

LICENSE TO WED

By

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INT. OFFICE - DAY

A small, concrete brick walled office with schedules and public service posters taped to the walls. Twenty-eight year old BEN MURPHY braces himself on the desk chair, nervous as hell. He looks through the office window at the object of his fear...

THE SCHOOL GYMNASIUM of Boston's Brookline Preparatory School for Girls. A bunch of TEENAGE GIRLS lean on gymnastics equipment, bored and bitchy.

A stalky 50ish woman, PRINCIPAL MARTELL, looks into the office.

PRINCIPAL MARTELL

How are we doing?

Ben gathers his papers, tries to fake it.

BEN

Great. Just about to get started. I've got the attendance records, Mrs. Whelan's lesson plans, some of my own research to supplement the gymnastics program and -

PRINCIPAL MARTELL

Mr. Murphy, is everything alright? You look a little...

("sweaty, nauseous")
unsettled.

BEN

No, not at all. This will be great. I'm sure it's just like teaching history. Except for the part where they're not learning history. Or sitting at desks... Or wearing pants.

PRINCIPAL MARTELL

You'll be fine. These girls haven't eaten anybody alive. Yet.

She walks out of the office. Ben's panic resumes. He sucks it up, heads into the gym.

INT. BROOKLINE PREP GYM - DAY

The girls chat and hang out on the mats, a few doing stretches. Ben stands nearby with his clipboard.

BEN

Ladies.

They totally ignore him. He tries again.

BEN

Ladies!

A few of them look up.

BEN

Hello. I'm Mr. Murphy. I'll be substituting for Mrs. Whelan until she recovers from surgery. I guess we'll get started with attendance.

Ben flips through his papers, drops a few, finds the one he's looking for, tries to read from the list.

BEN

Al... Al...

A tall, good looking girl, MARI, speaks up from an especially bitchy group of girls on the mats.

MARI

Altzugary. And we're all here. Don't bother.

Ben looks around. They're not giving him a thing. He looks at his lesson plan.

BEN

Okay. Why don't we -

One of Mari's friends, TARA, speaks up.

TARA

Mrs. Whelan lets us pick our own stations.

BEN

Uh -

Before he can say anything, the girls break up into groups, pick their equipment and get started on exercises. Ben wanders over to the least intimidating group of girls at the balance beam.

BEN

You know the balance beam wasn't always part of gymnastics, in fact it was a late addition to the sport. The Swedes called it the Schwebekante, or floating edge, if you will.

Nobody gives a shit. Ben really starts to get into it. He smiles to a PLUMP GIRL as she struggles to heave herself up onto the balance beam. She finally makes it up on the third try and starts walking across it.

BEN

And did you know, the first balance beam used in competition was only about three inches wide? Lucky for you girls, it was later widened to four inches, better allowing gymnasts to focus on the style, grace and beauty of -

Plump Girl slips and WHAM! She hits the beam crotch first then falls to the mat below like a wet bag of cement.

BEN

Jesus!

All of the girls cringe. Ben is frozen, practically feeling the pain himself. Plump Girl slides up to him.

PLUMP GIRL

Sir, I think I hurt my vag-

Ben puts up a hand to stop her from saying it, then rips off a hall pass, hands it over. He can't even look at her.

BEN

You better go see the nurse.

The other girls look at each other -- this guy is so easy. Mari steps up.

MARI

Yeah, Mr. Murphy, I have cramps.

Ben raises a hand - say no more -- hands her a hall pass.

BEN

Nurse.

Tara is right behind, holding her chest.

TARA
I've got some tenderness in -

Ben rips off another hall pass.

GIRL
PMS.

ANOTHER GIRL
Yeast infection.

YET ANOTHER GIRL
Goitre?

Hall pass, hall pass, hall pass. The other girls in the class follow suit. Before any of them even have to say what supposedly ails them - hall pass, hall pass.

Ben hands out the last pass, looks up. The place is empty. He's not happy.

BEN
Great.

EXT. FLOWER SHOP - DAY

An old brick building converted into a hip florist shop. Ben walks in the front door.

INT. FLOWER SHOP - DAY

It's a shop with more personality than the typical florist. Bright colors everywhere, antiques used for planters, weird displays, not a carnation in sight. A 20ish skater kid DIEGO works at the counter.

Ben walks in, high fives Diego on his way to the back.

DIEGO
Benjamin.

BEN
Hey, she in the back?

DIEGO
Yeah, but don't go there, man.
She's in a meeting.

Ben stops, remembers.

BEN
The Carlisle Hotel account.

DIEGO
Yeah.

BEN
How's it going?

DIEGO
Good, I think. He seems impressed.

BEN
I can't believe the old guy's still
so hands on. I saw a picture of
him last week -

DIEGO
No, man, not that Carlisle. It's
his grandson, Craig. He's running
everything now.

Ben's enthusiasm sinks a bit.

BEN
Good for him.

They hear voices then the back door opens. Diego grabs a
catalog and pretends he's selling Ben flowers.

DIEGO
These are cool. So are these.

SADIE emerges from the back room. She's cute, 27, less
conservative and a lot hipper than Ben. She spots Diego and
Ben pretending to do business, and tries not to laugh.

Behind her is CRAIG CARLISLE, 30, confident and wearing
expensive everything. Pretty much what Ben was dreading.

CRAIG
We can sit down and talk about what
we'll need then plan on a trial run
on the tenth.

SADIE
Perfect.

He offers his hand.

CRAIG
Sadie, pleasure to finally meet you
in person.

He doesn't let go of her hand. The guy is smooth. Ben and Diego exchange a look, not impressed.

SADIE

Nice to meet you too, Craig. We'll talk next week.

CRAIG

I look forward to it.

Craig walks out. Sadie abandons business mode and gets really excited, kisses Ben.

BEN

How did it go?

SADIE

He's giving me a shot at the account for all of the hotels, not just the new resort. Nothing's set in stone yet but as long as I don't screw it up...

BEN

Of course you won't. Look at this place. You're amazing.

SADIE

You think so?

BEN

Come on. The stuff you did for that old guy in here yesterday? Incredible. The guy was in tears.

SADIE

Ben, his wife just died.

BEN

So? Your work inspired him to explore that grief, to express it, set it free.

Sadie just stares at him - you have got to be kidding me. Diego motions for him to just go with it.

BEN

Like a caged bird... like a little bird in a cage... Here's the bird, here are your flowers...

Sadie laughs at him, grabs her bag from behind the counter.

BEN

What? I'm just saying you don't give yourself enough credit.

SADIE

I know what you're saying and I love you for it.

She kisses him again. Ben's a little uncomfortable with it in front of Diego.

SADIE

But will you do something for me?

BEN

Okay?

SADIE

When you write your wedding vows, can you run them past Joel, or Eddy, or maybe, I don't know, me. Cause I swear if there's one mention of that caged bird stuff, I might not be able to keep my lunch down.

BEN

What? It was great. Diego loved it, right?

DIEGO

It was something.

Sadie laughs, drags Ben out the door.

SADIE

Goodnight, Diego.

INT. BEN'S CAR - NIGHT

Ben drives, Sadie in the passenger seat. Ben reaches under the seat and grabs a FedEx pack, hands it to Sadie. She immediately gets excited.

SADIE

From Kauai?

BEN

Yep.

She starts ripping it open.

SADIE
Why didn't you open it?

BEN
I was waiting for you.

She stops opening the pack, looks at him.

SADIE
That's so sweet.

BEN
I know. Now open it.

She pulls out photos of the Hawaiian Islands, resort photos, menus, maps.

SADIE
Here it is, Wainiha Beach, and the estate guest house is right up this path, then the gardens, the waterfall. Oh my God, Ben.

BEN
What?

Sadie drops her face in the brochures. Ben stops at a light.

BEN
What? Was that a good oh my God, or a bad oh my God? Sadie?

She looks up from the papers.

SADIE
It's perfect.

Ben's totally relieved.

SADIE
Ask me again, Ben.

BEN
What?

She gets the look, starts crawling over to his side of the car.

SADIE
Ask me if I'll marry you on Wainiha Beach, in Hanalei, Kauai.

Ben's a bit nervous about the lap crawling business.

BEN
Okay, Sadie, will you marry me on -

He tries to read off the brochure.

SADIE
Wai -

BEN
Wainiha Beach.

SADIE
Hanalei.

BEN
Hanalei, Kauai.

SADIE
Yes! Ben, I will marry you. Since
you asked so nicely - twice.

She kisses him. The light changes. A car behind them honks.
Sadie keeps kissing Ben. He tries to start driving.

BEN
Can't see. Sadie. Really can't
see here.

EXT. SADIE'S PARENTS HOUSE - NIGHT

Sadie and Ben wait at the front door, FedEx pack in hand.
Sadie kisses Ben.

The door swings opens and a big guy in his late 50's, MR.
JONES, appears.

MR. JONES
What did I tell you about keeping
your hands off my daughter until
you're married?

BEN
Sorry, sir. I didn't mean to.

MR. JONES
Of course you did. Now get in
here.

He smiles, shakes Ben's hand as he pulls them into the house.
Sadie kisses him on the way in.

SADIE

Hi, daddy.

MR. JONES

Hi, sweetheart. You bring me anything?

Ben pulls a bottle of Glenlivet out of his jacket. Mr. Jones takes it.

MR. JONES

You picked a good man here, Sadie.
A good man.

He closes the door.

INT. SADIE'S PARENTS HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Mr. Jones takes Sadie's jacket. A sweet little old lady, GRANDMA JONES walks toward them with arm outstretched.

GRANDMA JONES

My little angel.

SADIE

Hi Grandma.

Grandma keeps walking past Sadie and goes right for Ben, hugs him. Ben just goes with it.

BEN

Grandma Jones, is that a new sweater?

He looks over at Sadie rolling her eyes at him.

GRANDMA JONES

Thank you for noticing, dear.

BEN

How could I not? You look lovely.

Grandma grabs his arm and they start down the hall to the kitchen.

Sadie and Mr. Jones watch them go. Sadie points out the price tag sticking out the back of Grandma's sweater. They both laugh and follow them down the hall.

In the kitchen, MRS. JONES is rushing to pull burning rolls out of the oven.

MRS. JONES
I know, I know, everything's late.
And look what I've done.

MR. JONES
Carol, it's fine.

She passes by with a smoking tray of rolls, gives Sadie and Ben each a kiss.

MRS. JONES
Your father would eat these if I
cooked them two hours too long.

GRANDMA JONES
Just like his father, God rest his
soul.

Mrs. Jones drops the tray on the counter, waves the smoke away. Sadie moves in for a closer look.

SADIE
There's nothing wrong with these.

Mrs. Jones looks at Ben.

MRS. JONES
You sure you want in this family,
Ben? This is what you have to look
forward to.

She holds up a charred roll. Ben laughs.

BEN
I think I can handle it.

SADIE
Too late to back out now.

Sadie holds up the FedEx envelope. Mrs. Jones gets excited, pulls off her oven mitts.

MRS. JONES
Is that what I think it is? You
picked a place?

Sadie nods, opens the envelope. They all gather around her at the kitchen table.

MR. JONES
Am I missing something?

Sadie starts laying out the photos on the table.

SADIE
We decided on Kauai for the wedding
ceremony and -

GRANDMA JONES
Kauai?

SADIE
It's one of the Hawaiian islands.

GRANDMA JONES
I thought you would be getting
married here at St. Augustine's, in
the church your grandfather built.

SADIE
You know how we wanted something
different, a little less
traditional -

GRANDMA JONES
Yes, but Hawaii?

SADIE
It's beautiful. Look, Gram.

She shows her the photos.

GRANDMA JONES
Isn't that something. I've never
seen a beach that white before.

SADIE
And look at the waterfall. The
ceremony will be right over here,
and -

GRANDMA JONES
I only wish I could go.

Sadie's totally confused, looks at her father.

MR. JONES
What are you talking about, mom?

GRANDMA JONES
It's nothing, really. Doctor
Bertrand said I'm not supposed to
fly, is all.

MRS. JONES
You didn't tell us.

MR. JONES

You said you were fine after your last check up.

GRANDMA JONES

I didn't want to worry you.

SADIE

Grandma.

GRANDMA JONES

It's nothing. Just my heart, you know, and the osteoarthritis. A few dizzy spells from time to time. Not to worry.

She points to the map in Sadie's hand.

GRANDMA JONES

Is this where the reception will be? That's beautiful, dear.

Sadie can't continue. She looks at Grandma Jones.

GRANDMA JONES

What? I'm fine, I just have to take it easy. Perfectly normal for my age.

MR. JONES

What if we drive down then go over by boat?

GRANDMA JONES

Don't be silly. You kids go ahead. Don't you worry about me for a second.

Grandma keeps looking at the photos.

Sadie looks at Ben -- help. He doesn't know what to say.

Sadie turns back to the photos but can't continue. Before she can say a word, Grandma looks off into space.

GRANDMA JONES

You know something? On the last day of your grandfather's life, he told me that what filled him with sadness, more than anything else, was that he wasn't going to be able to see his granddaughter walk down the aisle of St. Augustine's, the church that he helped to build with his own bare hands.

She grabs Sadie's hand, smiles.

GRANDMA JONES

I told him that no matter what, a part of him would live forever under the roof of that church, and that when the time came for your wedding, you would walk proudly down the aisle. And, at the moment when your father reaches out to lift your veil, you would feel your grandfather's hands right there helping him.

The rest of the family is speechless. Mrs. Jones wipes a tear.

Ben gives Sadie a weak smile, totally uncomfortable with the whole deal.

Grandma Jones picks up another of the Hawaii photos, looks at it closely.

GRANDMA JONES

But this is nice. Not to worry. Maybe he'll be with you there too.

She pats Sadie's cheek, smiles. Sadie looks like she's going to bawl.

EXT. SADIE'S PARENTS HOUSE - BACK YARD - NIGHT

Ben consoles Sadie on the back steps of the house. The Hawaii photos are still in her hand.

SADIE

What are we going to do?

BEN

Get married at your family's church.

SADIE
You're sure?

BEN
Yeah.

SADIE
I'm really worried about her. And
my grandfather's dying wish - oh my
God.

BEN
So we'll stay close to home and
everything will be fine.

SADIE
Promise?

BEN
Scout's honor.

SADIE
You were so not a boy scout.

BEN
Are you kidding? I was like the
poster boy for scoutliness. Want
to see me light a fire using a box
of matches, a bottle of kerosene
and your dad's barbecue?

Sadie finally lets out half a laugh. She looks down at the
photos.

SADIE
Is it selfish of me to be
disappointed about this?

BEN
No. We'll just have to save Hawaii
for the honeymoon.

SADIE
If we get married at the church,
you know it'll end up being bigger
than we wanted. And stuffier. My
mother will insist on everything
being traditional. And-

BEN
We're doing the right thing.

She hugs him.

SADIE
I love you, Murphy.

BEN
You better.

He pulls her up and they head back into the house.

INT. SADIE'S PARENTS HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Mr. & Mrs. Jones sit in the living room with Grandma Jones. Sadie and Ben appear in the doorway.

SADIE
We've decided to get married at
Saint Augustine's.

Grandma Jones looks up from her knitting - tears of joy.

EXT. ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH - DAY

An old church in the heart of the city.

INT. ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH - DAY

Ben walks down the empty aisle of the church, blown away by it all. He looks down to Sadie at the other end of the aisle, walks back to her.

BEN
This is amazing. When was it
built? Thirties? Forties?

SADIE
I think 1940. My grandfather was
17 when they started working on it.

BEN
Incredible.

SADIE
Isn't it? I've been coming here so
long, sometimes I forget to really
look at it.

Ben spots a sculpture in a corner, goes to touch it. A CHOIR BOY, about 12 years old, appears as if from nowhere.

CHOIR BOY
Don't touch that.

Ben just about jumps out of his skin.

BEN
Jesus, you scared me.

CHOIR BOY
Jesus didn't scare you. I did.

BEN
I know, sorry, I meant -

CHOIR BOY
I know what you meant.

Sadie steps in.

SADIE
Hello. I don't think we've met.
I'm -

CHOIR BOY
Sadie Jones.

Choir Boy takes her hand, looks her right in the eye. A little too smooth for a 12 year old.

SADIE
We have a two o'clock meeting with
Reverend Frank.

Out of the corner of his eye, Choir Boy spots Ben leaning toward another sculpture.

CHOIR BOY
Hey, what did I say about touching?

BEN
Sorry.

Choir Boy marches to the back of the church, suddenly stops.

CHOIR BOY
Are you coming?

Sadie signals to Ben -- let's go. They follow Choir Boy down the hall.

INT. ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH - BASEMENT - DAY

Choir Boy emerges from a back staircase, walks through the basement with Sadie and Ben close behind. Ben is mesmerized by the place.

Voices echo from down the hall. Choir Boy stops at an open doorway, signals them to keep quiet. Ben and Sadie look into the room.

Behold REVEREND FRANK, in his 50's, looking like his clothes are pulled out of the church lost & found box. He sits on a desk at the front of the class, reading to a bunch of YOUTH GROUP KIDS from a Cosmopolitan magazine. The kids hang on his every word.

REV. FRANK

"Dear Cosmo. I just found out that my husband of 22 years has been cheating on me with his married secretary, while I've been at home taking care of the kids and being supportive of his working extra hours every weekend."

Ben's a little taken aback. He looks at Sadie - she's just as mesmerized as the kids.

REV. FRANK

"Half of me wants to kill him and that slut, the other half wants to do what I can to save my marriage. Please tell me what to do. Sincerely, Hurt and Betrayed."

Rev. Frank stops reading, looks up at the kids.

REV. FRANK

Okay kids, what do you got?

The kids jump in their seats, every one of them raises a hand, way too excited. Frank points to a girl in the front.

REV. FRANK

Sarah.

SARAH

Thou shalt not commit adultery!

REV. FRANK

Good girl. If your wedding vows don't mean anything, what's the point?

Ben looks right at Sadie - this is not right. Sadie's too into it to notice him.

REV. FRANK

What else?

Frank points to a boy in the back row.

REV. FRANK
Tommy. Let me hear it.

TOMMY
Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's
wife!

REV. FRANK
Right. When we talk about
neighbors we mean the guy across
the country just as much as the guy
down the street. It's about
treating all humans the way you'd
want to be treated, am I right?
Now what else? Manny.

A little guy speaks up from the front.

MANNY
Thou shalt not kill!

REV. FRANK
That's right. Sure she wants to
kill her husband, who wouldn't?
But that doesn't mean she should
actually go and whack the guy.

Ben's pretty much stunned.

REV. FRANK
Okay, we've got one more.

The kids think hard.

REV. FRANK
Come on. You know this.

He picks up the magazine, reads again.

REV. FRANK
"While I've been at home taking
care of the kids and being
supportive of his working extra
hours every *weekend*."

Every kid's hand shoots up.

REV. FRANK
All together now.

KIDS & REV. FRANK
Remember the sabbath day.

REV. FRANK
And?

KIDS
And keep it holy!

REV. FRANK
How'd you all get so smart? Who's
been drinking the holy water?

He looks at the time.

REV. FRANK
Okay, that's our day.

The kids all start gathering up their stuff.

REV. FRANK
Remember, next week we've got our
field trip to Suffolk Downs to see
the evils of gambling first hand.
Save your allowance for that one.

Ben's jaw drops. Sadie turns to him.

SADIE
Isn't he incredible? You see how
excited these kids are? You should
talk to him about teaching. I'm
sure he'd have some great advice.

Ben just stares at her.

BEN
Great.

The last of the kids leave the room. Reverend Frank spots
Ben and Sadie at the door.

REV. FRANK
Is that the happy couple I see?

He walks to meet them at the door.

SADIE
Reverend Frank, this is my fiance,
Ben Murphy.

Rev. Frank looks Ben right in the eyes and holds it for too
long. Ben starts to squirm.

Frank turns to walk down the hall, signals them to follow.

REV. FRANK

If you've read the bible, Ben Murphy, you know that Benjamin was the last of the Children of Jacob, born on the road near Bethlehem, a birth that spelled death for his mother. But, despite Benjamin's humble beginnings, he went on to do great things.

Rev. Frank stops at a closed door, turns back to Ben.

REV. FRANK

But you already know that, right?

BEN

Actually -

REV. FRANK

When's the last time you attended church?

Ben looks at Sadie for help.

BEN

Two months, three maybe -

REV. FRANK

Weddings and funerals don't count.

BEN

Uh -

REV. FRANK

Neither do AA meetings.

BEN

I don't -

REV. FRANK

I'm talking about voluntarily putting on your Sunday best, heading to your local place of worship, sitting your ass in a pew, belting out a hymn like you mean it, and really taking it in right here.

He pokes Ben in the chest.

REV. FRANK
How long since you did that, Ben
Murphy? How long has it been,
really?

BEN
Reverend -

REV. FRANK
Call me Frank.

BEN
It's been about thirteen years,
Frank.

Frank drops his head. Ben looks at Sadie in desperation.
Frank finally looks up at Sadie, grabs Ben by the shoulder.

REV. FRANK
I like this guy. I do. He might
not have anything else going for
him, Sadie, but at least he's
honest. And that, my dear, that's
a hell of a place to start.

Frank swings open the door to his private office.

INT. REV. FRANK'S OFFICE - DAY

It looks like a dorm room -- papers, magazines, photos, take-
out containers all over the place.

Frank clears some junk off the chairs in front of his desk,
points Ben and Sadie to sit down. He settles in behind the
desk on a leather recliner.

REV. FRANK
So you want to get married in my
church, do you?

BEN
Yes. Yes we do.

REV. FRANK
Wonderful. The doors of Saint
Augustine are always open to
Christians seeking a blessing to
their union.

BEN
Great.

REV. FRANK
 Provided they meet a few simple requirements.

SADIE
 We know we have to get the license from the city, and -

Frank gets suddenly intense, leans forward.

REV. FRANK
 And you have to get a license from me.

Ben and Sadie are confused. Frank smiles and leans back. Ben and Sadie relax a bit.

REV. FRANK
 We have a Marriage Preparation program here at Saint Augustine's. It's a prerequisite to any and all marriage ceremonies performed in, on, or around these grounds, by me or any other church sanctioned individual. In other words - no marriage prep, no wedding.

SADIE
 Is this new? I don't think my parents did anything like this.

REV. FRANK
 I do things a little differently than the late Reverend Carmichael, God rest his soul. One, I don't take so much wine for breakfast that I pass out half way through holy communion. And two, I don't let anybody get married in my church unless I'm absolutely sure they're ready.

Frank looks right at Ben, waits for a response.

BEN
 That sounds reasonable.

REV. FRANK
 Half of all marriages end in divorce. Did you know that? Half. It's a shame, really.

(MORE)

REV. FRANK(cont'd)

We're very proud of the fact that since my arrival here at Saint Augustine's, our divorce rate has dropped to 1 in 32. All thanks to my marriage preparation course.

SADIE

That's amazing.

Frank gets up, walks around the desk in front of them.

REV. FRANK

That it is, Sadie. That it is. Where else in life can you score odds that good? It's as close as you'll ever get to a guarantee of a lifetime union.

He puts a hand on both of them, leans in close.

REV. FRANK

And isn't that why you're here? Isn't it? To be joined in matrimony, not for a day, not for a year, but for a lifetime? Forever? Isn't that what we all want? The security of knowing that no matter what happens, we will be loved for the rest of our days? Isn't that why life is truly worth living? Isn't it?

He waits for an answer.

SADIE

Yes.

Ben nods, totally scared.

REV. FRANK

Then let's sign you up!

Frank starts digging in his desk for papers. Sadie looks at Ben.

REV. FRANK

Just a bit of paperwork to get out of the way before you can begin the marriage preparation course. I'll need you both to sign liability waivers.

He hands them each long legal forms with plenty of fine print.

REV. FRANK

Names and social security numbers at the top. Initial by the death and dismemberment clause, sign and date the bottom.

Sadie and Ben look at each other, then at Frank.

REV. FRANK

It's our board of directors. Ever since Mrs. Morales broke her pelvis on the front steps. You know how it is.

SADIE

Of course.

She signs her form, motions for Ben to do the same. Frank digs out more papers from his desk.

REV. FRANK

And we'll need a blood test from each of you.

He hands them each another paper. Ben hesitates before taking it.

REV. FRANK

Relax, son, I said blood test, not urine sample.

BEN

No, I -

Ben looks to Sadie for help. Frank starts tapping out numbers on the calculator.

REV. FRANK

And then there's the deposit for the church booking, damage deposit for the course, non-parishioner fee for Ben, mandatory donation to the Saint Augustine's orphans fund, plus tax, for a total of four thousand and fifty-three dollars, twenty six cents.

Ben is shocked. Sadie grabs his hand, smiles.

REV. FRANK

And last but not least, the application form.

Frank heads to a cabinet, pulls out two stacks of paper the size of telephone books, hands them over.

REV. FRANK

If you can have these filled out by tomorrow please.

Ben and Sadie look at the stacks of paper in their hands, then at each other. Jesus.

Frank opens the door, points them out to the hallway.

REV. FRANK

We begin tomorrow at nine a.m.
West parking lot.

Ben and Sadie walk into the hall with their stack of papers.

REV. FRANK

And you do remember the eleventh commandment, don't you?

Ben and Sadie have no clue.

REV. FRANK

Thou shalt not be late.

He swings the door shut in their faces.

EXT. ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH - DAY

Ben and Sadie leave the church, application forms in hand. Ben stops at the top of the stairs.

BEN

This marriage preparation course. What do you figure? We talk about why we want to get married, learn some bible passages, that kind of thing?

SADIE

Probably.

BEN

I can handle that. You?

SADIE

I think so.

BEN

We doing this?

Sadie smiles.

BEN
God help us.

They head down the stairs.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - DAY

A typical middle class suburban family home. Four KIDS run around the back yard screaming and beating each other with plastic toys.

Ben sits on the back porch next to his friend JOEL who drinks a beer and looks like he's watching the kids but he's kind of staring at nothing. Ben flips through the marriage prep application forms.

BEN
Okay, this stuff - "location of birth, names of parents, attending physician" - no big deal. But then get this - "date of loss of virginity, names and last known addresses of all previous sexual partners"? Is this normal?

Joel's wife SHELLY comes out the house and heads for the kids in the yard.

SHELLY
Jesus, Joel, are you even watching them? Hi, Ben.

BEN
Hey Shel.

She pries a kid's head out from under the fence, wipes off the dirt.

BEN
(to Joel)
Did you have to do any of this before you got married?

Joel watches Shelly drag a bag of soil over to fill the hole under the fence. The kids run around like maniacs. Joel takes a deep breath, just stares at them.

JOEL

To tell you the truth, man, I can't remember anything from before I got married. It's like a black hole. Was I single once? I don't know. All I know is this that's my wife. Those are apparently my kids. That's my 17 hp John Deere. And this is my beer. It's cold. Everything else, my friend... everything else is just a big blur.

Ben looks at his application form again, goes to ask something else, thinks better of it.

BEN

I better get going if I'm going to finish this thing tonight.

JOEL

You need help?

Ben gets up, shakes his hand.

BEN

No, I'm good.

Joel doesn't let go of Ben's hand - please don't leave me. One of his kids crawls up onto his lap. Joel snaps out of his daze and doesn't seem to mind at all.

JOEL

See you later, man.

Ben smiles at him, waves to Shelly, walks out of the yard with his application papers.

INT. SADIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Sadie is stretched out on her bed, looking at the application. She flips to a middle page, reads, laughs for a second - then the horror of it sets in.

SADIE

Oh my God.

INT. KINKO'S - NIGHT

Ben is at the copy counter, reading from the application and pulling papers from a file box and handing them to a COPY GUY.

BEN

Two copies of birth certificate,
one copy each of report cards
kindergarten through graduation,
swimming exams, college degree,
voter registration, driver's
license, vehicle and/or homeowner's
insurance, lease, tenancy agreement
or mortgage documents for current
residence.

A few other KINKO'S EMPLOYEES start to gather around.

BEN

Income tax returns for the past ten
years, credit report, medical -

COPY GUY

Are you applying for the CIA, man?

BEN

No.

Ben digs into the box again, looks up and sees them all
staring at him.

BEN

I'm getting married.

The Kinko's guys try to keep straight faces. The guy on the
end just about loses it.

INT. SADIE'S PARENTS HOUSE - NIGHT

Mr. and Mrs. Jones are asleep. The phone rings. Mrs. Jones
reaches out and picks it up, barely awake.

MRS. JONES

Hello?

INT. SADIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Sadie sits on her bed in a mess of papers, talking on the
phone in a panic.

SADIE

What year did I get lice at summer
camp?

INT. SADIE'S PARENTS HOUSE - NIGHT

MRS. JONES
Who the hell is this?

EXT. SADIE'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Sadie opens the door to find Ben looking like hell. He holds up his completed application form. Sadie laughs, totally exhausted, kisses him.

EXT. ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH - PARKING LOT - DAY

Reverend Frank leans against an old station wagon, drinking a coffee and reading a newspaper. He spots Sadie and Ben at the edge of the parking lot. He checks his watch, yells out to them.

REV. FRANK
2.5 seconds to get here or you're
late and it's all over before we
even begin.

Sadie and Ben look at each other, not quite sure what to do.

REV. FRANK
2.1, 2...

Sadie and Ben start running and just about kill themselves getting to Frank's car.

REV. FRANK
Actually you had about five
minutes, but nothing makes you feel
more alive than a good morning run.
Am I right?

He grabs their applications as they catch their breath.

REV. FRANK
Deposit?

Sadie hands him a check. Frank holds it up to the sun like he's checking for the watermark.

REV. FRANK
You wouldn't rip off the Lord now,
would you?

Ben and Sadie shake their heads.

REV. FRANK
Of course not.

Frank pockets the check then holds up the application forms.

REV. FRANK
You answered everything truthfully,
didn't leave anything out?

BEN
It's all there.

REV. FRANK
And you're sure you're ready? I
assure you, my marriage preparation
program is not for the feint of
heart. Some people don't even
survive.

Ben lets out a nervous laugh, looks at Sadie.

REV. FRANK
Last chance to back out, or, as we
say in the marriage biz, speak now
or forever hold your peace.

Sadie and Ben don't say a word.

REV. FRANK
Then let's go for a drive.

Frank throws the keys to Sadie.

REV. FRANK
Shotgun!

Frank runs around to the passenger side. Sadie shrugs at Ben
as she gets in the driver's seat. Ben reluctantly gets in
the back.

INT. FRANK'S STATION WAGON - DAY

Frank flips through the application forms as Sadie drives.

REV. FRANK
Today's lesson - communication.
Absolutely the most important part
of a marriage. If you don't have
good communication, you're doomed
from the start.

Frank looks up from the applications, motions for Sadie to turn onto a country road.

REV. FRANK

It sounds like a simple concept - communicating - but it's much more complex than you would think. You see you have verbal communication - talking, talking, talking like this. "Hello Ben, how was your day?". "Worst day of my life, Sadie, thank you, and how was yours?" Verbal communication. Then you have non-verbal communication, Sadie rolling her eyes when Ben says something stupid, Ben holding his hand like a fag when he's feeling threatened, that kind of thing.

Ben goes to protest but he's just stunned. Frank points Sadie to turn left on a dirt road.

REV. FRANK

Pull over there by the dead pigeon.

Sadie pulls over to the side of the dirt road, stops. Frank looks up from the application forms, turns to Ben in the back.

REV. FRANK

Now Ben, would you consider yourself a good communicator?

BEN

I don't know. I guess so.

REV. FRANK

Oh, come on.

Frank holds up Ben's application.

REV. FRANK

You didn't get to be president of the history club by talking out your ass, now did you?

Ben lets a little bit of pride show.

BEN

No.

REV. FRANK

There we go. And Sadie, am I right in thinking that of the two of you, Ben is the better listener, and you are better at communicating your own needs?

SADIE

Probably, yes.

REV. FRANK

Then let's see if we can't even things out a bit. Ben, do you think you can direct Sadie to drive down to that farm house?

Frank points to a rundown house way off in the distance.

BEN

I guess so.

Sadie nods - she's game. Frank signals her to pull back onto the road. She starts driving slowly.

REV. FRANK

Then let's begin. She will only act when you tell her to, Ben, so it's entirely up to you from here on. Can you handle that?

BEN

Of course.

REV. FRANK

How about if she's blindfolded?

Frank reaches over and puts a blindfold over Sadie's eyes as she drives. Sadie laughs nervously and goes with it. Ben starts to get nervous.

BEN

Oh my God.

REV. FRANK

Communication will save you, son.

Ben sees he has no choice.

BEN

Okay, Sadie, you're doing great honey. Just keep doing what you're doing.

REV. FRANK
 Isn't this beautiful? Two people
 in love...

BEN
 Left, honey. A little bit left.

REV. FRANK
 Working together as one..

BEN
 Not that left.

REV. FRANK
 Communicating as if their very
 lives depended on it.

BEN
 Good, good. You're doing great.

REV. FRANK
 Out here in God's country. It
 warms the soul, I'm telling you.
 Almost brings a tear to mine eye.

Frank reaches over and floors the gas pedal. The car starts
 flying down the road, dust flying up everywhere.

BEN
 Oh my God!

SADIE
 Ben! Tell me what to do here.

BEN
 Right, a bit right. This is crazy.

SADIE
 Ben!

BEN
 We're going to die!

Frank points at his collar, totally calm.

REV. FRANK
 I don't know about you, son, but
 I've got a free pass to heaven
 right here. I'm good no matter
 what, but if I were you...

He points at the road.

SADIE

Ben! I need you!

BEN

Right! More right! There's a turn
ahead, oh my God! Right! Right!
RIGHT!

They fly around the bend and there's a flock of sheep in the road.

BEN

STOP!

Sadie slams on the brakes and Ben is thrown from the back into the front seat, hitting his head on the dashboard. He ends up sprawled on the front seat, looking up at Frank. Sadie pulls off her blindfold.

REV. FRANK

What did we learn today?

Sadie touches Ben's forehead. He cringes, looks at Frank in disbelief.

REV. FRANK

One - communication is a two way street. If one of you isn't hearing the other, it's both your fault. Two - if your partner is doing something that is putting either of you in danger, tell them to stop. And three, for God's sake if you learn nothing else, do remember this -- always wear your seat belt.

Frank gives them both a big smile. They can't believe it.

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Sadie tries to ice Ben's forehead - now a huge welt. Ben is losing it, pacing the room.

BEN

The guy is nuts, Sadie. When he said some people don't survive marriage prep, he meant it.

SADIE

No, he didn't mean *survive* survive. Did he?

Ben points at his forehead.

BEN
He meant it!

Sadie starts to get upset.

SADIE
What are we going to do? We're in
the course now. We can't get
married at that church without
finishing it. We can't go back on
our promise to my Grandma.

Ben walks over to Sadie, calms down a bit.

BEN
We'll talk to her tomorrow at
lunch, tell her how crazy Reverend
Frank is. She won't want either of
us involved in something like this.
She'll understand why we have to
find another place to get married.
Of course she will.

SADIE
But she has her heart set on St.
Augustine's.

BEN
When we tell her what's really
going on, how could she not
understand?

Sadie smiles, hugs him.

EXT. SADIE'S PARENTS HOUSE - DAY

Ben and Sadie knock on the door. No answer. They hear
laughing coming from behind the house.

SADIE
They must be out back.

As they walk around the side of the house, the laughing gets
louder. Ben unlatches the gate into the back yard and stops.

SADIE
What?

She looks to the yard where Mr. Jones, Mrs. Jones and Grandma Jones are having an afternoon cocktail. Their guest -- Reverend Frank.

SADIE

Oh my God.

Frank spots them at the gate, beckons them over.

REV. FRANK

Speak of the devil. Come on, you two. I was just telling your family about our fabulous drive to the country yesterday.

MRS. JONES

Quite a day you had.

GRANDMA JONES

I wish I could have had that much fun getting ready for my wedding.

Mr. Jones gets up with his empty drink glass, walks past them on his way to the house. He stops and looks at Ben's head injury, not impressed.

MR. JONES

I understand you don't wear a seat belt, son. I hope you learned your lesson about being reckless.

BEN

Yes, sir.

MR. JONES

That's my little girl you've got there. Understand?

BEN

Absolutely.

Mr. Jones smiles, calls back to the yard.

MR. JONES

Another Bloody Mary for you, Reverend Frank?

REV. FRANK

Are you twisting my arm, Walt?

MR. JONES

I believe I am.

FRANK

Then you might as well make it a double.

Frank holds up a little hors d'oeuvres basket.

REV. FRANK

And see if there are any more of these crab tartlets in there.

(to Mrs. Jones)

Incredible, Carol. Absolute perfection.

Mrs. Jones giggles like a school girl.

MRS. JONES

Oh stop.

Grandma Jones looks at Reverend Frank adoringly.

Ben and Sadie look at each other -- we are so fucked.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Sadie walks down the street with her friend KAREN, coffees in hand.

SADIE

I'm telling you, as far as my family is concerned, Reverend Frank might as well be the second coming. There is no talking them out of this now.

They stop at a travel agency, head inside.

INT. TRAVEL AGENCY - DAY

Sadie and Karen walk up to the counter. An AGENT on the phone waves to Sadie, gives her the just a second signal.

KAREN

You should elope.

SADIE

Don't think we haven't thought about it. But I can't do that to them. Tempting, but when it comes down to it...

Sadie shakes her head. The AGENT arrives at the counter, hands her an envelope.

AGENT
You're all set.

SADIE
That's it?

AGENT
Tickets, itinerary, local travel vouchers, map of Kauai. It's all there. Have a great honeymoon.

SADIE
Thanks.

Sadie and Karen head for the door.

KAREN
Last chance to change your tickets and do the elope thing. You can skip town right after your bachelorette party. How about it?

Sadie laughs, swats her with the tickets.

SADIE
Stop it.

INT. BROOKLINE PREP GIRLS SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - DAY

Ben walks into the gym. The girls are all lying around on the mats chatting.

BEN
Excuse me.

Nobody budges.

BEN
Hey!

The girls look at him, a bit surprised.

BEN
The first five minutes of class, as you well know, is for warm up. If I'm late getting in here, that doesn't mean it's a free for all. It means what it always means - warm up. Any questions?

The girls just stare at him. Mari, the bitchy girl, raises her hand.

MARI

Yeah, like, what happened to your head?

Ben's totally annoyed. He spots Principal Martell summoning him to the door. He heads over to her.

PRINCIPAL MARTELL

I'm sorry, Mr. Murphy. I'm afraid there has been a family emergency. We received a call asking you go to the emergency room at Saint Paul's.

Ben's face goes white.

PRINCIPAL MARTELL

Go ahead. I'll take the class.

Ben runs out.

INT. ST. PAUL'S EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY

Ben runs into the emergency room, spots Sadie running in the other door.

BEN

What's going on?

SADIE

I thought you'd know.

Reverend Frank saunters over with a coffee.

REV. FRANK

Welcome to Saint Paul's, my little lovebirds.

BEN

You did this?

REV. FRANK

Did what? Got you out of work for the afternoon? You can thank me later. Right now I'd like you to meet a friend of mine.

He turns them around and points to the ER desk at the other end of the room, manned by a 50ish hefty woman - NURSE BORMAN. She's frightening. Frank raises a hand and gets her attention. She yells back across the ward.

NURSE BORMAN
ARE THOSE THE BREEDERS?

Everybody in the ward turns and stares at them. Nurse Borman beckons them over.

NURSE BORMAN
This way.

Frank points Sadie and Ben toward her.

REV. FRANK
Have fun, kids.

Sadie and Ben start walking across the ward.

SADIE
Is it too late to make a run for it?

BEN
I think she'd rather snap our necks with her bare hands than let us escape alive.

Ben looks back at Frank who right now looks more appealing than Nurse Borman.

INT. ST. PAUL'S MATERNITY WARD - DAY

Nurse Borman ushers Ben and Sadie through double doors and into a prep area.

NURSE BORMAN
Welcome to Saint Paul's maternity ward. Birthplace of approximately 4142 babies each year. That's almost eighty babies each week, eleven or so babies per day, one about every two hours and -

They hear a blood curdling scream in the distance.

NURSE BORMAN
One of those any minute now.

She takes them to the sinks, starts scrubbing, signals them to do the same. Ben and Sadie are a bit confused, but they go with it.

NURSE BORMAN

If you've seen childbirth on television, you know that the woman usually goes into labor in the middle of a Tupperware party, husband drives her to the hospital, wife does some huffing and puffing, and out comes a beautiful baby that looks just like daddy.

She finishes scrubbing, puts her hands up. Another NURSE slaps robes and masks on the three of them.

NURSE BORMAN

This is the real world. And if I had a nickel for every time a baby came out looking nothing at all like daddy, I'd be sunbathing topless in St. Bart's and sure as hell not working here.

She heads to a door, beckons them to follow.

NURSE BORMAN

Here's what they never show you on Little House on the Prairie.

She kicks a lever on the floor. The doors fly open and she charges through. Ben and Sadie follow.

It's madness. Nurses rushing around, women screaming, technicians rushing through with equipment on wheels.

They pass by a room where a woman is breathing through her contractions.

NURSE BORMAN

Labor can last anything from a few hours to days, and it's no picnic.

She grabs Ben's hand, pulls a finger back.

BEN

Ow!

NURSE BORMAN

A woman in labor wouldn't even notice something like that.

(MORE)

NURSE BORMAN(cont'd)

You do not know pain until you've given birth.

They pass another room where a huge needle is being inserted into a woman's back while she screams.

NURSE BORMAN

Course there's drugs, so you should figure out how you feel about that beforehand, then be ready to throw that decision right out the window when the pain really kicks in.

They pass another room where a woman in labor screams at her husband.

WOMAN

YOU DID THIS TO ME! I SAID WE SHOULD ADOPT BUT NO, YOU SELFISH MOTHERFUCKER!

Nurse Borman stops in front of another room where labor is fully in progress. There are about a dozen hospital staff standing around.

NURSE BORMAN

If you're shy, get your tubes tied now and call it a day. A woman in labor lies naked most of the time while a dozen strangers - nurses, med students, ob-gyn's and pediatricians stand there with a front seat view of, you guessed it, her vagina.

She keeps walking through the maze of hospital workers rushing around. Sadie and Ben follow - now pretty freaked out.

NURSE BORMAN

These people are in charge of everything from keeping the baby alive to keeping mom alive to wiping up the mess - and let me tell you something -

She turns back to Sadie and Ben.

NURSE BORMAN

It ain't a delivery unless one of you or both of you shits your pants.

She keeps walking, signals them to follow. They pass a window where a baby is being born. Ben and Sadie watch, mesmerized.

NURSE BORMAN
 Beautiful isn't it? Here's the
 reality. You don't squeeze
 something the size of *that* out of
 you without a lot of *this* -

She grabs Ben's gown with two hands at the neck and RIPS it right down the middle. The raw sound of it sends shivers right down their backs. Sadie cringes. Ben starts looking a bit weak in the knees.

More screams from down the hall.

A LAB TECH walks past them with a placenta in a jar.

NURSE BORMAN
 Placenta, coming through. Watch
 yourselves, people. Fresh, warm
 afterbirth on the move.

And that's it. Ben hurls into the corner.

NURSE BORMAN
 Buck up, kid. It's the miracle of
 life.

EXT. ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL - DAY

Sadie helps Ben out of the hospital. He's looking green.

SADIE
 Deep breaths. Come on.

BEN
 I'm fine.

Reverend Frank waits for them on the front steps eating a juicy burger.

REV. FRANK
 Wasn't that a good time?

SADIE
 It was interesting.

REV. FRANK
 And now the real fun begins.

Frank goes to dig in his pockets but can't manage with the burger. He hands it to Ben to hold. Ben tries not to look at it, or smell it.

Frank pulls 2 cell phone/pagers out of his pockets, hands them each one.

REV. FRANK

Baby pagers. When it goes off,
it's going to sound like a crying
baby, like this.

He pulls another phone out of his pocket, hits a button. Sadie's phone starts making the sound of a crying baby. It gets louder and louder.

REV. FRANK

When that happens, I need you to
open it up, speak directly into it,
saying everything on this card.

Frank hands them each a card.

REV. FRANK

And yes, I will be on the other
end. I can hear you. God can hear
you. No cheating. No matter where
you are, no matter what you're
doing. Having kids is a full time
job. Understand?

Sadie is a bit confused, but goes with it.

SADIE

Okay.

REV. FRANK

Ben?

Ben nods, still queasy.

REV. FRANK

I'm not hearing much enthusiasm
from you there, Benjamin.

BEN

Yes.

Frank grabs his burger back from Ben, takes a huge bite.

REV. FRANK

Welcome to the world of parenting.

He leaves. Ben sits down on the steps.

BEN
This is crazy.

Ben points to the hospital.

BEN
That - that woman - oh my God. And I do not need a pager to teach me how to take care of kids. What's the big deal? We have years to figure this out.

SADIE
Years?

BEN
Once I have a permanent teaching job, and you -

SADIE
What exactly do you mean by "years"?

BEN
I don't know. Eight?

SADIE
What!

Ben quickly backpedals to calm her down.

BEN
Five. Maybe five? What's the hurry? I thought your business was the big priority.

SADIE
It's the 21st century, Ben. Women do both, you know. I want to start a family soon, not in five years.

Sadie starts getting upset.

BEN
Sadie, Sadie, it's okay.

SADIE
With at least a year and a half in between them all.

BEN

All? How many are you thinking?

SADIE

Four, five, I don't know.

Ben is shocked. Sadie's too upset to notice.

SADIE

I grew up as an only child and I swore I'd never let my kids live like that.

Ben moves over toward her.

BEN

Hey, it's okay. We can talk about this later.

SADIE

When? When are we going to talk about this? We're getting married in three weeks and we haven't talked about any of this stuff. It's a big deal to me. A very big deal. I thought you loved kids and wanted lots of them just like I do.

BEN

I do. Sure.

SADIE

It doesn't seem like it. Seriously, Ben, it doesn't seem like you're ready for any of this.

Ben is about to plead more when his baby pager goes off. He's about to ignore it but Sadie glares at him. It's now or never.

He pulls the card out of his pocket, looks at it, cringes, then looks up at Sadie waiting. He opens up the phone and goes for it - totally uncomfortable with every word of it.

BEN

Hey my little kooky koo koo.
Daddy's here to take care of your
little poo poo.

He looks up at Sadie. She almost cracks a smile. He keeps reading.

BEN
Poopsie doo doo. Poopsie doo doo.
Who loves you? Daddy loves you.
Yes I do, my little kooky koo koo.

Sadie laughs, goes to kiss him. Ben stops her, points to his mouth, then to the hospital.

BEN
I don't know if you want to do that
before I brush my teeth.

SADIE
Good point.

INT. YOGA STUDIO - DAY

Sadie, Karen and another friend NINA are about to start yoga class.

SADIE
I don't know, it's like I'm seeing
a side of Ben I never knew. I
never thought he was so -

KAREN
Wimpy?

SADIE
That's harsh.

KAREN
But kind of true.

SADIE
You should have seen him at the
hospital. I kept thinking, is this
how he's going to be when I'm
giving birth to his child?

NINA
So he can't handle the sight of
blood.

SADIE
Or just about anything else
unpleasant. Honestly, I love the
guy, but he's really not handling
this marriage preparation course
like I thought he would.

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Ben is watching golf on TV with his friend EDDY.

EDDY

How's that marriage class thing
going?

BEN

Fine.

They both keep watching the game.

EXT. CEMETARY - DAY

Rev. Frank conducts an outdoor funeral. An ELDERLY LADY
weeps off to the side, comforted by her family.

REV. FRANK

Bless, we pray, this grave
as the place where the body of
Leonard Sherman, your servant,
may rest in peace. Amen.

Frank looks over at Choir Boy who nods back at him and opens
up his prayer book. Tucked in the book is the cell phone.
Choir Boy hits a button.

INT. BROOKLINE PREP GIRLS SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - DAY

All of the girls sit around watching a girl struggle through
a routine on the uneven bars. Ben stands close enough to
spot her. It's dead quiet.

Ben's baby pager goes off. All the girls look around. Ben
tries to ignore it but the crying keeps getting louder and
louder.

The girl on the bars stops her routine, hangs from the bars.

GIRL

That's coming from your pocket.

BEN

It's nothing. Just ignore it.

He pulls the pager out of his pocket, tries to shut it off
but can't.

GIRL
That's really annoying.

Ben backs up, heads over to the corner of the gym, opens up the phone, takes the card out of his pocket and starts to read quietly. The girls watch him and laugh. Mari yells out to him.

MARI
Mr. Murphy, did you say something?

Ben loses his patience, turns around.

BEN
It's none of your business!

The girls laugh quietly.

INT. ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH - FRANK'S STUDY - DAY

Ben and Sadie are seated as Frank stands nearby.

REV. FRANK
Sex. Sex, sex, sex, sex, sex. And I'll say it again - sex. Yes, Ben and Sadie, you heard me. Sex. One of the most important parts of a healthy marriage is a healthy sex life. Now what does that mean exactly - a healthy sex life? You may be wondering - how can you judge that when every person, every couple is different? Very simple. A sex life is healthy when both of you are getting your needs met. Fair enough?

Ben and Sadie nod - Sadie a lot more comfortable than Ben.

REV. FRANK
Ben, how would you say your sex life is?

Ben totally does not want to answer. Frank and Sadie just look at him and wait. Finally -

BEN
Good.

REV. FRANK
Then I guess you're going straight to hell.

(MORE)

REV. FRANK(cont'd)

That, my friend, was a trick question. Where in the bible does it say that it's acceptable to have sex before marriage?

BEN

Uh -

Frank pats Ben on the back

REV. FRANK

I'm just messing with you. Rule number one of a good sex life. Stop being so serious.

Ben forces a smile, goes along with it.

REV. FRANK

We're going to try a little exercise.

Frank turns the chairs so Ben and Sadie are facing each other.

REV. FRANK

Now an essential part of intimacy is what? Communication. You remember the communication lesson, don't you, Ben?

BEN

How could I forget.

REV. FRANK

That's what I like to hear.

Frank sits on the desk half way between the two of them.

REV. FRANK

Now Sadie, I'd like you to start us off. Look at your partner and complete the sentence, "I like it when..." Can you do that?

SADIE

I think so.

She looks at Ben, smiles.

SADIE

I like it when... you caress me.

REV. FRANK
 Good girl. Excellent. Now Ben,
 your turn.

Ben could not be more uncomfortable. He looks up at Frank waiting on the edge of the desk, then he sees Sadie smiling at him.

BEN
 I like it when... we cuddle?

REV. FRANK
 Stop, you're embarrassing yourself.
 Cuddle? I like it when we *cuddle*?
 Get up.

Frank pulls Ben out of his seat and points him to the chair in the corner. Frank takes Ben's seat, moves it up a few inches closer to Sadie.

REV. FRANK
 Okay Sadie, go again. Let's show
 your fiance how it's done.

Sadie laughs a bit, gets brave.

SADIE
 I like it when we do it in the
 shower.

Frank's eyes light up.

REV. FRANK
 I like it too when we do it in the
 shower - especially with the lights
 on.

Ben isn't impressed.

SADIE
 I like it when you soap me up.

REV. FRANK
 And I like it when the steam rises
 off your perky breasts.

Ben's mouth falls open - half shock, half disgust. He looks at Sadie for help but she's right back in there already -

SADIE
 I like it when you get creative
 with the Waterpik.

Frank moves his chair up a few inches closer.

REV. FRANK

Oh yes, I love it when we use the Waterpik, when you have one hand on the nozzle and the other on my -

Ben jumps up in the corner.

BEN

Enough!

REV. FRANK

What? We were just starting to have fun with it. You realize this is for your own good, don't you?

Ben doesn't say anything. Frank turns to Sadie.

REV. FRANK

Is he always this serious?

Sadie shrugs. Frank looks back at Ben, sulking.

REV. FRANK

Alright, you two. Come with me.

INT. ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH - NURSERY SCHOOL ROOM - DAY

Rev. Frank points Ben and Sadie to child sized desks at opposite ends of the room.

REV. FRANK

You'll love this one, Ben. No communicating, no expressing your needs, no sex... no *placenta*.

Rev. Frank smiles at Ben.

REV. FRANK

Yeah, I heard about that. You have no secrets from me, remember. Just like you have no secrets from -

He points up.

SADIE

God.

REV. FRANK

No, Mrs. Ferguson, the organist.
She's in everybody's business. But
yes, Sadie, God too. Very good.

Frank hands them each a piece of paper.

REV. FRANK

Written test. You have one hour.
Do not discuss this with your
partner. It's for you to answer,
and you alone. Understood?

SADIE

Yes.

BEN

Got it.

Frank walks out. Ben looks down at his paper. There's only one question: "why are you worthy of your fiancée?". Ben is immediately stumped. He looks over and Sadie is already writing up a storm.

EXT. BEN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Reverend Frank and Choir Boy rush across the street to Ben's apartment building.

CHOIR BOY

Collar.

Frank pulls his collar out of his pocket, puts it on. They scan the list of names on the panel at the door, then buzz one. A voice of a female LANDLORD comes over the speaker.

LANDLORD

Yes?

REV. FRANK

(with an Irish accent)

Excuse me, madam. So sorry to
disturb. We've come from St.
Patrick's parish. I'm Reverend
Kilkenny and I have with me a youth
member of our choir. We fear that
a member of our congregation, a
Benjamin Murphy, has fallen prey to
the devil's temptation. Could you
please grant us access to his
residence in order to save the very
life of the poor lad?

They wait - then hear the click of the door opening. They look at each other then head inside.

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT - DAY

The Landlord stands in the hallway trying to get a look into the apartment. Frank and Choir Boy are inside.

REV. FRANK
Thank you and God bless.

He closes the door, drops the accent.

REV. FRANK
Let's see what we've got.

Frank points the Choir Boy to the computer. As Choir Boy starts to type stuff in, Frank scans the rest of the apartment. He finds a stack of mail, starts flipping through.

REV. FRANK
Junk, junk -

He holds an envelope up to the light.

REV. FRANK
Junk.

He drops the mail, heads to the kitchen. The cupboards are almost empty. Pizza box on the counter. Dirty plates in the sink. Frank grabs a handful from an open cereal box sitting on the counter, starts snacking.

He heads into the living room, looks under cushions, stops at a photo of Ben and his friends at a historical re-enactment event, then continues through the bookshelf, through the videos and music collection.

REV. FRANK
Oh my God.

Choir Boy is still focused on the computer.

CHOIR BOY
You find something?

REV. FRANK
Celine Dion's Greatest Hits.

They both laugh.

CHOIR BOY
That's not even funny.

They continue their searching. Frank heads into the bedroom, looks under the mattress, in the closet. It's a mess but there's nothing out of the ordinary. He spots a photo of Sadie by the bed.

REV. FRANK
Isn't that sweet?

Choir Boy yells out from the living room.

CHOIR BOY
Bingo.

Frank rushes back to the computer.

CHOIR BOY
Seems like our boy's a regular at this site. Check it out.

Choir Boy hits a button and a screenshot of a porn site comes up on the screen. Frank covers Choir Boy's eyes but gets a good look at the screen himself.

REV. FRANK
That little devil.

He leans in closer to read off the screen.

REV. FRANK
"www.super-slutty-college-cheerleaders.com. Hot, naked and barely legal."

CHOIR BOY
Can I see?

REV. FRANK
No.... "Hot cheerleader of the week, flesh pics, girl on girl vids". For the love of Saint Mary. "Did you get off on this site? Tell a friend and get a free pass to the girls shower cam. Enter email address here".

CHOIR BOY
Cool. Type in ChoirBoy666 at -

Frank swats him with his free hand.

INT. ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH - NURSERY SCHOOL ROOM - DAY

Ben is still looking at his test paper. He's totally sweating and hasn't written a thing. He looks over and Sadie has finished one page and is starting on the second. She looks up at him, totally disgusted, then keeps writing.

INT. SADIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Frank and Choir Boy wave to SADIE'S LANDLORD in the hallway and close the door. They take a look around Sadie's apartment.

REV. FRANK

I've got a feeling about this one.

Frank points toward the bedroom. They head in and go right for the closet. It's full of shoe boxes. Frank reaches up and pulls down a ratty box from the top shelf, shakes it.

REV. FRANK

Women are so predictable.

Frank hands the box to Choir Boy. He opens it up and starts flipping through.

CHOIR BOY

Usual. Cards, letters, photos of ex-boyfriends, clippings from O magazine.

Frank looks into the closet again.

REV. FRANK

There's something else.

He pulls out another shoe box, opens it. Inside, brand new shoes, never been worn, price tags still on. Frank grabs another box - same thing. Then another. More and more - outrageously expensive, brand new shoes.

REV. FRANK

Jackpot.

CHOIR BOY

Make that a double.

Frank turns around and sees Choir Boy at Sadie's bedside table, holding up a copy of National Geographic. Hidden inside -- a well read copy of People Magazine's Sexiest Bachelors -- with hotel tycoon Craig Carlisle on the cover.

CHOIR BOY
That bitch.

REV. FRANK
Who taught you that language?

CHOIR BOY
You did.

REV. FRANK
Jesus, really?

INT. ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH - NURSERY SCHOOL ROOM - DAY

Frank rushes into the room, totally out of breath. Sadie stops writing. Ben has two words written on his paper then crossed out.

REV. FRANK
Great work, you two.

Frank gathers up the tests, ushers them out the door.

REV. FRANK
You've both worked so hard, it's time to relax. Enjoy yourselves at your bachelor and bachelorette parties tonight. Get out of here.

Ben and Sadie walk down the hallway together. As soon as they're out of earshot -

SADIE
What's wrong with you?

BEN
What?

SADIE
You couldn't even write one sentence? I can't believe you.

She storms outside.

EXT. ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH - DAY

Ben rushes to catch up with Sadie on the stairs.

BEN
Don't you see what he's doing?

SADIE

What are you talking about?

BEN

Reverend Frank. He's totally messing with us.

SADIE

Enough. You've been blaming him for everything that's gone wrong from the start. Not this time, Ben. Reverend Frank didn't do this. You did. That should have been the easiest question you ever had to answer.

BEN

I tried. I really -

SADIE

You know what, I can't even talk to you about this now. I have the hotel tour this afternoon, the party tonight. Honestly Ben, I love you but I'm so mad at you right now.

She walks down the stairs. Ben follows her.

BEN

Sadie -

A Porsche pulls up to the curb. In the driver's seat -- Craig Carlisle.

SADIE

I have to go.

She kisses him quickly then runs to the curb. As Ben watches her get into the car, Choir Boy appears at his side. They watch Sadie and Craig drive away.

CHOIR BOY

Isn't that your fiance driving away? With another guy? And in a Porsche? Ouch.

Ben just looks at him.

INT. SPORTS BAR - NIGHT

A few dozen customers are scattered throughout the bar. In the corner, Ben sits at a table with his friends Joel and Eddy. The lamest bachelor party of all time.

JOEL

Lee surrendered at Appomattox. I'm sure of it.

BEN

Yeah but he first met Grant at the Battle of the Wilderness. May 1864. I'm telling you, it was Wilderness, then the Spotsylvania, then the Cold Harbor battle.

A waitress arrives with plates of food.

WAITRESS

Pitcher of Hefeweizen.

She puts the pitcher down on the table.

WAITRESS

And who ordered the veggie plate?

Ben puts up his hand. She sets the plate down and walks away. Joel pours three little glasses of beer, raises his glass.

EDDY

To living it up in the last of Ben's bachelor days.

JOEL

Congratulations, man.

BEN

Thanks, you guys. I really appreciate you throwing this party for me. I do.

EDDY

It's not too late to get a stripper. My sister will do it for ten bucks.

BEN

No, I promised Sadie. Besides, this is great. I wouldn't have it any other way.

As they take little sips of their wheat beer, a voice bellows out from behind Ben.

REV. FRANK
You call this a bachelor party?

Ben cringes. Frank slaps him on the back.

REV. FRANK
Gentlemen, I've conducted funerals
that were more lively than this.

Joel and Eddy look at Ben - who the hell is this guy?

BEN
Joel, Eddy, this is -

REV. FRANK
The answer to your prayers, by the
looks of it.

BEN
This is Reverend Frank.

REV. FRANK
You're eating carrot sticks at your
bachelor party? For the love of
God!

Frank calls out to the bar.

REV. FRANK
Chuckie, my man, a bottle of
Tequila Patrón, por favor.

The BARTENDER hands Frank a bottle. Frank grabs some shot glasses off a waitress tray on his way to the table.

JOEL
Is this marriage course guy?

Ben nods, tries to hide. Frank sits down and pours the glasses, passes them out, holds up his glass for a toast.

REV. FRANK
"And I, the Son of Man, feast and
drink, and you say, 'He's a glutton
and a drunkard, and a friend of the
worst sort of sinners!' But wisdom
is shown to be right by what
results from it."

BEN

Okay.

REV. FRANK

Matthew, chapter eleven.

BEN

What does it mean?

REV. FRANK

Many things, my friend. Many things, but in this case, it means that you might as well have fun tonight because you can bet your ass your wife-to-be is.

BEN

What are you talking about?

REV. FRANK

Strippers, my friend. Hot, be-muscled, oiled up, naked and, with any luck, heterosexual men. Arriving at Sadie's bachelorette party this very moment, or so I hear.

Frank leans in close to Ben.

REV. FRANK

And I doubt they're the kind of guys who say "I like it when we cuddle".

Ben is totally freaked out. Frank holds his glass up, smiles. Ben grabs the bottle of tequila and sucks it right back.

INT. SADIE'S FRIEND'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sadie, her friend Karen and a bunch of other semi-drunk FRIENDS sit around the living room drinking wine and opening obscene gifts. She opens up a box of exceptionally slutty lingerie, then stands up to show it off. A bondage sex toy falls out of the box. Sadie picks it up, laughs.

SADIE

Are you trying to give Ben a heart attack?

KAREN

Tell him it's an artifact from the
Battle of Gettysburg. He'll be all
over it.

The girls all laugh. The doorbell rings. Sadie heads over
to the door, opens it. Standing there are 3 JEHOVAH
WITNESSES holding copies of "Reasoning From the Scriptures".

FIRST JEHOVAH

Good evening, miss. We're visiting
with people in your community to
talk about the wonderful things
God's Kingdom will do for mankind.

SADIE

Oh. Actually -

Sadie turns around to Karen, mouths "help". The girls all
look - no clue what's going on. Karen gets up to join Sadie
at the door.

SECOND JEHOVAH

Perhaps your friends would like to
join in as well?

KAREN

Listen, pal -

THIRD JEHOVAH

Not to worry, my sister. There's
plenty to go around.

The Jehovahs suddenly rip open their shirts to expose ripped,
golden bodies. The girls all gasp. One of the guys turns on
music in his briefcase and the three of them charge into the
room and start stripping. The girls quickly get over their
shock and start getting into it.

SADIE

(to Karen)

Tell me you didn't do this. You
know I promised Ben.

KAREN

It wasn't me. But damn -

They look at the guys. They're good.

SADIE

Sweet Jesus.

Sadie and Karen start getting into it.

INT. SPORTS BAR - NIGHT

All hell has broken loose in the bar. Ben is wasted, wearing a Shriner's hat. He and three huge SHRINERS are at the bar, hands tied behind their back, with a row of tequila shots in front of them.

Frank finishes taking bets.

FRANK

That's it? All in? No more takers
on the little guy?

BEN

Let's go already!

FRANK

Patience, my son.

Frank shoots off a cap gun. Ben and the other guys start downing the shots without use of their hands. The crowd goes nuts cheering them on.

EXT. SADIE'S PARENTS HOUSE - FRONT YARD - MORNING

Mr. Jones opens the door in his robe and slippers, grabs the newspaper off the front porch. Something in the front yard catches his eye.

MR. JONES

Good Lord.

There's Ben - passed out on the lawn, wearing cheerleader top and panties, spooning a garden gnome. Mr. Jones shakes his head in disgust, walks back into the house.

EXT. SADIE'S PARENTS HOUSE - FRONT YARD - A BIT LATER

Water is thrown into Ben's face. He wakes up to see Sadie standing over him. He's totally out of it, chunks of grass stuck to his face.

Sadie gets down close to him, talks in a quiet fury.

SADIE

Listen to me, Ben Murphy. In five seconds, I'm going to walk to the curb, get in my client's car, go to the new Carlisle Resort and hope - hope - that this stunt of yours hasn't completely sabotaged my career.

Ben goes to speak. She slaps a hand over his mouth.

SADIE

While I'm there I'm going to try to forget about the fact that you did God knows what last night -

She holds up a Visa receipt.

SADIE

And that you somehow spent half of our savings account -

She shoves the receipt into his bra.

SADIE

And ended up in women's clothing -- on my parents' front lawn.

Ben looks down at himself, then at his surroundings. The horror starts to sink in.

SADIE

I don't know what's going on with you, but you are not the guy I thought I was marrying. If you want to redeem yourself, let me tell you, it will take way more than a miracle.

She rips the garden gnome from his grasp.

SADIE

I suggest you put this back where you found it - then get the hell off my parents' property before they, or I, call the cops.

She storms to the curb where Craig waits for her in the Porsche. Ben sits up.

BEN

But you had strippers!

Sadie turns back and glares at him, gets in Craig's car. The car pulls away.

Ben holds his pounding head. He looks up at the front steps - sees Mr. & Mrs. Jones on the front porch.

BEN

Morning.

They slam the door. Ben looks up and sees Grandma Jones peeking at him through an upstairs window. Grandma Jones looks like she's about to wave but stops herself, then moves away from the window.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Ben walks home in his cheerleader outfit. A car of TEENAGE BOYS drives by and honks.

TEENAGER

How much?

Ben gives them the finger.

Another car pulls up and drives slowly alongside. Ben tries to ignore it.

REV. FRANK

How about a ride, sugar?

BEN

Go to hell.

REV. FRANK

I can guarantee you that's one place I'm definitely not going.

The car stops. Ben realizes who it is, leans into the window.

BEN

What did you do to me last night?

REV. FRANK

Me? Are you kidding? It was you. You were an animal!

Ben holds his head.

BEN

Sadie hates me.

REV. FRANK
Nonsense. Hop in.

Ben considers his options, then gets in the car. Choir boy is in the backseat, reading. He gives Ben the nod.

Frank starts driving. Ben pulls the Visa receipt out of his bra.

BEN
She said I spent half of our savings account.

REV. FRANK
And it was worth every penny.

BEN
What have I done?

REV. FRANK
What about her? What does she spend her money on? Do you even know what her priorities are when it comes to money? Do you?

Ben thinks about it.

BEN
I guess not.

REV. FRANK
Exactly. So stop beating yourself up. You had some fun, that's all. Of course the third round of drinks for the Shriners bus tour wasn't the best idea. I tried to stop you.

Ben just stares ahead, stunned.

BEN
Oh my God.

REV. FRANK
Where's Sadie now? Returning bottles to pay for your fabulous Hawaiian honeymoon?

BEN
No. She's away for work.

Choir Boy pipes up from the back.

CHOIR BOY
With the Carlisle guy?

BEN
Yeah.

CHOIR BOY
I was just reading about him.

Choir Boy holds up the People Magazine 50 Hottest Bachelors issue.

CHOIR BOY
Says here he just wants to find a good woman to settle down and have a big family.

Ben grabs the magazine out of Choir Boys hands, looks at it. Choir Boy leans into the front seat - looks at the magazine, then at Ben, then at the magazine.

BEN
What?

CHOIR BOY
Yeah, that'll be the toughest decision of Sadie's life, alright. Incredibly successful and good looking family man -- or a penniless pussy who smells like a ten year old bar rag and dresses like a fag.

Ben lunges for Choir Boy's throat.

REV. FRANK
Hey, hey, hey. Boys. Easy.

Frank pulls the car to the curb in front of Ben's apartment and breaks them up. Ben gets out of the car, looks around.

REV. FRANK
What are you going to do?

BEN
I don't know.

REV. FRANK
"If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move".

BEN

What?

REV. FRANK

Not working for you? Don't worry. I've got a million of these things for just about every occasion. How about this one. John 3:18. "Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and *action*."

Ben thinks about it.

BEN

I've got to go after her.

Frank shrugs - whatever.

BEN

I've got to go after her.

Ben runs into his apartment. Frank and Choir Boy watch him go.

CHOIR BOY

The poor bastard.

EXT. CARLISLE RESORT - DAY

A huge, new resort. Cars are valet parked. Business people and families come in and out of the lobby.

INT. CARLISLE RESORT - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

The conference room is set up for a formal event. Sadie walks around with a clipboard, checking flower arrangements throughout the room while a bunch of WORKERS set them up.

She stops at an elaborate arrangement in the corner of the room, calls out to one of the workers.

SADIE

Darren, this one should be closer to the podium. When you get a chance...

DARREN

I'm on it.

She continues through the room.

SECURITY (O.S.)
I'm sorry, sir, this room is off
limits until -

BEN
Sadie!

Sadie turns around, surprised - and not exactly impressed.
She walks to the door.

SADIE
What are you doing here?

BEN
I need to talk to you.

SADIE
Now? I'm working!

She looks around, a few of the workers are looking at them.
She lowers her voice a bit.

SADIE
Did you honestly think you could
just show up here and -

The door opens and Craig walks in. He notices Ben.

SADIE
Craig, this is Ben. My fiance.

Craig shakes Ben's hand like they're old friends, but is
obviously unsure why Ben is there. Craig points out the
room.

CRAIG
What do you think?

BEN
It's nice.

CRAIG
Wouldn't be half what it is without
Sadie's work.

BEN
She's great.

Ben smiles at Sadie. She gives him the stone face right
back.

CRAIG

Listen, why don't you go on up to Sadie's room and relax, enjoy the facilities.

Sadie reluctantly hands Ben her key.

CRAIG

We'll just finish up work here and she'll join you later.

BEN

Okay.

CRAIG

And I'd love to show you two around the area tomorrow. What do you say we go hit a few at the range in the morning? It's not far from here. I'd love for you to be my guest.

Ben goes to decline.

SADIE

Sounds great.

Craig points to the room, motions to Sadie that they get back to work.

CRAIG

Shall we?

Craig and Sadie look at Ben. He finally gets the hint.

BEN

I'll just...

He starts heading for the door. Ben smiles uncomfortably, walks out, passing a bunch of Execs on his way.

EXT. CARLISLE RESORT - LOBBY - DAY

As Ben waits for the elevator, he hears laughing at the check-in desk. He turns around -- and there's Reverend Frank. Ben can't believe it. He gets in the elevator, then gets right off and marches up to Frank.

BEN

What are you doing here?

REV. FRANK

What am *I* doing here? My job, of course. Looking out for the spiritual well being of my people.

BEN

I'm fine.

REV. FRANK

You didn't exactly rush off here in the most stable frame of mind, Benjamin. You had me worried.

Choir Boy arrives with their luggage - and plenty of it, golf clubs, tennis racquets, the works.

BEN

I've got it under control.

REV. FRANK

I'm sure you do. I'm sure you do.

Ben is totally distracted. Frank puts a hand on his shoulder.

REV. FRANK

But if you need some guidance, I'll be close by.

BEN

Great.

Ben heads for the elevator. Frank calls out to him.

REV. FRANK

And you're headed where?

BEN

Sadie's room.

REV. FRANK

And Sadie is...?

BEN

With Craig Carlisle.

Choir Boy lets out a laugh.

REV. FRANK

Yes, it sounds like you've got it completely under control.

Ben just stands there. Frank stops a passing Valet.

REV. FRANK
Which way to the pool?

The Valet points out the back doors.

Frank signals for Choir Boy to grab the luggage. They walk out and leave Ben standing there.

INT. CARLISLE RESORT - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Sadie walks Craig and the Execs through the conference room.

SADIE
I decided to go simple and elegant for the tables. This is a stunning room and the guests are seeing it for the first time. The arrangements need to compliment the environment, not steal the show.

The Execs are all impressed. They stop at a head table area with a view of the resort grounds in the background.

There's a knock on the glass doors. She turns around and sees Ben looking in.

Sadie cringes, then looks at Craig. Craig smiles at Sadie, nods for her to take care of it.

CRAIG
Gentlemen, if you will. Let's move into conference room B.

Sadie sneaks out the exit and the group moves into the next room.

EXT. CARLISLE RESORT - PATIO - DAY

SADIE
Are you intentionally trying to ruin my career? For once I get a shot at a big account and you interrupt my presentation?

BEN
It's just that you and Craig -

SADIE
He's my client, Ben.

BEN

I think he'd like to be a lot more than that.

SADIE

Did it not occur to you maybe I got this chance because I'm good at my job? Do you really think that's not enough?

BEN

That's not what I meant.

SADIE

Then what? What?

Ben doesn't know what to say.

SADIE

I don't have time to wait for you to find the words, Ben. I've got less than an hour to review my event overview and... Not now.

She storms off.

EXT. CARLISLE RESORT - POOLSIDE - DAY

Frank lounges poolside and spritzes himself down with a spray bottle. Ben arrives.

BEN

She won't talk to me.

Rev. Frank takes down his tanning goggles, gives Ben a hard stare.

Choir Boy arrives with two fancy umbrella drinks on a tray, hands one to Frank. Choir Boy sits down on the lounge chair next to Frank with the other drink.

REV. FRANK

Let me tell you something about women, Ben Murphy. They say they don't want to talk but they always do. Always.

Choir Boy goes to take a sip of his drink. Frank stops him.

REV. FRANK

That better be virgin.

Choir Boy reluctantly trades drinks with Frank. Frank turns back to Ben.

REV. FRANK

When a woman says "nothing is wrong" it means everything is wrong. "I don't care" means she definitely cares and "it doesn't matter" means oh, it matters. Now don't confuse that with "I don't want to have sex" which actually does mean "I don't want to have sex". It gets confusing, I know, but trust me on this one. If a woman says she doesn't want to talk, she wants to talk, and buddy, you had better start talking, and fast.

Ben thinks about it. Frank clinks glasses with Choir Boy, takes a sip of his drink, dons his goggles and reclines.

INT. CARLISLE RESORT - MEETING ROOM - DAY

The room is dark. Sadie is at the back of the room at a podium, running through some slides on a projector.

Ben steps in front of her -- also right in front of the slide projector.

BEN

Sadie!

It scares the hell out of her.

SADIE

Oh my God.

BEN

I have to talk to you. Reverend Frank says we need to communicate.

SADIE

Not now.

Ben leans over the podium, grabs her hand.

BEN

I'm sorry, okay? I'm sorry for blowing half of our house downpayment on booze.

(MORE)

BEN(cont'd)

I'm sorry for passing out on your
parents' front lawn in women's
underwear. I'm sorry -

The lights go on. The room is full of grounds keepers,
indoor maintenance staff and the Execs. An Older Exec by the
light switch yells back to him.

OLDER EXEC

We're sorry too, son.

Ben looks down and realizes that there's a microphone between
him and Sadie.

OLDER EXEC

Now, do you mind? This is a
private meeting.

Sadie glares at Ben, covers up the microphone, points Ben to
the door.

SADIE

Now.

Ben walks out. Sadie is humiliated. Craig steps up, pats
her on the shoulder.

CRAIG

Where were we?

INT. CARLISLE RESORT - RECREATION ROOM - DAY

A ballroom dance class is in session. Frank and Choir Boy
are participating. Most of the women in the class are
seniors - including Frank and Choir Boy's partners.

INSTRUCTOR

And one and two and three and turn
and one and two and -

Ben barges into the class, pulls Frank aside.

BEN

She did not want to talk.

Frank grabs Ben and they dance.

REV. FRANK

Yeah, that happens sometimes. You
might have to go back and try
again.

BEN

No!

Ben lets go of Frank's hands, steps back.

BEN

No. I shouldn't have come here in the first place. If I was smart, I would have left her alone until she was ready. Now she must think I have no respect for her or her career. And here you are telling me what she really means? No more. She's my fiance. I know her better than anybody.

Frank grabs Ben's hands gives him a good twirl.

REV. FRANK

Very good. Well done. And what have we learned here?

Ben's totally confused.

REV. FRANK

Throughout your marriage, everybody will have an opinion on how you should handle problems when they arise - your friends, in-laws, brothers, sisters, neighbors, complete strangers, and yes, even your spiritual advisors. But it's not their relationship, it's yours. Only you know what your heart is telling you to do. Remember to listen to it.

Ben steps back from him again.

BEN

That was another one of your lessons? You kept sending me back in there to humiliate myself, all for another lesson? I'll be lucky if Sadie ever talks to me again after what I've done to her today.

REV. FRANK

Then it's a lesson you won't forget. Am I right?

Ben starts to walk out.

REV. FRANK

Benjamin. Be a sport. Come dance!

Ben keeps walking right out the door.

INT. CARLISLE RESORT - SADIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Ben looks at the time. It's 9pm. No Sadie. He starts pacing the room, looking out the window, looking at anything to distract him.

He spots Sadie's briefcase on the desk. He gives it about a second of thought then flips up the lid and looks inside. He moves a few papers aside and spots Sadie's Visa bill. He thinks about it for a second then grabs it, reads.

He hears the door, throws the Visa bill back in the briefcase, runs onto the balcony and pretends to be watching the stars.

Sadie walks in completely exhausted.

BEN

Sadie, about today. I'm -

She puts up a hand like she has no energy for it, then joins him on the balcony.

SADIE

I have to ask you something, okay?
And please just answer me honestly.

BEN

Of course.

SADIE

Are you afraid of getting married?
Is that why you've been acting this way? Just tell me if it is. I can actually stomach some of it if that's the reason. The thing is, I'm scared too.

BEN

Are you?

SADIE

Yes, kind of, I don't know. I thought we totally knew each other, you know? But there's so much stuff about you that I had no idea about.

Ben gets up and goes to her.

BEN

Who says we need to find out
everything before we get married?

Sadie laughs, exhausted.

SADIE

I guess that would make the rest of
our lives kind of boring, huh?

She hugs him.

BEN

I'm sorry. About the money -

SADIE

It's just money. At least that's
what I keep telling myself - over
and over. And over.

BEN

And I'm sorry about showing up
here.

SADIE

Definitely not your best idea.

BEN

And the thing with your parents.

SADIE

You're screwed on that one.

She smiles at him.

SADIE

What am I going to do with you,
Murphy?

BEN

Forget all this stuff that's
happened. We'll have a great day
tomorrow, drive back to the city,
get married Saturday.

SADIE

You sure we're doing the right
thing?

BEN

I think so.

SADIE
You're going to have to be a little
more convincing.

BEN
I *really* think so.

That's the best she's going to get. She hugs him.

INT. CARLISLE RESORT - SADIE'S ROOM - MORNING

Sadie walks out of the bathroom dressed and ready. Ben is
by the door practicing his golf swing.

BEN
You ready?

Sadie grabs her laptop case leaning against the desk.

SADIE
I just have to send off an
estimate. If you want to go ahead
I can meet you down there. I'll be
about five.

BEN
You sure?

SADIE
Yeah, go on.

Ben smiles and heads out.

INT. CARLISLE RESORT - FRANK'S SUITE - DAY

Frank eats breakfast in bed, reads the newspaper. The hotel
phone rings. He answers it.

INT. CARLISLE RESORT - CHOIR BOY'S SUITE - DAY

Choir Boy is on the phone, TV remote in his hand.

CHOIR BOY
Did you block my channels?

On the TV - "ADULT CONTENT - ACCESS DENIED".

INT. CARLISLE RESORT - FRANK'S SUITE - DAY

FRANK

If the Lord wanted you to watch
porn before your sixteenth
birthday, he would have given you
fake I.D.

Frank hangs up the hotel phone, then grabs his cell phone off
his bedside table, hits a button.

INT. CARLISLE RESORT - LOBBY - DAY

Ben walks out of the resort gift shop into the lobby carrying
a newspaper. His baby pager goes off. People start looking
at him. He tries to silence it but it's not working. A
little ANNOYING KID near him imitates the noise.

ANNOYING KID

Waa! Waa!

Ben pretends he's amused and moves away from the kid, but as
the baby pager gets louder, so does the kid.

ANNOYING KID

WAA! WAA!

Ben tries to ditch him but the kid won't stop following.
Every turn Ben makes, the kid is right behind.

ANNOYING KID

WAAAAAA!

Off in the corner, Ben grabs the Kid by the collar.

BEN

Listen, you little shit. Keep it
up and I'll shove this fist right
down your -

SADIE

Ben!

Ben looks up and Sadie is standing there with Craig. They're
both totally disgusted - and head right out the door before
Ben can say a word. Ben straightens the kid's collar for him
then rushes after Sadie and Craig.

EXT. CARLISLE RESORT - DAY

Craig ushers Sadie to a waiting limo.

SADIE
What's the occasion?

She gets in the limo. Ben catches up with them.

CRAIG
My car's not built for three so I
had to improvise.

Before Ben gets into the car, Craig gives him a smile - this time not so friendly. Ben is a bit startled, gets into the car anyway. Craig is right behind him.

INT. LIMO - DAY

The limo pulls onto a dusty road.

CRAIG
You're going to love this place.
My grandfather used to bring me
here when I was a boy. That's
actually how I found out about this
area, fell in love with it.

Craig looks right at Sadie.

CRAIG
So when we decided to add our first
resort to the hotel chain,
naturally I couldn't put it
anywhere else.

The limo slows down and pull into a gated area.

CRAIG
Here we are.

Ben and Sadie look out the window. The overhang sign says "MARMOTH VALLEY SHOOTING RANGE". Ben looks at Sadie in a panic. They get out of the car.

EXT. SHOOTING RANGE - DAY

Ben won't budge from the side of the car.

BEN
I thought we were golfing.

CRAIG
Sorry?

SADIE
Ben thought, actually, I thought
too - when you said range, we
thought you meant -

CRAIG
Oh, I'm sorry. I thought you knew.
Don't worry, I'll show you the
ropes. You'll love it.

SADIE
Actually Ben's anti-firearms.

CRAIG
Are you serious?

Ben nods - totally uncomfortable and a bit pissed off. Craig
laughs at him.

CRAIG
I thought you were a history
teacher.

BEN
I am.

CRAIG
Without guns we have no history.

BEN
History is about learning from our
mistakes - and our mistakes almost
always include guns.

Craig laughs some more, goes and puts one arm around Ben, the
other around Sadie.

CRAIG
Relax. We're just shooting some
discs flying through the air. No
blood will be shed. Just watch if
you like. Fair enough?

SADIE
Sounds good.

Ben just goes along with it -- not at all happy. Craig escorts them to the range area.

A bunch of other SHOOTERS are shooting, watching, talking.

An old guy RANGE HAND meets Craig with 3 guns.

CRAIG

Thanks, Charlie. We'll only be needing two of these today. You're still up for some fun, aren't you Sadie?

SADIE

Sure. Why not?

CRAIG

Charlie, let's see how rusty I am.

Charlie launches the target and Craig takes it out on his first shot. He launches a few more -- sometimes more than one at a time and Craig gets them all effortlessly.

CRAIG

Sadie, come give it a try.

Sadie gets into position. Craig puts his gun down and moves in close to help her.

CRAIG

Just move your left leg up a little bit, hips back, that's it.

SADIE

Like that?

CRAIG

Perfect.

Ben sits on the bench and stews, watching Craig with his hands on Sadie's hips. He finally tries not to watch - and looks toward a bunch of guests arriving at the range.

Right in the middle of them all, in full shooting gear - Reverend Frank. Choir Boy carries their equipment. Ben tries to hide from them.

Sadie tries for a shot and misses.

SADIE

No. That wasn't even close.

CRAIG

Sure it was. For a first try, that was great. You're a natural.

SADIE

It was kind of fun.

CRAIG

Let's try it again.

Ben glances over and sees Frank starting to shoot. Choir Boy assists with backup ammo.

Sadie is too caught up in her own shooting to notice them.

Frank wanders over to the water cooler near Ben's bench. Ben won't even look at him.

BEN

I don't need anymore advice, thanks.

REV. FRANK

Of course not.

Ben doesn't say a word. Frank takes a big drink of water.

REV. FRANK

This is some place, isn't it?

Ben ignores him, keeps watching Sadie.

REV. FRANK

That Craig Carlisle really knows his stuff. You know two years ago, that land was worthless marsh. Now look at it. Convention center, hotel, golf course.

Sadie keeps shooting. Craig helps her.

REV. FRANK

He is a business genius, that's for sure. Definitely a guy who figures out what he wants and goes right after it.

Ben has had it. He finally looks at Frank.

BEN

I know what you're trying to do. You're trying to get me all worked up over Craig Carlisle so you can teach me another lesson. Don't bother, I'm way ahead of you.

(imitating Frank)

Jealousy. It will destroy your marriage. It will eat away at your soul if you let it. There will always be members of the opposite sex around your spouse -- get over it.

REV. FRANK

Then I guess you have no problem with Craig Carlisle grinding your fiance?

Ben looks back to Craig and Sadie - too close for comfort. Craig laughs and calls out to Ben -

CRAIG

Hey Ben, you chicken out on the wedding and decide not to go through with it, I'd be more than happy to step in for you.

Sadie is totally focused on her shot. Craig puts an arm around her waist to steady the gun. Ben fumes on the bench.

Sadie shoots and this time hits the target.

SADIE

I did it!

She's totally excited. Craig runs with it and hugs her, looking over Sadie's shoulder to give Ben an unmistakable nasty smile. And that's Ben's breaking point.

Ben jumps up, grabs a gun off the bench and shoots three times up into the air.

BEN

Enough! Enough! Enough!

He heads over to Sadie and Craig, not paying attention to where he's even pointing the gun. The range employees and other shooters, including Frank and Choir Boy, start ducking behind benches and into the clubhouse.

BEN

Get off my fiance!

SADIE

Ben!

BEN

Don't you see what he's doing?
He's trying to get in your pants.
And that's exactly what he's been
trying to do from the first day he
met you.

SADIE

Ben, stop it.

BEN

And I know it's happening. I can
see it all playing out but nobody
believes me, especially you. It's
like I'm the crazy one!

He starts swinging the gun around without realizing it.

CRAIG

Put down the gun, buddy.

BEN

I'm not a paranoid nutcase! I'm
not the one who's at fault here!

The gun goes off and shoots a water tank. It scares the hell
out of Ben. He looks at the gun in his hand and drops it.
A bunch of Range Hands dive for it.

BEN

You see? What did I tell you about
guns?

INT. CARLISLE RESORT - DAY

Sadie is at the front desk, livid, signing some papers for a
DESK CLERK.

DESK CLERK

They're bringing your luggage down
right away, Ms. Jones.

Sadie looks back into the lobby with dread. Ben comes
running in. Sadie turns her back to him.

BEN

Sadie.

She finishes signing the papers then shoves them across the desk.

BEN

Don't let him do this to us.

Sadie tries to keep her voice down.

SADIE

You are unbelievable. First you blame Reverend Frank for your screw ups, now Craig.

BEN

My screw ups? This is all me? How soon you forget that we'd be in Hawaii right now if we weren't so busy changing our plans to make *your* grandmother happy.

A few other guests start to overhear.

SADIE

It's a good thing we changed our plans for her, otherwise I would have never known how you can't handle your liquor, how you can't stand the sight of blood, and let's see what else? You have no respect for my career, you say you want kids but really you don't even like them, and here's the most healthy part yet -- you can't even handle discussions about anything important especially, especially when it comes to sex.

BEN

Stop pointing the finger at me, Sadie. I'm not the one with a spending disorder.

They're getting louder. A lot more people start watching.

SADIE

You blew half our savings at your bachelor party!

BEN

At least I don't claim to be financially responsible then spend most of my salary on shoes!

A VALET places their luggage next to them then gets the hell out of there.

SADIE

What?

BEN

I looked at your Visa bill!

She gasps. As does every woman in the lobby.

SADIE

Okay, Mr. www.Super-slutty-college-cheerleaders.com.

Ben is totally shocked.

SADIE

How much did I love getting the e-mail, "your friend Ben got off on this site and thought you would too." Nice, Ben. See what happens when you type with one hand? You don't even realize when you're sending a message to the wrong "buddy"!

BEN

I didn't -

SADIE

Save the innocent act, you filthy perve. Those girls are barely older than your students.

BEN

I'm the perve? You had strippers! We had a deal!

SADIE

So I had strippers! There. I'll admit it. Are you happy? Somebody sent them to the house and I didn't turn them away. So sue me. And if you really want to know, I enjoyed every minute of it. They were young, they were hot, they had muscles in places I never imagined, and if I had even the slightest idea of how this would turn out, I would have gone down on every last one of them!

A GUEST nearby gasps, covers her children's ears. Sadie and Ben look around - the lobby is full of guests and families watching them. Sadie grabs her bags.

SADIE
Thanks for ruining my career too,
by the way.

She heads for the exit. He yells to her across the crowd.

BEN
Oh, I'm sure Craig will find a way
for you to make it up to him.

She turns back to him.

SADIE
You asshole.

BEN
Liar.

SADIE
Wimp.

She keeps walking to the door.

BEN
Bitch.

SADIE
Perv.

BEN
Slut.

She stops in the doorway, yells back.

SADIE
The wedding is off!

BEN
It's so off, I can't even remember
when it was on!

Sadie walks out. Ben watches the door close behind her. The reality of it starts to sink in.

INT. BROOKLINE PREP GIRLS SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - DAY

Ben waits at the front of the gym starrng off into space as the girls line up to grab individual exercise mats. They're all chatting, laughing and taking their time.

When the bitchy girls Mari and Tara finally get to the front of the line, there are only 2 ratty exercise mats left.

MARI

Ewww!

Mari tries to grab a good mat from Plump Girl but Plump Girl holds her own.

MARI

Give it!

PLUMP GIRL

No!

A few other girls start cheering them on.

Ben snaps out his daze.

BEN

Hey! I ask you to do a simple thing - go pick up a mat. That's all. Did I ask you to talk about it? No. Did I ask you to turn it into a big ordeal? NO!

He grabs one of the ratty mats off the rack, holds it up and looks like he's going to strangle somebody.

BEN

There is nothing, I repeat, nothing wrong with this piece of equipment! Just because it doesn't look as nice as that one, just because it needs a little work, just because it doesn't make as much *money* as that one...

The girls all look at each other -- what?

BEN

Doesn't mean it doesn't have feelings! It's damn well about time it got some respect from you spoiled rotten little -

Ben looks at the girls - totally paying attention to him for once. He goes with it.

BEN
I want a hundred push ups from
every one of you! Now!

They all get down and start doing push ups as fast as possible.

INT. SADIE'S FLOWER SHOP - DAY

Sadie and Diego are moving shelves around - the place is a mess and so is Sadie. She pries nails out of the wall with one hand and talks on the phone with the other.

SADIE
No reschedule. I said cancel.
Cancel everything... yes, the cake
too... Hey, lady, it was my
wedding, you don't think I'm
aware... Okay, then here's an
idea, why don't you take the custom
ornaments and -

Diego grabs the phone from her, hangs up.

DIEGO
I think she got it.

Sadie rips a shelf off the wall, throws it down.

DIEGO
Are you sure you want to do this
now?

SADIE
Yeah, why.

He just looks at her.

SADIE
What? I'm fine.

She starts pulling the shelves down again. Diego waits for it...

SADIE
Losing the hotel account, I don't
care. To tell you the truth, it
wasn't me anyway. That's not what
bothers me.

(MORE)

SADIE(cont'd)

Out of everything that happened,
there is one thing I cannot stop
thinking about. One little - but
huge - thing.

Diego stops working.

SADIE

Reverend Frank gave us a written
test. I took one look at the
question on the page - it couldn't
be easier. It said "what do you
love about your fiance". I filled
pages, Diego. Pages! And I look
over to the other side of the room
and there's Ben - not writing a
damn thing. And you know what -
that's just like him. I think he
loved me but he could never express
it, never talk about us... So how
pathetic was that? He was just
sitting there while I was writing
on and on and on about why I love
him - the guy who can't do a
fraction of that in return.

She grabs the hammer from Diego, starts hacking away at the
shelves with way too much force.

DIEGO

Maybe you need a vacation.

SADIE

Maybe I do.

INT. BROOKLINE PREP GIRLS SCHOOL - GYM OFFICE - DAY

Ben picks up the phone.

BEN

Hello?

CALLER (O.S.)

This Ben Murphy?

BEN

Yeah. Who's this?

CALLER

I'll give you three grand for your
church reservation this Saturday.

BEN
I wouldn't wish that place on my
worst enemy.

CALLER
Then you'll give it to me for free?

BEN
You can't use it anyway. You have
to pass a marriage preparation
course first.

CALLER
We finished this morning. Best
thing that ever happened to us.

BEN
("who gives a shit?")
Good for you.

CALLER
I'm not going to lie to you, there
were a few rough patches - but all
in all, I think it helped me and my
fiance grow as individuals, and as
a couple.

BEN
("go fuck yourself")
Great.

CALLER
Too bad you didn't have the same
experience. It's really too bad.
You go through the whole course
only to find out you didn't love
each other enough?

Ben is livid.

BEN
What did you just say?

CALLER
Hey, don't shoot the messenger,
buddy. You're the one who flunked
the course.

Ben sinks down into his chair, thinks about it.

CALLER
Well? Can we take your church
reservation on Saturday or what?

Ben stands up.

BEN
It's not for sale!

He hangs up, opens the window to the gymnasium. All the girls are still doing push ups, totally dying. Ben leans out the window.

BEN
Class dismissed!

The girls all collapse. Ben grabs his coat and rushes out of the office.

INT. ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH - FRANK'S STUDY - DAY

Reverend Frank is reading a copy of the National Enquirer with the headline "Texas Town Possessed by Devil". There's a quick knock on the door. It opens, Ben runs into the office.

BEN
We didn't fail the marriage prep course because Sadie and I didn't love each other enough.

REV. FRANK
No, you failed because you weren't ready.

BEN
Yes we were. We were totally ready until -

Frank raises a hand, put down his paper.

REV. FRANK
I didn't say you and Sadie weren't ready. I said you weren't ready. Sure Sadie had a few things she needed to work on but you...

Frank shakes his head.

BEN
You don't know what you're talking about.

REV. FRANK
Is that right?

Rev. Frank stands up, grabs a file off his desk, starts to read from it.

REV. FRANK

Communication - fail. Childbirth - fail. Parenting - fail. Intimacy - fail. And those are only the ones you knew about.

Frank moves around the desk toward Ben, his voice getting louder and angrier.

REV. FRANK

How about conflict resolution, financial management, compromise, jealousy? Fail, fail, fail and fail. Nobody ever said life was easy, nobody ever said marriage was easy, and you, Ben Murphy -- you'll fail at both.

Frank gets right in Ben's face.

REV. FRANK

You avoid everything that's unpleasant, everything that's messy or uncomfortable or real. You don't want to see it, you don't want to deal with it, and you definitely can't talk about it with the one person you should be able to talk about anything with. How ready for marriage does that sound? Not ready, that's how ready. Not ready!

Ben really tenses up.

REV. FRANK

For the love of God, wake up! Why do you think your test question was "why are you worthy of her"?

Ben looks like he's going to lose it. Frank pushes in closer, won't let up.

REV. FRANK

Because you're not! You're not worthy of Sadie. Not even close. And you knew it all along, didn't you?

Frank gives Ben a push.

REV. FRANK
 Didn't you?

That's it. Ben takes a swing at him and Frank catches it just short of impact. Ben doesn't back down.

BEN
 I am worthy of her, I do love her,
 and I will marry her.

Frank smiles with pride, grabs Ben's face.

REV. FRANK
 That's more like it!

BEN
 What?

REV. FRANK
 If, after everything else, you're still in love and willing to fight for it - that's what marriage preparation is all about.

Ben's a bit stunned.

BEN
 I passed?

REV. FRANK
 No, you pretty much screwed up everything - but yes, you passed the most important test.

Ben smiles, gets totally energized.

BEN
 Then you'll help me get her back.

REV. FRANK
 It won't be easy.

BEN
 (imitating Frank)
 Life is hard, marriage is hard...

REV. FRANK
 And sucking up is even harder. Go with God, son.

Frank shakes Ben's hand.

EXT. SADIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Ben arrives on Sadie's doorstep with roses. He rings up to her apartment.

SADIE (O.S.)

Yes?

BEN

Sadie, it's me.

Click. Ben tries again - no answer. He backs up onto the lawn, yells up.

BEN

Sadie!

She closes her curtains. Ben finally gives up, places the roses by the fence, then walks away.

INT. ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH - SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM - DAY

Frank sorts some papers on the desk. Ben runs in.

BEN

Sadie won't see me.

REV. FRANK

No kidding. The woman set her wedding dress on fire after you two broke up.

BEN

It'll just take longer than I thought to convince her that we should be together. That's all.

REV. FRANK

I wouldn't waste any time if I were you.

BEN

Why?

Frank looks at Ben, hesitates, then gets up and goes to the chalkboard, starts drawing out a graph. Ben sits down.

REV. FRANK

My son, listen carefully. When a woman's heart is broken, she goes through a number of recovery stages.

He draws a man and woman stick figure, then puts a big X through the man.

REV. FRANK

Stage one - Kleenex. Cries herself to sleep every night.

He draws the crying, box of Kleenex.

REV. FRANK

Stage two - chocolate. This one is pretty much self explanatory.

He draws the woman stuffing her face and getting bigger hips.

REV. FRANK

Stage three - revenge. This can take many forms - tire slashing, hate mail, and most commonly, sex with anybody who is better than you.

Ben goes pale. Frank keeps drawing stick figures - including one for revenge sex.

REV. FRANK

Then comes stage four - peace. When she realizes she didn't need you in the first place and after a while, she even forgets your name.

Frank draws a stick figure at peace. Ben looks like he's going to cry.

REV. FRANK

Now in the case of our dear Sadie, thanks to your behavior at the fabulous Carlisle Resort, she went directly from here...

Frank points to the breakup X.

REV. FRANK

To here.

Frank points to the revenge stage.

REV. FRANK
Or at least she will be there once
she gets to Hawaii.

BEN
She's using our honeymoon tickets?

Frank nods.

BEN
So? She'll be thinking of me the
whole time.

Frank shakes his head, points to the revenge sex stick
figures.

BEN
Oh no.

REV. FRANK
Oh yes.

BEN
This isn't another one of your
hidden lessons is it? Are you
trying to get me all worked up so I
go do something stupid?

REV. FRANK
Go ahead, don't believe me if you
don't want to - but I'd be more
than happy to lend you my copy of
"Girls Gone Wild".

Ben's mind starts working, he jumps out of his seat.

BEN
I'm not going to lose her.

Frank nods.

BEN
The church still mine on Saturday?

REV. FRANK
My son, the church belongs to all
those in need of spiritual
enlightenment.

Ben looks at him - come on.

REV. FRANK
Yeah, it's still yours.

INT. BROOKLINE PREP GIRLS SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - DAY

The girls are all lounging around on the mats. Ben takes control the second he steps through the doors.

BEN
Good morning ladies!

The girls watch him walking with confidence toward them, smiling the whole way.

A SHY GIRL whispers to her friend.

SHY GIRL
Oh my God, he's on drugs.

One of the bitchy girls, Tara, puts up her hand.

TARA
Yeah, Mr. Murphy, can I be excused?
I have cramps today.

MARI
Me too, actually.

Ben grabs a bottle of Midol out of his pocket, throws it to Tara.

BEN
There you go, Tara. Those should take care of it. Mari, nice try. You pulled that one on me already this month. Those are probably just ovulation cramps, they'll pass in a few minutes with a bit of activity. If not, there's an acupressure point in the middle of your back -

He touches his back to show them.

BEN
A little bit of pressure there and you'll be a hundred percent in no time. Anybody else?

The girls are all shocked. One of Mari and Tara's friends speaks up.

OTHER BITCHY GIRL
Yeah, what's with you?

Ben smiles. Way too excited.

BEN

I'm getting married on Saturday. I think.

TARA

What do you mean, you think?

BEN

It's complicated, actually. We were getting married, then we broke up, now it's on again but my fiance doesn't know.

ANOTHER GIRL

Hello! You should ask her if she's cool with that.

BEN

I tried. Didn't go well. Besides, any idiot can do that. It can't be like it was last time. I've got to show her how much I love her.

The girls all "awwww".

BEN

I'm going to get it all ready - and do it the right way this time, make it more us. Then I just have to find a way to get her to the church and I'll ask her again right there.

TARA

Please tell me she at least has a dress.

BEN

Apparently she burned it right after I called her a slut.

The girls all gasp in horror.

MARI

Like who burns a perfectly a good dress?

Ben looks at her in disbelief.

Plump Girl speaks up in the back.

PLUMP GIRL
You're going to need some help.

And so it begins...

INT. BROOKLINE PREP GIRLS SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Plump Girl and her friends wait as Ben looks at a drawing of a bridal gown. They're totally excited. Ben makes a few minor adjustments on the drawing. The girls are even more excited now. Ben hands them back the drawing.

EXT. SADIE'S PARENTS HOUSE - DAY

Ben knocks on the door. Mr. Jones opens it, sees who it is, slams the door in Ben's face before he can say a word. He turns around and looks out to the curb. Rev. Frank watches, shakes his head.

INT. BROOKLINE PREP GIRLS SCHOOL - HOME EC CLASS - DAY

Students are in the middle of a cooking class. Mari pulls Ben into the room. Ben shakes the HOME EC TEACHER's hand. He hands her menu suggestions. She's totally into it, gets the students' attention.

INT. WAREHOUSE ARTS & CRAFTS STORE - DAY

Choir Boy runs down the aisle with a shopping cart, turns into the aisle where Ben and Rev. Frank load up another cart with bulk candles. They start loading up Choir Boy's cart too.

EXT. SADIE'S PARENTS HOUSE - NIGHT

Ben marches up to the door and knocks again. Mr. Jones slams the door in Ben's face again. Rev. Frank watches from the curb, shakes his head

INT. BROOKLINE PREP GIRLS SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - DAY

Most girls are doing their gymnastics but one ARTSY GIRL stands near Ben as they review a piece of paper on a clipboard.

Principal Martell wanders through the gym, looks over Ben's shoulder, spots the piece of paper - a plan for a gymnastics floor routine. She smiles at Ben, continues on her way.

As soon as she's out of the room, Ben flips up the paper to reveal the floor plan of the church. Artsy Girl points out x's scattered all along the aisles. Ben adds in twice as many x's. She's happy. Ben turns his attention back to teaching the class.

EXT. SADIE'S PARENTS HOUSE - NIGHT

Ben marches up to the door and knocks again. Mr. Jones slams the door in Ben's face again.

BEN
Oh come on!

Rev. Frank pulls him off the front steps, leads him out of the yard.

INT. ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH - FRANK'S STUDY - DAY

Ben walks into Frank's study. Frank doesn't even look up from his magazine.

Ben flips back a paper on the flipchart easel. It's a list - under the Ben column "caterer, flowers, dress, Sadie's family, wedding party, candles..." and under Frank's column there's only "get Sadie to church". Ben circles "Sadie's family" moves it under Frank's column.

Frank doesn't even look up from the magazine.

REV. FRANK
I'm not going to sleep with Grandma Jones if that's what you're asking.

BEN
Just get them to the church.

REV. FRANK
It'll cost you 80 bones.

Ben takes out his wallet, starts counting out the cash.

REV. FRANK
Money doesn't really matter when it comes down to it, does it? It's not more important than love.

BEN

No.

Frank gives him a look. Ben gets finally it.

BEN

I didn't really blow half my house
downpayment at my bachelor party,
did I?

Frank shakes his head.

REV. FRANK

But Sadie forgave you for it
anyway, didn't she?

Ben smiles, thinks about it. Frank reaches and grabs the
cash out of his hand.

REV. FRANK

The St. Augustine's Orphan's Fund
thanks you.

Frank points him out the door.

INT. BROOKLINE PREP GIRLS SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - DAY

Ben's class is in progress. The girls are all working hard
at their routines.

A SECRETARY enters and hands Ben a note.

INT. BROOKLINE PREP GIRLS SCHOOL - PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - DAY

Ben knocks on Principal Martell's door, looks in.

BEN

You needed to see me?

PRINCIPAL MARTELL

I've noticed how well you're doing
with the students.

BEN

Yeah, they're great.

PRINCIPAL MARTELL

We have a permanent teaching
position opening up this fall. I'd
like to submit your name to the
board, if you're interested.

Ben is surprised and thrilled.

EXT. BROOKLINE PREP GIRLS SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Ben walks out of the Principal's office, happy. Plump Girl high fives him on her way past.

EXT. SADIE'S PARENTS HOUSE - DAY

Reverend Frank shows up on the front steps with Choir Boy, who is carrying a case of Scotch. Mr. Jones welcomes them in.

INT. ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH - FRONT FOYER - DAY

Ben is pacing. A bunch of his students pass by with empty boxes.

MARI

Good luck, Mr. Murphy.

Ben paces some more, turns to Frank.

BEN

It's time.

REV. FRANK

You sure?

BEN

Absolutely.

INT. SADIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Sadie is packing for Hawaii. The phone rings. She answers it.

INT. ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH - FRANK'S STUDY - DAY

Frank is on the phone.

REV. FRANK

Sadie, it's Reverend Frank.
Good news. I found somebody to
take your spot today so I can
refund your deposit. Can you come
down here now to pick it up?

INT. SADIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Sadie hangs up the phone, looks over to Karen lounging in the corner of the room, fully dressed for Hawaii.

SADIE
I have to run and get my deposit
back from the church. We have
time, right?

Karen looks at her watch.

KAREN
Tons.

EXT. ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH - DAY

Ben waits on the front steps. Reverend Frank pops his head out the door.

REV. FRANK
Still no sign of her?

BEN
No.

Frank looks a bit worried.

EXT. SADIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Sadie walks out the front door, spots Ben's discarded flowers by the fence. She stops, thinks about it, yells up to her apartment.

SADIE
Hey Karen!

Karen looks out the window.

SADIE
Let's just go.

KAREN
Okay.

Sadie looks at the flowers again, then back at Karen.

SADIE
I was supposed to marry him today.

She starts to get a bit upset, sucks it up.

SADIE

I don't think I can go near that place. Not today. Not today when some other couple will be there - as happy as I thought I would be. Another groom who I bet, I bet knows damn well why he loves his fiance. I don't want to see it. I can't.

KAREN

So get the deposit when you get back. It's just money. It won't go bad.

SADIE

Let's get out of here.

KAREN

Now you're talking.

Karen ducks out of the window. Sadie takes a moment to pull herself together.

Karen emerges with their luggage. Sadie hails a cab.

EXT. ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH - DAY

Ben still waits. Frank joins him on the steps. They wait in silence. Frank looks his watch, then shows it to Ben.

REV. FRANK

What should I tell them?

BEN

Tell them... Tell them to have a little faith.

Frank pats him on the back, heads back inside.

EXT. SADIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Karen and Sadie throw their luggage into the trunk of the cab, jump in the back seat.

SADIE

We might be able to get on an earlier flight.

KAREN
If not, a few pre-flight cocktails
won't kill us.

SADIE
No kidding.

The Indian CAB DRIVER speaks up.

CAB DRIVER
Where to are you going?

KAREN
Airport please.

CAB DRIVER
Very good then.

The cab pulls a slow U-turn and heads off down the street.

EXT. ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH - DAY

Reverend Frank waits at the door.

REV. FRANK
I'm afraid that's it.

BEN
I know.

REV. FRANK
You want me to tell them or -

BEN
I'll do it.

Frank goes in. Ben gets up off the stairs, takes one more
look behind him.

INT. CAB - DAY

Karen is looking at the Hawaii maps. Sadie is on her cell
phone.

SADIE
If there's anything earlier than
that, we'll take it. Otherwise
we'll stick with flight -

She grabs the itinerary from Karen.

SADIE
795 at 7:20. Anything earlier?
2:45, we'll take it. Thanks.

She gives Karen the thumbs up - then looks outside the cab.

EXT. ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH - DAY

The cab pulls up to the curb just as Ben is about to head inside. He stops.

INT. TAXI CAB - DAY

Sadie looks at where they are.

SADIE
Oh my God.

She sees Ben at the top of the steps, smiling at her. The cab driver turns around -- it's Choir Boy in a turban.

KAREN
Jesus! Are you even old enough to
drive?

Sadie steps out of the cab, looks up at Ben. He calls down to her.

BEN
You were right.

SADIE
About what?

Ben starts walking down the stairs to her.

BEN
I was afraid to get married. I
never had any doubts about marrying
you. That part was always easy.
But I think in the back of my mind
I always thought you deserved
better than me. Somebody like, I
don't know - Craig.

SADIE
No.

BEN

When we decided to get married, it was the happiest and scariest day in my life. I thought to myself, how on earth did I get so lucky, and then right after that I thought, oh my God, I'm this guy disguised as one of those guys who gets to marry an amazing girl, and any minute now, somebody is going to figure out who he really is.

Sadie starts to tear up, tries to suck it up.

BEN

And I think Reverend Frank had it figured out the minute he met me. He was the only person who saw it, so what does he do? He scares me to death, embarrasses me, makes me sick to my stomach, pushes me - everything short of beating it out of me - and then comes the written test. He gives me the one question he knows I couldn't answer. "Why are you worthy of this marriage?" Why are you worthy of this marriage?

SADIE

You had a different question.

BEN

I didn't know the answer then.

Ben takes her hand.

BEN

But I know it now.

At that, the tears really start flowing out of Sadie. Ben gets down on one knee.

In the cab, Karen and Choir Boy are both getting a little teary-eyed themselves.

BEN

I am not the smartest guy in the world but I am smart enough to know that I should spend the rest of my life with you.

(MORE)

BEN(cont'd)

I'm not the richest guy in the world either and I may have used some bad judgement under the influence of tequila, but I do have a great career that means something to me, and soon a full time teaching job. But the thing is, money doesn't matter, I know that. As long as we have enough to get by, and raise a family, we'll be fine. And we will have a big family, I'm sure of that too. I got into teaching because I love kids, but I think I met one spoiled and nasty kid too many. Somewhere along the line I forgot that who kids are depends a lot on how they're raised. So I swear to you, I'll be a great dad. I'm sure of it. In the delivery room, I'm there. I might have to take a Gravol, but damnit, I'm there. Afterbirth, bring it on. I can handle it. No matter what, I am not leaving your side. I love you, Sadie. And yes, I want to cuddle, but to be perfectly honest, I also want to do it in the shower, or anywhere else for that matter, many, many times a day. I think about it a lot. Too much in fact. And if you want to talk about it as much as do it, I swear you will not be able to shut me up.

She laughs. He takes a deep breath, goes in for the finish.

BEN

Sadie Jones, I love you. You always said it enough for the two of us and I swear if it takes the rest of my life to make up for that, so be it. I love you, I love you, I love you. If you'll marry me, I can absolutely promise you that we will be completely and utterly unprepared for all the great and not-so-great stuff that is inevitably going to happen to us.

Sadie laughs, wipes her face.

BEN
 But if we really love each other, I
 promise you, we will make it.
 Marry me.

She nods, cries some more. Ben gets up and kisses her,
 starts leading her into the church.

SADIE
 Did you mean now?

BEN
 What'd you think I meant?

She looks down at herself, points to her smudged eye make-up.
 Ben smiles, opens the door.

BEN
 Ye of little faith.

INT. ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH - FOYER - DAY

Ben pulls Sadie in the door. Her mother is there waiting
 with a stunning dress. Sadie looks around - what is going on
 here? Karen joins her, gives her the nod - it's okay.

INT. ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH - DAY

The place is lit up with hundreds of candles. Very simple
 flowers. A select few guests. Ben joins his friend Joel and
 Reverend Frank at the front. Mr. Jones gives Ben the warning
 nod - I'm with you but don't fuck it up.

They hear the doors open at the back of the church. Reverend
 Frank looks down the aisle at Sadie - we doing this?

She nods, and starts her way down the aisle.

EXT. ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH - GARDEN - DAY

A small reception for Ben and Sadie. Frank raises his glass.

REV. FRANK
 To the happy couple.

GUESTS
 To the happy couple.

Ben and Sadie kiss.

INT. ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH - FRANK'S STUDY - DAY

Frank is at his desk going over papers. There's a knock on the door then an innocent, unsuspecting COUPLE peeks in. Frank motions them to come in and sit.

REV. FRANK

So, you want to get married in my church, do you?

The couple sits down, all cuddly and in love.

GROOM TO BE

We understand that you'll only marry couples who are completely ready.

The couple looks at each other lovingly, hold hands.

GROOM TO BE

We are. We're ready.

Frank smiles at them.

FRANK

("you are so fucked")
I'm sure you are. I'm sure you are.

FADE OUT.