

CAST: Robert DeNiro as Donald Griffin, Diana Keaton as Ellie Griffin, Katherine Heigl as LYLA, and
Jessica Lange as Bebe McBride

The Big Wedding

By

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Work in Progress

TWO TON FILMS/UFLAND PRODUCTIONS
9100 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 400W
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

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AN OAK TREE... Branches lilt in the breeze...

1

EXT. GRIFFIN FAMILY HOME - DAY

1

MOVING down the venerable trunk, ending on a flat, round scar where a large limb was removed long ago...

The scar has been sanded and polished and beautifully carved in relief with a web of faces and names that make up THE GRIFFIN FAMILY TREE.

ELINOR "ELLIE" GRIFFIN, fifties, stops at the base of the tree with her suitcase. Her eyes drift up the carving, smiling at the familiar visages of her children -- daughter LYLA (connected to husband ANDREW), and sons JARED and ALEJANDRO.

Ellie's eyes cloud as they lift to the name/carving above them -- DONALD. She follows the horizontal marriage line connecting him to a carving of HER FACE...which, in its present state, is obscured by a dried, white glob of bird-shit.

She drops her suitcase and finds a handkerchief which she spits into and, on her tiptoes, uses to scrub her carving...

As the features emerge, she's struck by the youthful joy of her expression, captured mid-laugh...

Licking her thumb, she rubs firmly on the carving's nose to remove a stubborn seed, when the nose suddenly chips off.

ELLIE

Shit.

Panicky, she drops to her hands and knees and searches the ground for the tiny nose...

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Shit, shit, shit, fuck, piss.

CUT TO:

2

EXT. GRIFFIN FAMILY HOME - DAY

2

A gorgeous, rambling, clapboard house perched above a grassy lawn that rolls gently down to a pond worthy of Thoreau.

Ellie carries her suitcase up a path towards the house, ignoring several weathered, Henry Moore-style, bronze sculptures embedded along the way.

3

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

3

Ellie peers inside, through the glass of the french doors, rapping her knuckles..

ELLIE

Hello?!

CUT TO:

4

THE BRONZE SCULPTURE OF A KEYHOLE; IMPLANTED IN THE GROUND

4

Ellie tips it over and retrieves a house key from beneath.

5

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

5

Ellie unlocks the door and lets herself in.

ELLIE

Hello? Kids? Anybody here?

She drops her suitcase and opens the fridge to discover a vegan holocaust of organic tea elixirs, tubs of tofu, etc..

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Oh, gross.

She opens a bottle of tea and drops the key on the counter beside a large glass jar filled with ominous brown liquid and a fungus-like mass which floats on top. Ellie sniffs it, and nearly gags.

She takes a sip of tea to clear the smell from her nostrils, then spits it into the sink in disgust.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Where the porcelain sculpture of a prancing, Brussels Griffon dog, worthy of The Franklin Mint, dominates the mantle. Ellie stares at it, horrified, then turns to come face to face with a nude painting of BEBE, the mistress of the house...

ELLIE (CONT'D)

He married the bitch.

She moves a rocking chair into its "proper" place, then walks to the wall of built-in bookshelves, grimacing at a collection of porcelain plates, all bearing images of Brussels Griffons.

Finally, she arrives at a lineup of silver-framed photographs where:

Her son JARED does a headstand atop a boulder on a rocky Maine coastline...

Her daughter LYLA with husband ANDREW pose for their wedding portrait...

A pair of Brussels Griffon dogs stand for their own "wedding portrait", looking miserable in their black-tie doggie attire...

Her ex-husband DON and his girlfriend Bebe stick their puckered-up faces through cutouts in the heads of a pair of plywood gorillas, the male gorilla/Don dipping the female/Bebe as she tweaks his nipple.

VOICES are heard as the front door is heard slamming shut.

Don (O.S.)
...can't be serious. It's really
that gargantuan of a deal?

Bebe (O.S.)
It's disgusting!

DON (O.S.)
It's primal.

BEBE (O.S.)
It's heretical. I need a drink.

Ellie is a deer in headlights, fully visible in the doorway to the living room as a pair of living-breathing Brussels Griffons tap-tap into the kitchen and freeze when they see her. The male, indicated by the lack of pink ribbon in his hair, lets out a tiny "YIP" as...

BEBE MCBRIDE, fifties, appears in the kitchen, removing her clip-on earrings in a huff.

DON (O.S.)
How can it be heretical? Not for
nuthin'...

Bebe dips a ladle into the murky brown jar, shifting the gelatinous fungus growing on the top, and pours the liquid into the glass, drinking it down just as DON GRIFFIN, fifties, enters...

DON (CONT'D)
...but in the annals of human history, which do you wanna bet came first, the catholic church or cunnilingus?

BEBE
Please don't use that language.

DON
I can't say "catholic church?"

BEBE
The other thing.

Both are garbed in a riot of country club Sunday pastels, indigenous to only the wealthiest New England enclaves...

The dog yips again, eyes tethered to Ellie.

BEBE (CONT'D)
Hercules, hush.
(to Don)
You know what I mean.

DON
Oh right, the "other" thing. So it's verboten to say the word--

BEBE
Don't you dare.

DON
Okay, fine. I won't say it. I won't even think it.

His eyes roll pointedly down to her crotch... She punches him...

BEBE
You're terrible.

Then she giggles... Ellie, standing in plain sight, wants to die. She's about to interject when--

DON
But if I can't say it...then what do we use in its place? You know when it comes up in conversation.

BEBE
That's the point, it shouldn't
come up in-

DON
Muff diving?

BEBE
Excuse me.

He advances towards her... She backs away...

DON
Chowing box?

BEBE
Donald.

DON
Lapping at the lint trap?
Carpet munching? Poon job?

BEBE
Poon job?!

DON
Well, I just had lunch.
(pulls her to him)
But if you insist.

He kisses her deeply, sparing no tongue, then lifts her
so that she's sitting on the kitchen island.

BEBE
Donny!

DON
(suggestively)
Cunn-i-lingus.

Ellie takes a medicinal slug of the tea. Regrets it
instantly, looking for somewhere to spit... As Don slides
Bebe's panties to her ankles and starts to push her skirt
up to her hips...

BEBE
You're such a slut.

DON
Lucky girl.

Both dogs "YIP" as she lays back while he spreads her
legs and kneels between them...

ELLIE
(swallows the tea painfully)
Hi!

Bebe screams and snaps her legs shut, her knees crushing Don's ears. He yells in pain, dropping to the floor.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
I'm so sorry. I just, I... There was no one here, and I... The key was...and... I'm just gonna...

She rushes to the French doors and tries to escape.

BEBE
Elinor? Is that you?

ELLIE
Hi Bebe. You look wonderful.

Bebe shuts her legs and yanks her skirt down. Don cackles on the floor...

BEBE
Oh my goodness, Ellie. It's so good to see you!

She drops off the counter and shuffles across to Ellie, struggling to pull her panties off her ankles...

BEBE (CONT'D)
I barely recognized you!
(hug and air kisses)
You look so, so, so...

ELLIE
So?

BEBE
(looking to Don)
So?

DON
Unexpected?

BEBE
Yes, no, I mean... It's been so long.
(off Ellie's look)
Not that you... It's really wonderful to see you.

Hugs Ellie again.

ELLIE
You too. Hi Donald.

DON
(still on the floor)
Ellie, you look like a summer day.

ELLIE
That's because you're on the floor.

DON
(as if he just realized...)
Yeah well, why break a trend.

He reaches out his hands and they both haul him to his feet, he ends up hugging Ellie.

DON (CONT'D)
How long's it been?

ELLIE
Ten years.

DON
Impossible. Oh, excuse me.

Pulls his turgid groin away from poking her in the thigh.

DON (CONT'D)
Little blue helper. What goes up don't always come down. I thought you weren't getting in until five?

ELLIE
It's six thirty.

BEBE
(punching Don)
You didn't tell me that!

ELLIE
It's fine, I got to walk through the village. It's amazing how little has changed.

Pointedly not looking at his erection.

DON
Drink?

BEBE
Donald.

DON

For her.

BEBE

She's already got a drink.

DON

(to Ellie, knowingly)
Enjoying that, are you?

ELLIE

(forced)
It's wonderful.

BEBE

(to Ellie)
Ooh, you've got to try my new
kombucha fungus tea. It's got
fabulous restorative qualities.

ELLIE

(trading looks w/Don)
Thanks, Bebe, maybe tomorrow.

BEBE

You poor thing, you must be
exhausted. Honey, why don't you
take her to the embroidery room
and I'll scare up some clean
linens.

DON

(clicks his heels to Ellie)
At your service, madame.
(to Ellie)
Right this way.

6

INT. WALKING THROUGH THE HOUSE - DAY

6

Don carries Ellie's suitcase as he leads her through the
house.

ELLIE

The embroidery room?

DON

Your old office. I don't go in
there.

ELLIE

She's got you on the wagon.

DON

Ain't had a drink or a steak in three years. Can't sculpt worth an ant's asshole, but they gimme a lollipop every time I leave the cardiologist.

ELLIE

Where are the kids?

DON

Ah, well Jared's at work and Al's enjoying Pre-Cana with Missy.

ELLIE

Pre-Cana? You mean the Catholic thing with the priest?

DON

(shrugs)

You know the O'Connors. How's Lyla?

ELLIE

She and Andrew are flying in tonight.

DON

It'll be nice to see them again.

They arrive at a door on which a frilly, embroidered pillow hangs, ominously hinting at what lays within.

ELLIE

Oh, god. I can't even imagine.

DON

You really can't... It's good to see you, El.

ELLIE

(masking)

You two seem really happy.

DON

You know what they say, a poon-job a day...

ELLIE

I'm so sorry. You'd think after ten years this place wouldn't... But I shouldn't have just let myself in, I--

DON

It's your house too, screw what
the lawyers say.

ELLIE

I'm determined to get through this
wedding without an iota of drama.

DON

The kids are grown-up, maybe it's
time we gave it a shot.

He holds out his hand, she shakes it - each optimistic
but neither wholly convinced.

ELLIE

Pre-Cana, huh?

DON

Her parents insisted. Clinging to
the last stab at a loophole.

She opens the door and steps inside...

7

INT. THE EMBROIDERY ROOM - DAY

7

More than lives up to its name. Needlework is everywhere.
Embroidered roses, portraits, brussels griffons - even
the frills have frills... Don peers inside and shivers,
careful not to cross the threshold...

ELLIE

You're not the only artist in the
family.

DON

She's got a certain...
(makes an anguished hand
gesture)
Dinner at eight?

ELLIE

Not the club?

DON

You'd prefer Bebe's rabbit food?
Hope you packed your pastels.

He heads off, leaving Ellie to face the glaring bad taste
of the room. She dons her sunglasses.

FATHER MONAGHAN (O.S.)
Matrimony is god's greatest gift
to his children.

CUT TO:

8

INT. FATHER MONAGHAN'S OFFICE - DAY

8

Where FATHER MONAGHAN breathes heavily on the diamond encrusted face of a Rolex Oyster watch and polishes it with his linen sleeve.

FATHER MONAGHAN
It must be sanctified, and
nurtured, and protected against
the seeds of dissent, which can
fester into chasms of discord,
from which many of today's unions
are unable to recover. All too
many end up in divorce, a sin in
the eyes of god.

He replaces the watch on his wrist, opens a large leather-bound tome and begins to write with a crystal pen...

FATHER MONAGHAN (CONT'D)
So, Melissa, how long have you and
this young man been courting?

ALEJANDRO GRIFFIN, Latino, and his fiancée MELISSA
"MISSY" O'CONNOR, both twenty-two, sit uncomfortably in
Gothic, high-backed chairs facing Monaghan's desk.

MISSY
Just over a year. But we've been
friends since middle school.

FATHER MONAGHAN
I see. And...
(checks a note card)
...Alejandro is it?

ALEJANDRO
Yes.

FATHER MONAGHAN
You do speak English don't you?

MISSY
He just graduated from Harvard.

FATHER MONAGHAN
Him and half of China. So that's a
yes?

(MORE)

FATHER MONAGHAN (CONT'D)

(they nod)

Then tell me, Alejandro, have you succeeded in thus far being intimate with young Melissa?

ALEJANDRO

Excuse me, sir.

FATHER MONAGHAN

Father Monaghan is fine. I asked if the two of you have been intimate? Is Miss O'Connor's virginity intact?

(off their reactions)

I see...

(clucks his tongue as he writes)

And did we partake of birth control?

ALEJANDRO

Of course.

Monaghan clucks twice and shakes his head disapprovingly as he notes the answer. Melissa glares at Alejandro as if he should have known better...

FATHER MONAGHAN

Relations amongst consenting adults should remain privately betwixt themselves...and the church, of course.

ALEJANDRO

(under his breath)

'Guess we're going to hell then.

FATHER MONAGHAN

In god's good time, my son... Kidding, of course. Now tell me, young man, I understand your adopted parents are other than Catholic, yes?

ALEJANDRO

My mom's Jebuddhist... Jewish-slash-Buddhist, and my dad thinks organized religion is for pagans.

Father Monaghan blinks unfavorably...

MISSY

His biological mother's super Catholic.

(MORE)

MISSY (CONT'D)
 She works for a bishop in Ecuador.
 We just found out she's coming to
 the wedding.

ALEJANDRO
 (something hits him...)
 Oh, god.

FATHER MONAGHAN
 Yes?

ALEJANDRO
 Sorry, I just... Nothing.

FATHER MONAGHAN
 And we can assume your mother
 would be encouraging of her
 grandchildren being raised in the
 church?

ALEJANDRO
 Actually we plan to wait until
 they're old enough then let them
 decide.

Another glare from Missy as Father Monaghan caps his pen
 and closes the book with a thud...

FATHER MONAGHAN
 Hell it is then.

CUT TO:

9 INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

9

Elevator doors open revealing LYLA GRIFFIN, early-
 thirties, arms folded across her chest...

Finally, as the doors begin to close, she steps out,
 grimacing at the arrow sign pointing to the "MATERNITY
 WARD".

Deep breath, then she follows the sign, giving wide berth
 to a strolling mother who's cooing softly to an infant in
 her arms.

10 INT. MATERNITY WARD, NURSES STATION - DAY

10

Where several NURSES work officiously. Lyla approaches
 the closest one, KIM, a fresh-faced blonde.

LYLA
 Is Jared here?

KIM
Are you a patient?

LYLA
Sister.

KIM
Oh... Oh! Right, hi. I'm Kim.

Watches as Lyla looks apprehensively at a couple walking with their newborn.

KIM (CONT'D)
He's in a delivery but you can wait over in the Daddy's Room and I'll let him know you're here.

The couple step to the desk next to her. Lyla is unsettled by the infant.

MOTHER
Hello.

The wobbly-headed infant looks at Lyla and drools. Lyla actually gags before she bolts...

11

INT. HOSPITAL, DADDY'S ROOM - DAY

11

Empty save for one WAITING FATHER sitting with his arm in a sling as he talks into his cel phone.

WAITING FATHER
No, I mean she literally pulled it out of the socket. Yeah, we figured I'm safer in the Daddy's Room.

Lyla sits in a chair at the opposite side of the room. Rummages deep in her cavernous purse until finally...

LYLA
Oh thank christ.

She lifts out a mangled cigarette to her mouth but catches the Waiting Father glaring...

WAITING FATHER
Are you fucking kidding me?

LYLA
(remembering where she is)
Oh. Right. Just practicing.
(he goes back to his call)
I don't even smoke. Not anymore.
(MORE)

LYLA (CONT'D)
 I quit last month. Not that you
 care, because you're not even...
 (to herself)
 Oh honey, get a grip.

Just as another PRETTY NURSE enters...

PRETTY NURSE
 It's a girl.

WAITING FATHER
 Oh my god.
 (into the phone)
 I gotta go.
 (to the nurse)
 Is she--

PRETTY NURSE
 They're both doing just fine.
 Would you like to meet her?

He nods dumbly as the nurse flips a switch on the wall,
 activating a curtain which pulls away from a large window
 revealing a nursery filled with babies.

Lyla takes one look and drops like a stone...

CUT TO:

12

INT. RECOVERY ROOM - DAY

12

LYLA'S POV of Kim comes into focus as she sponges around
 the band-aid on Lyla's forehead with a damp cloth.

KIM
 There you are.

LYLA
 (hopeful)
 Am I dead?

KIM
 Sorry... Jared'll be in in a sec.

LYLA
 (flatly)
 My hero.

KIM
 He's a sweetie, huh?...

Kim sits on the edge of the bed as she helps Lyla up to a
 sitting position.

KIM (CONT'D)
I hope this isn't too
inappropriate to-- Is it true that
he's really never...

LYLA
(heard it before)
It really is.

KIM
(twisting her hair)
Oh... Um, that's--

JARED, late twenties, enters wearing scrubs...

JARED
What kind of wuss passes out in
the Daddy's Room?

They hug, happy to see each other. Kim walks out,
flashing a smile at Jared.

KIM
(to Lyla)
I hope you feel better.

LYLA
She's perky.

JARED
Kim? She's great.

LYLA
Creaming for a shot at the title.

JARED
Nice.

LYLA
What could possibly be wrong with
her?

He goes to the sink to wash his hands...

JARED
Nothing... She's too...

LYLA
Female?

JARED
Funny. I'm over the whole fresh-
faced, Volkswagon convertible
type.

LYLA

Don't you have to be under one of 'em first?... She knows, by the way.

JARED

Yeah, a bunch of us went out for too many margaritas last month. Now they've got an un-virgin pool going.

LYLA

A flock'a hot nurses are conspiring to bang your brains out, we should press charges.

JARED

I could just leave you here with all the babies.

LYLA

No!

She jumps to her feet, but wobbles until he grabs her...

JARED

(checking her pupils)
'Could have a mild concussion.

LYLA

How will I know?

JARED

Headaches. Vomiting.

LYLA

And I haven't even seen dad yet.

As he helps her out of the room...

13

INT. HOSPITAL MATERNITY WARD - DAY

13

They pass the nurses' desk on the way to the elevator.

JARED

Where's Andrew?

LYLA

I don't know.

(off his look)

Can we bookmark it? I'm trying to keep the "Lyla's desiccating her life," lectures down to one a day.

JARED
'Can't wait.

KIM
See ya Jared.

LYLA
Neither can she.

She turns behind Jared's back and holds her fingers up in the air, showing Kim that Jared's hung like a stallion. Kim's eyes go wide...

CUT TO:

14

INT. EMBROIDERY ROOM - NIGHT

14

Ellie is dressed for dinner. She hangs a sweater in the closet and stops as she sees a faded blue oar painted on the inside of the closet door alongside the words: GENTLY DOWN THE STREAM...

The oar is covered with horizontal hash marks beside the names: LYLA, JARED, ALEJANDRO, with varying dates and measurements - her children's growth chart.

Ellie touches the names with her fingers, tracing their ascendancy through the years...

BEBE
(behind her)
One of the workers almost painted over it when we redecorated. I had a knitting needle at his throat before Don pulled me off him.

ELLIE
And now they're all grown.

She turns to see Bebe (and the omniscient dogs) dressed like a different Easter Egg.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
You've been so wonderful to them.

BEBE
I know they're not officially my kids but...
(lifts one of the dogs)
Don't you look stunning.

ELLIE
Cut the crap, Beebs. I look a decade older and so do you.

BEBE

'Said the one of us not wearing
control tops. Although wait'll you
get a load of Muffin O'Connor.

Ellie grabs her bag and follows Bebe out of the room.

15

INT. WALKING THROUGH THE HOUSE - NIGHT

15

Dogs in tow...

ELLIE

I heard she'd had work done.
Scary?

BEBE

They had to stop giving her face
lifts when her ears collided at
the back of her head. You almost
have to stand behind her to have a
conversation.

(they giggle
conspiratorially)

And of course she's mental about
every last detail of the wedding,
which is ironic since we're
hosting it here, and I'm doing the
catering, organic of course...
God, I was scared to death to see
you again.

ELLIE

It was all a long time ago.

BEBE

Oh please, not because of that.
Despite his exorbitant efforts,
not everything orbits around
Donald.

ELLIE

I don't understand.

BEBE

(stops her)

You and I have been friends since
ninth grade chorus. I knew that
seeing you again would remind me
how much I've missed you.

Ellie smiles and squeezes her hand, not spurning the
gesture, but not giving as good in kind... They resume
through the house, dogs yipping...

ELLIE
Control tops, huh?

BEBE
Like a sardine with feet.

ELLIE
I can't believe the kids never
told me you two married.

BEBE
That's 'cause we haven't. Not that
I haven't waged a vicious
campaign, but you know Don...
(aping him)
"If it ain't broke, don't broke
it."

ELLIE
I'm sorry.

BEBE
(a sore point)
It's not like I need a ring, but I
hate feeling like...an appendage.

ELLIE
You should tell him.

BEBE
He knows. Don doesn't exactly
backstroke in the deep end of the
sensitivity pool.

As they enter the living room where Don is looking out
the window through a pair of binoculars. He turns to
them, scoping them out through the binoculars...

DON
Look at you two. Hasn't been this
much tail around here since the
last poochie died.

Off their looks...

CUT TO:

16

EXT. COUNTRY CLUB ENTRANCE - NIGHT

16

Jared's Toyota pulls up to the grand, columned entrance,
out of place amidst the teeming Mercedes and Beemers.
Jared and Lyla emerge and head up the marble steps...

LYLA
I truly loathe this place.

JARED
Because you've hooked up with half
of the staff?

LYLA
That was high-school. And handjobs
don't count.

MISSY
(running out the doors)
Oh thank god!

She hugs Lyla, who nearly loses her balance. Alejandro
follows, carrying several glasses of champagne.

LYLA
(kissing her)
You look gorgeous.

MISSY
So do you. I love your hair. I'm
so glad you're here.

ALEJANDRO
Sister.

LYLA
Immigrant.

They hug warmly...

ALEJANDRO
Where's Andrew?

LYLA
(wobbling)
I need to sit down.

Missy grabs her arm and pulls her inside.

ALEJANDRO
What's going on?

JARED
Small concussion. Should be fun.

Follows him inside...

17

INT. COUNTRY CLUB FOYER - NIGHT

17

Stuffy and sumptuous and filled with plaid jackets and cotton candy-shaped mounds of hair... They weave through the crowd towards the dining room, saying hello to various people... Missy clings to Lyla's arm.

MISSY

I so should've listened to you about eloping. You know how my parents have always been a--

LYLA

--couple fries short of a Happy Meal?

MISSY

It's so beyond that. It's like, the second we got engaged, it suddenly dawned on them that Al's not Caucasian.

JARED

(to Alejandro)
You're not Caucasian?

ALEJANDRO

I apologize.

JARED

Upsetting.

MISSY

They're putting on this whole dinner theater PC act, pretending to be cool with it, when they're completely freaked about having beige grandkids.

LYLA

Isn't that slightly hypocritical, considering your dad's--

MUFFIN

There's my little princess!

As they run smack into BARRY AND MUFFIN O'CONNOR, Missy's impossibly blonde parents who are chatting with another couple. Muffin's face is, in fact, pulled tighter than a steel drum.

MUFFIN (CONT'D)

Oh, darling...
 (motioning to Missy's hair)
 ...you've got a wisp.

BARRY

Sweetheart, you remember the
 Retzlers. And this is her friend,
 (with pseudo-Spanish
 inflection)
 Alejandro.

They dutifully greet the other couple.

MUFFIN

(air kissing)
 Well hello, Lyla.

LYLA

Muffin.

MUFFIN

How's Chicago?

LYLA

Crawling with spics and Jews. See
 ya at the table.

She grabs Jared and heads into...

18

INT. COUNTRY CLUB DINING ROOM - NIGHT

18

...and the round table where her parents and Bebe are
 sitting. Don's leg bounces nervously.

ELLIE

Just don't push too hard, she'll
 come to you.

DON

My hands are shaking.

ELLIE

You'll do fine.

DON

(looking for a waiter)
 I need a drink.

BEBE

Donny.

She takes his hand and stares at him warmly. After a
 moment the shaking stops. Ellie notices...

DON
Thanks, babe.

He stands as Lyla, girding herself, approaches the table. She busses her mom's cheek as Ellie winks at her on her way to greet Jared, Alejandro and Missy...

DON (CONT'D)
Hello honey.

LYLA
(coolly)
Donald.

DON
You're...breathtaking.

LYLA
You've packed on a few.

DON
Yeah, but only in the good spots.
Doesn't get the hoped-for laugh...

DON (CONT'D)
(opens his arms)
Do you... Is it okay if I--

LYLA
Actually, I'm not feeling so hot.
As he pulls her into a bear hug.

DON
I've missed you so much.

LYLA
(trying to pull away)
Okay... I actually wasn't kidding,
I--

DON
I'd really like it if we could
spend some time, you know, if
that's okay?

LYLA
(growing pale)
Listen Don, I-- Dad!

He pulls back.

DON
Yes sweetheart?

As she vomits all over his suit...

CUT TO:

CHAMPAGNE GLASSES CLINKING

EVERYONE (V.O.)
To Missy and Alejandro.

19

INT. COUNTRY CLUB DINING ROOM - NIGHT

19

Where the assembled Griffin and O'Connor families (minus Don) sit around the table. Bebe wiggles her ears at Ellie, nodding her attention to the placement of Muffin's retracted ears... A second empty seat (ostensibly for Andrew) next to Lyla as she chugs from a bottle of Pellegrino...

LYLA
'So much better... Okay, so gimme the lowdown. Rehearsal dinner Friday. Saturday wedding at the house, and where we going for the honeymoon?

MISSY
Vietnam then Cambodia.

ALEJANDRO
All the good war-zones.

BARRY
We suggested Venice.

MUFFIN
But only because it's safer, and, after all, it is Alejandro's native language.

An awkward beat until a waiter, KEVIN, begins to fill their water glasses. He catches Lyla's eye and smiles.

KEVIN
Hey, Lyla.

LYLA
(flushing)
Oh hi, ummm...

KEVIN

Kevin. It's okay, we actually haven't seen each other since--

LYLA

Yeah, thanks. We're good for water. Everybody's good, right? Great to see you.

Kevin accepts the brush-off...

KEVIN

Help yourselves to the buffet.

JARED

(to Lyla)

Ghost of handjob past?

She stomps his foot beneath the table.

ELLIE

Well I just loved Cambodia.

(to Muffin)

It's perfectly safe, I lived there for three months.

ALEJANDRO

Mom found herself in Asia.

Don walks up, dressed a screaming, fire-engine red, club jacket over his undershirt.

DON

What'd I miss?

LYLA

(to Muffin)

And she knows Tantra. Mom once had an orgasm for nine hours.

DON

Seriously?

JARED

That's disgusting.

ELLIE

A little self-exploration wouldn't kill you, young man.

LYLA

(to Jared)

Or maybe a little less self-exploration in your case, Virgie.

DON
Nine hours? Doesn't that hurt?

JARED
(to Lyla)
So it's on?

LYLA
(pointing with her thumb and
pinkie)
One-nothing.

She flutters her eyelashes at him. He stares at her a beat, then speaks loudly to the table...

JARED
So Lyla, when were you going to
fill us in on your divorce?

ELLIE
What?!

JARED
(channelling Rizzuto)
And they're all tied up.

LYLA
You're a peach.

ELLIE
Lyla, what's he talking about?

LYLA
Andrew moved out last week.

DON
He was screwin' around? I'll
tweeze his balls off.

LYLA
Because karmically that would make
a ton of sense.

ELLIE
What happened?

LYLA
Seriously? Now?

BEBE
We're all family, dear.

The O'Connors appear uncomfortable. Alejandro notices...

ALEJANDRO

We'll talk about it later.

LYLA

No, you know what, let's get it over with. I'm sure Barry and Muffin are dying to know about all the tests and injections and humiliation I've so enjoyed the past four years.

BARRY

We really don't--

MUFFIN

Sssh.

(to Lyla)

Go on, dear.

ELLIE

(reaching to Lyla)

Oh honey.

LYLA

It just became... We were fighting all the time and... He couldn't take it. I knew it, and so I cut him loose before he did it to me, amen... Who do you have to lynch for a martini?

She walks off...

BARRY

I don't get it.

BEBE

(heart breaking for her)

She can't have children.

BARRY

Oh.

ELLIE

(standing)

If you'll excuse me for a--

DON

I got this.

ELLIE

Don, I really don't think that--

But he walks off after Lyla.

CUT TO:

20

EXT. COUNTRY CLUB SWIMMING POOL - NIGHT

20

Where Lyla straddles the end of the high-dive, a full martini between her legs.

DON (O.S.)
(somewhere below)
Before you end it all, you should
know they filled in the kiddie
pond last summer.

LYLA
So?

DON (O.S.)
(grunting)
Let's just say the grown-up pool's
been a few degrees warmer this
year.

LYLA
Where are you?

DON
Same place I've always been.

She rolls her head back to see him standing atop the high-dive ladder, "right behind her"...

DON (CONT'D)
Okay if I..?

As Lyla nods, he steps gingerly onto the diving board, arms out for balance...

LYLA
I thought you're afraid of
heights?

DON
Heights are fine...
(eyes the drop)
It's the lows I'm not in love
with.

He takes a tiny step, then freezes in place. Smiles to hide his fear and almost loses his balance.

21

INT. COUNTRY CLUB DINING ROOM - NIGHT

21

Ellie and Alejandro work the buffet together...

ELLIE

You must be so excited. It's been, what, three years since you've seen them? Have some more vegetables.

ALEJANDRO

I'm kind of nervous actually.

ELLIE

Oh honey why?

ALEJANDRO

My sister's never even left Ecuador.

ELLIE

She as traditional as your mother?

ALEJANDRO

I think so. She's painfully shy.

ELLIE

Well we're all going to make them feel as welcome and at home as we possibly can.

ALEJANDRO

Did you know I have to promise Father Monaghan to raise our kids Catholic or he won't perform the ceremony?

ELLIE

How fourteenth century of him. So cross your fingers behind your back and say hallelujah Jesus.

ALEJANDRO

That's what Missy said. It's the principle.

ELLIE

It's marriage. One compromise down, two-point-nine-nine-nine million to go.

They head back towards the table...

ALEJANDRO
Great... Speaking of compromises,
I have something I need to ask you
guys.

ELLIE
Anything.

ALEJANDRO
It's kind of a big one.

ELLIE
(stopping him)
Sweetheart, this weekend, short of
asking me to schtup your father,
there isn't a thing I wouldn't do
for you.

CUT TO:

DON'S SHUFFLING FEET

22

EXT. COUNTRY CLUB SWIMMING POOL - NIGHT

22

He's still only halfway across the high dive as Lyla, her
back to him, shakes the gin off the martini olive, before
popping it in her mouth and chewing

LYLA
How's it coming?

DON
Spectacular. Be there well before
Christmas.

LYLA
Look, I know we're supposed to
have this whole father/daughter
kumbaya-on-a-stick thing, but it
doesn't work like that.

DON
I know.

LYLA
Mom wasn't the only one you
cheated on.

DON
I know.

He reaches the end. Tries to figure out how to sit down
behind her...

LYLA

I mean, I still don't know how Bebe sleeps at night...in the house that you and mom built together. 'Decent thing would have been to sell the place, or burn it to the ground.

DON

I'm sorry.

LYLA

For what?

DON

That things rarely work out the way we want 'em to.

LYLA

(wallowing in the irony)
Yeah.

He finally sits... Relieved...

DON

Listen, honey. Maybe this thing with Andrew is--

LYLA

Don!

DON

Yeah?

LYLA

(after a beat...)
Want my martini?

DON

Down to my toenails, but no thanks.

She pours the drink into the pool, then slips off the end and plummets into the water leaving Don windmilling on the reverberating board.

23

INT. COUNTRY CLUB DINING ROOM - NIGHT

23

Everyone's back at the table making small talk... All but Ellie, who appears shell-shocked...

ALEJANDRO
 Mom, you're not eating.
 (she doesn't respond)
 You're freaking me out.

MISSY
 What's wrong?

BEBE
 Ellie, you gotta try the vegan
 ravioli. Utterly TDF.

Ellie turns to glare at Alejandro.

ALEJANDRO
 I'm sorry.

Just as Lyla sloshes up to the table, drenched.

BEBE
 Honey, what happened?

LYLA
 I smell like asparagus.

BEBE
 Where's your father?

Suddenly, Ellie stands and storms off.

JARED
 It's like we're at a bus station.

LYLA
 Am I the only one who's starving?

She plops wetly into Ellie's chair and starts inhaling
 her dinner.

24

EXT. COUNTRY CLUB SWIMMING POOL - NIGHT

24

Where Don is trapped atop the high-dive. Every time he
 tries to stand, he starts to lose his balance.

DON
 Mother-pisser.

ELLIE
 (walking angrily)
 What are you doing up there?

DON
 Not a whole fuck of a lot.

ELLIE

You won't believe what your son
just told me.

DON

I'm sure it'll keep.

He makes another attempt at standing while Ellie paces...

ELLIE

You know how the Catholics have a
thing about divorce? It turns out
Madonna is under the impression
divorce is a big fat friggin' sin.

DON

Who's Madonna?

ELLIE

His real-- Alejandro's biological
mother... Don?

DON

(balancing gingerly)
If it appears I'm ignoring you,
it's only because I'm not
listening.

ELLIE

And it turns out that, thanks to
your son, the woman's also under
the impression that, of all the
big, fat, divorced sinners in the
world, you and I are not among
them.

DON

(calming, focused)
I'm a little teapot, short and
stout.

ELLIE

Did you hear me?

DON

Not remotely.

ELLIE

We're not divorced, Don.

DON

(concentration blown)
What?

ELLIE

For the next three days, as far as Alejandro's other mother is concerned, you and I are husband and wife.

DON

What?! Oh, shit!

As he loses his balance, bounces off the board and belly-flops into the pool like a geyser.

DISSOLVE TO:

25

EXT. GRIFFIN HOME - BACKYARD - DAY

25

A pair of mated swans paddle across the idyllic pond behind the house... Up on the patio, the family are assembled around the outdoor breakfast table...

ALEJANDRO

I feel terrible.

BEBE

And you never thought to tell her that they...

Waves at Don and Ellie who look shell-shocked.

BEBE (CONT'D)

...because?

ALEJANDRO

I mean, there was no way she was ever going to come here so... It didn't even occur to me until Pre-Cana.

ELLIE

What would happen if she knew the truth?

ALEJANDRO

You told me what she put you through during the adoption. She gave up her only son so that I could have a better life. Now she left Ecuador, which she swore she'd never do, on an airplane, which she's petrified of, only to find that I've been lying about being raised by heathens for the past fifteen years...

(MORE)

ALEJANDRO (CONT'D)
 (Don/Ellie both react)
 No offense.

DON
 None taken.

BEBE
 It would break her poor little heart.

DON
 So we'll fake it for a couple'a days. What's the big deal?

ELLIE
 You and I haven't spoken in ten years. What makes either of you think we could pull it off?

BEBE
 (to Alejandro)
 The only place I'm stuck on is, if they're still married, what that makes me?

DON
 My concubine?

Bebe's eyes go cold...

ALEJANDRO
 I haven't really gotten there yet.

BEBE
 I see... More tea anyone?

She picks up the tea-service and walks into the house, dogs at her heels.

JARED
 (to Alejandro)
 They let pretty much anyone into Harvard these days huh?

ELLIE
 This is never going to work.

LYLA
 And I thought my life was a shit-storm.

ALEJANDRO
 I feel awful.

DON

Then what the hell are you waiting for?

Alejandro heads inside after Bebe. A beat...

JARED

So, now what?

DON

Before we all start shittin' kittens, what if we just sit the old girl down when she gets here and lay it all out for her. Ellie and I divorced, it's not like we nuked a petting zoo.

ELLIE

You heard what he said. She's from a different world. Her values aren't like ours.

LYLA

So pretend you're married for the weekend. How bad can it be?

ELLIE

Where would you like me to start?

DON

Hey, you were no Mardi Gras, toots.

ELLIE

What did you call me?

DON

It's an expression. Of endearment. Don't get all Jane Fonda about it.

ELLIE

(closing her eyes to calm herself

The Tibetans have a wonderful expression for moments like this.

DON

Yeah?

ELLIE

I don't remember the exact phrasing, but loosely translated, it means go fuck a yak.

LYLA
 (to Jared)
 Now it feels like home.

Alejandro runs out of the house...

ALEJANDRO
 So, she's leaving.

CUT TO:

26

INT. FOYER - DAY

26

As Bebe hefts an enormous, flower-embroidered suitcase down the stairs to the front door. Don follows Alejandro in from the living room.

DON
 Some apology.

ALEJANDRO
 She won't listen to me.

DON
 She's not going anywhere.
 (to Bebe)
 Honey, this is all very dramatic
 but don't you think--

BEBE
 Put a sock in it, Donald.

DON
 We'll go into the kitchen and have
 some tea.

BEBE
 You hate my tea.

DON
 I love your tea. Okay, that's a
 lie...the tea's for shit, but the
 rest of ya's top drawer.

BEBE
 Just shut up and help me please?

He grabs her suitcase, surprised at the weight, and struggles with it down the last few steps.

BEBE (CONT'D)
 I'll call Holly and have her
 oversee the catering.

ALEJANDRO

I promise we can figure this out.

BEBE

This weekend is about you and Missy and your happiness. If my presence makes that impossible, then...

ALEJANDRO

But you're a big part of our happiness. I'll just tell her the truth. If she can't handle it then-

BEBE

Then you'll always look back on your wedding day with pain and regret and I love you too much to allow that to happen. Consider it my wedding gift. Honey please, your father's about to blow his bypass.

She walks out the front door, dogs in tow as Alejandro takes the bag from Don.

27

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

27

Bebe closes the suitcase inside the trunk of her Mercedes. She kisses Alejandro...

BEBE

You be brave and elegant, and don't take shit from any of the old people.

ELLIE

(coming out the door)
Bebe, please don't do this.

BEBE

Oh pish-posh, I'll be at the Plaza...with a masseuse and Donald's platinum card for company.

(kneels down to kiss her dogs)
You'll look after the babies for me?

ELLIE

(blanching)
Of course.

DON

I need you this weekend. I can't
get through this--

(rolls his eyes towards
Ellie)

--without you.

BEBE

Don't test me, Donald. You're on
thin ice as it is.

DON

What the hell did I do?

BEBE

It's not what you did...

DON

Okay, what didn't I do?

She kisses him firmly. It rings of good-bye...

BEBE

I'm sure your "wife" will explain
it to you.

She busses Ellie and Alejandro's cheeks, then climbs into
her car and drives off with a wave.

DON

My fault? Un-be-cocksuckin'-
lievable.

As Bebe's car turns onto the road at the far end of the
driveway, a Taxi pulls in from the opposite direction.
Don leans into Alejandro...

DON (CONT'D)

'Piece of wedding advice, stay
single, kid...as long as you
possibly can.

ALEJANDRO

Will do.

ELLIE

The woman you supposedly love is
devastated and all you got is,
"Stay single kid?"

DON

It was a joke. Oh right, I forgot,
you haven't laughed since the
sixties.

ELLIE
Right around the time I married
you.

DON
Promise to never do it again.

ELLIE
Not in a billion years.

DON
Let's keep your mother out of
this.

ALEJANDRO
(watching the approaching
taxi)
Guys.

ELLIE
Kee-ya!!

She punches Don in the face just as the Taxi pulls up.

DON
(wipes a bloody nose)
You punched me in the face!

ELLIE
(in fighting stance)
I just earned my green belt. Talk
shit about my mom again.

ALEJANDRO
Guys!
(as the taxi pulls up)
It's them.

Alejandro opens the rear door and helps MADONNA SOTO,
fifties, a small severe-looking woman, out of the cab.
She holds his face in her hands and kisses him several
times, remarking at his height, skinniness, and long hair
in Spanish. (note: Madonna doesn't speak a word of
English).

DON
I thought they weren't coming
until tomorrow.

ELLIE
That was yesterday.

Ellie is a conflict of emotions, but most of all, she sees Alejandro's slightly panicked face and comes to a decision...

She takes Don's hand.

DON

What are you-?

He tries to pull free until she digs her fingernails in.

DON (CONT'D)

No fucking way. Not after you just-

ALEJANDRO

(Spanish)

Mama, these are my other parents.
Don and Ellie Griffin.

She takes their joined hands in hers and kisses their entwined fingers, missing the fresh gouges on the back of Don's hand.

MADONNA

(translated by Alejandro)

Thank you for inviting me into
your home. I pray that Alejandro
and Melissa are as wonderful
together as you have been.

Don and Ellie just stare...

ALEJANDRO

(in Spanish)

Mama, there's something we...
Something I have to tell you.

Suddenly, Ellie kisses Madonna's cheeks.

ELLIE

(in Spanish)

Welcome to our home. My husband
and I are overjoyed to finally
meet you.

DON

(to Madonna)

Buenos dias. Mi casa es whatever
the rest of it is...

Kisses Madonna's cheeks then slaps Ellie's ass for good measure. Ellie jumps, Alejandro is terrified. Madonna speaks, touching her mouth as she looks at Don...

ALEJANDRO

(translating)

She would like to know why your lip is bleeding?

DON

Oh, it's just uh... No English, huh?

(to Madonna)

It's because my wife's one of the great cunts of the nineteenth century.

Madonna appears to let out a gasp... All the blood drains from Don's face...did she understand him?

Until Madonna turns to reveal her daughter, NURIA SOTO, twenty, standing behind her mom. Nuria is dark and wears thick-rimmed glasses and a white scarf over her head as she stares shyly at the ground.

ALEJANDRO

Buenos dias, Nuria.

They hug awkwardly, strangers mostly...

MADONNA

(subtitled)

My babies are together again.

Alejandro pulls Madonna in and the three of them hug and kiss. Don loves it but Ellie's heart breaks a little.

28

INT. FOYER - DAY

28

Where Jared and Lyla are introduced to the guests.

ALEJANDRO

This is my sister Lyla, and this is Jared.

NURIA

(thick accent; translating for Madonna)

The lawyer and the doctor. My son is lucky to have such role models.

LYLA

(to Alejandro)

We're your role models.

ALEJANDRO

Mis-translation. This is Nuria.

Nuria shakes hands with Lyla then Jared.

JARED

Really nice to meet you.

Nuria smiles shyly, hardly looking up at him as Madonna takes in the house.

MADONNA

Que casa bella.

ELLIE

Oh, si. It's not really-- I'm kind of between decorators at the moment.

She ushers them into...

29

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

29

As they enter, Don hides a portrait of Bebe. The dogs come running in and Madonna kneels to greet them...

MADONNA

Aiee, que chiquitos. Y los platos.

Pointing to the set of dog portrait plates...

ELLIE

Oh yes, there's the statue too. I have such wonderful taste.

Madonna takes in the Brussels Griffon statue...

MADONNA

(to Don)

Tu?

DON

Me what? Oh christ, there isn't enough medication on earth.

NURIA

She has several books of your sculptures.

DON

(to Madonna)

I'm honored.

NURIA

(translating)

Although, she finds some of them too sensual...for her tastes.

Eyes the nude painting of Bebe... Ellie spots the nipple-tweaking gorillas picture, motions to Jared.

ELLIE
(changing the subject)
Maybe she would like to see his studio?

DON
Oh, I don't think that's such a good--

JARED
(standing in front of the picture)
It's a great idea.

DON
No I'm serious, it's--

ELLIE
The perfect opportunity for me to do a little house cleaning.

As she nudges the picture into a wastebasket.

DON
(bristling slightly; then to Madonna)
Right this way.

CUT TO:

A STYLIZED NUDE SCULPTURE OF A WOMAN

30

INT. DON'S STUDIO - DAY

30

Her marble form fashioned to look like water in suspended animation. Lying on her back, head turned to the side, knees bent and open slightly as she masturbates...

Face framed between the sculpture's raised knees, Madonna's expression is as you would expect as she stares down at the sculpture's vulva...

DON
It's a commission. Birthday present for some fat-cat's wife.

Lyla examines the sculpture with expert eyes...

LYLA
(hates it)
Interesting...

DON
(hates it too)
Sucks being sober.

He tries to make it a connective moment, but she walks away. Madonna continues to stare...

WORKERS are seen through the windows, laying out large sheets of white canvas on the lawn...

CUT TO:

JARED - STANDING IN THE HALL WITH A GARBAGE BAG

31

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

31

While Ellie runs from room to room, filling the bag with photos of Bebe.

JARED
It's weird Al's got a sister.

ELLIE
And a mother.

JARED
Jealous?

ELLIE
Don't be ridiculous. I
just...never thought I'd meet her.

JARED
You really think you and dad can
pull this off?

ELLIE
We're adults.

JARED
Since when?

As she drops an arm-load of Bebe pictures into the bag.

ELLIE
How many portraits can one woman
have?

Jared nods towards a "family wall" where several dozen framed photos of Bebe and the dogs are arranged in the shape of a dog.

32

INT. DON'S STUDIO - DAY

32

Madonna stares at an unfinished bronze of two heads, a man and a woman, facing each other; each with a hand on the other's cheek.

MADONNA

Amore.

Don walks up behind her... Madonna points at the male head.

MADONNA (CONT'D)

Alejandro?

DON

(self-conscious)
Looks just like him, right?

MADONNA

Y Melissa?

DON

If I ever finish.

She asks him something in Spanish, but he shakes his head...

DON (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, I don't--

ALEJANDRO

(walking up)
She asked you if know Missy well.

DON

(to Madonna)
Si. Since she was--
(shows how small Missy was
when they first met her)
Her parents are friends of ours.

ALEJANDRO

(translating both ways)
She asks if you think Missy and I
love each other, enough to have
true happiness forever.

DON

(warmly; hand on Al's
shoulder)
Si.

Madonna smiles, and speaks again...

ALEJANDRO
She says you are a serpent.

DON
Yeah? Flattery'll get you
everywhere.

ALEJANDRO
(translating)
It's a symbol of duality. The
struggle between spirit and
matter; the perverse will of man
competing with the purity of
artistic expression.

DON
She call me a pervert?

ALEJANDRO
I think it's a complement.

DON
How refreshing.

He bows with a flourish and kisses Madonna's hand. She
smiles and curtsies theatrically.

ALEJANDRO
(translating)
And now she would like to meet
Father Monaghan.

DON
Seriously?
(checks his watch)
Possible his hangover's worn off
by now.

Madonna turns and snaps at Nuria who is still staring at
the sculpture of the woman...

CUT TO:

33

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

33

Where the workers carry a large tent-pole to the center
of the lawn... Nuria walks past and onto the dock as
Jared and Lyla watch from the patio.

LYLA
I mean, what are we supposed to
talk to her about?

JARED
She's our sister...step, in-law,
whatever. Be a host.

LYLA
You're the only one who still
lives at home, and besides, I'm
concussed.

JARED
Mildly.

LYLA
And you owe me for last night.

JARED
Yeah, sorry. I didn't mean for it
to--

As Kevin, the waiter from the club and one of the guys
erecting the tent, walks up...

KEVIN
Hey Lyla. You got a sec?

LYLA
No.

She pretends to check her Blackberry and abruptly walks
into the house.

JARED
Not as whorish as she used to be.

KEVIN
Right...

Gives Jared a strange look.

JARED
I'm just gonna...

34

INT. LYLA'S ROOM - DAY

34

Through the window, Lyla watches Jared walk away from
Kevin, who stands there for a moment before heading back
to the tent.

Lyla checks her Blackberry again - "No new messages." She
starts to cry.

35

EXT. DOCK - DAY

35

Where Nuria sits, swirling her toes in the water, her hair tousled and loose down her back...

JARED

Careful, we've had shark problems in the past.

NURIA

Freshwater sharks?

JARED

Well, yeah, the ocean's miles from here. May I?

She moves over so he can sit.

NURIA

It must have been wonderful to grow up here.

JARED

Some of us are still working on it.

NURIA

You went to Harvard with Alejandro?

JARED

Yep. Well, actually I just drove him there. I would have enrolled, but I've got my parents genes, so...

She laughs loudly, suddenly beautiful, all traces of the shy girl gone. Jared is amazed at the transformation...

NURIA

You are funny.

JARED

And you are...

Can't quite say the word "lovely" but she gets it...

NURIA

We are permitted to swimming?

JARED

Why? I mean, yeah, sure. Lyla's got a ton of old bathing suits if you-- I can just--

He climbs to his feet and jogs back towards the house, passing Kevin and the workers who stop and gape in the middle of erecting the tent-pole...

WORKER #1

Holy fuck.

JARED

What happened?

He follows their eye-line back to the pond where Nuria stands completely nude at the end of the dock in a body worthy of Sports Illustrated.

JARED (CONT'D)

Holy fuck!

NURIA

Are you coming?

She turns and dives into the water...

JARED

(off the workers' looks)

Yeah I should probably...

Jogs back to the dock, slowing to a cool-seeming walk until he sees Nuria floating on her back, breasts and thatch of pubic hair exposed to creation.

JARED (CONT'D)

So bathing suits not so big in Ecuador, huh?

NURIA

I am only here for a few days and I would like to see as much of America as I can.

JARED

Only fair since we're seeing so much of you.

NURIA

(smiles, decides)

You will "show me around?"

JARED

Um, sure, but we've got the rehearsal dinner tonight, then--

NURIA

And you will make love to me also?

JARED

Uhh...

He looks around for the lightning bolt or hidden camera crew.

CUT TO:

THE VIRGIN MARY

36

INT. CHURCH - DAY

36

Madonna prays beneath the statue of her namesake. Don looks around the room, especially miserable.

DON

(to Alejandro)

Just so we're clear, you're--

(makes a ripping sound)

--from the will.

ALEJANDRO

(to Ellie)

Bebe's been trying to rope him in here for years.

DON

Anyone comes at me with a ring or a crown or any other legally binding jewelry, I take out their kneecaps.

ALEJANDRO

A crown?

ELLIE

But darling, you're a happily married man.

DON

Remember that tonight when we're in the sack together.

ELLIE

I will, right after the pigs fly out of my--

(suddenly smiling)

Good morning, father.

FATHER MONAGHAN

I couldn't believe my eyes, until my ears--

(glancing at Don)

(MORE)

FATHER MONAGHAN (CONT'D)
 --bespoke the truth. Griffins in
 my humble church.

DON
 (shaking his hand)
 Bill. How goes the war?

FATHER MONAGHAN
 Life on the wagon's not entirely
 bad, if only the wheels didn't
 squeak so perniciously.

DON
 (off Alejandro's look)
 Padre and I did AA together...
 Twice, wasn't it?

Father Monaghan holds up three fingers.

ALEJANDRO
 Father, I'd like you to meet my
 biological mother Madonna Soto.

FATHER MONAGHAN
 A great pleasure to meet you,
 madame.

Madonna responds in LATIN.

FATHER MONAGHAN (CONT'D)
 Unless that's some kind of new
 martini recipe, I'm at a
 disadvantage.

Alejandro speaks to her in Spanish. Madonna is
 incredulous.

ALEJANDRO
 (translating)
 My mother would like to give
 confession.

MADONNA
 Todos.

ALEJANDRO
 Sorry, she'd like all of us to
 give confession.

DON
 Screw that!

ELLE
 The hell I will!

Father Monaghan raises his eyebrows...

Sorry. DON Sorry. ELLE

CUT TO:

37 INT. CHURCH, OUTSIDE THE CONFESSIONAL - DAY 37

DON (O.S.)
Forgive me, Father for this is
bullshit.

38 INT. CONFESSIONAL - DAY 38

INTERCUT between Don, Ellie, Alejandro and Madonna making
their respective confessions...

FATHER MONAGHAN
Now Don, I think it's a lovely
gesture to make to your guest.
How's sobriety going with you?

DON
Honestly?

FATHER MONAGHAN
Of course.

DON
It sucks a dick, Bill, but we
muddle along, don't we.

ELLIE:

FATHER MONAGHAN
Wonderful to see you and Donny
together again.

ELLIE
Oh yes, we remarried this morning.

FATHER MONAGHAN
You're kidding?

ELLIE
(suddenly hesitant)
You can keep a secret?

FATHER MONAGHAN
We're in confession.

ELLIE
You're right, never mind.

DON:

FATHER MONAGHAN

If we could keep the epithets to a minimum, this is a house of worship.

DON

Yeah, yeah.

(admiring Monaghan's watch)

Nice hand candy.

FATHER MONAGHAN

A gift from my flock.

DON

Pretty flockin' nice of 'em.

(off Monaghan's look)

What?

ALEJANDRO:

ALEJANDRO

Forgive me father, for I have sinned.

FATHER MONAGHAN

I thought you were against religion?

ALEJANDRO

After this weekend, I'm gonna need all the help I can get.

FATHER MONAGHAN

Go on, my son.

ALEJANDRO

It's not wrong to lie to someone you love if the only reason you're deceiving them is to protect their happiness?

FATHER MONAGHAN

I guess that would depend. For instance, are you disrupting the lives of anyone else to enact your deception?

ALEJANDRO

(after a long beat)

Nope.

DON:

DON

What's a ring gonna prove that
eight years of love and
companionship don't? I mean, she's
my gal, what else she want from
me?

FATHER MONAGHAN

Oscar Wilde said that marriage is
the triumph of imagination over
intelligence.

DON

Oscar Wilde used to schtup altar
boys.

FATHER MONAGHAN

Oh...right... Forget I said
anything.

ELLIE:

ELLIE

That's why I stayed away. But,
even after ten years, this place
still...

(can't believe she's going
to say it...)

...even he still feels like home.

FATHER MONAGHAN

And that frightens you?

ELLIE

That part of my life is over.

(sincerely)

That's a good thing.

FATHER MONAGHAN

So you've moved on?

ELLIE

Mostly I just moved. Six times
since the divorce. Boston. The far
east. New York.

FATHER MONAGHAN

Running from...?

(she shrugs her acceptance)

And yet wherever you go, there you
are.

ELLIE

Like a bad penny.

FATHER MONAGHAN
There's different kinds of love.

ELLIE
And?

FATHER MONAGHAN
Just because you're divorced
doesn't mean you're legally
required to hate him.

ELLIE
(after a beat)
You're not as dumb as Don says.

MADONNA:

Speaks a litany in Spanish. She's angry, but clearly
joyful to be here for the wedding. Every time it appears
she's done, Father Monaghan raises his hand to bless her,
but she launches into another topic.

FATHER MONAGHAN
Ay carumba.

ALEJANDRO:

FATHER MONAGHAN (CONT'D)
I absolve you in the name of the
father, the son and the holy
spirit.

ALEJANDRO
So I'm not going to burn for this?

FATHER MONAGHAN
Don't count your chickens. Have
you given some thought to the
church's requirements regarding
children?

ALEJANDRO
I have, a lot of thought.

FATHER MONAGHAN
And?

ANGLE - As Alejandro crosses his fingers behind his back.

CUT TO:

39

INT. COUNTRY CLUB FOYER - EVENING

39

Where a perky MAITRE'D blocks the arriving Griffins and Sotos from entering the dining room.

DON

Griffin. Table for fifty.

MAITRE'D

Actually the O'Connors requested a private table, on the Rose Terrace.

DON

Outside?

JARED

Isn't it supposed to rain?

MAITRE'D

That was communicated to them, yes. Right this way...

DON

So long's I get my steak.

40

EXT. COUNTRY CLUB - ROSE TERRACE - EVENING

40

Barry and Muffin, smiles levered onto their faces as they've clearly just been arguing, wait by a long, candle-lit dinner table with an annoyed but nervous Missy... Thunder is heard in the distance...

DON

What's with the al fresco? It's gonna piss all over us.

MUFFIN

We thought this would be more private.

MISSY

She insisted on it. The thought that anyone would see us eating with a bunch of, what was the expression you used mom?

Barry steps in front of her to shake Madonna's then Nuria's hand.

BARRY

Barry O'Connor, very nice to meet you. My wife Muffin...

MUFFIN

(practiced)
It's just delightful to make your
acquaintance.

MADONNA

(to Nuria; subtitled)
She talks but her lips don't move.

BARRY

And of course, this is our
daughter, Melissa.

Madonna fixes her gaze on Missy who shrugs her father's
over-protective hands off her shoulders before she can
step forward and kiss Madonna hello.

MISSY

(subtitled; in rehearsed
Spanish)
Alejandro told me everything about
you, except how beautiful you are.

Madonna stares, trying to take measure of her daughter-in-
law-to-be... It starts to get uncomfortable...

ALEJANDRO

Mama--

MISSY

It's okay.
(to Madonna; subtitled)
Before this night is over, it is
my intention to get your blessing.
But whether you choose to give it
or not, know that he will never
live a day without love while I am
alive.

Everyone is silent...

DON

(to Ellie)
What the fuck did she just--

ELLIE

(tears in her eyes)
Sush!

After a long beat, Madonna steps forward and kisses Missy
on the forehead. She asks Alejandro to translate
something for her. He whispers the answer in her ear...

MADONNA

(to Missy)

You have my blessing.

Alejandro hugs her and she kisses his and Missy's cheeks repeatedly.

ELLIE

(impressed)

Atta girl.

Missy greets Nuria and the rest, then pulls out a chair from the table...

MISSY

(to Madonna)

Please sit with me.

Nuria smiles and winks at Alejandro, then moves to the other end of the table to sit next to Jared who pulls a chair out for her.

MUFFIN

Don, where's Bebe? We're supposed to go over the cru-d'etat presentation.

DON

She uh, her aunt passed. Had to go back to Pougkeepsie.

MUFFIN

But her aunt's dead.

DON

That's what I said.

Busies himself unfolding his napkin as Nuria removes the wrap from her shoulders, revealing a low cut dress that draws stares from almost everyone.

Madonna quickly chastises her daughter in Spanish...

NURIA

(subtitled)

Mama, I am twenty, I have beautiful breasts and I am on vacation. Besides, look at the fake tits on "hurricane face."

She nods at Muffin who, sort-of blinking, nervously eyes the darkening skies. Alejandro is understandably tense.

NURIA (CONT'D)
 (apologizing to him)
Lo siento.
 (lays a hand on Jared's
 forearm)
 Sweetheart, would you pass the
 wine?

This draws looks from everyone, Ellie included. Madonna
 crosses herself as she glowers at Nuria.

DON
 God knows I hate a boring dinner.
 Ice water anyone?

A BUS BOY begins filling the water glasses...

LYLA
 (to the bus boy)
 Kevin working tonight?

BUS BOY
 He uh, was asked to work another
 party.

LYLA
 (sensing the lie)
 He asked, or was asked?

BUS BOY
 I just think he needs some space.

LYLA
 From what?

DON
 You stirrin' it up with Kevin?

LYLA
 No, I was mean to him earlier.

DON
 Women should always play hard to
 get.

Draws a withering look from her...

JARED
 (eyes on Nuria)
 I disagree.

He takes her hand under the table. Just as a waitress
 approaches -- it's Bebe.

BEBE

Good evening everyone. Welcome to
Wepawaug Creek. My name's Yvette,
I'll be your hostess this evening.

Jaws drop as she moves around the table, handing out
menus.

BEBE (CONT'D)

The menu tonight is lobster bisque
flavored with twice the
recommended daily dosage of
sodium.

MUFFIN

Bebe!? Ow!

As Ellie kicks her under the table.

BEBE

We have a hormone-pumped roast
chicken with spring vegetables and
store-bought, wild, boxed rice; or
a non-organic filet mignon stuffed
with sour cream, blue cheese,
bacon and a defibrillator.

(off Don's hopeful look)

Yeah, right.

Slams a menu into a delicate part of his lap. He
struggles not to react.

MUFFIN

(talking to the bus boy)

Our guests aren't used to American
food. Do you think Chef Claude
could whip up some sort of burrito
thingy?

MISSY

Mom stop it.

MUFFIN

Didn't I say it right?

BARRY

(glaring at Missy)

You said it fine.

(to Madonna)

I'm sorry.

Bebe hands Ellie a menu. Ellie mouths silently--

ELLIE

You okay?

BEBE

(winks at her)

Just fuckin' with him.

NURIA

(translating)

My mother wonders why the wedding is being held at the Griffins' home and not with the bride's family?

DON

(lifts a utensil)

Spectacular fork.

BARRY

Well, we thought we'd shake things up a little. Besides, our house is-

MISSY

--in foreclosure. He has to plead poverty because he's being investigated for stock fraud.

Bebe guffaws, not exactly to herself.

MUFFIN

We have money though. Really.

(to the table)

Really. It's just overseas for a while.

BARRY

(stands angrily)

That's enough.

Silence again... Madonna looks for Nuria to translate but Nuria wisely demurs.

Bebe walks past and nudges his chair into the backs of his knees, forcing him to sit.

BEBE

I shall return for your orders.

Heads to the club...

NURIA
 (to Don and Ellie)
 I think your house is the most
 beautiful place I've ever seen.
 You built it yourselves, yes?

Her hand creeps up Jared's thigh, finding his zipper.

ELLIE
 We did.

ALEJANDRO
 Tell her the story.

Ellie and Don exchange looks...

MISSY
 It's completely romantic.
 (off Ellie's look)
 It is!

ELLIE
 Don and I were living in the city,
 separately.

DON
 She wouldn't shack up with me
 until we were matrimonied.

ELLIE
 That's because I wasn't a slut.

Jared suddenly snorts into his wine glass. Draws a look
 from Ellie.

JARED
 Wrong pipe.

NURIA
 (face blank)
 Go on.

Alejandro translates all for Madonna...

ELLIE
 His latest exhibition had just
 sold out and--

DON
 --I was the toast of the town.

ELLIE
 And awash in humility as usual.

DON

One of the many things she loves
about me.

Gives her hand a squeeze which draws strange looks from
Muffin and Barry and Missy.

ELLIE

So anyway... We went for a drive
out in the country in his fancy
new convertible.

DON

Seventy-two MG roadster.

BARRY

You dog. I always wanted one of
them.

ELLIE

(seizing the conversation)
And we stopped at the edge of a
field for a walk. It was just
sunset as we came upon this lovely
little pond where he proposed to
me just as the sun went down.

DON

I did a little more than that.

ELLIE

We really don't--

LYLA

C'mon, if you're gonna tell the
story.

ALEJANDRO

Tell it right.

MADONNA

Por favor.

Ellie looks at Don then shrugs, giving permission.

DON

Three months I had been sneaking
out there on Saturdays. She
thought I was swimming at the Y
while she hung with her folks.

ELLIE

I knew you were up to something.

DON

'Didn't have a clue.

LYLA

He spent three months looking for the most beautiful spot in New England. And when he took her there, acted like he had accidentally stumbled upon it.

ALEJANDRO

(Spanish; subtitled)

And rather than just propose, he gave her an acorn that they planted that day, at the edge of the pond, on the exact spot where she said yes.

LYLA

He had already bought the land for her, and they built the house over the years in the shade of the oak tree, adding to it every time he sold a sculpture until...

Madonna takes Ellie's hand, but Ellie's looking at Bebe who has just walked up behind them and has heard...

MADONNA

(subtitled)

You are lucky to have such a man.

ELLIE

(sickly smile)

Yes. I'm very lucky.

Bebe's jaw sets and she storms away. Ellie is about to go after her, until she spots Nuria's hand bobbing beneath the napkin in Jared's lap.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Jared!

(didn't mean to yell...)

Can I speak with you a moment?

She stands forcefully just as the bus boys arrive with the soup.

JARED

I uh. Leg cramp. Gimme a few minutes.

ELLIE

Uh-huh. Nuria, why don't I show you to the ladies room. You can wash your hands.

NURIA

(stands nervously)
Oh, thank you.

Follows Ellie into the club. Jared watches, dismayed as Ellie puts her arm around Nuria and begins lecturing...

BARRY

Well, here's to a wonderful dinner and a really neat wedding.

He holds up his glass. It's a beat before everyone joins him.

As the glasses clink, a single raindrop plops right in the center of Barry's glass. Everyone sees it, but pretends otherwise. Thunder booms, closer now...

Don casts a furtive glance skyward, before tucking in. As he digs into his soup, a pair of fat raindrops land in his bowl, splashing his face with bisque.

He looks around to see if anyone noticed... If they did, they're pretending otherwise... He nonchalantly wipes his face with his napkin.

MISSY

(to Muffin)
"Neat?"

DON

Soup is truly sensational.

Everyone quickly over-comments on the deliciousness of the soup as the rain begins to fall steadily.

BARRY

Madonna, how is your bisque?

Alejandro licks raindrops off his lips while translating. She looks at Barry like he's nuts.

Missy smirks at her father's increasingly dappled shirt as if to say, "I told you so."

No one dares say a word until it becomes a deluge...

Finally, after Madonna puts her napkin on her head...

BARRY (CONT'D)
(kicking back his chair)
Oh for fuck's sake.

41

INT. COUNTRY CLUB BACK ROOM - EVENING

41

Ellie and Nuria emerge, smiling, from the ladies room.
Nuria is folding up a piece of paper which she hides in
her purse.

ELLIE
--thing to remember is that men
are like pumpkins, the good ones
are either taken, or they've had
everything scraped out of their
heads with a spoon.

Just as everyone runs inside, fleeing the downpour.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
What happened?

JARED
Everything okay in here?

ELLIE
Why wouldn't it be? Nuria and I
have become fast friends.

NURIA
Your mother has been explaining to
me.

JARED
(his worst fear)
Really? About what?

CUT TO:

42

INT. ALEJANDRO'S CAR - NIGHT

42

Missy goes off about her parents.

MISSY
Maybe I was adopted too, only my
parents didn't have the guts to
tell me.

ALEJANDRO
So can we elope now?

MISSY
Seriously, I'd give anything.

ALEJANDRO

That a yes?

MISSY

Very funny. By the way, what was all that with Bebe? And what the hell's going on with your folks?

ALEJANDRO

Oh yeah, you're gonna love this one.

43

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

43

The car drives towards us from a distance. After a several moments...

MISSY (O.S.)

Are you fucking kidding me?!

The car swerves momentarily as if the driver was being pummelled.

43A

EXT. DON'S SUBURBAN - NIGHT

43A

Driving quietly down the village's main road.

44

INT. DON'S SUBURBAN - NIGHT

44

Don and Ellie in the front. Lyla and Madonna in the middle seat. Jared and Nuria in the back.

Jared smiles at Nuria. She smiles back. Jared reaches into his pocket and suggestively lays a stolen dinner-napkin on his lap.

Nuria stifles a laugh, then suddenly sets her jaw and looks away, ignoring him.

In the front seat, Ellie checks Nuria in the rearview mirror. Nuria winks at her. Ellie winks back. Jared sees it.

DON

What're you grinnin' at?

ELLIE

(hugging herself for warmth)
Women's lib. You sure it's all the way up?

DON

(fiddling with the heater)
That's all she's got.

ELLIE
Even my drips are dripping.

DON
Take a steam when we get back.

ELLIE
You put steam in the guest room?

DON
Nope, just the master.
(off her look)
Whatever you say.

LYLA
(checking her blackberry)
It's like I ceased to exist.

ELLIE
What's that, honey?

LYLA
No calls. No texts. No nothing.

MADONNA
(conciliatory)
Los hombres.

LYLA
I know, right?

ELLIE
No offense, dear, but you did
leave him.

LYLA
Yeah but he doesn't have to make
it so easy for me.

DON
You think he'll show at the
wedding?

LYLA
He does, I'll tell him to fuck the
fuck off.

ELLIE
Lyla Jane!

LYLA
He said terrible things to me.

DON
You punch him in the nose?

LYLA
Of course not.

DON
(to Ellie)
Because that would be uncivilized.

ELLIE
(rolls her eyes; to Lyla)
You miss him.

LYLA
A little.

ELLIE
Give him a call.

LYLA
I can't.

ELLIE
Why not?

Lyla just shakes her head and looks outside, tears matching the streaks of rain on the window.

Madonna touches Lyla's arm and draws her head to her shoulder and comforts her in Spanish. Lyla has no idea what she's saying, but it feels nice...

Ellie and Madonna's eyes meet in the rearview mirror, motherhood cementing their bond...

CUT TO:

45

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

45

Jared and Nuria stop at his door. He beckons her inside...

JARED
So you wanna listen to some music?
Or... not?

He moves to kiss her but she turns her head.

NURIA
No thank you. But you may read
poetry to me if you wish.

JARED
Poetry?

NURIA
Yes. Like, um...
(pulls out the slip of
paper)
Keats or Shakespeare.

JARED
You're serious?

NURIA
(quoting Ellie)
I deserve to be treated with
respect.

JARED
Don't we all.

Ushers her into his room...

CUT TO:

46

INT. ALEJANDRO'S CAR - NIGHT

46

Parked in front of Missy's parents' house.

MISSY
Say it again.

ALEJANDRO
I'm an idiot.

MISSY
A what?

ALEJANDRO
I'm a galactic idiot. My idiocracy
knows know limit.

MISSY
You won't tell a tiny white lie to
some priest you'll never see
again, but turn our wedding into
complete farce? No problem.

ALEJANDRO
I know.

MISSY
I mean poor Bebe. You know how
many months she and my mom have
been planning this?

ALEJANDRO

I know, I know. I'm an idiot... I talked to Monaghan though.

MISSY

For reals?

ALEJANDRO

I promised we'd make sure little Matthew, Mark, Luke and John will grow up ravenous for the blood of Christ.

MISSY

(slightly repulsed)
You did?

ALEJANDRO

I may have had crossies when I said it.

MISSY

Thank you.

ALEJANDRO

I really, truly love you.

She smiles and kisses him.

MISSY

And you'll fix the other stuff?

ALEJANDRO

(kissing her harder)
How much is it worth to you?

MISSY

Wanna see?

ALEJANDRO

(going for her buttons)
Uh-huh.

MISSY

Too bad, I'm saving myself for marriage.

Gives him a last kiss and bounds out of the car.

MISSY (CONT'D)

(calling back)
See ya tomorrow.

ALEJANDRO
I'm busy tomorrow.

MISSY
All I hear is blah-blah-blah.

He smiles as she runs up the path, passing a "FOR SALE" sign. Knows he's the luckiest man alive.

CUT TO:

47

INT. DON'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

47

Where Ellie sits on the floor at the end of the bed, pops a VHS tape into a player. Don does push-ups.

ELLIE
So, call her again.

DON
She had the front desk block me.
Tell me again how this is my
fault.

Just as an old UNICEF COMMERCIAL begins to play. She pauses the screen at the sight of a little boy with enormous brown eyes...

ELLIE
Look.

DON (O.S.)
(grunting)
Where'd you dig that up?

ELLIE
Look how tiny he was.

DON
"I want him," she said, unwilling
to settle for anything less than
the actual boy in the commercial
who didn't necessarily need
adopting.

ELLIE
I still wonder if we did the right
thing.

DON
(almost out of steam)
Honey, for two people who did a
lot of things wrong, adopting Al
wasn't one of 'em.

ELLIE

He's the kindest of all of us...
We didn't do that many things
wrong.

DON

(collapsing onto his
stomach)
Compared to who?

ELLIE

(thinks a moment)
Attila the Hun?

DON

Everybody's happy now, right?

ELLIE

Right.

DON

I mean, we got the kids, you're
having nine hour orgasms.

ELLIE

Give or take.

DON

I'm intrigued.

ELLIE

(sarcastic)
I'm stunned.

DON

Prove it.

ELLIE

You wish.

DON

For old times sake.

ELLIE

(flattered but...)
I think the coast must be clear by
now.

She stands and heads for the door as he sits up...

DON

It's good to see you, Ellie.

ELLIE
You said that already.

DON
Still haven't changed my mind.

48

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

48

Ellie closes the door quietly behind her and pads down the hallway towards the Embroidery Room. Jared's door flies open as she passes.

JARED
Are you kidding me?!

ELLIE
Shush! You'll wake Madonna.

Tries to get around him, but he blocks her...

JARED
I've been reading sonnets. Out loud.

ELLIE
How romantic.

JARED
(blocks her again)
After twenty-nine years, I finally... I can't believe you're cock-blocking me!

ELLIE
What happened to waiting until you're in love?

JARED
I snapped out of it.

ELLIE
Please keep your voice down... Okay, you have no idea how women are treated in most third-world countries--

JARED
Oh please.

ELLIE

I'm just helping her see that there are better ways of fortifying her self-esteem than using her body as a man's sex object.

JARED

How can I treat her like a sex object when I've never had sex?

ELLIE

I merely said there are certain things a woman should expect from a man before she jumps into bed with him.

JARED

I know.

(holds up the list)

I don't really have time to send her flowers every day for a year when she's going back to Ecuador on Monday.

ELLIE

C'est la guerre.

She finally pushes past him and runs right into Madonna emerging from her bedroom/The Embroidery Room, clearly awoken by them.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Oh my goodness, I'm so sorry.
Anyway, sweet dreams, honey.

Kisses Jared then heads back to Don's bedroom.

49

INT. DON'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

49

Don lies on the bed as Ellie enters...

DON

Back so soon?

ELLIE

(sarcastic)

The temptation was more than I could stand.

DON

Now you're talking.

ELLIE
Under the covers.

Don rips the covers back and slides beneath them. Holds them open for her...

DON
Be gentle. Or don't.

She lays the covers back onto the bed and lies on top of them, effectively pinning him beneath.

ELLIE
Good night.

DON
(grumpy)
Says you.

ELLIE
Oh come on, you didn't really think I would go through with it.

DON
No one ever died from dabbling.

ELLIE
Just our marriage.

DON
(after a beat...)
Fair point, but... I couldn't stand being ignored.

ELLIE
(realizes he means her...)
I'm sorry.
(after a beat)
How?

DON
What?

ELLIE
I ignored you?

DON
Didn't need a soothsayer to know you were petrified of being alone with me.

ELLIE
With the kids gone, I wasn't sure what we had in common any more.

DON

So we picked up another kid to
avoid the issue.

(Ellie can't argue)

I tried to stick it out, I really
did.

ELLIE

I know.

She rests her head on his chest.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

I'm truly sorry for any--

DON

Me too. Wanna fuck?

ELLIE

You need to marry to Bebe.

(he rolls his eyes)

Nothing you don't already know.

DON

What about you, anyone special
since...?

ELLIE

Boyfriends?

DON

Far be it for me to discriminate.

ELLIE

Ha-ha. There've been guys here and
there. I guess I wouldn't call
them special, but... I dated a cop
for a while. Then there was Mike
the stockbroker who proposed on
our fourth date, which should have
been the first clue. Then there
was--

She stops as he begins to snore... She begins to get
angry, but decides against it. She watches his face for
several moments before snuggling closer and closing her
eyes.

FADE TO BLACK.

50

EXT. BACKYARD - MORNING

50

Where the white tents stretch elegantly over the lawn, surrounding the family oak which serves as the backdrop for the altar and centerpiece of the tables.

On the tree, the carving of Ellie's face has a small white bandage across the reconstituted nose...

DON (O.S.)
(from somewhere inside the
house)
Oooooooooooooooooohhhhhhhh.

Workers open rows of chairs and dress the tables in white cloths, flowers being inserted into a vase, etc.

DON (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Eeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee-eeeeee-eee-
eeeeeeeeee.

51

INT. EMBROIDERY ROOM - SAME

51

Madonna stares at the ceiling, can't help but listen.

52

EXT. BACKYARD - SAME

52

Two FEMALE WORKERS look at each other, wondering what the sound could be.

ELLIE (O.S.)
Haaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah-ha-ha-ha-
haaaaaaaaaaaaaa...

The Female Workers crack up.

53

INT. DON'S BEDROOM - MORNING

53

Where Don and Ellie collapse onto the bed, side-by-side, panting. Both of them thrilled and sweaty and amazed and slightly horrified.

54

EXT. POND - MORNING

54

Lyla swims with vigorous albeit perfect form. She curses every time she takes a breath...

LYLA
Mother...fucker...mother..fucker.

KEVIN (O.S.)
Hey.

She stops to see him walking along the shore, dressed in a formal waiter's attire.

LYLA

You scared the piss out of me.

KEVIN

Seriously?

LYLA

I thought you needed space.

KEVIN

I-- Who told you--? I never said that.

LYLA

Sorry if I was all up in your grill, all the way from Chicago.

KEVIN

You weren't-- Look, we were seventeen, you completely bailed and I never got a chance to tell you that...

He loved her...

LYLA

Oh my god.

KEVIN

Yeah... So anyway, I thought, if you didn't have any plans after the wedding... We could get a beer or...

LYLA

Lemme think about it.

KEVIN

I'm here all day.

LYLA

I'll try not to crowd you.

KEVIN

(joking)
I'd appreciate it.

She smiles at him before heading back out into the pond.

CUT TO:

LYLA - WALKING UP THE PATH TO THE HOUSE

55

EXT. BACKYARD - MORNING

55

Shakes the water from her ears as she runs into Don who staggers out from the kitchen. Looks like he got hit by a freight train.

LYLA

What happened to you?

Don lights two cigarettes. Smokes them both.

DON

What time is it?

LYLA

Almost eight. I thought you quit.

DON

'Thought I quit a lot of things.
Eight, so that would make it...hey
forty minutes ain't bad for
starters.

LYLA

Is that what that--? You didn't!?
Tell me you didn't... Oh, you
scumbags!

DON

(grabs her arm)
Not here.

He leads her towards the studio...

LYLA

What about Bebe?

DON

I know, I know.

Opens the door and ushers her inside just as...

BEBE, FOLLOWED BY HER HAPPILY YIPPING DOGS

Carrying a tray of canapes and wearing a chef's smock emblazoned with the logo "BEBE'S YUM-YUMS", leads a troupe of similarly-smocked caterers around the side of the house and into the tent.

BEBE

Careful ducklings, if the monster
of the bride sees you drop
anything she's like to pop a skin-
graft.

56

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

56

As Jared enters from outside, unpacking a shopping bag
full of a calendar and various magazines which he begins
organizing into stacks. Ellie floats in serenely...

ELLIE

Good morning my darling.

Kisses his head.

JARED

Bite me.

ELLIE

Aren't we mister grouchy-pants.

She opens the fridge, sees the health crap...

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Icky, icky, icky.

JARED

What's with you?

ELLIE

(closes the fridge)

What?

JARED

You're...radiant.

ELLIE

Am I?

JARED

It's supremely annoying.

He grabs scissors and starts cutting into a bridal
magazine as Alejandro enters with bags of bagels.

ALEJANDRO

What's annoying?

ELLIE

There's my handsome groom. Are you
ready for your big day?

Kisses him several times.

ALEJANDRO
What's wrong with you?

JARED
(to Ellie)
See?
(to Alejandro)
Would you be upset if I dated your
sister?

ALEJANDRO
(thinks a moment)
The whole adoptive incest thing
doesn't bother you?

JARED
Not in the slightest, nope. No.

ALEJANDRO
(shrugs)
Whatever. You both could stand to
loosen up a little.

JARED
(looking at Ellie)
Couldn't agree more.

ELLIE
I'd ground you if I weren't so
radiant.

Puts an arm around each of them.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
My boys. My men. What a wonderful
day.

She scruffs their hair. They both wonder what drug she's
on.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
Who's for a nice, brisk walk?

They groan in unison and turn their backs on her, just as
Madonna enters.

MADONNA
Buenos Dias.

CUT TO:

A HIGHBALL GLASS - BEING FILLED WITH SCOTCH

57

INT. STUDIO - MORNING

57

Lyla stares wistfully at the sculpture of the two faceless lovers.

DON

You working on anything lately?

LYLA

I haven't touched a chisel in years.

DON

'Shame. There's more talent in your little finger than I--

LYLA

I'm a big girl, Don. You don't have to say that anymore.

DON

Happens to be true.
(offers the scotch)
Hair'a the dog?

LYLA

No. You sure today's the day you wanna get off the wagon?

DON

Coin-flip at this point. You seen the reduction chisel?

Blows dust off the sculpture...

LYLA

How is it that you can make something so beautiful and yet be such a complete douchebag?

Balances the scotch on the sculpture's head...

DON

I'm a complicated serpent, or whatever the hell she said.

LYLA

So is that what happens with men, a grain of strife in the relationship and suddenly you're knee deep in your ex?

DON

Like Kevin, for instance?

LYLA

What about him?

Don shrugs. Starts polishing the stone as Lyla finds the chisel and offers it to him...

LYLA (CONT'D)

Here.

DON

Help me.

She hesitates, then sits opposite him and begins to work on Missy's hair.

LYLA

Nothing's gonna happen with Kevin,
and besides, it's not the same.

DON

Okay.

LYLA

It's not.

DON

I believe you.

LYLA

Really?

DON

Shouldn't I?

LYLA

Wanna know why it's not gonna
happen?

DON

Only if you--

LYLA

Grandpa.

DON

"Grandpa?" Sweetie, I may be on
the back nine of life, but I just
spent the last forty minutes
laying more pipe than--

LYLA

I didn't say no to the scotch
because I didn't want the drink.

He stares at her. Blinks a few times.

DON
Ummm... Then why did you--? Is
this a game.

LYLA
I wish.

DON
I'm not sure I--? Wait a second,
you're--

Lyla nods and lays her hand over her stomach.

Neither one of them move for several moments. They just sit there, on either side of the sculpture, staring at one another...

Finally Don begins to well up. At first, Lyla gets annoyed, but sees his sincere, overwhelming joy.

He reaches across the sculpture for her hand. Conflicted, she gives it.

LYLA
I'm so afraid.

DON
Andrew doesn't know?

LYLA
(shakes her head)
I'm not one of those women...those
women who thinks I deserve a child
because my uterus decided to
work... He either loves me or he
doesn't. If I can't bring this
baby into a happy, loving family,
then I won't have it at all.

He wants to comment, but thinks better of it as he strokes his thumb across the back of her hand.

58

EXT. WOODED TRAIL - DAY

58

Ellie and Madonna walk briskly, side-by-side down the bucolic trail. They eye each other, each wanting to get something off their chest, but for the language barrier. Finally...

ELLIE
I know you can't understand me,
but now that you're here...
(MORE)

ELLIE (CONT'D)

I just want you to know that I've always been intimidated by you. Even so, I never tried to take your place with him. I always encouraged the phone calls and the visits and meeting you, I see where so many of the good things in him come from and I just... I'm just so happy you're here.

Madonna watches her closely, trying to divine the meaning of Ellie's words... She smiles warmly at Ellie, who smiles back...

ELLIE (CONT'D)

You understand me?

MADONNA

(subtitled)

I think I understand you, but please don't apologize. I would very much like to have an orgasm like that...although I find it incredible you are able to walk without pain right now.

They smile some more, satisfied they seem to be on the same page as they continue down the path...

59

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

59

Don and Lyla walk out of the studio. He moves to hug her, but remembers what happened last time, so he rubs her shoulder as warmly as he can. Lyla manages a small smile in return.

Bebe pretends not to watch them as she arranges plates of canapes while her staff set up the rest of the tables.

Don walks over to her, pops a mini-tart into his mouth.

DON

(the tart and her)
Delicious.

BEBE

You're paying for it.

DON

Then I'll have three.

BEBE

If I was talking to you, I'd ask what--

(MORE)

BEBE (CONT'D)
(nods towards the studio)
--that was about?

DON
Lyla? You see us? How 'bout that!

BEBE
It must be a relief to know that
not everybody hates you.

DON
It eases the burden somewhat.
Listen, there's something I need
to say.

BEBE
Nope, I'm not talking to you until
at least tomorrow... Lyla's upset?

DON
(eyes on Bebe)
She is. I'm not sure what to do
about it.

BEBE
What do you mean? You love her.

DON
(staring pointedly)
More than anything.

BEBE
Then whatever it takes to make her
happy again.

DON
Is that right?

BEBE
It is. It's right and it's fair.

DON
And anything short of that?

She looks over at a HUNKY WAITER polishing wine
glasses...

BEBE
I don't know what it is about
swimmers, but Carl there's an All-
American.

DON
I'm sure his grandmother's proud.

BEBE

The things I could teach him.

DON

How to give good poon-job?

BEBE

I'm not talking to you.

He salutes her with a sarcastic flourish and heads back towards the studio.

60

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

60

Jared emerges from his room pulling a Radio Flyer wagon loaded with random items. He reaches Nuria's door and knocks.

NURIA (O.S.)

Si?

JARED

Can I come in?

NURIA (O.S.)

Hurry.

61

INT. NURIA'S ROOM - DAY

61

He enters to find her in the middle of the room wearing bikini lingerie and twisted into a thoroughly suggestive, open-legged yoga pose.

NURIA

I think I am stuck.

JARED

That's really not fair. Okay.

He puts his hands under her hips and lifts her upright. Palpable chemistry...

NURIA

Listen, I--

JARED

(puts his finger on her lips)

It's bad luck to interrupt a performance.

NURIA

A performance?

Jared pulls a two-string, child's ukulele out of the Radio Flyer.

JARED

Item one, serenade her.

He hands Nuria the list and begins to sing to the tune of the Beatles' "Julia".

JARED (CONT'D)

(singing...)

Half of what I say is meaningless,
but I say it just to get in your
pants, Nuuuuria... Nuria. Nuria.
The pain in my heart and love in
my loins calls me. So I sing a
song of making love to Nuuuuria.

She laughs at first, then stops his playing...

NURIA

I've decided that I cannot make
love with you?

JARED

I... I disagree. Look, I did
everything...

He pulls the cover off a plate revealing bacon and eggs
and a thermos of coffee and a small vase (festooned with
Brussels Griffons) with a daisy in it.

JARED (CONT'D)

Please sit.

She sits on the bed. He puts the plate on a tray on her
lap.

JARED (CONT'D)

Breakfast in bed...

He pulls out his cel phone and "sends" an e-mail. Her cel
phone DINGS. He holds it out to her.

JARED (CONT'D)

I even did the list of the ten
greatest moments in our
relationship.

NURIA

(reading)

The first moment I saw you. The
second moment I saw you. The
moment I saw you naked.

(MORE)

NURIA (CONT'D)
That's very sweet, but we are
brother and sister.

JARED
Yeah but only a little bit.

NURIA
It would be wrong to do that to
Alejandro.

JARED
No he's cool with it.

NURIA
You told him?!
(he shrugs guiltily)
What did he say?

JARED
(hand on her waist)
He's happy for us.

NURIA
(moving away)
Even so...

JARED
What?

NURIA
You have waited so long for love,
I could not forgive myself for
taking that from you.

JARED
You don't love me?

NURIA
Do you love me?

JARED
(after a beat...)
I don't. Which isn't to say that--
Yeah, okay...

NURIA
The song is nice though.

JARED
Here...
(hands her the calendar)
Flowers for a year.

Every single day has a photo of a different flower glued to it.

He turns and, head hanging, pulls the Radio Flyer out of the room...

62

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

62

Don and Ellie sit together on the sofa. Close, but not touching as they wait...

ELLIE

We have to tell her.

DON

I'm not sure I agree.

ELLIE

We at least have to invite her to our wedding.

DON

I'm sorry, what-- Who--? You want to--?

ELLIE

I'm kidding.

DON

Oh thank Christ.
(off her look)
Not that it would be--

ELLIE

It's okay. We're behind each other. Finally.

DON

Still family though.

ELLIE

Still family.

As Alejandro enters, chewing on a bagel, carrying a bag-full.

ALEJANDRO

So, what's going on?

DON

First things first. Thank you.

Grabs the bag and a bagel. Offers it to Ellie who rolls her eyes as he chews.

ELLIE

Your father and I wanted to give you something.

ALEJANDRO

Together?

DON

Crazy, right?

ELLIE

We're so proud of you. Of the man you've become. Of the woman you love. And the wonderful life you've got ahead of you.

DON

(thinks that was overdone)
We love ya, bud.

Ellie hands Alejandro a box, carved from wood in the shape of the oak tree.

ALEJANDRO

You carved this from the tree?

He points to the oak, seen through the window.

DON

Your mother's idea.

ELLIE

Actually, it wasn't, but I'm speechless at the modesty.

ALEJANDRO

(opening the box)
Oh, wow.

He holds up a single, perfect acorn.

DON

I saved a couple extras just in case the first one didn't take.

ALEJANDRO

I don't know what to say.

ELLIE

Congratulations, dear.

He hugs them both. Smiling through his emotions until he sees the time...

ALEJANDRO

So does this come with a piece of
land, waterfront if possible?

DON

Sure, just click your heels three
times...

(kisses his cheek)

See ya on the flip side, kid.

They watch him go.

ELLIE

We did good.

DON

We always did with them.

ELLIE

(nods in agreement)

Which only leaves--

DON

The music.

ELLIE

Face it alone or together?

DON

I got it. Just as soon as I find a
good suit of armor.

DISSOLVE TO:

63

INT. WEDDING TENTS - EVENING

63

Where a hundred or so WEDDING GUESTS have assembled in
rows of chairs facing the tree. The tents are lit up and
beautifully adorned in white, brown and black.

Bebe is in the back at the makeshift serving station,
looking wistfully out at the decor and the crowd of her
friends she cannot join.

BEBE

Perfect.

She removes her smock and hangs it on a peg before
collecting her handbag and car keys and ducks through a
slit in the tent--

64

INT. WEDDING PARTY HOLDING ROOM - EVENING

64

-- and walks right into Alejandro, in a tux, as he fiddles with his bow-tie.

ALEJANDRO
You're here! Thank you.

BEBE
(kissing him)
Where else would I be? You look gorgeous.

ALEJANDRO
(re: the tie)
Except this.

She puts down her bag and starts to tie it for him.

BEBE
It's like the prom incident all over again.

ALEJANDRO
You're always there for me.

BEBE
We're family. Most days.

ALEJANDRO
Every day. Mom.

He hugs her. Bebe's eyes fill with tears just as Ellie walks in followed by Madonna.

ELLIE
So gorgeous.

MADONNA
Muy elegante.

She kisses both of his cheeks.

ELLIE
(guilty)
Hi Bebe.

BEBE
I was just... Hello Mrs. Griffin.

Bebe smiles at Ellie then starts to back away from Madonna.

ELLIE
Oh, please don't.

ALEJANDRO
Wait a second... Mama.

MADONNA, ELLIE, BEBE
(all at once)
Yes?

There's an incredibly awkward beat, before Alejandro dives in...

ALEJANDRO
(to Madonna; subtitled)
Mama, this is Bebe. She is someone very, special to me. In fact, when we go to the altar, I would like her to walk with us.

MADONNA
(subtitled)
But why?

ELLIE
(to Bebe)
When's the last time you saw our boyfriend?

BEBE
Not since this morning, why? Oh fudgesicles!

As she spots Don, half in his tuxedo, fully in his cups, staggering into the tent toting a half-empty bottle of scotch. Ellie and Bebe intercept him.

DON
Well, if it isn't...? One, two, three. It's like a convention.

ELLIE
I see you found your armor.

DON
I'm a hundred proof bulletproof.
(drops the bottle)
Oops.

BEBE
Donald Robert Griffin. How could you?

DON

I'm sorry, honey. It didn't mean anything. One minute we were sleeping and the next...boom, boom, chugga, chugga.

BEBE

Excuse me.

DON

Forty minutes by the way... But it's okay. It made me realize that everyone else is right.

BEBE

(to Ellie)

You have any idea what he's talking about?

ELLIE

I'm so sorry.

BEBE

(realizes...)

Oh. Oh my. When I asked you to take care of the dogs, I didn't mean all of them... Talk about serving your revenge cold.

ELLIE

That wasn't it at all.

BEBE

(after a beat...)

I forgive you.

ELLIE

You do?

BEBE

Or else I'd have to be some kind of hypocrite, right.

DON

I'm sorry too.

Bebe's eyes narrow as she cocks her fist...

CUT TO:

DON (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Ow!

65

EXT. BACKYARD - EVENING

65

JARED emerges from the house...

NURIA

Wait.

He holds the door open, noticing her ultra-conservative dress as they walk down to the tent.

JARED

Nice dress. I guess I don't have to ask if you've changed your mind.

NURIA

Sorry.

JARED

That's okay. We invited some of my nurses to the reception.

NURIA

I don't understand.

Just as they duck into--

66

INT. WEDDING PARTY HOLDING ROOM - EVENING

66

JARED

What's the rumpus?

--where Don holds a napkin full of ice to his nose.

BEBE

I mean, you have to admire the symmetry to it.

Madonna nudges Nuria, who begins to translate.

ELLIE

(imploring)

Bebe.

BEBE

Although, if we're going to be sticklers, Don really should get to stick his dick in Muffin.

DON

I dig the vulgarity, but why would I ever wanna bang Muffin?

BEBE
If we're going for true symmetry.

DON
What are you talking about?

BEBE
Elinor?

ELLIE
(resigned)
Whatever you want.

DON
Would somebody please punch me
again?

BEBE
(to Don)
She cheated on you first.

DON
What? With who?

ELLIE
It was a mistake.

DON
Wait a second... If making it even
means I'm supposed to bang Muffin,
that would mean you banged...

ELLIE
...Barry.

EVERYONE
What?!

ALEJANDRO
Oh my god. You slept with Missy's
father? Today?

ELLIE
No, it was years ago. While we
were still married.

JARED
Must've read you a ton of poetry.

Nuria elbows him.

ELLIE
 (to Alejandro)
 I was terribly unhappy at the time
 and it was practically an
 accident, and I never told anyone
 except... Except for my best
 friend.

BEBE
 Like you said, it was a long time
 ago. You all have a wedding to
 attend. And I have to call the
 moving company.

She grabs her bag and heads out of the tent, dogs in
 tow...

DON
 Just so it's on record, whatever
 happens, no way I'm ever bumpin'
 uglies with Muffin O'Connor.

MUFFIN (O.S.)
 I beg your pardon.

All turn to see the O'Connor family standing at the other
 entrance...

BARRY
 What the hell did you just say?

DON
 Just 'cause you porked my wife,
 doesn't mean I gotta return the
 favor.

MUFFIN
 Excuse me?!

MISSY
 What's going on?

ALEJANDRO
 Come on.

He takes her hand and pulls her out of the tent... Barry
 looks at Ellie.

ELLIE
 It wasn't me.
 (to the others)
 I mean it was. But I didn't--

Barry looks guiltily at Don, then runs from the tent.

NURIA
Where's he going?

JARED
Overseas I'd imagine.

MUFFIN
(to Ellie)
So you're the one.

ELLIE
Sorry, Muffy. It didn't mean
anything.

DON
I feel so used.

MUFFIN
Don't even worry about it. Barry
and I have an understanding. I
occasionally look the other way,
and he doesn't harp on my
fetishes.

DON
What fetishes?

MUFFIN
Your wife, for example.

DON
Which one?

MUFFIN
Both are equally delicious.

Just as the third tent flap opens and Lyla enters.

LYLA
Hi.

ELLIE
Hi.

LYLA
Um, you guys may wanna come out
here.

67

INT. WEDDING TENT - LATE AFTERNOON

67

They emerge, one-by-one from the holding room, struck by
what they see...

REVERSE ANGLE

Every single wedding guest stares at them, having just overheard everything... Suddenly everyone begins to cheer...

DON
(leans into Ellie)
What do we do?

ELLIE
About which one?

DON
I can't live without her.

ELLIE
Then you better think of something.

He heads off towards the house.

MUFFIN
Where are the children?

ELLIE
Somewhere dying of embarrassment,
I'm sure.

MUFFIN
(hopeful)
Do you think they'll call it off?

LYLA
Face it, Muffin. Your grandkids
will be beige and bilingual. And I
may or may not tell them what a
fluent cunnilinguist their granny
is.

MUFFIN
Well, we'll just see about that.

She heads off, looking for her daughter. Lyla mocks her--

LYLA
"We'll just see about that."
Muffin's a muff-diver. Who'da
thunk it?

ELLIE
Not me.

LYLA
Pipe down you raging whore you.

She hugs her mom...

ELLIE
Maybe I do need to grow up.

LYLA
Well, this'll help. I'm pregnant.
(nervously)
Surprise.

ELLIE
Oh sweetheart!

She hugs her fiercely.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
And Andrew?

LYLA
Never has to know.

ELLIE
Well... One step at a time.

LYLA
Yeah.

They hug again.

68

EXT. DOCK - EVENING

68

Only shadows are visible this far away from the tents.
Several people bump into each other as we HEAR them
walking down the dock.

ALEJANDRO
You sure you're cool with this?

MISSY
Are you kidding me? Let's just get
this over with before anyone sees.

ALEJANDRO
Father Monaghan?

A hard BUMP is heard...

FATHER MONAGHAN
Ah that hurt. Yes, my son?

ALEJANDRO
We'd like the Cliff's Notes
version if that's okay with you?

FATHER MONAGHAN
Um, I don't really--

MISSY
Please, Father. Before anything
else happens.

Suddenly the dock is lit by thousands of white, Christmas lights which blink on revealing Alejandro standing behind Missy, her head leaning back on his shoulder, just like the sculpture...

FATHER MONAGHAN
Okee-dokee. Do you Melissa--

MISSY
I do.

FATHER MONAGHAN
And do you--

ALEJANDRO
I do too.

69 INT. WEDDING TENTS - EVENING

69

Still hugging Ellie, Lyla looks over her mom's shoulder and sees the trio on the dock.

LYLA
Look.

MUFFIN
(running back in)
Oh my god, they eloped to the
dock!

70 EXT. DOCK - EVENING

70

The screams are heard from the tent as people run towards them...

MISSY
Father?

FATHER MONAGHAN
Covenant you have entered to on
this day, blah-blah-blah... I now
pronounce you husband and wife.
You may kiss the bride.

Alejandro leans in and kisses her deeply. They finally break, smiling.

ALEJANDRO
Cocktail?

MISSY
Many.

They flee the approaching mob.

MUFFIN
How could you do this to me?!

CUT TO:

71 INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

71

Where Madonna ushers Nuria to her room.

NURIA
Mama, you're being crazy.

MADONNA
Vamos a Ecuador. Pronombre aqui es loco.

Madonna enters the embroidery room and starts packing.
Nuria throws up her hands and enters her room just as Don runs past...

DON
Bebe!?

72 INT. NURIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

72

Nuria opens the window and stares out at the crowd and tents in the backyard where the mood has somehow turned celebratory.

She turns to see Jared standing in the doorway with two glasses of champagne.

JARED
I know I'll never see you again,
so I thought we'd toast to what
almost was a beautiful friendship.

She smiles and accepts a glass, but doesn't toast.

NURIA
Your mother was the one who told
me American women are more
reserved when it comes to
sexuality...

JARED

Right. Except for her of course.

NURIA

I think I will not listen to her advice any more.

JARED

The men of Ecuador will be thrilled.

NURIA

Cierre la puerta. Close the door.

Jared's eyebrows dart up...

73

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

73

Madonna bangs on Nuria's closed door.

MADONNA

Nuria... Nuria!

74

INT. NURIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

74

Where Nuria and Jared stand, nude, holding each other.

JARED

Tell me what to do.

NURIA

I don't know what to do.

JARED

Oh come on, you've done this a thousand--

She shakes her head, smiling nervously.

JARED (CONT'D)

You mean...?

(as she nods)

Yahtzee.

75

INT. STUDIO - NIGHT

75

The statue of the two lovers sits perfectly unfinished. Bebe sits in a chair, staring at it. Lost in thought as the door opens and closes behind her as Ellie walks up.

ELLIE

It's lovely.

BEBE

They're going to be spectacular together.

ELLIE

They're smarter than we are.

BEBE

Hard not to be.

ELLIE

You okay?

BEBE

(shrugs)

Just wondering what's wrong with me.

ELLIE

(sitting next to her)

There's not a thing wrong with you. In fact, I've come to believe that you're the sanest one of all of us.

BEBE

You don't have to say that.

ELLIE

Doesn't make it any less true.

BEBE

You've always been more likeable and beautiful... I think it might be part of what attracted me to Don; if you were good enough, maybe I was too.

ELLIE

Oh please. You've been in love with Don Griffin since the first time I introduced you at the Crabtrees' summer party.

BEBE

I was that obvious?

ELLIE

To me.

BEBE

Then why didn't you run me over with your car or something?

ELLIE

You were my best friend... Still are, I hope... It wasn't him, Beebs. Sure he was flirting, but I made the first real move. I guess part of me wanted that feeling back, of being half of something...and maybe a tiny dash of revenge, even though I've always been happy you were the one he turned to.

BEBE

I already told you, I forgive you.

ELLIE

Then forgive him, too.

BEBE

(after a beat...)

Was it any good?

ELLIE

You know Don, it's fun as long as you do most of the work.

They crack up.

BEBE

He'll be sixty-three next year. Why is it I still step in his pee every time I use toilet?

ELLIE

He's a man. He's only living down to his limitations.

BEBE

I don't have time for that anymore.

This time, Ellie takes her hand.

76

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

76

An ELDERLY HUSBAND AND WIFE walk across the lawn below the house...

ELDERLY HUSBAND

This is some wedding.

ELDERLY WIFE

I seen better.

Suddenly, the sound of a simultaneous orgasm bursts from the open window to Nuria's room. The elderly wife cocks an aroused eyebrow.

ELDERLY WIFE (CONT'D)

Wanna get out of here?

ELDERLY HUSBAND

Bet your ass.

77

INT. NURIA'S ROOM - NIGHT

77

They stare at each other, equally amazed.

NURIA

Again?

JARED

Hell yes. Wait... You don't want to get married, do you?

NURIA

Not even a little bit.

JARED

Okay, great.

They commence round two...

78

INT. WEDDING TENT - NIGHT

78

Lyla sits at a table with Alejandro and a partially smashed Missy. Intermittent guests offer their congratulations.

LYLA

At least nobody will be able to forget it.

MISSY

I am an orphan.

LYLA

It's not that bad.

MISSY

My mom's a lesbian and my dad's had his penis in your mom.

LYLA

Now there's a picture.

ALEJANDRO

If it makes you feel better, I think my brother's somewhere having sex with my sister.

LYLA

What?

ALEJANDRO

Oh yeah, they're all comin' out of the woodwork.

LYLA

(sees something)
You gotta be kidding me.

She bolts...

ALEJANDRO

What?

79

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

79

Don sits at the counter, talking on the phone.

DON

All I need is for someone to call me if she gets back to the hotel... How the hell should I know?

Lyla enters, walks up to him purposefully and smacks him across the face.

DON (CONT'D)

And that makes a full set. Lemme call you back.

(to Lyla)
What'd I do now?

LYLA

Do you know why I've stayed away from you all these years?

DON

I have some idea.

LYLA

It's because, like it or not, I'm your daughter. Jared got mom's traits, I won the lottery with yours.

DON

If we're the same, how come no one's popping you in the face every five minutes?

LYLA

When you cheated on mom, I became terrified I'd screw up my marriage the same way. I don't want to be like that. Or like you.

DON

Andrew's here.

LYLA

I know. I wonder who called him.

DON

Yeah... Two things, then you can go, and if you never speak to me again, so be it...

She's struck by the finality of that, and folds her arms across her chest to listen, prepared to reject him...

DON (CONT'D)

You think I didn't know you'd figure out I called him? We are alike, Lyla, and neither of us are particularly close to stupid... Be angry at me forever if you need it. What I need, as a father, is to do anything I can to give my little girl the best chance at a happy life... Because, and, ultimately we're all selfish, that gives me the best chance of a happy life, even if you hate me for it.

LYLA

I don't hate you.

DON

I'm not finished!

(slams the counter
ferociously; then, calm
again)

I know you love me sweetheart, even if you don't. And I know, when mom and I split, you felt like you had to pick a side, and that's always been okay. She needed you more...

(MORE)

DON (CONT'D)

The day you were born, I went out and got plastered. Left Ellie alone while I drank my face off in the bar next door... You had these swollen little eyes and pink hands and you were-- I couldn't rectify that something so... incandescent would come from an old "douchebag" like me... 'Same with both of the boys, and, but for a few badly placed judgements along the way, I did the best I could to earn my place in all of your lives... Be mad, don't be mad, nothing's ever gonna change how I feel about you... And I know these are just words to you right now, but trust me you'll understand what I mean when your daughter is born.

LYLA

How do you know it's a girl?

DON

I don't. I just hope you'll be that lucky... I gotta...

He walks out of the room, leaving Lyla to take it in on her own...

80

INT. WEDDING TENT - NIGHT

80

Where ANDREW LARKIN offers his congratulations to Missy and Alejandro.

ANDREW

Sorry I'm so late. I actually wasn't going to come but...

ALEJANDRO

It's okay, you didn't miss anything.

MISSY

My mom's a part-time lesbian.

ANDREW

Wow, I don't really have a response for that.

ALEJANDRO

That's okay, I think you should...

Points Andrew to Lyla as she approaches.

ANDREW
Hey.

LYLA
Hey.

ANDREW
You look--

LYLA
I wasn't the one who invited you.

ANDREW
He said you had something to tell me.

MISSY
We're just gonna--

LYLA
No, you're my sister now. This involves you as well.
(to Andrew)
You haven't called.

ANDREW
You told me you never wanted to speak to me again.

LYLA
You said terrible things.

ANDREW
I know. I was-- I'm sorry.

She sees Kevin watching their conversation. He smiles at her and walks away...

LYLA
I'm pregnant.

ANDREW
(thinks it's sarcasm)
That's funny.

LYLA
It's true.

ALEJANDRO
It is. She even barfed on Dad.

Both women stare at him.

ALEJANDRO (CONT'D)

Sorry.

He makes himself scarce. When they look back at Andrew, he's crying.

ANDREW

I don't believe it.

He moves to hug her, but she backs away...

LYLA

I won't bring this baby into an unhappy marriage. I won't.

ANDREW

I agree... Can we work on that?

LYLA

I need some time.

ANDREW

Anything. Everything. Whatever it takes... Can I?

He holds his hand over her belly. She nods slowly and watches, face unreadable as he very gently touches her abdomen.

Missy's mascara is a mess.

81

EXT. BACKYARD - NIGHT

81

Don watches from a distance as Alejandro walks up.

ALEJANDRO

You're a good man.

DON

Many would argue... Remove the fact that I'm paying for all this, I need to know if it's okay I borrow something from you?

ALEJANDRO

It's okay.

DON

Wait 'til you've heard it.

ALEJANDRO

I know what it is.

DON
You do? Then go and ask your wife.

ALEJANDRO
Don't need to.

DON
Uh-uh, it's her decision too.

ALEJANDRO
I know what she'll say. We'll take care of it.

DON
Wish me luck.

ALEJANDRO
Good luck, pop.

He heads back to Missy, Lyla and Andrew as Don walks over to where the band is set up and grabs the mic from the singer, bringing the music to a halt.

DON
Beatrice! I know you're still here because I just threw your car keys in the pond! Everybody's getting horrified again and I don't know how much more these good folks can take.

82

INT. DON'S STUDIO - SAME

82

Bebe and Ellie are laughing at a private joke...

BEBE
--upon which we literally fell off the washing machine and into the kitty litter.

DON (O.S.)
--so get your tight little ass out here tout-suite! Beatrice!

ELLIE
I think that's for you.

BEBE
How can you tell?

DON (O.S.)
Beatrice Martha McBride!

DON

You come out here now or I'll huff
and I'll puff and I'll--

BEBE

(emerging from the studio)
--give everyone a migraine if you
don't shut the dilly up. What do
you want?

DON

I-- Here ya go.
(hands the mic back)
Sorry for cutting in.
(walks towards her)
I wanted to tell you something.

BEBE

Well, we're all listening.

DON

If there's anything I've learned
about life, it's that it is all
but a dream.

BEBE

(he's making an ass
of himself)
How scintillating.

DON

And there's no wizard pulling
levers behind the curtain which
means that, as far as I can make
out, the only real use in loving
someone is that it makes your life
better. And my life would suck
infinitely more without you in it.

BEBE

That's it?

DON

That's the truth.

He stops in the middle of the tables...

LYLA

Boooooo.

Missy and others join in...

DON
Okay, okay. I just have one answer
for you...

BEBE
I don't have a question.

DON
The answer is yes.

BEBE
Once again--

DON
Yes, I am a horse's ass. Yes I
will ogle but never again, other
than perhaps mentally, fondle
another woman. Yes I will very
likely embarrass and shock you,
and often cause you to question
every last reason you love me in
the first place...

BEBE
You think I still love you?

DON
(quietly)
Really, you don't--

ELLIE
Keep going!

DON
Right.
(voice booming again)
And yes I would rather gouge out
my eyeballs with hot spoons than
cause you pain again. And yes I
will keep you on an alabaster
pedestal, and--

BEBE
Words.

DON
Yes I will love you and no other
for the rest of my life if you
will allow me the honor of--
(falls to his knees)
--becoming your husband.

He opens a jewelry box containing an enormous engagement
ring... She punches his arm out of shock...

BEBE

Where the fuck did you get that?

DON

I've had it around for...ya
know... six years or so. What do
you say?

She thinks a minute...looking at the waiting crowd, her
family, her children and her best friend all smiling at
her...

CUT TO:

BEBE

Eh, what the hell.

84

INT. WEDDING TENT - NIGHT

84

Standing in front of the tree.

FATHER MONAGHAN

Okay. Then by the power still
invested in me, I now pronounce
you husband and wife. You may--

Don dives towards her but she backs away and lifts her
leg, offering him her foot.

DON

Foot fetish. I like it.

He kneels and makes out with her toes, causing her to
laugh out loud and everyone around them to cheer.

She lifts him up by his chin and kisses him soundly,
before turning to embrace Ellie, her impromptu Maid of
Honor.

Madonna watches, then turns away, shaking her head as
Alejandro stops her. Conversation in subtitles...

ALEJANDRO

I'm sorry, mama.

MADONNA

You asked them to lie for you?

He studies his feet.

MADONNA (CONT'D)

You Americans are crazy. It's like
watching Telemundo... You believe
I am that...inflexible?

ALEJANDRO

But, you are.

MADONNA

When I was seventeen, there was a man... He was older, very distinguished, the deputy to the mayor of Quito. The first man I ever made love with.

ALEJANDRO

Mama-

MADONNA

Be quiet. For several years we were together, until one day a woman came to my apartment and asked me to never see him again...

ALEJANDRO

His mother?

MADONNA

No... I knew he was married when I met him, but... I loved him. I haven't made love to another man since, but I'm thinking it might be time.

ALEJANDRO

But, what about Papa?
(off her expression)
You mean...?

MADONNA

You are not the only one who lies to protect your family.

ALEJANDRO

So my father wasn't a bean farmer?

MADONNA

You were always very gullible.

DISSOLVE TO:

85

INT. WEDDING TENT - NIGHT

85

The band is in full swing as everybody dances. Both newlywed couples are hoisted into the air and paraded around.

Jared and Nuria finally stagger into the tent, both hit by the same bus, but holding hands.

Alejandro coaxes Madonna to dance with him. She protests at first, but gradually falls into it, surprising him with a racy tango.

Ellie looks on as Muffin stands beside her, two-fisting martinis.

MUFFIN

Well, maybe they are perfect together.

ELLIE

They are indeed.

MUFFIN

What next?

ELLIE

I don't know. I think it's time I played the field for a while.

MUFFIN

Well, I meant what I said, if you ever feel like crossing over to the dark side.

ELLIE

I will. Thank you.

MUFFIN

Don't mention it. Or do.

She winks and totters off as Father Monaghan approaches.

FATHER MONAGHAN

Care to dance?

ELLIE

Are you a lesbian?

FATHER MONAGHAN

(turning to go)
Never mind.

ELLIE

I'd love to.

He leads her onto the floor, passing Don and Bebe who dance perfectly...until Lyla taps Bebe's shoulder and asks if she can cut in.

Andrew dances with Bebe as Lyla, to Don's amazement dances with him for a moment, looking him full in the face before she slowly leans her head on his shoulder and closes her eyes.

Don does everything he can not to cry. Ellie smiles at him as she dances with Monaghan...

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Some wedding.

FATHER MONAGHAN

My first twofer.

ELLIE

Congratulations.

FATHER MONAGHAN

You too.

ELLIE

You were right you know.

FATHER MONAGHAN

About what?

ELLIE

There are different kinds of love.

FATHER MONAGHAN

Which one are you feeling now?

She looks out at her family, dancing in pairs: Alejandro and Missy, Jared and Nuria, Madonna and Muffin, Lyla and Don, and Andrew and Bebe, and the dogs...

ELLIE

All of them.

FATHER MONAGHAN

Then you're truly home.

Ellie smiles as we MOVE AWAY FROM HER AND UP THE TREE...

DISSOLVE TO:

It's summer and the oak branches are thick with leaves as we MOVE DOWN across the family tree where Ellie's nose has been repaired and both Madonna's and Nuria's and Bebe's faces have been added along with...

A blank oval carved into the tree beneath which, DON GRIFFIN carves the new family member's name beneath Lyla and Andrew: "EMME".

WE PULL BACK across the yard and over the pond until the length of the tree and its reflection in the water fills the frame, gently swaying in the breeze...

THE END