think I figured it out. I don't want to talk right now. I'll come see you tomorrow night.

CHARLES
Well, could you give me some indication.

GEORGE
Tomorrow.

CHARLES
George, I...

GEORGE

I know. You love me. I love you
too. Tomorrow.

124 EXT. CHARLES AND MATTY'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT 124

UPBEAT MUSIC as George approaches...he has worked on his look..best suit, tie etc. He looks great. In front of the building, a card table has been set up manned by two of the ballplayers we have previously seen at the parties. They are in the process of very reluctantly denying admission to two gorgeous girls.

GORGEOUS GIRL

Why text us if you're not going to
let us in?

BALL PLAYER

Because I didn't know Matty wasn't
going to allow fun.

GORGEOUS GIRL

Well, don't ever invite us again to
anything. I feel degraded.

BALL PLAYER

Okay...I'm sorry, I'll give you
three hundred dollars and my phone
number.

GORGEOUS GIRL

Alright.

George enters in the background.

DOORMAN

Going to the party, George.

GEORGE

Not yet.

125 INT. CHARLES APARTMENT HALLWAY - NIGHT 125

George knocks on his father's door. Charles answers it.

CHARLES

(tense)

Hi, son. Just a minute, my lawyers
were just leaving.

And so they begin to file out...endlessly..maybe 20 of them..we don't wait for the last to appear.

126

INT. MATTY'S WALK IN CLOSET - NIGHT

126

We hear him telling Lisa, off-camera, how great it is to see her as he leads her toward us. He is carrying a garbage bag -- some of the following speech is off-camera.

MATTY

I haven't gone without a woman so long since I had mono in high school but it felt -- well you saw the box scores, three one inning stints, three up, three down, top five player of the month talk..

He goes to the tooth brush drawer and dumps them in the bag, he goes to the sweat outfit drawer and begins dumping them.

LISA

You're not going to throw them away?

MATTY

Yeah. It's a statement.

LISA

Give them to a hospital or something.

MANNA

Great idea. The clubhouse guy will take care of it. And no unattached women allowed tonight..One guy is bringing his sister..Now.

He sits her down in his "valet chair." The kind with a mahogany wooden hanger, little wooden dish for cuff links, and little cane seat.

MATTY

I get to give you a gift.

She eyes him -- churning. There is a paper Tiffany bag suddenly in evidence. This is clearly an important moment coming up..some flower strewn crossroads..she is gripped by a tightness which she hopes is excitement but might be terror. There seems to be only one course open to her and she takes it.

LISA

I have to pee.

127

INT. CHARLES APARTMENT - HALLWAY - NIGHT

127

Charles sits and indicates the chair for George.

GEORGE

No, thanks. I have to get
someplace.

CHARLES

You look ...

GEORGE

Great? I'm shooting for great
tonight. Okay..I know you want the
bottom line but do you care about
my reasoning?

CHARLES

(wisely lying)
Yes, of course.

GEORGE

First thing..and it was an all
nighter to get there..you know,
same as in anything the answer
starts with asking the right
question..And the question here
wasn't whether I go to jail or you
do?

CHARLES

It wasn't?

GEORGE

No. The question was will I go to
jail for three years..or live for
25 years feeling awful because of
your being in jail.

CHARLES

(sincerely)
Very good.

GEORGE

I went over different scenarios to
get varying perspectives. If I had
children I wouldn't consider going
to jail.

CHARLES

But you don't.

GEORGE

Right. Or, if I had someone crucial to the life I want for myself; it would be perverse - some denunciation of the experience of life itself, if I gave that up.

Charles prepares to take some very rough medicine.

CHARLES

Well, that's an extreme point of view..Do you have such a person?

GEORGE

I.....don't know.
I am going downstairs and somehow find out. There's a party. She's there. There's another guy.

CHARLES

You mean she may be unavailable?

Just the words kills him. Robs him briefly of his exuberance.

GEORGE

(mumbling)
I can't think that way right now then don't.

CHARLES

What?

George tries to think of his thought..and does.

GEORGE

I can't think that way right now.
'Cause I'm going down there and take my shot..If I don't have a chance with her I'll go to jail for you, Dad..But if I have any chance at all, I can't..

(takes an excited breath)

Wish me luck.

And so he exits.

CHARLES

(wanly)
Good luck.

128

INT. MATTY'S APT. - WALK IN CLOSET - NIGHT

128

As Matty arranges a small Tiffany's paper bag on the floor near the valet chair. Lisa enters from the toilet. Matty indicates she should sit in the chair again. He picks up the small bag and waves it...then suddenly realizes the impression he is giving; which might have screwed up everything which would make him a moron. He quickly blurts out a key fact to avoid crushing Lisa with disappointment.

MATTY

It's not a ring.

(on her reaction)

Well, you don't have to look so relieved.

She smooches him on the head, patching his ego leak. Now she sits.

MATTY

Okay. Maybe I don't get on a knee for this but...

He bows more like a curtsy. It is sweet. She is touched. Matty takes a breath; scaling a great mountain with great uncertainty as to the purpose. He takes out a box and hands it to her..She starts to unwrap it carefully.

MATTY

Come on, not so slow.

He actually starts to rip at it..She joins him in a shared light moment and looks inside.

LISA

Whoa, whoa, whoa..It's gorgeous.
But...it's gorgeous.

MATTY

But what?

LISA

Just thinking about when I would wear it.

MATTY

I'll take you places.

She now removes an eleven thousand dollar watch circled in diamonds.

MATTY

Do you not get the meaning?

LISA

(no idea whatsoever)
Um..that time is..what? That it's
our time to have a new kind of time
that..

MATTY

(gravely)
It means that we're engaged to be
engaged.

Lisa looks on the back of the watch.

MATTY

It doesn't say it. You just know
it..my father gave my mother a
watch and four years later they
were engaged.

LISA

Okay.

MATTY

Don't say, "okay." Ask anyone.

LISA

It's beautiful. Thank you.

Matty looks disappointed.

LISA

Well, I don't know what to say.

MATTY

(coaching)
You're blown away?

LISA

I'm blown away.

Matty grins..suddenly George sticks his head in the door. He
sees them.

GEORGE

Oh, sorry.

LISA

Hey. You showed?

GEORGE
Yes. I'll be right out here.

MATTY
Good to see you.

GEORGE
Thanks.

He ducks out.

MATTY
We better get going. Our first
party as a couple.

LISA
What were we those other times?

He hugs her.

129

INT. MATTY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

129

All the ball players crowded in as a man with a jump suit and a JET HELICOPTER LOGO on his back carries in two large crates of live lobster to the kitchen. He is moving with considerable speed..some of the ballplayers applaud.

ON GEORGE

As he pauses on the outskirts of the gathering..from his pocket he takes a small jar shaped gift wrapped box.

GEORGE'S POV

As Lisa enters the room and starts to head over, then shrugs helplessly, as Matty intercepts her to show off her new watch.. There are SEVERAL REACTION SHOTS from the players and their women to the watch. George moves to the terrace where a buffet line has already formed for the LOBSTER..

ON LISA

Her arm extended showing her watch while her head cranes looking for George.

LISA
Let me go find George, he doesn't
know anybody.

MATTY
(uncomfortable then)
I'll come with you.

As they start for the terrace, Matty is waylaid by Tori (the Japanese pitcher.) He is with the girl whose bodice caught his note. She clearly loves the guy.

ON LISA

As George comes up behind her and forcefully moves her out to the terrace....

130

EXT. MATTY'S APT. - TERRACE - NIGHT

130

GEORGE

I have to talk with you.

LISA

Sure. How you doing?

GEORGE

Pretty good.. heightened awareness,
anxious, excited.. I got you a
gift.

He hands her the package. She sits at a small metal outdoor table. She opens it elaborately and slowly. He waits patiently. Somehow she becomes aware of a strange rush of appreciation for this small fact - that briefly though enormously touches her. She stops unwrapping to look at him and unconsciously say a mouthful.

LISA

Thanks for not rushing me.

George reacts to the screaming subtext as, finally, she sees the gift. And whatever petals of hers were just opening slam shut. She is puzzled. His stock has clearly fallen.

LISA

Man, you are odd.

We now see the gift. It is the can of Play-Doh George took from his office. We will also have seen it in the background of a few shots in his apartment.

GEORGE

Odd good or odd bad?

LISA

Well, I'm a fan of regular.

GEORGE

That's only half the gift. It's nothing without the story. The story makes it regular.

She is skeptical - he starts selling hard.

GEORGE

(continued)

This stuff was invented by a man in central Ohio as a white goo used to remove soot from wallpaper, which got really filthy from old fashioned heating.

SHOT

Perhaps the world's first look of a woman's wrist circled by a diamond watch while her hand holds a can of Play-Doh.

GEORGE

(continued)

So as gas and electric heating came in there was no more need for this cleaning goo. The guy was going under, everything he based his life on was coming to an end. Then his sister-in-law who was a nursery school teacher...

LISA

(interrupting)

This is a true story?

GEORGE

(triumphantly)

The man's name was Joe McVicker, his sister-in-law was Kay Zoofall.

LISA

Okay, I believe you.

GEORGE

Kay Zoofall discovered that her little kids liked squeezing the goo a lot more than hard modeling clay. She suggested to her brother-in-law Joe that they color the stuff and call it Play-Doh.

Lisa (her life spent on a foundation of motivational thoughts, sentences and stories) is jazzed by the tale.

LISA

Hey..nice.

GEORGE

So I just kept this around..for
proof that we're just one small
adjustment away from making our
lives work. You can see why I
thought of this for you.

LISA

Yes.

GEORGE

Take back what you said about me
being odd.

LISA

Fair enough.

(she brandishes the gift)

Thanks. I'm going to put it away
before anyone asks me what I'm
doing with it. I could never tell
that story as well as you do.

She exits. George watches her go. So does Matty who now
approaches George.

MATTY

Hey, you try the lobster?

GEORGE

Not yet.

MATTY

You should.

(looking at his watch)

One hour and fifty-one minutes ago
it was swimming in the ocean.

GEORGE

Way to go.

MATTY

(a beat then)

You messing with me?

GEORGE

(realizing)

Yeah. Unintended and unwarranted
but, yeah.... Sorry.

MATTY

Did Lisa show you the watch?

Before George can answer...the bullpen guys approach..Doug (the man of few words), Ryan (who caused Matty to realize that he was in love) and Tori who we have just seen with his gal.

RYAN

We got a big announcement.

Matty ad libs intros to "Lisa's friend, George."

MATTY

So what's the announcement?

TOBI
(MORE)

I'm in love and I will get married.

DOUG

Serendipity.

MATTY

(to George)

He met his girl when we were all in the bullpen discussing how you know when you're in love.

GEORGE

(sincerely)

Great question.

Lisa approaches. Matty, a little pugnaciously, seeks to put George on the spot.

MATTY

Got an answer? We got an answer.

GEORGE

Let's see.

He concentrates. It is a weirdly long beat.

RYAN

You can get back to us.

The players laugh. But George has a bead on the answer.

GEORGE

You're in this space that hasn't existed before and the only two things you know is that you are in this space, and..

GEORGE (cont'd)

(he sees Lisa)

As "odd" as that is, the only other thing you are just as sure of is that she's in there with you.

MATTY

Yeah, that's close to our thing.

Doug notes Lisa's reaction to George.

DOUG

(to Matty)

Curtains.

He walks to Lisa. She is staggered but hanging onto propriety. She tries to treat it lightly.

LISA

What's with you tonight?

GEORGE

I need to talk to you. Really. And that means I have to get you out of this party. And if that feels out of the question to you; there's probably nothing to talk about.

MATTY

Show him the watch.

GEORGE

I'm going to wait at the bus stop for the next ---SEVEN DAYS..No. I'll hang out there a while.

He leaves.

ON LISA

She goes through the five stages of compliance..what are they again? Amusement, confusion, awkwardness, resistance, decision. With decision she tugs at Matty's sleeve to indicate she needs a moment of privacy with him. They walk to another area..Matty with the airs of confidence...once they find their spot. Before she can speak.

MATTY

Don't dump me.

LISA

Matty, I think you're moving a little too quickly.

MATTY

First time I've been accused of that.

LISA

You can't make important decisions when your head is mush. And tonight is extremely confusing to me.. George never...Maybe I'll just go hang out with him. I don't know what to do at these parties anyway..And this isn't really for my birthday...none of my friends are here.

MATTY

That was my mistake..should have thought of that. Too little, too late and stupid. I can learn from this.

LISA

You're fine, you're sweet, you're fun..

MATTY

All the hot words.

LISA

This is positive. We're not ducking anything..Everything's out in the open.

MATTY

You know what. Go ahead. Hang out. But I want you to take in that I'm the kind of guy who has the confidence to say that. That's key to any decision you make.

LISA

Got it.

She puts the diamond watch on the valet chair tray..She looks at him...this parting not easy for either one..Matty is trying to duck the unique pang which is enveloping him. With utter lack of conviction:

MATTY

I'm confident.

She is touched. She hugs him and exits.

131 EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING LOBBY/STREET - NIGHT 131

As Lisa exits the elevator and her steps quicken a bit. She sees the doorman...

ANGLE ON DOORMAN AND HIS POV

As he looks down the street where George looks disconsolate.. The doorman blows his whistle. George looks up. He sees the doorman point and then Lisa is on the street; the doorman directing her toward George, who has lit up..Lisa moves toward him more somber..

132 EXT. ANGLE ON SMALL TERRACE - NIGHT 132

Charles stand there looking down.

CHARLES POV

As he sees his son standing alone. Bummed. And then a beat, George turns and takes on a new energy. Lisa enters the frame moving toward him.

ON CHARLES

As he reacts and then turns to enter his apartment to begin mounting his defense.

133 EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT 133

LISA'S POV

George wearing a grin more slap happy than romantic. Lisa more somber.

GEORGE

What should we do? Are you hungry?

LISA

Of course.

GEORGE

I have Annie's stuff.

Lisa nods..she is having a hard time taking in the beaming George..The bus arrives...

134

INT. BUS - NIGHT

134

Lisa and George sitting together..George continues to look at her but fails to make eye contact..Lisa steels peeks at him... not overjoyed by his seeming deliverance.

GEORGE

You know what's amazing.....do you?

LISA

No.

GEORGE

All the worst things happened to me and if they hadn't we wouldn't be here now. So..really something... Is something wrong?

Lisa reacts by burying her head in her hands and rubbing her hands through her hair.

LISA

Well, yes..

She buries her face in her hands..

GEORGE

Do you have a problem with me?

LISA

Yes.

GEORGE

I'd sure like to know what it is.

She looks at him directly for the first time.

LISA

You're in love with me and I'm on a second date.

GEORGE

(agreeing)
That sums it up.

END CREDITS BEGIN:

135 EXT. GEORGE'S APT - NIGHT

135

As we look in from the street.

The windows open..Lisa at the refrigerator taking out some food. George leans over to help her. Lisa exits to the next room.

We see Lisa enter the living room and place plates on the table by the window; as George puts their dinner in the microwave in the adjoining kitchen window.

Lisa stands still and tall and thinks..she is, at this moment, the poster girl for "private moments." Her thought is as nervous making as it is insistent. She decides, after a long layoff from same, to trust her instincts. She exits frame.

George turns as she enters the kitchen. She kisses him.

FADE OUT:

(MORE)