

The Holidater

by

Christina Huntington & Daniel Maddox

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

LUCY MORRIS (28), quirky pretty, stands in front of her window overlooking downtown Chicago. She takes off her heels and business skirt and gets in the shower. We scan her shelves, filled with marketing and advertising awards. She gets out of the shower; shaves her legs; plucks her eyebrows; brushes her hair. She seems to be getting ready for a date.

Close-up cuts reveal: hands buttoning up a Hawaiian shirt; then unbuttoning to reveal cleavage; pulling up white short-shorts; putting on a short curly wig; tucking aviator glasses into her shirt; applying a thick brown moustache.

Lucy picks up a red scrapbook off her dresser. She opens to a blank page and writes "Holidays 2010". She tosses the book down and looks at herself in the mirror. We see her for the first time fully: she is dressed as a "sexy" Magnum P.I.

TITLE CARD: Halloween

Lucy pours a shot and salutes herself in the mirror.

LUCY
Happy Holidays!

She slams the shot.

INT. LOCAL CHICAGO BAR - HALLOWEEN NIGHT

Lucy, as Magnum, laughs with a hot guy dressed as a DEVIL.

DEVIL
You're really funny! And I gotta admit--that mustache is starting to do something for me.

LUCY
Thanks. Hey, can you believe Christmas is just around the corner already?

DEVIL
I knooow, right?

LUCY
You got any plans yet?

DEVIL
I'm heading back to Montana.

Lucy's eyes light up.

LUCY
Montana! Sounds amazing! You just
ski all Christmas long or what?

DEVIL
Yeah, it's pretty sweet and the
kids love it.

LUCY
Kids?

DEVIL
What? I didn't say kids. Do I look
like I have kids? C'mon, let me get
you another drink.

LUCY
So. How long you been skiing?

DEVIL
Like fifteen years.

LUCY
What's your favorite spot?

DEVIL
Whistler.

LUCY
How old did you say your kids were?

DEVIL
Six and eigh--SHIT! Okay look, my
ex has the kids for the night. So
it's Daddy's Night Out. What d'ya
say we get outta here and I show
you what a real magnum looks like?

He smiles at Lucy and moves in close.

LUCY
Sorry, but I'm looking for a little
more than a one night stand. And
kids aren't part of the plan.

Lucy stands to leave. He grabs her hand.

DEVIL
Hey, how bout a little second-base
action, at least. I mean, I bought
you a drink. You owe me.

Lucy leans in, pushing her cleavage close in front of him.
She pulls \$5 from her bra and sticks it on his pitchfork.

LUCY
Let's call it even.

Lucy turns away and spots her friends approaching. PAM (29) is dressed as a fake wet T-shirt contest winner. ANNE (29) wears a horribly sad Raggedy Anne costume. MARY (28) is dressed as an older woman in a pant suit.

LUCY (CONT'D)
Where the hell have you been?

PAM
Mary had to finish her costume.

LUCY
What are you?

MARY
I'm Merkel.

ANNE
Merkel was black, Mary.

MARY
Not Urkel! Chancellor Merkel.
Come on. German Chancellor Angela
Merkel? Forbes number one most
powerful woman in the world!

PAM
Sure. We all know you're dressed as
a GILF. I'm sure the guys will be
lining up to tap that tonight.

MARY
They will. Because men are
attracted to POWER. And what's
sexier than a powerful woman? She
was the first woman to head the G8!

LUCY
Okay, enough from the Nerdsville
convention. No man wants to kiss a
woman dressed like his grandma--
unless he's got serious issues. You
guys are playing this all wrong.
Especially YOU--Raggedy Anne?
Really?

ANNE
What? My name is Anne, so it's easy
to remember.

PAM

Do you know what kind of dude wants to hook up with a Raggedy Ann doll? Have fun with that creep in his mom's basement tonight.

ANNE

Whatever. At least my costume doesn't scream porno queen reject.

PAM

It's a conversation starter. Unlike you, I know what men like. Here's a hint: it rhymes with Fig Bits!

LUCY

Alright, ladies. Judgement time. Anne, Halloween's not really your thing, so you get a hall pass. Mary, no excuse. Terrible. Pam, ridiculous--but stellar, as always.

A WAITER dressed as a Referee arrives with shots.

WAITER

Who wants shots?!

The girls grab shots, clink glasses, and slam them down.

WIPE.

Mary and Anne down another shot, piles of drinks around them now. Lucy approaches with another round and sits. Pam sits to the side, making out with a dude in a Batman costume.

LUCY

Lots of good looking guys out there tonight. God, I love Halloween!

ANNE

Lucy. Not again.

LUCY

What?

Anne and Mary look at each other.

MARY

Lucy, it was fine when you started doing this a few years ago. Your break-up with Justin was pretty brutal. No one wants to be dumped right before the Holidays, we get it. But this isn't good for you.

LUCY

Please. I'm doing great!

ANNE

You're not great, Lucy. Your job might be going well, but your life is a total mess.

LUCY

Look, I don't expect you two to understand because you guys always had normal Christmases. But when Justin brought me home to his family that first time, it was like getting a secret pass to the place I'd always dreamt of as a kid--like I got the golden ticket! It was so magical! Like stuff out of a book. Grandmas baking cookies, all the ugly holiday sweaters, family sing-a-longs, ripping open presents by the fire. Once I tasted it, I could never let myself be alone for Christmas again. So now, it's like I get a new family for Christmas every year!

MARY

But you're just using these guys to get a quick fix each year.

Pam pulls away from her guy to interject.

PAM

Yeah, like a Christmas crack whore.

LUCY

What does that even mean?

PAM

You take hits off the Christmas pipe so you can forget yourself for a while. We've all done it.

MARY

HAVE we?

LUCY

I'm not *using* anyone--I'm doing these guys and their families a *service*. I'm THE BEST holiday girlfriend!

(MORE)

LUCY (CONT'D)

They take me home, we have fun, I make them look good, I charm their parents, and their family gets through the holidays without any awkward moments or fights because they have "guests". Then I provide an easy out when the fun's over. It's a guy's DREAM!

MARY

What happens if they fall for you?

LUCY

Oh, come on. Guys are always happy to take the next thing that walks by. They're *fine*.

ANNE

Well...what about you, Lucy? Don't YOU want to fall in love?

LUCY

Someday. I just don't have time right now. With work...and work. I can't be tied down.

Pam pushes Batman off her again.

PAM

Go. You have to go now. I can't be tied down, either.

Pam starts making out with him again.

ANNE

Lucy, we know the Holidays can be a lonely time of year, especially for you. But you can't use these guys and their families to fill the hole your Mom left--

LUCY

That has nothing to do with this.

PAM

I know what it feel like to never have a real Christmas, Lucy.

MARY

You're Jewish, Pam.

PAM

Yeah. Exactly.

ANNE

We just want you to be happy, Lucy.

LUCY

I am. I promise.

Lucy spots HANK (27), a handsome man dressed as a Cop, who strokes his cop mustache and smiles at Lucy. She strokes her mustache back at him and nods.

LUCY (CONT'D)

I'll see you girls later. It's time to make some Holiday plans.

HOLIDATING MONTAGE:

SONG: "We Wish You the Merriest" by Frank Sinatra & Bing Crosby

Lucy walks up to Hank, who smiles.

HANK

Sexy Magnum P.I.! That's pretty funny. I'm Hank.

A PHOTO snaps of Hank and falls into Lucy's scrapbook with his name, date, and details.

INT. UPSCALE PARTY - HALLOWEEN NIGHT 2011

Lucy, dressed as a Girl Gone Wild with a "CENSORED" bar across her, is approached by JAMES (28), a hot Superman.

JAMES

Very funny! Hi, I'm James.

A PHOTO snaps of James and falls into Lucy's scrapbook with his name, date, and details.

INT. ELEGANT BAR - HALLOWEEN NIGHT 2012

Lucy, dressed in a "Flashdance" costume, talks to CARLOS (30), a gorgeous Brazilian dressed as a Matador.

CARLOS

(thick Brazilian accent)

"Take your passion, make it happen"! So fun! I am Carlos.

A PHOTO snaps of Carlos and falls into Lucy's scrapbook with his name, date, and details.

QUICK CUT MONTAGE:

Lucy celebrates Thanksgiving with Hank, James, and Carlos respectively: Lucy plays team boardgames, breaks the wishbone with each guy. Lucy introduces each one at the Kepler & Franke Christmas party. Lucy drives up to each guy's family home. PHOTOS snap and fall into Lucy's scrapbook.

INT. HANK'S FAMILY HOME - NIGHT

Hank and his family watch "It's a Wonderful Life". Lucy enters with a tray of hot cocoa, huge marshmallows, and candy cane stirrers. Hank grabs a mug and Lucy snuggles into him.

LUCY

This is a perfect moment.

The moment freezes into a postcard: "MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM IOWA!" and falls into her scrapbook.

QUICK CUT MONTAGE:

Lucy and Carlos take their picture with Santa; Lucy and Hank sled in the snow; Lucy and James' Grandmother belt out the "partridge in a pear tree" line while his family sings.

EXT. ROCKEFELLER CENTER - NIGHT

Lucy and James ice skate and kiss in front of the tree at Rockefeller Center. Lucy looks at James.

LUCY

This is a perfect moment.

The moment freezes into a postcard: "MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM NEW YORK!" and falls into her scrapbook.

QUICK CUT MONTAGE:

Lucy and James in a horse-drawn carriage; Lucy and Carlos kissing under the mistletoe; Lucy reading "Twas the Night Before Christmas" out loud to Hank's family.

EXT. MIAMI BEACH - DAY

Lucy and Carlos build a "snowman" out of sand on the beach with his family. Lucy sticks a carrot on for the nose, Carlos puts sunglasses on him. Lucy turns to Carlos.

LUCY

This is a perfect moment.

The moment turns into a postcard: "MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM MIAMI!" and falls into her scrapbook.

QUICK CUT MONTAGE:

Photos snap and fall into her album of: Lucy laying out pancakes to the families; Lucy taking her stocking off the fireplace; Lucy tearing open presents.

INT. CHICAGO APARTMENT - NEW YEAR'S EVE MIDNIGHT "2011"

Lucy and Hank kiss at a NYE party after the countdown.

INT. HANK'S APT - NEW YEAR'S DAY MORNING

Lucy and Hank talk seriously over breakfast.

LUCY

I made a resolution, to be better at relationships this year. The only way to do that is to NOT be in a relationship right now. I'm gonna get a dog, see how that works out.

EXT. TIMES SQUARE NYC - NEW YEAR'S EVE MIDNIGHT "2012"

Lucy and James kiss as the clock hits midnight.

INT. JAMES' APT - NEW YEAR'S DAY MORNING

Lucy sits with James over morning coffee.

LUCY

I made a resolution, to be totally honest this year. And the truth is: I'm just TOO into you. I wouldn't want all this love inside me to smother you, it's not fair to you. You deserve to be free.

INT. MIAMI HOT SPOT - NEW YEAR'S EVE MIDNIGHT "2013"

Lucy and Carlos kiss at the countdown.

INT. CARLOS' APT - NEW YEAR'S DAY MORNING

Lucy and Carlos sit out in the sun over morning cocktails.

LUCY

I made a resolution, to grow strong in HERE this year.

(gestures to her heart)

Carlos, my heart is handicapped. It's in a little heart wheelchair. YOUR heart is ready to sprint the 100 meters. But mine is just at the Special Olympics.

CARLOS
Oh, Lucy, please to go tend to your
retarded heart.

Carlos tears up and kisses her hand passionately. Lucy's
Christmas scrapbook folds closed.

MAIN TITLE CARD: "THE HOLIDATER"

INT. KEPLER & FRANKE MARKETING FIRM - DAY

TITLE CARD: Present Day - October

Lucy sits in her office at a trendy marketing firm, wrapping
up a video conference with her bosses, KEPLER and FRANKE, a
hip woman and man in their 40's.

FRANKE
Lucy, you killed it again!

KEPLER
Keep it up and you could be the
youngest partner at this firm.

Lucy smiles and closes the session. TANYA (24), an extremely
dim junior account manager, walks by Lucy's office.

LUCY
Tanya, come in here! You have the
impressions for the Levis campaign?

Tanya enters, wiping her tear-streaked eyes.

LUCY (CONT'D)
Uh-oh. Did your Brazilian waxer get
a little too intimate again?

TANYA
(choking back sobs)
N-n-no! My-my boyfriend dumped me!

LUCY
Oh, I'm so sorry. That sucks.

TANYA
I can't l-l-live without him!!

LUCY
Tanya, you'll be okay. There are
millions of guys out there.

TANYA
But I thought he was gonna ask me
to m-marry him!
(MORE)

TANYA (CONT'D)
I already bought my ticket to meet
his family for Christmas and e-e-
everything!

Tanya bursts into huge sobs again. Lucy looks her over.

LUCY
Tanya...maybe I can help.

INT. HALLOWEEN COSTUME STORE - DUSK

Lucy and Tanya stand in a Halloween Mega Store. Tanya
diligently takes notes.

LUCY
Halloween is the starting line, the
perfect holiday for picking up a
guy. The one day everyone starts to
let their guard down in preparation
for the most romantic time of year.
It's the gateway to a whole season
of cuddling by the fire, kissing
under mistletoe, and finding all
kinds of ways to keep each other
warm on those cold snowy nights.

Lucy and Tanya peruse racks of costumes.

LUCY (CONT'D)
The key to landing your holiday
fellow is picking the right
costume.

A saleswoman shows sexy outfits. Lucy waves them away.

LUCY (CONT'D)
Never wear a slutty "insert stupid
occupation here" costume. You think
you're being sexy, but you might as
well just wear a sign that says
"low self esteem and desperate".

TANYA
Well, what do *these* say?

Tanya pulls out various slutty costumes as Lucy calls out.

LUCY
Sexy Vampire: a dude thinks she's
his Kate Beckinsale *Underworld*
fantasy, but what he gets is a
psycho chick into bondage and
biting. Specifically nipples. And
she'll leave the scars to prove it.
(MORE)

LUCY (CONT'D)

Sexy Barmaid: all they think about is marriage, and they use sex as a trap. But sleep with her tonight, you'll have three kids, a minivan, and a house in the suburbs in the morning. Sexy Cop: fake hair, fake tan, fake tits. A plastic Barbie nightmare. Guys know these girls'll do *anything*. But after being pushed to the side in their threesome, all he'll be left with is a bruised ego and a fun new buddy called Chlamydia.

TANYA

Well, I usually just wear as little as possible so that guys want to touch me. I find that guys respond best to me being *easy*.

LUCY

WOW. Lesson One of The Plan: don't talk. This isn't about getting a guy for a *night*--it's a three month relationship. So give him some good reasons to stick around.

Lucy pulls out quirky costumes and hangs them on Tanya.

LUCY (CONT'D)

You have to stand out from the crowd by wearing something funny and approachable, so you attract the right kind of guy.

Tanya produces a banana with cut-out boobs. Lucy disapproves. Tanya takes out a "Bird Attack" costume. Lucy nods approval.

INT. LUCY'S KITCHEN - DAY

Lucy teaches Tanya to make pancakes.

LUCY

Now you have your holiday man, keep it light. If you're fun and NOT clingy for three good dates, he'll be calling you his girlfriend by Thanksgiving.

Tanya flips her pancake and it lands on the ground. Lucy shakes her head.

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Lucy and Tanya meticulously put together gingerbread houses.

LUCY

Thanksgiving! The food, the games.
THE FOOD!! If you play your cards
right, he'll be begging you to
spend it with him and his friends.

TANYA

Oh, I never eat in front of guys. I
don't want them to think I'm a
fattie. Or an ex-fattie. Or a
future fattie.

LUCY

Dumb! Guys love a girl who's not
afraid to eat. And you'll impress
his friends if you can get seconds
and still look hot in your jeans.

TANYA

Okay. So eat in front of him, but
then...throw it up later.

LUCY

Lesson one! Don't talk!

Lucy puts the finishing touch on her gingerbread house. Tanya
puts a candy button on hers and it collapses. Lucy smiles.

INT. TANYA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Lucy and Tanya string lights on a fake Christmas tree.

LUCY

Everyone knows Holiday festivities
are THE WORST alone. So when
December hits, make sure you do
everything together so he can't
imagine Christmas without you.

TANYA

What are we supposed to do?

LUCY

Are you kidding?! Skating in the
park, carriage rides, your friends
parties, his friends parties,
office parties, your Jewish friends
parties, your weird Kwanza friends
parties, sledding, caroling,
snowball fights. Christmas cheer!

Lucy plugs in the tree and Tanya puts the star on top.

INT. LUCY'S LIVING ROOM FIRESIDE - NIGHT

Lucy and Tanya practice making the perfect s'more.

LUCY

Once he invites you home for Christmas, it's time to charm the family. Share something personal about yourself to get them on your side early on. Then, you just ride the Holiday goodness.

TANYA

And dump his ass on New Year's Day!

LUCY

No! Let him down easy with a New Year's resolution. Guys always want an out anyway. So now you'll be the girl who gave him the Holidays of his life! It's a win-win.

TANYA

So, that's the whole Plan? What about a gift?

LUCY

That's the hardest part. You need something that says 'I care about you', but not 'I love you'.

TANYA

What happens if I screw it up?

Lucy smiles and takes a big bite of her s'more.

LUCY

There's always next year.

INT. LUCY'S OFFICE - DAY

Lucy works at her desk. Tanya knocks on the door and enters.

TANYA

My friends are having a Halloween Birthday Party tomorrow. You in?

LUCY

Sure. Watch my baby bird fly the nest? I've got some other parties to go to, but I'll swing by before.

INT. TANYA'S FRIEND'S HOUSE - NIGHT

TITLE CARD: Halloween

Lucy and Tanya enter, surrounded by guys in dull costumes and girls dressed as sluts. Lucy is encased in a long brown fabric turd with white angel wings and a halo. Tanya wears the Bird Attack costume. The ladies survey the room.

LUCY

Alright, Tanya, what do we got?

TANYA

Toga Guy and '300' Man. Sure, they have killer abs, but once they open their mouths you'll wish they were the strong, SILENT type.

Lucy nods.

TANYA (CONT'D)

Robin Hood and Peter Pan. Any man wearing tights will be more of a girl than you are. Definitely cries during sex.

LUCY

So true!

TANYA

Fireman, Lumberjack, or Doctor. All decent catches. A bit of a mama's boy, but will always make you breakfast in the morning.

A group of hot YMCA guys laugh with some slutty girls.

TANYA (CONT'D)

YMCA guys. Don't be fooled.
(pointing) Gay. Gay. Gay. Gay. Gay.

The girls high-five and engage the party.

INT. TANYA'S FRIEND'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Lucy saunters over to the crowded drink table. Squeezing through, she bumps into BEN, 32, in an early-90's R&B suit and facial hair. He turns around: he is dressed as a "Dick In A Box" guy with a Christmas present strapped to his pants.

BEN

Oh, sorry. Holy crap!

LUCY

Exactly!

BEN

Nice to see you here. I think the last time I saw you was in the bathroom at St. Matthew's.

LUCY

Ah yes, it's been a while. How are you?

BEN

To be honest, I'm a little pooped.

LUCY

Yeah, I know what you mean. I'm a little drained myself.

BEN

I was thinking you looked a little flushed.

Lucy smiles and extends her hand.

LUCY

I'm Lucy.

Ben takes it, they shake.

BEN

I'm Ben. I like your costume. Very clever.

LUCY

Yeah, well, I'm a french maid for a living, so on my days off...

She gestures to her long drab encasing. Ben laughs. Lucy looks Ben's costume over.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Dick-in-a-box. Very funny!
What do you got in there?

BEN

(shrugging)

You'll have to open it to find out.

Lucy eyes him slyly. She slowly opens the lid. There's a bunch of lollipops inside.

LUCY

Nice! Suckers.

Lucy begins to reach inside.

BEN

You know, they say you can tell a lot about a person by the flavor of lollipop they choose...

Lucy locks eyes with Ben as she scans her hand over different flavors. Finally, she pulls her hand away and smirks.

LUCY

Sorry. I don't take candy from strangers. Especially when it's strapped to their crotch.

Suddenly, some guys bring out a birthday cake, singing Happy Birthday WAY too high. Others attempt to chime in. Ben and Lucy watch the awkward display silently for a moment.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Who decided THIS was THE song to sing for someone's birthday? It's always off-key and out-of-time. It's like a funeral dirge.

BEN

Then it's appropriate.

LUCY

I'm sorry?

BEN

(straight forward)

Well, from the second we're born we're already dying. And every passing year is a reminder of how much closer we are to our final day. The death of your childhood, your youth, the death of your dreams and aspirations, and finally the death of you.

Lucy is stopped for a moment.

LUCY

Wow. You're a bucket of fun. That just got deep for a Halloween party.

BEN

You're the one who brought it up. And no one's forcing you to keep talking to me.

Lucy just stands there.

BEN (CONT'D)
You haven't moved, stalker.

Lucy takes a few steps to the side.

BEN (CONT'D)
I can still see you. I'm obviously
gonna have to get a restraining
order.

LUCY
Mm, a restraining order, that
sounds very *intimate*. I like it.

Lucy's phone rings. Ben is about to retort, but Lucy holds up
her finger.

LUCY (CONT'D)
I've gotta take this, it's my
parole officer.

Lucy answers her phone and turns around.

LUCY (CONT'D)
Hey, Pam...I know, I got caught at
this party. Yeah, I don't think I'm
gonna make it tonight...

She looks over where Ben was standing. He's gone. Lucy hangs
up quickly, and heads off in search of him.

INT. TANYA'S FRIEND'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Lucy bumps into Tanya, who is pretty drunk.

TANYA
Hey girl, you're still here! YAY!!

LUCY
How could I leave my baby bird
without making sure you'd secured
the landing?

TANYA
(mimicking a bird flying)
Tweet tweet twee-AAAW-T!

Tanya lets out a huge burp on the last tweet. A couple guys
look at her disgusted. Tanya giggles.

LUCY
Keep it together, Woodstock. You
HAVE to stick to The Plan. Drinking
clouds your judgement.
(MORE)

LUCY (CONT'D)
Never drink too much when choosing
your mark or you'll end up going
home with a shrimp.

TANYA
Ew. Why would I go home with a
shrimp? I hate seafood.

LUCY
A shrimp! You know--the body's hot,
but you rip the head off.

Tanya breaks into giggles. Lucy grabs Tanya by the arms.

LUCY (CONT'D)
Tanya!! Can you handle this?

TANYA
(snapping to attention)
Totally. I've already found
someone! In the corner. Hot Cowboy.
Big family. From Colorado. I'll be
skiing all Christmas long. And he's
got a trampoline!!

LUCY
Sounds too good to be true.

TANYA
That's what I thought! A
TRAMPOLINE!!!

LUCY
Keep your lady boner under control.
Just make sure he has your number
by the end of the night. And above
all else: DO NOT SLEEP WITH HIM!

Lucy sends Tanya off. Lucy wanders through the rest of the
party, walking by a beefy INDIANA JONES. He grabs her elbow.

INDIANA JONES
Hey, there. Hi. Your costume's
really funny. I'm Dennis.

He steps in closer and smiles at her. Lucy smiles back, but
then spots Ben crossing by the windows outside.

LUCY
Hi Dennis. I'm *leaving*.

INDIANA JONES
HA! See?! You're funny!

Lucy squeezes out from under him, leaving him confused.

EXT. TANYA'S FRIEND'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

Ben is on the dance floor. He catches Lucy watching him.

BEN

Hey, Stalker, get out here!

LUCY

Nah. Come get a drink with me.

BEN

I promise not to grind too hard up on you.

LUCY

Well, what if I can't make you that promise?

Ben laughs and joins Lucy at the bar. Lucy pours them drinks. They stand there for a second in sudden silence. Tanya takes Polaroids of partygoers in the background.

BEN

So...What do you do?

LUCY

Come on, you're better than that. Don't ask me that.

BEN

You have something against small talk?

LUCY

Yes, I do.

BEN

Alright...Why don't you tell me about your first period.

Lucy chokes on her drink.

LUCY

Sure. As soon as I wrap that one up, you can tell me about how you lost your virginity.

BEN

It was a beautiful moment. My mom's friend Carol, who was blind and deaf, invited me over for tea one afternoon--

LUCY

(laughing)

Okay! I'm an account exec at Kepler & Franke. Basically, I make people want things they don't know they want.

BEN

Ah! You're a dangerous woman.

Ben looks her over.

LUCY

You have no idea.

Tanya snaps a Polaroid of Ben and Lucy.

EXT. LUCY'S STREET - NIGHT

Outside Lucy's apartment. Lucy has Ben's coat over her shoulders. Leaves fall from the trees as they walk.

LUCY

This is me.

Lucy hands Ben his coat.

BEN

It was great to meet you.

Lucy smiles. Ben shakes her hand and turns to leave. Lucy can't believe it. Finally--

LUCY

Wait!

BEN

Yeah?

LUCY

Let me give you my number.

Ben turns as Lucy grabs a pen from inside. She writes a number down on his hand. Ben laughs.

BEN

Oh, so formal. I just figured I'd google you and stalk you online for a couple months to learn everything I could about you and then track you down that way. But...I guess this is easier.

LUCY

Oh, well, we can do it your way...

Lucy licks her thumb and starts to wipe away the number. Ben pulls his hand back quickly.

BEN

Did you just rub your spit on my hand? I don't know where you were raised, but you're supposed to wait till at least the third date to spit on someone.

LUCY

Oh sorry, it just felt right.

BEN

Lucy...it's been lovely. Goodnight.

He kisses her hand.

LUCY

'Night.

Lucy goes in her apartment and closes the door.

EXT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ben walks down the sidewalk. He looks at his hand, thinks a moment, then dials. An outgoing message picks up.

VOICE

Hello. Thank you for calling the Sexual Identity Crisis Hotline. Are you a man struggling with your attraction to other men? We can help you. Stay on the line for--

Ben hangs up, chuckling. He goes back and knocks on the door.

LUCY

Who is it?

BEN

Ben!

LUCY

Ben who?

BEN

Dick in a Box?

LUCY

Ah yes, of course!

Lucy opens the door, now out of her costume.

BEN

You fake numbered me?

Lucy shrugs and makes an "oops" face.

LUCY

Sorry, but you gotta separate the men from the boys.

(off Ben's doubtful look)

You're standing here, aren't you?

BEN

Oh, you're good. Nice fake number, too. Helpful. I DO often struggle with my attraction to other men, so thank you.

(off Lucy's reaction)

Kidding. Here, how 'bout I give you my number instead? And if I make the cut--you can call me.

Ben hands her his card. Lucy hesitates.

BEN (CONT'D)

I'm a really nice guy, Lucy. I cry at those commercials with the little dog with one eye and that Sarah McLachlan song.

Lucy smiles and takes the card.

BEN (CONT'D)

Just promise not to abuse that number. If I hear someone breathing deeply on the other end in the middle of the night, I'll know it was you.

LUCY

No heavy breathing. Got it.

(reading the card)

The Trove?

BEN

It's my shop. You should stop by.

LUCY

I just might.

Lucy smiles at Ben warmly. A gust of wind blows a flurry of autumn leaves across frame.

INT. HIP RESTAURANT - NIGHT

TITLE CARD: November

Lucy and Ben wait in a crowded bar of a trendy restaurant. The place is packed and the music is loud.

LUCY
This place is great! The wait
sucks, but it's so worth it!

Ben shouts over the crowd.

BEN
It's a little loud! It would be
nice to be able to TALK to you!

LUCY
WHAT??

BEN
IT WOULD BE NICE TO BE ABLE TO TALK
TO YOU!!

LUCY
I promise we're next on the list!

Ben stands and takes her hand.

BEN
Let's get out of here.

LUCY
Where are we going?

BEN
You like milkshakes, right?

LUCY
Uh, yeah...I guess.

Ben grabs Lucy's hand and whisks her away.

INT. MEDICI'S ON 57TH - NIGHT

Ben and Lucy sit across from each other in an old tavern-style booth, finishing up the last of their food and sharing a strawberry milkshake. Lucy munches a fry.

BEN
I can't believe you got away with
that! You REALLY should've been
arrested.

LUCY

I know, but that's what happens
when you have boobs...

BEN

They really ARE wonderful things.

LUCY

Aren't they? Are you sad you don't
have any?

BEN

I can always borrow yours.

Lucy smirks at him.

BEN (CONT'D)

Okay, okay. How many questions do I
have left?

Lucy holds up three fingers.

BEN (CONT'D)

And how many passes do you have
left?

Lucy holds up one finger.

BEN (CONT'D)

Okay, I know that...you're an only
child. I know that...you're 31,
although you tell people you're 30.
I know that...you "passed" on the
question about your parents--

LUCY

Only because YOU passed on the same
question! Unless you're ready to
put that one back on the table?

BEN

Moving on! I know that your secret
guilty pleasure is early-90's R&B
and I know that you are oddly
scared of children.

LUCY

It's weird! It's like they're old
people, but little. They're creepy!

BEN

I got a good one! What's the best
Christmas present you ever got?

LUCY

What?

BEN

Mine was a Lite Brite. I wanted to be those kids in the commercial so badly. Turns out making a robot out of little lights is harder than it looks. But I loved it!

LUCY

Pass.

BEN

Are you kidding? PASS? It's the easiest question EVER.

(off Lucy's silence)

Fine, don't answer. I didn't want to have to do this.

Ben stands up and takes off his tie.

LUCY

What are you doing?!

BEN

Strip pressure. The longer you don't answer me, the more clothes I take off until...well, you can figure it out. I find embarrassment to be a great motivator.

Lucy remains silent. Ben removes his coat. Then his shoes. He starts to take off his belt.

BEN (CONT'D)

Attention, everyone! This woman is refusing to answer what her favorite Christmas gift is. Until she does, I will keep taking off my clothes!

The patrons of the restaurant laugh and egg Lucy on to tell.

LUCY

Sit down!

Ben takes off his socks, then his shirt.

BEN

That, was not an answer. Come on, Lucy. It's better to let it out, I promise I won't judge you. Was it G.I. Joe bedsheets?

(MORE)

BEN (CONT'D)
A signed poster of Levar Burton? He
was a very attractive man.

Ben begins to undo his zipper.

LUCY
STOP!!! Let's just say, Christmas
for me growing up wasn't awesome.

BEN
Oh. That's really sad. I'm sorry.
I feel kinda weird now... standing
here with no shirt on.

Ben picks up his clothes. He sits back down quietly. Lucy
gets up and sits next to him in the booth.

LUCY
I'm sorry I ruined your game--I
didn't mean to be a buzzkill.
(BEAT) Would it make you feel
better if I let you touch my boob?

BEN
Would it make you feel better?

Lucy nods. Then holds up her finger.

LUCY
Just one.

Ben laughs and cups one boob. Lucy cracks up and throws a fry
at him as patrons look on bewildered.

DATING MONTAGE:

-Ben and Lucy are front row cheering at a Bull's game.

-Ben and Lucy play Rock Star at a toy store, while a bunch of
kids cheer them on.

-Ben and Lucy play hide-and-seek at a museum. Then get chased
out by security guards.

-Ben and Lucy eat hot dogs at Hot Doug's. Fall leaves blow by
in the foreground.

END DATING MONTAGE.

INT. THE TROVE - DAY

Ben is behind the counter in his shop, surrounded by vintage
books, furniture, and knick-knacks. The phone rings.

BEN

The Trove, this is Ben.

LUCY

(terrible British accent)

Yes, I'm looking for early-1800's erotica? Preferably something involving a poodle fetish?

BEN

Hi, Lucy. What's up?

Lucy is on the phone in her office.

LUCY

What are you doing this weekend?

BEN

It's Turkey Day. I'm headed home.

LUCY

That sounds fun.

BEN

Yeah, I guess. I do love turkey.

Awkward pause.

LUCY

Cool. I hear the weather up there in Vermont is beautiful this time of year. With the trees and snow.

BEN

Um yeah, I grew up there, so...Did you call to talk about the weather?

LUCY

No! I called to say I'm busy too with people...who are my friends and we're gonna...do Thanksgiving stuff. I was just letting you know, in case you were gonna ask me to whatever--

BEN

Oh, I guess I just figured you had stuff going on, so--

LUCY

I do. So good! Great! Now it's not awkward.

BEN

Okay. Well, um, I gotta run. But,
are we still on for tonight?

LUCY

Yeah, yes. Totally. Yep.

Lucy hangs up, shaken.

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

TITLE CARD: Thanksgiving

Lucy pulls a frozen turkey dinner from the microwave and sits down at her candlelit table, set for one. She turns on the TV and plays a DVR recording of the Macy's Day Parade. Her home phone rings, the caller id reads DAD. She ignores it as he leaves a message.

INT. KOREAN SPA - DAY

Lucy, Mary, Pam, and Anne lay on slab tables, being aggressively salt-scrubbed by little Korean women in black bras and panties. The ladies groan and do deep breathing as they are sloughed and pounded.

LUCY

I promise you, this will all be
worth it, ladies. They slough off
so many layers of skin, you'll be
glowing from the inside.

MARY

(in pain)
I believe it!

LUCY

Seriously, you'll walk out of here
looking like you've just had a
month-of-hot-new-sex injection.

PAM

Then I guess YOU don't really need
this, do you, Lucy?

The girls laugh, but Anne's laugh gets stifled by a wet hot towel being slapped onto her face.

MARY

Yeah, Lucy, we have noticed a
certain GLOW about you recently.

Anne tries to lift her towel off her face to see, but she gets reprimanded from her attendant and shoved back down.

ANNE
(from under towel)
How was Thanksgiving with Ben?

LUCY
It was...good.

The ladies all look at each other. Anne lifts her towel again to eye Lucy's face.

Oh no! PAM MARY What happened?

ANNE
Did you guys break up?

Lucy gets flipped over on her slab, away from the ladies.

LUCY
No! It's fine. It's just...he's a
hard nut to crack.

MARY
Sounds like he's good for you, Luc.
You need a man who can keep you on
your toes.

LUCY
He's not "keeping me on my toes"! He's just... He's. I don't know what he is. But, I have everything under control.

The ladies look at each other knowingly.

LUCY (CONT'D)
What?

MARY
Well, you're kinda breaking your
own rules with him. He's certainly
not the normal breed you go after.

LUCY
I don't have a "breed".

MARY
 Yep, you do. Hot, but *simple*. I'm
 just glad to finally see you with
 someone who has more going on.

ANNE
Yeah, Lucy. Maybe he's someone you
could actually fall in love with.

PAM
 (almost drunkenly relaxed)
 Oh, come on. We all know Lucy's a
 love killer.

LUCY
 WHAT?

PAM
 You're a love killer! You're like
 the Auschwitz of Love.

ANNE
 Pam, that's not funny. You can't
 joke about that.

PAM
 Yes I can, I'm JEWISH! I get to say
 that. It's like how black people
 get to say the n-word. The
 Holocaust is our n-word.

Pam's attendant laughs and interjects while she slops white
 cream onto Pam's face.

KOREAN SPA ATTENDANT
 We say 'Banana'. Because we live in
 America. White on inside, yellow on
 outside.
 (out to attendants)
 "What up, my Banana Bitches?"

The attendees all laugh and holla back to each other.

ANNE
 HA! I get it! That's funny. Banana
 bitches.

EXT. KOREAN SPA - DAY

Lucy, Pam, Anne, and Mary stand in various states of undress,
 holding their stuff.

LUCY
 Nice one, Anne.

ANNE
 I thought we were all joking around
 together! I thought it was okay.

PAM
 Are you ASIAN?

INT. BEN'S APT - NIGHT

TITLE CARD: December

Ben and Lucy enter Ben's apartment. Lucy's dress is wet.

BEN

I still feel terrible that I spilt
beer all over your dress.

LUCY

No worries. How were you supposed
to know that a rousing karaoke
version of "Eternal Flame" causes
riots? Let me just change quickly.

Lucy goes to the bedroom.

BEN

Oh, wait! I can just grab you some
sweats. Or...you can just make
yourself at home.

It's too late. Lucy is in his bedroom. She notices a bunch of
old pocketwatches laid out in a case. She calls out to Ben.

LUCY

What are all these watches?

BEN

My Grandfather's pocketwatch
collection. I continue the
tradition.

LUCY

That's cool. You have a ton!

BEN

Yeah, it's getting harder to find
the pieces I don't have...

Lucy spots a framed photo of a family.

LUCY

Is this your family--in all the
ugly holiday sweaters?

Ben goes for the door. It's locked.

BEN

Uh, that photo came with the frame!
Unlock the door please.

LUCY
I'm pretty sure that's YOU, with
braces.

Ben finds the lock key on the door frame.

BEN
Nope! Not me. Just some dorky 80's
sweater model.

Ben hears romantic music. He puts the key in the lock just as
Lucy opens the door wearing a guy's button-down white shirt
and panties. Ben smiles. Lucy slides past him seductively.

LUCY
Hey. I've been watching you all
night.

She unbuttons his shirt slowly.

BEN
You have, have you?

LUCY
Mm hm.

She begins unbuckling his pants.

LUCY (CONT'D)
You know what time it is?

BEN
I think I'm liking what time it is.

LUCY
Time for...

She flings his pants down around his ankles.

LUCY (CONT'D)
--pants off, dance off!

BEN
Excuse me?

Lucy playfully pushes Ben to the middle of the room.

LUCY
You heard me. Pants off, dance off.
Right here. Right now.

Ben holds his shirt awkwardly scrunched over his crotch and
sits down on a vintage chair. He puts a pillow over himself.

BEN

That's not really where I thought
you were going with this.

LUCY

(innocently)

Where did you think this was going?

She keeps dancing, very stupidly, but cute.

BEN

Well, you know, kind of where we'd
be doing more than dancing.

LUCY

Tsk, tsk, tsk. Ben, how dare you
assume that I fornicate.

BEN

What? No. I mean--

LUCY

Get up. And shake it. What? Are you
scared of my moves?

She does an overexaggerated undulating grind.

BEN

Well, yeah actually, I'm scared of
that, I think.

She saunters up to him and circles him closely.

LUCY

It seems you are really not wanting
to get up right now. Is there
something under that pillow you
don't want me to see?

BEN

Lucy.

LUCY

Come on, Ben. You are not getting
these pants off--
(she tugs at her undies)
til you show me: What. You've. Got.

Ben flings the pillow away and joins Lucy, dancing around
sillily. Through the window, Ben and Lucy dance and laugh as
snow swirls in the air outside like a Christmas globe. Lucy
approaches Ben and they kiss.

FADE OUT.

INT. KEPLER & FRANKE OFFICES - DAY

Lucy works at her desk. Tanya rushes in.

TANYA

Guess who just got invited home for Christmas?! ME! I'm gonna get to jump on a trampoline!!! YAY!!!

Tanya bounces around the office.

LUCY

Stop that. He lives in Colorado, it'll be freezing. Who knows if you'll even be able to use it?

TANYA

How could you SAY that?

LUCY

Look, this is about way more than a trampoline. It's about soaking up as much Holiday fun as you can.

TANYA

Blah blah blah. So, where are you off to with your Winter Wonderman?

Lucy looks down at her work, pretending to be busy.

TANYA (CONT'D)

Shut your face hole! You haven't gotten an invite yet?!

Tanya gets on the coffee table in the office and makes up a little song as she bounces.

TANYA (CONT'D)

Who is the hottie with a sexy body that is a dating godeee--
(realizing) --goddess.

Lucy throws her stressball at Tanya. It hits her in the face.

LUCY

Get out of my office. I have everything under control.

TANYA

Ow, that hurt. Don't be jealous that I'm hotter than you, I'm just an easy learner! Also I am. Hotter than you.

Tanya, holding her nose, laughs and bounces as she exits.
Lucy slumps back in her chair.

INT. PENTHOUSE LOFT - NIGHT

TITLE CARD: December 21st

The Kepler & Franke Christmas Party is in full swing. Kepler and Franke approach Lucy at the bar getting drinks. Ben is off hanging out with a graffiti artist doing a live project.

FRANKE
Lucy! We've been looking for you!

KEPLER
So. Where is he?

LUCY
Where's who?

KEPLER
Don't play dumb. Your Holiday guy.
You always have a new one.

LUCY
Over there. Trying to be an artist.

FRANKE
Him?

Lucy nods and smiles at Ben who waves at her.

KEPLER
I see your tastes have changed.

Lucy smirks. Ben approaches the group.

LUCY
Ben, these are my bosses, Rick
Franke and Liz Kepler.

BEN
A pleasure to meet you.

Ben spots a pocketwatch chain coming out of Franke's trendy vest.

BEN (CONT'D)
I see you're a pocketwatch man.

FRANKE
Oh, yeah. A client gave me this a
couple years ago.

He takes it out to show the group.

BEN

Oh, wow. That's a really great one!
A Rolex Cellini.

FRANKE

Yes it is! How did you know that?

BEN

I'm kinda an antique nut. Watches,
books, old portraits, you name it.
It's my grandfather's fault. He
never threw away anything! He
always said 'No matter how big or
small, everything has value'. He
had a lot of other sayings too, but
they were pretty racist. I think he
was right about things having value
though.

KEPLER

Well said. You should consider
becoming a copywriter.

LUCY

Let's not corrupt him.

FRANKE

Well, it was a pleasure to meet
you. Have a wonderful time.

Lucy leads Ben away. Looking back at her bosses, Lucy sees
Kepler flash her a big thumbs up.

INT. BALCONY - NIGHT

Ben and Lucy stand on a quiet balcony overlooking the party.
Ben grabs Lucy's empty champagne glass.

BEN

Here, let me get you another
champagne.

LUCY

It's okay, I'll get it.

BEN

Lucy, come on. Help me out here.
It's hard enough for guys these
days, you're not making it any
easier.

LUCY
What are you talking about?

BEN
It's a tough time to be a guy!
(off Lucy's look)
I'm serious! Women now are all so
independent--which is AWESOME. But
we don't really know what the hell
we're supposed to do anymore. LET
ME do some nice things for you,
Lucy. Please. (BEAT) Give me a
chance to sweep you off your feet.

Lucy cracks a smile at Ben.

LUCY
Okay. Fine.

She hands him her champagne glass. Ben sets her glass down on
the ledge and sweeps Lucy up off the ground into his arms.

LUCY (CONT'D)
OH! You meant *now*.

Lucy laughs, then looks at Ben as he holds her. Suddenly, the
music seems to swell a bit somehow. Ben kisses her and she
melts into him, the world blurring. Lucy resurfaces, woozy.
He gently sets her back down. Lucy tries to regain composure.

LUCY (CONT'D)
Woah. Well. That wasn't so hard...

INT. TOWNCAR - NIGHT

Ben and Lucy sit in the backseat of a Towncar. Lucy pulls out
a small bag.

LUCY
Ben. I know we said we weren't
doing presents, but...I got you
something. An early Christmas gift.
Before you leave for home tomorrow.

BEN
Lucy...

LUCY
I know, I know. Just open it.

Ben opens the bag. Inside is the Rolex pocketwatch.

BEN
Oh my gosh, Lucy...

LUCY
I knew you had to have it. The way
your face lit up when you saw it!

Ben sits quietly for a moment, looking at the watch.

BEN
Lucy... What did you say you were
doing for Christmas again?

EXT. BEN'S HOME, VERMONT - DAY

Lucy and Ben drive up to a house that is maxed-out in Christmas decor. Signs read "Welcome to the North Pole!", "Baby Jesus Coming Soon!", and "Rudolph Was HERE!". There are reindeer, frostys, elves, and snowflakes everywhere.

LUCY
Oh, wow. Ben, don't look now, but
Christmas just vomited on that
house.

BEN
And welcome to my home.

LUCY
What?! You live here?

BEN
Yup.

LUCY
Terrific.

Ben parks in the driveway. The front door opens and Ben's family pours out to greet them. Ben's dad JACK (60's) rushes out wearing a loud holiday sweater, tears already in his eyes. Ben's mom PHYLLIS (60's) follows, dusting flour off her apron. Ben's sister and brother-in-law, MEGHAN (38) and DAVE (40), trail behind with GAVIN and SETH (9), two identical twins in pj's. The three family dogs bark excitedly. Jack swings open the car door and rips Ben out of the car.

BEN
DAD!!!!

He throws Ben down on the snow, then attacks Lucy as she comes around the car.

LUCY
Mr.--

Lucy is thrown down on the snow before she can say a word.

JACK
SNOW ANGELS!! HOORAY for this
glorious time of year!

The entire family is doing snow angels. Lucy starts taking her coat and sweater off, stripping down to her tank top.

BEN
What are you doing?! It's freezing!

LUCY
Getting into the Christmas spirit!

Lucy throws herself down into the snow. Jack stands up and admires the family snow angels. He stops and gasps. Lucy has made the most magnificent snow angel ever!

JACK
Lucy! I never thought I would see
something so beautiful.

LUCY
Thanks, Jack. I find that body heat
really helps solidify the melted
snow to get the crisp edges you
want for the wings.

Jack hugs Lucy. Ben rolls his eyes and unpacks the car.

INT. HALLWAY & DINING ROOM - EVENING

Ben's family gathers around the dinner table. Lucy runs into one of the twins on her way in. Gavin glares at Lucy and makes as if he's going to hit her.

LUCY
Sorry, little man. Whoa.
Look who's a tough guy?

GAVIN
I will cut you.

Lucy gets in low.

LUCY
Look, kid, here's \$20 bucks. You
make me look good in front of Ben,
and there's more where that came
from. Our little secret, ok?

Gavin grabs the \$20 and slugs Lucy. Lucy puts her fists up, playfully shadowboxing Gavin. Ben's sister Meghan walks up.

MEGHAN

Lucy, please don't encourage rough housing. We are trying to raise our sons as pacifists and that type of horseplay only encourages rape and battery later in life.

LUCY

Oh. Um. I'm sorry, I was just--

MEGHAN

Apology not accepted. When you have your own kids, you can raise *them* to be rapists.

Ben enters. Meghan takes Gavin to his seat.

LUCY

Uh...that's *awful*. Why would your sister think I want to raise rapists?

BEN

She's writing her doctorate on "The Genetics of Male Violence and It's Global Enslavement of Feminine Power Throughout History".

LUCY

At least she's specific.

JACK (O.C.)

Everyone, come gather for wonderful fellowship! Dinner is served!

INT. MAYBERRY DINING ROOM - EVENING, CONTINUOUS

The entire family sits at the table passing food around and eating. Jack holds a little Yorkie in his lap.

PHYLLIS

So, Lucy, what is your family doing this Christmas?

LUCY

I don't really have a family to speak of.

PHYLLIS

Oh, Lucy, I'm so sorry.

LUCY

It's fine. My mom died when I was 8 and my Dad pretty much checked out after that. Basically left me to fend for myself. I'm a self-proclaimed orphan!

Ben takes her hand. Jack tears up at this.

JACK

Oh, Lucy, just like Oliver Twist!

MEGHAN

That would explain her violent tendencies.

BEN

Oh, Meghan, you might appreciate this: Lucy just got out of jail.

The whole family gasps.

PHYLLIS

Lucy, really?

LUCY

Ben, that's not true. No, I--

BEN

No, when we met, you told me you had a parole officer. Were you lying?

MEGHAN

Great, Ben. You've invited a criminal to spend Christmas with our family! Wonderful.

LUCY

Ben, I was just kidding.
(then to the family)
I was just kidding!

JACK

That's not a very funny joke.

DAVE

You know what IS funny? A friend of mine went to jail last year. He was just going about his life, going to work, being normal.

(MORE)

DAVE (CONT'D)

Then one day he came home, grabbed a beer, set his Christmas tree on fire, and burned his house down with his whole family in it.

(dramatically whispering)

And they never found his body...

LUCY

I thought you said he went to jail.

DAVE

Oh yeah, he did.

MEGHAN

Which friend of yours is this?

DAVE

Just my bro from work. We do lunch break abs and pecs together. You don't know him.

MEGHAN

What's his name?

DAVE

He's just...my friend from work.

MEGHAN

You don't have friends. You saw this on T.V., didn't you? Didn't you?

Dave begins to falter. Lucy senses the tension.

LUCY

So, Jack, tell me all about the maple syrup business!

JACK

Ah, my passion! Next to my beautiful wife Phyllis there isn't anything I love more than Mayberry Maple Syrup. I grew this company from nothing into what it is now. I always dreamt of a big booming family business! Of having a son I could hand it off to. But Ben chose the big city and Francis...

Ben's older brother FRANCIS (36), a sunny, over-exuberant man-child, has been obliviously working on something under the table. Francis turns to Phyllis.

FRANCIS

Look, Mother, I made a pigeon out of napkin!

He holds up his napkin--it's an origami pigeon.

PHYLLIS

Francis chose the arts.

FRANCIS

It's true! My passion is obscure art in all forms. I'll have to show you my last installation called "Man/Boy/Skin". I tracked my facial hair growth every five minutes over the course of a month, then sped it up in time-lapse like those nature videos. It's like walking through a giant hair forest!

LUCY

Sounds interest--

CHELSEA (O.S.)

It sucks! It's more like a facial pube forest!

From the other room, Ben's other sister CHELSEA (34), who is watching a Lifetime Christmas movie marathon, chimes in.

LUCY

(to Ben)

Um, what's the deal with your sister Chelsea?

CHELSEA

Super subtle there, Beau Bridges. I'm out of the room, I'm not deaf!

FRANCIS

Chelsea is a "blogger" who writes about Lifetime Christmas movies during their 12 Days of Christmas Movie Marathon. She's also a slut.

PHYLLIS

Language, Francis.

CHELSEA

You guys are missing a good one!

FRANCIS

No one cares! Ben, here give me your napkin, I'll make you a Komodo dragon.

CHELSEA

It's about a woman who was molested at Christmas, but finds love through the eyes of the detective on her case, who is also a foster parent to needy children! It's called "Sweeping Her Chimney"!

MEGHAN

That CAN'T be the name. Really?

BEN

(loving it)

That's awesome! Sounds like a winner, Chels.

CHELSEA

Don't mock me!

JACK

Children, let's not fight. This is the time to love each other and spread Christmas Cheer.

LUCY

Here, here! A toast to Christmas!

They all raise their glasses.

BEN

(under his breath)

You're such a cheese ball.

Lucy smiles big and clinks glasses with the family.

INT. FAMILY DEN - NIGHT

Phyllis finishes dishes, Jack sleeps in his armchair with the Yorkie on his chest and the other dogs at his feet. Chelsea watches her Christmas movies while Ben, Lucy, and Dave work on a puzzle. Lucy hums along to a Queen song on the radio.

DAVE

Aw, you're a Queen fan!

LUCY

Um, yeah, a little bit.

DAVE

Isn't Freddie Mercury the best? If I could be anyone, I'd be him. So rugged and macho, with that whole 70's swagger. A real guy's guy!

BEN

Yeah the total "guy's guy".

Lucy laughs.

DAVE

What's that supposed to mean?

LUCY

Well, Freddy Mercury was gay.

DAVE

Ha, good one, Lucy.

LUCY

I'm serious, Dave. He was in a band named "Queen" and had a huge giant gay mustache and wore lots of gay leather. Like, a really gay amount of leather.

Dave looks at Ben for confirmation.

BEN

Yeah, Dave, super gay.

DAVE

Nice try, guys. You have to get up pretty early in the morning to fool me.

CHELSEA

Dave, you're an idiot! The only way Freddy Mercury could be gayer is if he was the salami in a Ru Paul Elton John sandwich. Go ask Meghan!

DAVE

Psh! You guys are just f'ing with me.

CHELSEA

He was an openly gay man, Dave!

Dave looks around for support, but realizes everyone is nodding 'yes', even Phyllis in the kitchen.

DAVE

Well, let's just agree to disagree on that one. Freddy Mercury gay? No way, Jose.

Ben and Lucy laugh and continue the puzzle.

INT. OUTSIDE BEN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ben, Lucy, and Phyllis stand in the hallway.

PHYLLIS

Goodnight, kids. Lucy, if you get cold, there are extra blankets in the linen closet. Tomorrow's a big day, so don't stay up too late.

Phyllis kisses Ben and walks off. Ben opens his bedroom door, Lucy goes to follow him in. Ben turns in the doorway.

BEN

Um, I'm sorry. Can I help you?
This is MY room. See?

He points to the child-scrawled sign that still hangs on his door that says "BENJAMIN".

BEN (CONT'D)

The guest bedroom is down the hall.

LUCY

Oh. Sorry. I didn't realize I would be sequestered away to spend the night all cold and alone in this strange house.

BEN

You make it sound so sad!

LUCY

It is.

Lucy makes a very sad little face. Ben laughs.

BEN

Is my family too crazy for you? I know they can be a bit...much.

LUCY

No, they're sweet.
(off Ben's doubtful look)
There's nowhere else I'd rather be this Christmas.

BEN

If you keep talking like that, you might be granted special access to the warm, un-lonely room.

Lucy slides in closer to Ben.

LUCY

I love this house, I love this family, and I love...This really cute sign.

Lucy points to the flipped "B" and "J" in his name.

LUCY (CONT'D)

You must have been the most adorable little dyslexic child.

Lucy laughs. Ben kisses her and pulls her into his room.

INT. BEN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Lucy is sound asleep. We hear Ben showering in the adjoining bathroom. Suddenly there is a loud knock on the door and Jack bursts in wearing another hideous holiday sweater. Lucy is jarred awake. The Yorkie jumps on the bed yapping.

JACK

Rise and shine, Lucy Goosey! It's Broomball in 0800 minutes.

LUCY

What?

JACK

I don't know military time, but I sure like the way it sounds. Broomball! The Mayberry annual tournament.

LUCY

Jack, I'm more of a sports fan. I'm a fan of *watching* sports.

JACK

It's all hands on deck! Get moving, we ship out at 2600.

LUCY

That's not even a time.

JACK

Alright! Terrific! CHRISTMAS is wonderful!

Jack grabs the Yorkie and exits humming "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree". Lucy pulls the sheets over her head.

EXT. MAYBERRY HOME - MORNING

The entire Mayberry clan, minus Chelsea, packs into the van. Lucy waddles out of the house like a stuffed snowman. She appears to have pillows shoved in her coat as padding.

PHYLLIS

Oh, Lucy, you're such a hoot! In the 25 years of Mayberry Broomball, we've never had an injury.

DAVE

Lucy, I like the extra padding. Makes you look butch. I like a lady with some meat on her. Intimidation is a big factor in broomball. I like where your head is!

JACK

Alright troops, let's load up! It's 1900. CHELSEA!!! Lets go!

Chelsea appears at the front door.

CHELSEA

Dad, I can't! "I Wish You a Love Sprinkled Christmas" is starting!

She slams the door. Jack shrugs and jumps on his Harley.

JACK

Francis, you want to tame the beast with your old man?

FRANCIS

Dad, you know how important my special art is and I can't risk it. And it's noise hurts my ears.

JACK

Alright then. Phyllis, we'll meet you there. How about it, Ben?

BEN

It's below freezing out here, Dad?

Jack gives him a look.

LUCY

I'll go! I've always wanted to ride a motorcycle.

JACK

Good! As soon as I saw you, I knew you could help me tame my beast.

BEN

Dad, please don't say that.

JACK

What? Lucy you can tame my beast, right?

Lucy nods, smiling at Ben.

JACK (CONT'D)

There you go! Just straddle my beast and hold on.

BEN

Dad. Enough with the "beast"!

Lucy laughs as the Harley roars to life. Ben shakes his head.

EXT. FROZEN POND - MORNING

Local families play in the snow. The Mayberrys gather at the pond's edge. Jack rolls up and honks his horn, which plays the first bars of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer". Jack joins the family. Ben comes over to greet Lucy.

BEN

How was the beast? You look frozen.

Ben puts his arms around Lucy to warm her.

LUCY

I can't feel anything. Seriously, nothing. I'm not sure I'm human anymore. I would cry, but my tear ducts are frozen.

Ben punches her in the arm playfully.

BEN

Don't be such a baby!

LUCY

I saw you hit me, but nothing. Nothing.

Ben and Lucy walk over to the family. Jack chats with VANESSA (28), a cheery small-town girl-next-door.

VANESSA

...and then the polar bear says:
'Hey, that's my iceberg...lettuce!'

The family erupts in laughter, Jack spots Lucy.

JACK

I want to introduce you to Vanessa.
Vanessa is practically family! She
manages the warehouse for me.

Vanessa extends her hand to Lucy.

LUCY

Hi. Lucy. Nice to meet you. You
must be pretty high on the maple
pole.

VANESSA

Oh, I see what you did there. You
made a racist comment about Native
Americans switching out "totem"
with "maple".

Lucy stands there, a little embarrassed.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Just teasing ya! It was hilarious!

The family bursts into laughter again.

JACK

Alright, who's ready for some
broombaaaaaaaaaall?!

VANESSA

Up top, Jack. Let's do this!

Jack and Vanessa high-five.

EXT. FROZEN POND - MORNING

The family and some friends are split in two teams. Ben is
lined up across from Lucy. Jack and Dave face-off against
each other in the center. Vanessa jokes with the Twins.

LUCY

Vanessa seems like a real winner.

BEN

We've been friends forever. She's a
sweetheart. Totally harmless.
Promise you'll play nice.

LUCY

I like to play *naughty*.

Ben smiles. The game starts. Lucy falls immediately. Ben glides past her and spanks her on the butt with his broom.

VANESSA

I'm open!

Jack glides past Meghan, Phyllis, and other townsfolk. He passes the puck to Vanessa, 15 yards from the goal. Lucy rushes over to intercept her, but slides too fast and can't stop. She crashes into Vanessa, who gets a shot off just in time to score. Jack's team cheers. They hoist Vanessa up and slide back to their positions, leaving Lucy alone.

LUCY

I'm good. Yup, I'm fine.

MEGHAN

WEAK, Lucy!! Maybe you could grow a pair and actually stop a goal.

LUCY

Thanks, Meghan, I'll try to remember that next time.

They reset. Lucy is across from the Twins. Dave wins the face-off and slides down to the goal. Lucy follows the Twins in hot pursuit. Dave passes the puck to Meghan, who passes it back to a Townsperson. Lucy realizes she is wide open.

LUCY (CONT'D)

I'm open?...I'm open!!

The Townsperson reluctantly passes to Lucy. She goes for the goal, but the Twins are in her way. Vanessa closes in while Lucy slides full-speed ahead. The Twins don't budge. She is within 10 feet of the goal when suddenly, the Twins raise their broomsticks and swing as hard as they can at Lucy's shins. They connect just as Lucy shoots and misses. She flips through the air and crashes on the ice.

BEN

Lucy!

VANESSA

Nice block, kiddos! Good hustle, Lucy.

Vanessa high-fives the Twins. Lucy writhes on the ground.

MEGHAN

You have to SCORE, Lucy!

Vanessa high-fives Jack. Ben tends to Lucy, who is nursing her shins. The rest of the family re-sets for the game.

LUCY

I think I'll sit the rest out. You should get back in there.

BEN

Are you sure? That was a pretty rough fall.

LUCY

Yeah, I'll be fine. Go have fun.

BEN

OK. Take it easy.

Ben helps Lucy up, then rejoins his team. Vanessa says something to make Ben laugh and hugs him playfully. Lucy glares at her. The Twins come over to Lucy as she makes her way off the ice.

GAVIN

I told you I'd cut you.

SETH

You mess with one, you get two. You better stay down, bi-otch.

Seth sweeps Lucy's legs with his broom. Lucy falls back and smacks her head.

SETH (CONT'D)

Mommy, Mommy! Lucy slipped on the ice and hit her head, come quick!

The family rushes over, but before they get there--

GAVIN

Stay down this time, if you know what's good for you.

Ben helps Lucy up, but she loses her grip at the crucial moment and her legs slide out underneath her like Bambi.

VANESSA

Ha. Lucy, looks like you could've starred in "City SLIP-ers"--
(out to the family)
And "City Slippers TWO". Ha ha ha!

Jack and the whole family laugh along.

INT. MAYBERRY HOME - DAY

Jack and Vanessa pile into the house with Ben and Dave, helping Lucy in. Chelsea is watching her movies on the couch and typing on her computer while the dogs sleep next to her.

LUCY

Just on the couch is fine.

Chelsea turns up the volume, causing everyone to have to shout over it.

JACK

Lucy, you sure you don't want to come to the winter picnic?

LUCY

Yeah, Jack, I think I'll sit this one out. Just give me a few hours and I'll be good as new.

Lucy throws a smile that hits the mark.

JACK

You have the heart of a lioness!

VANESSA

In the meantime, I guess I'll have to escort Ben to the picnic.

(puts her arm around Ben)

Don't worry, Lucy, he'll be in good hands. Soft, supple, Vermont-raised hands.

Vanessa giggles.

LUCY

That wasn't creepy at all.

Ben smirks and kisses Lucy on her forehead.

BEN

Get some rest. I'll miss you.

They all exit. Lucy looks warily at Chelsea. She glances at the TV as Chelsea types away. Lucy tries to close her eyes, but all she can hear is the TV movie dialogue blaring.

ACTRESS

What do you mean, I have to take over my father's company?! I'm a Manhattan businesswoman now, I'm NOT going back to that small hick town!

(MORE)

ACTRESS (CONT'D)

Especially for the first Christmas since my divorce. Anyway...I don't owe my father anything. He disappeared to the North Pole when I was 8, and we never heard from him again...

LUCY

Chelsea, can yo--

CHELSEA

--Shhhh!!

LUCY

CAN YOU JUST TURN IT DOWN A BIT,
PLEASE?

Chelsea gives Lucy a quick death stare, then adjusts the volume. She speaks without taking her eyes off the screen.

CHELSEA

I know it may not look like it, Lucy, but I am working here. And while you are in my office, you must respect my work.

Lucy puts her hands up in relinquishment and smiles to herself, amused. She settles back in and watches the TV.

LUCY

How can there be so many of these movies? They're all exactly the same. A hardened city woman goes back to her hometown and through the love of some quirky townspeople or an orphan or a homeless person, she discovers that small town life is really where it's at, she gets a second chance at love with some hillbilly from her past, and magically finds "the true meaning of Christmas". The End.

Chelsea ignores Lucy.

LUCY (CONT'D)

You know this is all just packaged sentimentalism, right? The idea that living in a city corrupts people and the only way to find true happiness is to stay in a little town and settle down with a blue collar man? Pure manufactured 1950's Norman Rockwell B.S.

(MORE)

LUCY (CONT'D)
dressed up like a female-
empowerment Christmas tale.

Chelsea presses pause and breaks her gaze from the TV.

CHELSEA
You just don't get it, Lucy. That's
not what this is about at all.

LUCY
Please, enlighten me then.

CHELSEA
Life is hard for most people, Lucy.
Maybe not for YOU, but for most
people. And sometimes it's nice to
be reminded of the simple pleasures
in life. A home-cooked meal with
your family. A walk hand-in-hand in
the snow. A kiss from your first
love. Christmas is the one time of
year that we don't have to live in
our heads...we get to live in our
hearts. Maybe you should try it.

Lucy mulls this over. She sits up and grabs a bowl of popcorn
from the coffee table. Lucy and Chelsea sit side-by-side,
watching and munching in silence.

INT. MAYBERRY LIVING ROOM - LATER

Lucy and Chelsea are wrapped in blankets watching TV, both a
little misty. An ACTRESS and ACTOR are on-screen at a train
station in the snow, Christmas lights twinkling behind them.

ACTRESS 2
There's something I just realized,
maybe I've always known in my
heart, but I never let myself see
before. And I know it's too late
for us and I know you have to get
on that train, but it's Christmas,
and I just have to tell you...
(LONG BEAT) I love you.

Lucy and Chelsea clasp hands. Chelsea wipes her eyes with
tissue, Lucy wipes her eyes with the back of her hand.

LUCY
(teary)
So she always DID love him, she
just could never TELL him...She
needed the strength of the Spirit
of Christmas!

CHELSEA

Exactly!

LUCY

And the whole time she had a son,
and the son was HIS. THAT'S why she
cried whenever she saw his face!

CHELSEA

Yes!

LUCY

(wiping her eyes)

Wow. Whew. That one did me in. I
gotta go lay down. Tell me when "A
Christmas Frozen in Time" starts.

Chelsea nods and resumes typing. Lucy hobbles upstairs.

INT. UPSTAIRS MAYBERRY HOME HALLWAY - DAY

Lucy hears some bizarre noises coming from Francis' room.
Lucy presses her ear against the door and it creaks open.
Francis stands with his back to Lucy. His pants are off. He
turns with his hands cupped around his privates.

LUCY

Oh my god! Balls! Oh, um...

Lucy tumbles backwards onto the ground. Francis runs to help
her up, extending his hand. Lucy reluctantly takes it and is
forced eye-level with Francis' penis. She closes her eyes.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Thanks, Francis. I didn't mean to
interrupt whatever you were doing.

FRANCIS

Actually, I could use a hand.

LUCY

To be honest, it looked like you
had everything handled quite well.
So, I'll just be--

Francis yanks Lucy into his room and shuts the door.

FRANCIS

Lucy, can you keep a secret?

LUCY

Nope. Terrible at it. I should go.

FRANCIS

Have you ever heard of the ancient
art of Self Origami?

LUCY

Francis, I'm not sure I'm the right
person for this.

Francis turns around, defeated, and starts to touch himself.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Could you just wait til I'm gone to
start back up?

Lucy tries to gingerly sneak out of the room.

FRANCIS

WAIT! Tell me what you see.

LUCY

(avoiding looking down)
That would be you holding yourself.

FRANCIS

No. Look with your mind. What do
you SEE!

Lucy tries to cover her eyes, but Francis stops her. We see
this from behind Francis.

FRANCIS (CONT'D)

LOOK!!

Lucy reluctantly opens her eyes and they get wider.

FRANCIS (CONT'D)

You see it. It's beautiful, isn't
it?

LUCY

No way. How are you doing that?
It's actually amazing. It looks
just like a camel!

FRANCIS

I can show you, but I need you to
help with something I'm working on.

LUCY

Does it hurt? It's gotta hurt,
right? That's not supposed to twist
like that. Is it? It hurts. Right?

FRANCIS
Not if you do it correctly.

EXT. FRANCIS' ROOM - LATER

Jack walks up the stairs and hears Lucy's voice inside Francis' room. He knocks on the door, then opens it. Lucy sits on the bed as Francis is zipping his fly.

JACK
Um. Oh, sorry, I was just, uh.
Lucy, I was gonna see if you wanted
to take a walk but, uh. I'm gonna
go do something else.

LUCY
Jack, wait. Francis and I were just
finishing. He was showing me his
"art"!

JACK
AH! Okey dokey then. But first...
let's go wash our hands together.
It's just something I like to do.

Lucy looks at him quizzically.

INT. MAYBERRY KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Ben and Phyllis chat over tea. Francis enters.

BEN
Hey, Fran, have you seen Lucy?

FRANCIS
Maybe.

PHYLLIS
Francis, answer your brother. And
get your hands out of your pockets.

FRANCIS
She went on a walk with Dad in the
woods. Dad said he needed to have a
talk with her.

Phyllis' eyes get wider.

PHYLLIS
A talk, or the talk?

FRANCIS
Uh...

BEN
A talk or THE talk? ANSWER ME!

FRANCIS
Ben, I don't know. I just came down
here to get a gingerbread man.

Ben jumps up out of his chair and runs to the backdoor.

BEN
Dad!!! Dammit, no!!

Francis grabs a handful of cookies.

PHYLLIS
Just one, Francis.

Francis throws the other cookies on the ground in frustration
and runs out of the room with his one gingerbread man.

EXT. WOODS - AFTERNOON

Ben sprints through the woods talking to himself.

BEN
He'll scare her away, I know it!
(yelling)
DAD!!!!

He spots Lucy and Jack walking about 100 yards away.

LUCY
...I agree with what you're saying,
Jack, but these days, consumers see
themselves as investing their time,
not just their money. They're
looking for an EXPERIENCE to
connect with, not just a product.
So your family is really your
greatest asset here: the story of a
modern family with historical roots
keeping a unique local tradition
alive. People will pay good money
for THAT.

JACK
I really never thought of that
before, Lucy...

LUCY
Everybody wants to be a part of
something special.
(MORE)

LUCY (CONT'D)
By using Mayberry Maple syrup from
the Vermont Mayberrys, they become
a part of your family, a part of
your story.

JACK
(tearing up)
I like your ideas, Lucy. You're
like the daughter I never had.

Lucy laughs. Jack bends down on one knee to tie his shoe. Ben
sees this and suddenly sprints to them at warp speed.

JACK (CONT'D)
Lucy, let's discuss integrating
your ideas next week when you're--

Ben tackles Jack. They roll on the ground in the snow. Lucy
stands watching in amazement.

JACK (CONT'D)
Ben!!

BEN
Dad, what are you doing?! You can't
keep taking people into the woods
and doing this!!

JACK
Doing what?! Lucy and I were
discussing marketing for Mayberry
Maple Syrup.

Ben slowly gets up, dusting himself off.

BEN
Oh! You weren't proposing to her to
join the family?

JACK
Ben, I did that *one time* and she
was a very nice young lady. We
would've been lucky to have her. No
offense, Lucy.

BEN
Oh...OK. Then I'm gonna go NOT be
crazy...somewhere else.

Ben trots off, leaving Jack and Lucy bewildered.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Ben and Lucy walk down the aisle grabbing baking supplies.

LUCY
So, what was all that in the woods?

BEN
Nothing.

LUCY
Really? Going all Cujo on your Dad is nothing? Is this the part where you tell me you've been "off your meds"?

Ben half smiles reluctantly.

BEN
It was a long time ago, but I was in a relationship. A serious one. And my Dad was...well, my DAD, and...he screwed it up. Lucy, I really like you. I was nervous about bringing you here, 'cause of my family and everything...

LUCY
Ben, I like you, too. A lot.

BEN
So...I'm not blowing it?

LUCY
Not at all.

BEN
Good.

LUCY
Good.

Lucy smiles and they kiss sweetly.

BEN
I had a feeling I'd finally reeled you in. I mean, have you *seen* how good I look in these sweaters? Few people can look this sexy in a sweater with a snowman on it. But I can tell how much it turns you on.

Lucy kisses Ben again. He laughs and continues down the aisle, grabbing things. Lucy hangs back a second, watching him round the corner. Once he's clear, her breath catches in her chest and her thoughts start racing. She tries to get it together. Ben pops back around the corner.

BEN (CONT'D)
Hey, Luc, you coming?

LUCY
(smiling)
Yup.

INT. MAYBERRY KITCHEN - EARLY MORNING

TITLE CARD: Christmas Eve

Lucy is alone in the kitchen mixing up a bowl of batter and humming along to Burl Ives' "Have a Holly Jolly Christmas". Her phone buzzes. It's Tanya. She hesitates and looks around to make sure she is alone, then answers.

LUCY
Hello.

TANYA (O.C.)
Hey, girl! How's your Holiday going? Getting your stocking stuffed...with sausage?! Ha HA HA!

Lucy rolls her eyes.

LUCY
It's good. It's great, actually.
What do you want?

TANYA
Is it true that everyone does anal?

LUCY
What?! NO. What is happening?

TANYA
I knew he was lying. Oh, well. I'm still having a GREAT time. So...you ready to dump 'n ditch in T-minus one week?

LUCY
Uh, about that, Tanya. I--

Lucy hears someone coming. She quickly hangs up as Meghan rounds the corner.

LUCY (CONT'D)
Good morning, lovely lady!

Meghan pours a fresh cup of coffee.

MEGHAN

Keep it in your pants, Beau
Bridges. Should I tell Ben that his
girlfriend swings both ways?

LUCY

And a wonderful morning to you too!

Meghan rolls her eyes and exits.

INT. MAYBERRY DINING ROOM - MORNING

The entire family sits around the table. Phyllis is dressed
as Mrs. Claus. Lucy has prepared eggs, bacon, and other
breakfast treats. She carries out her pancakes.

LUCY

Alright, here they are: my world-
famous pancakes!

BEN

They look amazing. What's in them?

LUCY

It's a secret.

JACK

Lucy, these look great. The only
thing that'll make them better is
some pure Mayberry Maple Syrup!

The entire table rejoices and digs in.

FRANCIS

Lucy, this is like a hummingbird's
birthday in my mouth.

BEN

How did you learn to cook so well?
And how did I not know about this?!

LUCY

I'm full of surprises, Ben. See,
even Chelsea stopped watching to
come eat with us.

CHELSEA

Don't flatter yourself, Beau
Bridges. The marathon starts at 11.

LUCY

Why is everyone in this family
obsessed with Beau Bridges?

CHELSEA
He's beautiful!

MEGHAN
He's rugged AND sensitive.

PHYLLIS
He's got timeless good looks,
just like my Jack.

FRANCIS
Have you ever SEEN 'The
Fabulous Baker Boys'?

DAVE
Not to toot my own horn, but people
have often said that Beau Bridges
and I could be twins.

The table erupts in laughter. Phyllis starts choking. Jack jumps up and Phyllis waves him off. Her eyes begin to swell. Lucy runs to get water. When she comes back, Phyllis' face is almost completely swollen. The whole family is freaking out. The dogs run around barking wildly.

BEN
Mom! Oh my gosh, MOM! BREATHE!

JACK
Just breathe slowly, honey. Her
eyes are closing up!

MEGHAN
What was in those pancakes?!

LUCY
Um, flour, apples, a little
caramel, um...almond paste.

BEN, JACK, & MEGHAN
ALMONDS!!!!!!

Phyllis grasps her throat, wheezing.

PHYLLIS
I'm allergic! Get the pen!

FRANCIS
THE PEN!

The Twins get in Lucy's face.

GAVIN
You killed my Nanna Claus, vagina
breath!

Jack returns with Phyllis' epi-pen and hesitates.

DAVE
In her heart. Right in the heart.
Shove it right in.

FRANCIS
Do it in her head.

MEGHAN
On her face!

BEN
Just doooooooooo it!

Ben grabs the pen and yells as he shoves it in her neck.
Phyllis jumps up and the Twins scream and run from the room.

SETH
Nanna's a zombie! Ahhhh!!!

Jack and Ben try to catch Phyllis and grab the epi-pen out of her neck. Phyllis wheezes, trying to breathe. Meghan and Dave run after the Twins. Francis sits in the corner, shifting back and forth and crying. Chelsea eats her pancakes calmly. Lucy stands in shock. Phyllis finally inhales deeply, face still puffy, with the needle sticking out of her neck.

PHYLLIS
(breathlessly)
I'm ok. I'm ok!

JACK
Phyllis! Oh, my love! Thank God.

PHYLLIS
HA. That was quite a secret ingredient, Lucy!

Everyone is frozen, watching Phyllis. Lucy goes over to her.

LUCY
Phyllis, I'm so sorry! Please, is there anything I can do to make this up to you?

INT. MAYBERRY MAPLE SYRUP FACTORY STORE - AFTERNOON

Lucy is dressed in Phyllis' Mrs. Claus suit, holding a wig.
Ben buttons her up and tries not to laugh.

BEN
Who knew you'd be such a hot Mrs. Claus?

LUCY
Ben, I'm not good with kids.

BEN

You'll be fine! My mom has been doing Mrs. Claus forever. My great-grandmother started the tradition. On Christmas Eve, Mrs. Claus takes last minute wishes to pass along to Santa. Just...be jolly!

LUCY

Jolly?

BEN

Yeah, you know. Laugh and have fun. Don't worry, Vanessa will be out there to help.

LUCY

That really makes me feel better.

Ben kisses Lucy and goes through the door.

BEN (O.S.)

Alright, everyone. Who's ready to meet Mrs. Claus?

Kids erupt into screams. Lucy cringes and pulls on her wig.

INT. MAYBERRY MAPLE SYRUP SHOWROOM - AFTERNOON

Lucy enters a room that looks like a Christmas explosion. Children scream "Mrs. Claus!". Lucy waves uneasily and looks to Ben. He ushers Lucy to a large throne of presents. She sits. The room goes silent. Ben nudges Lucy and whispers--

BEN

Jolly!

LUCY

(awkwardly rubbing lap)
Hello, kiddies! Who wants to sit on my lap?

The room turns uneasy. Ben whispers in Lucy's ear.

BEN

I said "jolly", not sex predator. Try again, weirdo.

LUCY

Look at all your shiny faces. My husband Santa Claus is so excited to bring you presents. Who loves presents?

The kids cheer again. Vanessa, dressed as a sexy elf, escorts a very large girl up to Lucy.

VANESSA

Mrs. Claus, you look extra "jolly" today. Someone has been putting on her winter coat!

The parents laugh and Vanessa smiles. Lucy cringes.

LUCY

Well. Hello, little girl, what's your name?

OVERWEIGHT GIRL

Let me sit on your lap, Mrs. Claus.

LUCY

I think standing is the best way to talk to Mrs. Claus.

The girl jumps on her lap and nearly falls off. Lucy struggles to catch her and keep her cool.

OVERWEIGHT GIRL

My name is Roxy.

LUCY

Really?

Ben kicks her throne.

LUCY (CONT'D)

That is a beautiful name! What do you want from Santa, Roxy?

ROXY

I want all the candy in the world!

LUCY

Well, Roxy, Mrs. Claus is concerned about that for you. I think maybe you should ask for Lipitor or something that won't involve having triple by-pass surgery or the lap band in about five years.

She stares blankly at Lucy. Vanessa watches in horror.

VANESSA

I think Mrs. Claus just had a tiny stroke. Right?

Ben looks sternly at Lucy.

LUCY

Candy it is! Next year, maybe Santa
can get you some early-onset
diabetes.

Roxy stares quizzically at Lucy. The photo flashes. Vanessa
grabs Roxy, gives her a lollipop, and ushers her away.

BEN

Lucy, just be sweet and tell the
kids Santa will get them whatever
they want. Don't you remember what
it was like to be a kid and wait
ALL YEAR for Christmas?

Lucy looks at him for a beat. The next kid comes up and sits
on her lap. Lucy laughs very warmly and smiles at Ben.

INT. MAYBERRY MAPLE SYRUP SHOWROOM - AFTERNOON

Lucy is getting the hang of it. Ben and Vanessa talk on the
side. Lucy tries to monitor their conversation, but is
distracted by the kids. Vanessa's hand slides down Ben's arm.
She smiles at Lucy, calling out--

VANESSA

Hey, Mrs. Claus, I'm taking my
lunch break. Can I borrow your
hunky boyfriend? It's not often me
and Ben get to hang out anymore.

Lucy groans. Ben walks up and whispers to her.

BEN

We're just gonna grab a coffee.
I'll be back soon. You're really
doing great!

Vanessa ushers Ben out, putting her hand on his back and
letting it linger there. Vanessa laughs and gives Lucy a
little wave. Lucy seethes as a new kid sits.

LUCY AS MRS. CLAUS MONTAGE:

-Kids crash in Lucy's lap repeatedly. Sneezing. Coughing.

-A toddler sits screaming, completely out-of-control.

-A smarmy dad sits on Lucy's lap with his teenagers around
him. The photo flashes as he grabs Lucy's "Claus boobs".

INT. MAYBERRY MAPLE SYRUP SHOWROOM - DUSK

Finally, there is one child left, swaying back and forth, holding his crotch. Lucy waves him up and the little boy jumps in her lap. Ben and Vanessa return in the doorway.

LUCY

And what's your name? Don't be nervous, little guy.

JOSH

Josh. I gotta go pee pee.

Lucy feels a warm sensation on her legs and stands up, dropping the kid to the floor. Josh bursts into tears. Vanessa runs over and helps the little boy.

VANESSA

Whoa, there, Mrs. Claus!

LUCY

The kid peed all over me!

JOSH

Mrs. Claus, does this mean you hate me and you're gonna tell Santa?

VANESSA

Of course not.

LUCY

Probably.

BEN

(holding back laughter)

Mrs. Claus!

EXT. MAYBERRY MAPLE SYRUP FACTORY STORE - DUSK

Lucy puts the costume in the trunk of Ben's car.

LUCY

Sorry I wasn't perfect.

BEN

It was a long day. Let me make it up to you. I want to show you how magical this town is at Christmas.

Ben grabs Lucy's hand.

EXT. MAIN STREET DOWNTOWN - DUSK

Lucy walks arm-in-arm with Ben down Main Street. It's like a Dickens novel with people lighting street lamps and bustling about. Ben and Lucy join in with carolers in the square.

EXT. PARK - EVENING

Lucy and Ben walk through the park and get ambushed by kids in a snowball fight. They run for their lives laughing.

EXT. SPORTS LODGE - EVENING

Lucy and Ben, out of breath and smiling, stumble upon a sports lodge with snowmobile rentals.

BEN

Ever been on one of these?

LUCY

Please!

BEN

Oh, I didn't realize I was with such an *experienced* woman. My, my!

Ben laughs, but then turns serious. He eyes Lucy.

BEN (CONT'D)

You are really good at this, you know. I mean, aside from today's incident, you're actually exceptionally good. It's...a little weird.

LUCY

What are you talking about?

BEN

All of it...the Christmas cheer, the stupid holiday sweaters, meeting my family for the 1st time and not seeming nervous at all.

LUCY

What can I say, I'm a sucker for the Holidays.

BEN

It's almost like...like you've done this before. (BEAT) How many other guys have you gone home with for Christmas?

LUCY

Ben.

BEN

No, seriously, I'm curious.

Lucy looks Ben over. She looks down at her feet, considering the question. Then she looks Ben straight in his eyes and pulls him in close.

LUCY

Just one. And it was a long time ago.

Lucy kisses Ben on the nose.

LUCY (CONT'D)

But if you want me to suck more at being with your family, I'd be willing to try it.

Ben playfully pushes her off.

BEN

Shut up. Wait here a sec.

Ben runs into the lodge. A family with little kids walks by on the sidewalk. Through the window, Ben sees Lucy chat with the kids sincerely. He smiles. The family leaves. Ben sneaks up behind Lucy, jumps on the snowmobile, and starts it up.

BEN (CONT'D)

You ready?

He pats the seat behind him. Lucy jumps on and they take off through the whirling snow and trees.

EXT. HILL TOP - NIGHT

Lucy and Ben stand next to the snowmobile with their arms around each other, looking down on the snowy town below as it twinkles in the moonlight. Ben smiles at Lucy and pulls her in close. They quietly watch the little town while stars shoot and light up the night sky above them.

INT. MAYBERRY FOYER - NIGHT

TITLE CARD: Christmas Night

The family hurries about readying to leave for the Christmas Pageant. New toys, wrapping paper, and leftovers are strewn about. Vanessa talks with Jack in the kitchen. Phyllis and Meghan zip the Twins into their holiday outfits. Lucy runs down the stairs in a horrible holiday sweater.

JACK

Lucy, you look amazing. Like Christmas is inside of you!

LUCY

Thanks for the sweater, Jack! I
feel like Christmas is inside me.

VANESSA

Let's hope it was an immaculate
conception.

Ben walks in, ready to leave.

BEN

Alright, enough with the Christmas
innuendos. Let's go.

JACK

Come on, Mayberrys, we have
Christmas to put inside of people!

He jumps in the air excitedly.

BEN

And apparently, the sexually
explicit Christmas continues.

The family starts to exit the house.

LUCY

Oh, I forgot my phone upstairs,
I'll be right back.

Vanessa looks down and sees Lucy's phone next to her on the
table. The phone chimes and Vanessa picks it up: "New Message
From: Tanya". Vanessa looks around and clicks it open.

TEXT

Holidating is AWESOME, Betch!
Thanks for teaching me The Plan. I
can't wait to do it again next
Christmas with a new guy! How's it
going over there with your 'mark'?
You got him eating out of your hand
or what?! LOL! -T

Lucy comes downstairs and Vanessa quickly exits the screen.

VANESSA

Hey, I found your phone. It was
right by me the whole time.

LUCY

Thanks.

Vanessa hands the phone to Lucy and hurries out. Lucy grabs
it and sees that the text from Tanya has been opened.

INT. BACKSTAGE AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

The Mayberrys rush through the crowd backstage: elves practice singing, a woman juggles snowmen, a little boy with crutches recites the Tiny Tim speech, carolers sing fa la la's, a bell choir rings their bells.

BEN

Let's go get our seats.

Ben takes Lucy's hand and leads her out front.

INT. AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Ben takes his program out and reads it. Vanessa sits right behind Ben and Lucy and leans forward.

VANESSA

Hey, Ben, remember when we made out during the "Carol of the Bells"? That song always reminds me of you.

BEN

I don't think that was me, was it?

VANESSA

No, it was. I remember, because it was the first time I ever let a boy see my bra.

BEN

I don't remember that...

VANESSA

It was yellow and had lace on it?

BEN

Oh crap! I do remember that! It clasped in the front--

VANESSA & BEN

With a little sun flower!

LUCY

Wow. This is a terrific.

Vanessa playfully tickles Ben's neck.

BEN

(laughing)

Vanessa!

VANESSA

I *thought* you were still ticklish
on your neck. You're so cute!

Lucy turns around.

LUCY

Oh, Vanessa, I forgot! I meant to
give you MY present. Since you've
been so warm and welcoming. Maybe I
should give it to you *outside*.

VANESSA

Oh, how sweet! You got me a
present? Is it some Holidating?! I
hope you got it in my size.

LUCY

I sure did. How 'bout I shove it up
your supple Vermont-raised ass!

BEN

Whoa, Lucy? Come on, that was years
ago. Vanessa's just fooling around.

VANESSA

Yeah, Luc. You seem a little on
edge. Everything OK?

Vanessa puts her arm around Lucy.

LUCY

I'm great, Vanessa. Never better.

Lucy turns back around and takes Ben's hand. The lights dim
and Jack comes out on stage.

JACK

Welcome, everyone, to our 30th
Annual Christmas Spectacular!
Starting off our evening is the 1st
grade class of Jefferson Elementary
singing "Joy to the World"!

The crowd claps as parents take pictures. Ben puts his arm
around Lucy, she snuggles into him.

INT. AUDITORIUM - LATER

Jack is on stage telling bad Christmas jokes. The whole
audience laughs with delight.

JACK

And now, for our final act of the night! A performer very near and dear to my heart with a piece described as an 'origami puppet show': "The First Christmas". Please give a warm round of applause to Francis Mayberry!

The audience claps. The stage goes dark. A stagehand sets a prop table. The lights come up. Francis is center stage with his back turned to the audience. He wears a full-body unitard with the back painted like the night sky.

FRANCIS

Oh, little town of Bethlehem. This was a night to be remembered for all generations!

Francis turns dramatically, revealing an old shepherd's mask on his face. He walks solemnly with a staff.

FRANCIS (CONT'D)

The shepherds were watching their flocks by night.

Francis pulls down flaps on the arms of his unitard and origami sheep fall from his arms on strings. He makes them dance and sway.

FRANCIS (CONT'D)

It is in a barn that our story has led us. There are Donkeys.

With every mention of a new animal, Francis unveils a flap in his unitard with huge explosions of origami animals: front, back, side, side! The audience is amazed and enthralled.

FRANCIS (CONT'D)

Pigs...Camels...Goats....
Swans! And one Komodo Dragon.

He pulls a beautiful linen origami Komodo dragon on fishing wire off the prop table and makes it fly through the air. The crowd laughs and claps. The light cue shifts.

FRANCIS (CONT'D)

But there was also a manger, with Mary and Joseph.

Francis stands front and center. He lifts a flap from his waist and secures it to his chest, revealing a painted manger. A tiny curtain hangs over his crotch.

LUCY
(to herself)
Oh no!

PHYLLIS	MEGHAN
Why is there a little curtain over his doodle--	--He's gonna show everyone his doodle!!!

VANESSA
Is his doodle his...?

BEN
--Yep.

Francis is rapidly approaching his grande finale. Lucy looks around frantically. She spots a little girl in the front row holding a baby doll.

FRANCIS
"For on Earth peace, goodwill
towards men..."

Francis reaches down and fiddles behind his little curtain.
The audience begins to shift uncomfortably.

CHELSEA
He's gonna do it. He's really gonna
do it!

Lucy jumps up and runs towards the stage. She grabs the baby doll from the little girl and snatches a blanket off of an old man in a wheelchair. Lucy dive bombs in front of the stage, blanket now wrapped around her like a Wise Man.

FRANCIS
...The First Christmas!

Lucy lifts the baby doll up in front of Francis' crotch just in the nick of time as Francis lifts his tiny curtain with a final flourish. The crowd goes silent. Ben, breaking the tension, stands up and cheers. The Mayberrys join in. The audience, reassured, starts to clap along.

INT. O'BRIAN'S TAVERN - NIGHT

Townspeople mingle at the Tavern. The Mayberrys sit around a large table, laughing and talking about the pageant.

TOWNSPERSON
Francis, I gotta tell you, I have
never in my sixty years EVER seen
anything like that! I'd shake your
hand...but I know where it's been!

He pats Francis on the back. The whole table laughs.

JACK

Francis, you did good, my boy. You did good. You too, Lucy!

FRANCIS

If Lucy wasn't such a stage hog, you would have seen my REAL finale.

LUCY

The world just wasn't ready for your special talent, buddy.

DAVE

It just means you'll have to do a special viewing for us later-- hey-O!!!

They all throw peanuts at Dave.

FRANCIS

Well, too bad Lucy doesn't have a doodle or else we could do a duet.

BEN

Yeah, Francis, that's a shame.

FRANCIS

I can only imagine the artistic ecstasy of a double doodle performance.

DAVE

Hey, Fran, I've always wanted try the arts.

MEGHAN

Dave, I don't think you have the right equipment, either.

CHELSEA

I just threw up in my brain.

They all laugh even harder. The music changes on the jukebox and people start to slow dance.

LUCY

Come dance with me.

Lucy takes Ben's arm and leads him out on the dance floor. Everything slows down.

BEN

Thank you. For what you did for Francis. And my family. I don't think springing him from jail for public lewdness would have been a great way to spend our Christmas.

LUCY

It was nothing, really.

BEN

Do you regret coming here yet?

LUCY

No! I love being here. I mean, you're all crazy. Like completely insane. But...you really love each other.

Lucy looks at Ben for a beat.

LUCY (CONT'D)

I never knew it could be like this.

BEN

Like what?

LUCY

I mean, I guess I knew Christmas was supposed to be fun. But with your family and this town I just...

She shrugs and goes quiet. Ben looks at her.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Christmas for me growing up really sucked. What I didn't tell you is that...my mom died over Christmas when I was little. Afterwards, it was never a time of celebration for us. It was just me and the TV while my Dad worked the Holiday shift. Being here...feels right. It's the first time I've ever felt this way since I lost my mom.

Lucy starts to tear up and stops dancing.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Sorry.

(quickly wiping her eyes)

Ugh, I'm a mess.

Ben smiles at Lucy.

BEN
Lucy, it's okay.

Ben kisses Lucy's forehead and wraps his arms around her. She lays her head on his shoulder and they dance in silence for a bit.

BEN (CONT'D)
This is a perfect moment.

Lucy stops dancing and looks at Ben.

BEN (CONT'D)
What?

LUCY
Nothing. You're right. This *is* a perfect moment.

Lucy puts her head on Ben's chest. Vanessa glares at them.

EXT. O'BRIAN'S TAVERN - NIGHT

Lucy and Ben exit, a little drunk, holding hands.

LUCY
I gotta go pee. Wait right here.

BEN
Hurry up, it's freezing. Who else is gonna keep me warm?

LUCY
I'm sure you could find a nice vagrant who wouldn't mind cozying up for a bit.

BEN
Go. You can be witty later.

INT. TAVERN BATHROOM - NIGHT

Lucy washes her hands. Vanessa's voice startles her.

VANESSA
Lucy!

LUCY
Whoa, Vanessa, you scared the crap out of me!

VANESSA
I know what you're up to, Lucy. You don't care about Ben. You're just using him. I saw Tanya's text.

LUCY

Vanessa, you should keep your nose out of other people's business. What you think you may have seen or not seen on a private text is none of your concern, GOT IT?

VANESSA

I don't like being threatened.

LUCY

Neither do I.

VANESSA

This is your chance to be the bigger person. Just walk away. Now.

LUCY

Walk away from what? I really don't know what you're talking about.

Lucy turns to freshen up. Vanessa exits.

EXT. O'BRIAN'S TAVERN - NIGHT

Ben, pretty tipsy, stands in the snow as Vanessa exits.

VANESSA

Ben, why don't I give you a ride?

BEN

That's OK. I'm waiting for Lucy.

VANESSA

You need to be careful with her.

BEN

Why, is she dangerous?

VANESSA

Ben, she's using you.

BEN

I think you're right. It's PRETTY obvious.

VANESSA

Ben, I'm being serious. Lucy's up to something. I saw a text on her phone about something called "the Plan". I don't know what it is, but-

BEN

Oh, "The Plan"! I think her *plan* is to get a piece of Little Benjamin.

(loud drunk whisper)

Don't tell her, but I think it's working...

VANESSA

Ben, listen to me! Lucy isn't right for you. I know it was years ago, but my feelings haven't changed. Please, give us another chance.

Lucy comes up behind Vanessa and grabs her shoulder.

LUCY

Uh, oh. Ben, I told you to watch out for vagrants. You're just so irresistible!

BEN

Lucy, Vanessa was just saying you had some *plans* for me. Well, Little Ben and I have some plans for YOU--

VANESSA

Ben, I'm not joking. She's--

LUCY

Vanessa, sweetie, I think you've had too much eggnog. You're embarrassing yourself.

Lucy brushes Vanessa aside. Vanessa pushes Lucy back hard.

VANESSA

You're an asshole, Lucy. Why don't you just tell Ben the truth?

Lucy smiles at Ben, then puts her arm around Vanessa and whispers in her ear.

LUCY

You need to BACK OFF. Now!

Lucy pats Vanessa on the back and laughs, then turns towards Ben. Vanessa throws a punch towards Lucy in frustrated anger. Lucy ducks just in time and Vanessa lands in the snow.

BEN

Vanessa! What the hell are you doing?!

Lucy starts to help Vanessa up. Vanessa lashes out violently.

VANESSA

Get your hands off me! Screw you!

Vanessa gets up and runs off crying into the night.

LUCY

That's right, just walk it off!

BEN

I'm so sorry, Lucy. I don't know what that was.

LUCY

It's okay. Some girls just can't handle their liquor.

Lucy comes up and takes Ben's arm.

BEN

You're freezing! Lets get you home.

Ben and Lucy get in a cab and head off.

INT. MAYBERRY LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ben comes downstairs in his Christmas pajamas looking for Lucy. The Mayberry living room glows quietly. The fire crackles and Christmas lights twinkle on the tree. Ben sees a blanket cave the Twins made. He opens a flap. Lucy lays inside, watching the lights dance on the sheets from outside.

BEN

Hey, you.

LUCY

Hey.

Ben crouches in and lays down beside Lucy. They watch the lights together quietly. Then Ben takes out a small gift.

BEN

I have one last present for you.

Lucy smiles and takes the gift. She unwraps it. It is a framed picture of Lucy and her mom from when she was little.

LUCY

Ben! How did you? I...

Lucy starts to cry.

BEN

I have my ways. (BEAT) I didn't even know all that stuff about your mom 'til tonight. I just knew she meant a lot to you. And this is my way of telling you that you mean a lot to me.

Lucy cries harder.

LUCY

Ben...There's something I have to tell you. Why I'm not with my family for Christmas. I don't really know how--

BEN

Lucy, we don't have to talk about it anymore tonight. I can't imagine how hard it's been for you. But you're here now. With me. Where you belong.

Ben pulls Lucy in close to him. Lucy gives in. She looks at the photo.

LUCY

Ben, do you remember when you asked me what my favorite Christmas present was?

Ben nods.

LUCY (CONT'D)

It's this.

She clutches the frame close to her chest. Ben takes Lucy's face in his hands. Lucy smiles. Ben kisses her and the lights fuzz out around them.

INT. KEPLER & FRANKE OFFICES - DAY

TITLE CARD: December 29

Lucy walks down her office hallway, greeting everyone she sees with a smile. She sits at her desk. Tanya enters.

TANYA

Hey girl! You have given me the best gift anyone could ever give. The gift that keeps on giving!

LUCY

The Kardashian shoe-of-the-month club?

TANYA

WHAT?! You gave me that?! How'd you know my size? When does it start?!

LUCY

You're such a retard. Look, I'm glad the Holidays turned out so nicely for you. I'm more than happy to hand over all my old tricks.

TANYA

Great, the more tricks I have the bett--wait a sec...you fell for him?

LUCY

He's not like the other guys.

TANYA

"Not like the other guys"?!! What is this, some teen drama where the hottie falls for the dork once they see their inner beauty? Lucy, you can have any guy you want.

LUCY

I want *him*. I love him.

TANYA

It's a FAKE relationship, Lucy, remember? You've been lying to him for three months. You don't even know him. And he really doesn't know YOU. (BEAT) We date guys over the Holidays and then we BREAK UP with them. How were you planning on explaining THAT part of your history to him? Or were you just gonna keep lying about it?

LUCY

I'm gonna tell him. I know he'll understand.

TANYA

Sure! What dude wouldn't wanna commit to a relationship built totes on deception? Wake up, hun! It's never gonna happen. You're, like, still drunk on that Holiday wine is all. Time to come back to reality now...okay? It's OVER.

Tanya exits. Lucy sits back in her chair pensively.

EXT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

TITLE CARD: New Year's Eve

Ben pulls up in a Towncar. He gets out, dressed in an exquisite suit. He knocks on Lucy's door. She opens the little window, wrapped in a blanket like a mummy. She speaks to Ben from behind a wad of tissues.

LUCY
(stuffy)
Hi.

BEN
Lucy! Oh no, are you sick? You were fine when we spoke earlier--

LUCY
I'm so sorry, Ben. I just got this horrible bug. Ugh!

BEN
OK. Well, we can just stay in.

She shuts the little window.

BEN (CONT'D)
Lucy! I'm not going without you!

No answer. He sits down on the stoop. The door swings open behind him. Lucy steps out in a stunning dress and full make-up, her hair gorgeous. Ben is awestruck. Lucy laughs.

LUCY
Sucka! Let's roll.

Ben catches up to her.

BEN
Lucy, you look amazing.

INT. BALLROOM - NIGHT

A huge ballroom is filled with elegant people, giant ice bars, towering chocolate fountains, and acrobatic dancers hanging from large hoops. On a side stage, a full band plays while people karaoke. Ben, Lucy, and the Mayberrys enter.

JACK
Lucy, this is unbelievable!

PHYLLIS
Lucy, this is just too much. Thank you for having us.

LUCY

Of course! I couldn't imagine this night without you guys.

Lucy smiles at Ben.

MEGHAN

Get me a drink, Dave!

DAVE

(into it)

I guess we know what happens when the twins have a baby-sitter!!

MEGHAN

NOW!!

Dave and Meghan run off to one of the ice bars.

CHELSEA

Oh, wow, look at all the hot guys here! Lucy, you didn't tell me it was gonna be *this* kind of party.

She unzips her top a little more to show lots of cleavage.

CHELSEA (CONT'D)

Alright, girls, let's go get some.

Chelsea charges the party.

LUCY

Where'd Francis go?

They look around and spot Francis on one of the many suspended hoops, performing perfectly.

FRANCIS

(yelling)

Hey, guys! It's just like Paris in '98!

Ben and Lucy laugh and walk towards a bar. Tanya approaches.

TANYA

Hey hey hey! This party is bananas!

LUCY

Tanya!

BEN

Hi, I'm Ben.

TANYA

Ben! I've heard SO MUCH about you.
Are you having a great Holiday
season? Don't you just hate when it
ends?

Lucy steps on Tanya's toes.

LUCY

Hey, Ben, can you go check on your
family, and I'll meet you at the
bar in a second?

Ben shrugs OK and goes.

TANYA

So, I've got it all figured out. I
think we should tandem dump their
asses...

Tanya's boyfriend JIM walks up.

TANYA (CONT'D)

Hi, baby! Hey, Lucy, you remember--

LUCY

Shut up. You have to go away now.

TANYA

Whoa. Somebody needs a shot.

Lucy grabs Tanya away from her date.

LUCY

Just stay the hell away from me
tonight. You take care of yours and
I'll take care of mine.

INT. BALLROOM BAR - LATER

Lucy stands at the bar with Anne, Mary, and their men, ANDY
and KEITH. Pam, with her husband FRANK, walks up with
chocolate on her face and a cup full of liquid chocolate.

PAM

This party rules.

LUCY

You know you aren't supposed to
drink the chocolate straight out of
the fountain, right?

PAM

Pretty sure they did that in Willy Wonka, so I think they would know.

The MC calls from the karaoke stage.

M.C.

And next up, we have...Pam, taking us straight back to the 90's!

Pam jumps up on stage, grabbing the mic. The band plays "Poison" by Bell Biv DeVoe. Mary, Anne, and Lucy join Pam on stage and begin a choreographed 90's R&B dance.

PAM

What up y'all!!! "Yeah, spot a man of freedom for a fact aah-aah uh-hum. You ready?"

MARY

"Yeah I'm ready, Slick."

PAM

"You ready, Biv?"

LUCY

"Yeah, I'm ready. Kick it!"

PAM

(singing)

"Girl I must warn yooooooooou,
I sense something strange in my
mind..."

The crowd goes wild.

BEN

What are they doing?!

FRANK

Ugh, I should've known this was going to happen as soon as I saw the karaoke band.

ANDY

It's something they did in college and now every time they're around karaoke--this happens.

The crowd cheers. The girls dance and sing in sync. The guys laugh and cheer them on.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT, LATER

Ben enters the bathroom. Ben goes to the urinal and then hears someone hitting the walls of the bathroom stall.

BEN
Hello? Are you OK?

JIM (O.C.)
I'm fine. Everything's great!

BEN
Sounds that way.

The door opens. Tanya's boyfriend, Jim, comes out, drunk.

JIM
If you really wanna know, my
girlfriend just dumped me.

BEN
That sucks.

JIM
She was a bitch. I think she was
using me for my trampoline. But at
least I got to go anal on her.

BEN
Whoa. That's a lot of info.

JIM
(laughing through tears)
Get this--she said she was doing me
a favor cause she was just gonna
dump me in the morning anyway. Said
it was all part of "The Plan".

BEN
The what?

JIM
"The Plan". Whatever. I saw her
making out with some dude already.

BEN
I wouldn't worry about it. It's New
Year's Eve. There are tons of girls
out there. You'll be okay.

JIM
(going in for a hug)
Thanks man.

BEN

I'm good.

Jim nods understandingly. Ben quickly exits, unsettled.

INT. BALLROOM - ALMOST MIDNIGHT

The screens are lit. Jack and Phyllis stand on the dance floor with a very drunk Meghan and Dave and all of Lucy's friends. Chelsea makes out with a hot guy. Lucy looks for Ben, who pops up behind her. He is a little off his game.

LUCY

Hey, you. It's almost midnight!

She smiles. Ben looks at her intently. He touches her face.

BEN

You're beautiful.

Lucy blushes and snuggles into him.

EVERYONE

10..9..8..7..6..5..4..3..2..1!

Confetti explodes and "Auld Lang Syne" plays. Just before Lucy can yell "Happy New Year", Ben gives her a huge kiss.

EVERYONE (CONT'D)

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Everyone kisses in the background. Ben and Lucy's time freezes, everything slows down, and all the people slowly fade away until it is just Ben and Lucy kissing--

INT. LUCY'S APT - NIGHT, CONTINUOUS

--They stop kissing and are now standing alone in Lucy's apartment. Ben looks at Lucy sweetly.

LUCY

What?

BEN

Kissing you was the very first thing I chose to do this year.
(BEAT) I choose you, Lucy.

LUCY

I choose you, too.

They kiss again.

INT. LUCY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Lucy hits the alarm. It's 9:00 am. Ben is barely awake.

BEN

Ugh. I'm soooo tired. It's too early for family.

LUCY

You're the one who said we'd meet for brunch before they leave.

BEN

I know, I know, I know.

Ben pulls a pillow over his head. Lucy looks Ben over. She takes a deep breath.

LUCY

Ben. I need to tell you something.

BEN

Uh oh. You're pregnant. I knew it.

LUCY

No! It's just something I've been meaning to tell you, but...

Lucy fumbles with her words. Just then, Ben's cell phone rings. The screen shows Jack's face. Ben gestures to Lucy to hold on a sec.

BEN

Hi, Dad... Yes, New Year's IS glorious... What? No, it's The North Pond restaurant on... Tell the driver, he'll know how to get you guys there... Well, he should be in front of your hotel.

Ben gestures to Lucy "sorry" and points at the phone. He covers up the mouthpiece.

BEN (CONT'D)

Lucy, go jump in the shower. They have no idea where they're going.

Ben goes back to the phone and starts walking around. Lucy reluctantly goes into the bathroom and starts the shower.

BEN (CONT'D)

Yeah, Dad... No, call them right now and make sure they're at the right place... Ok. Then call me back.

Ben puts his phone down on the dresser, knocking off one of his cuff-links, which drops and rolls under the bed. Lucy's home phone rings on the night stand. Ben calls out to Lucy--

BEN (CONT'D)

Hey, Luc, your phone's ringing!

Ben reaches under the bed for the cuff-link, which is caught behind a red scrapbook. He pulls the scrapbook out. Tanya's voice is heard leaving a message.

TANYA (V.O.)

Hey hey, answer your cell phone, betch! Last night was A-MA-ZING. I stuck to The Plan and totally dumped his ass. Did you get rid of your bromance with Ben yet? Call me. Lates!

Ben has Lucy's scrapbook in his lap. He opens it to see pictures of Lucy's past Christmases with all the other guys along with their names, dates, personal info, likes, dislikes, and family Holidating notes. The last page has one single photo of Ben from the Halloween party, along with his name and year. He stares in utter disbelief.

INT. LUCY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Lucy exits the bathroom in a towel.

LUCY

Ben? Hey, Ben!

She walks down the hall to the stairs.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Ben, you down there?

Lucy sees the phone flashing. She pushes play and hears the beginning of Tanya's message.

LUCY (CONT'D)

NO! Dammit, Tanya!

INT. NORTH POND RESTAURANT - MID MORNING

Lucy runs in and sees the Mayberrys at a large table in the corner. It's too late. Ben is being comforted by Jack and Phyllis. Everyone at the table glares at Lucy.

JACK

How dare you!

LUCY

Ben, I'm so sorry you had to hear that message. Tanya's an idiot! I felt bad for her because she got dumped right before the Holidays and I wanted to help her out... This is what I've been trying to tell you...But she became like this crazy Frankenstein monster. I don't know what happened! But, I promise you it's not what it looks like.

BEN

It looks like you've been lying to me and my whole family and used us as part of some sick game.

Ben produces her scrapbook and throws it at her feet. Lucy closes her eyes.

BEN (CONT'D)

I read all about it in your little scrapbook.

PHYLLIS

We treated you like family, Lucy. How could you?

FRANCIS

I trusted you with my doodle, Lucy! My DOODLE!!

GAVIN

She gave me money and told me to keep it "our little secret".

MEGHAN

WHAT????!!!

LUCY

NO!!! No, that *sounds* awful, I know! I gave him money to make me look good in front of you guys, that's all.

The family reacts in disgust.

SETH

Mommy, can we punch her?

MEGHAN

YEP!

The Twins make a move for Lucy, Dave holds them back.

LUCY

Guys, please, listen, okay? I tried to tell you, Ben. I did. I just could never find the right time. I wasn't trying to hurt you.

The group is not convinced.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Okay, yes it's true. I used to use men, or whatever you want to say it was, but it's different now. It wasn't like that with us, Ben, I swear...I mean, it started like that, yes, but then--

BEN

WAS it different? I was right when I said you seemed too good at it all! I apparently was just one of a long line of holiday boyfriends you were more than happy to lie to. It was all just about you having fun and whatever you had to say to make sure that happened. Using other people's lives for your own entertainment! So...I guess all that stuff about you never being able to enjoy the Holidays, and that your Mom died at Christmas, and how you never knew what Christmas was like til you met me-- you just made all that up!!

LUCY

No, Ben, I wasn't lying to you-- about everything. It was mostly all true. Please, you have to believe me.

BEN

How am I supposed to believe *anything* you say to me, Lucy?

JACK

Lucy, not only did you break our
Ben's heart, you've broken our
family's heart.

LUCY

I'm so sorry, I wasn't trying to
hurt you--

Lucy opens her mouth to implore Ben, but he stops her--

BEN

Just go, Lucy.

Ben shakes his head. Lucy turns to leave, defeated. As she
reaches the door, Vanessa enters the restaurant.

LUCY

Vanessa?

VANESSA

I knew you were planning on
breaking his heart, so I wanted to
be here to pick up the pieces.
Thanks for your help, sweetie, I'll
take it from here now. Why don't
you just go "walk it off"?

Vanessa bumps past Lucy forcibly. Lucy wheels around and
punches Vanessa in the face. Vanessa spirals back. Lucy sees
Ben, so disappointed. She looks at him, completely lost, as
staff rush to escort her out.

DAVE

Whoa! Did you see that? How hot was
that? Yowza.

Meghan shoves Dave.

INT. LUCY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

TITLE CARD: July

Lucy is passed out on her bed. Her room is littered with crap
and she is unkempt. Pam (now visibly pregnant), Anne, and
Mary stand above her. Lucy stirs.

ANNE

Get up.

LUCY

Why are you in my bedroom?

Pam rips the covers off the bed. Lucy clings to her pillow.

MARY

Get in the shower, clean up, and get dressed. We are getting you out of this funk.

EXT. CAFE - DAY

Lucy and her friends sit at an outdoor cafe.

LUCY

I'm not in a funk, I just need some time to decompress.

MARY

You've been "decompressing" for SEVEN months, Lucy.

LUCY

I'm fine!

ANNE

You lost the love of your life, you lost your job, you lost your one chance at real happiness. You're NOT fine.

PAM

But, hey, you got to go to Vermont and see a maple syrup factory. How cool is that?

(off the others looks)

But yeah, they're right, you gotta get yourself together.

LUCY

What do you want me to do? I've called him, e-mailed him, texted him. I've been to his shop like a million times. He won't talk to me. I don't know what else to do.

MARY

You haven't *done* anything! You think sending a couple apologetic texts is enough to make up for the giant a-hole you've been? You don't know how to fight for anything when it really matters. Do you love him?

LUCY

Yes.

ANNE

Then *do* something about it.

MONTAGE:

INT. LUCY'S APT - DAY

Lucy has set up a makeshift office, furiously working away. She makes phone calls; pins tags on a map of the US with various cities circled; designs some sort of logo; prints something on a large press.

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Lucy sits at her desk, writing a letter with a fountain pen.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Lucy puts an envelope addressed to Ben in the mail. She does this repeatedly throughout the montage.

INT. INDUSTRIAL OFFICE SPACE - DAY

Lucy surveys an exposed-brick office space and looks out at the view.

EXT. LUCY'S STREET - HALLOWEEN NIGHT

Lucy walks home with a bag of groceries as people run around her on the street in Halloween costumes. A group of men in ironic costumes pass by and look her over, but she doesn't notice, just walks into her building and shuts the door.

INT. LUCY'S APT - DAY

Lucy is on the phone.

LUCY

Hey, Dad. It's Lucy. I know it's
been a while...but I wanted to see
what you're doing for Thanksgiving.

INT. LUCY'S APT - THANKSGIVING NIGHT

Lucy and her DAD sit with her friends at Thanksgiving dinner, talking and laughing. Pam and Frank hold their new baby girl.

EXT. BRICK BUILDING - DAY

Lucy and some workers lift a sign that reads "Morris Marketing" up on the front of a brick building. She stands back and smiles. It starts to snow.

EXT. STREET KIOSK - DAY

Lucy waits in line at a kiosk. The guy in the front of the line finishes his purchase and walks by her.

JUSTIN

Lucy?

Lucy looks up, surprised to see JUSTIN, 33, a cute guy in glasses.

LUCY

Justin!

JUSTIN

I almost didn't recognize you! How are you?

LUCY

I'm okay...I'm good. How are you?

JUSTIN

I'm great. I actually...well, I just got engaged.

LUCY

Wow! Congratulations, that's amazing.

JUSTIN

Yeah. We're...really happy.

Lucy smiles as Justin.

LUCY

Good. I'm happy for you.

They stand there for a beat.

JUSTIN

Are you headed somewhere right now?
Can I...buy you a coffee or something?

Lucy hesitates and looks at her watch.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

It'd be great to catch up. If you're not too busy...

LUCY

Sure.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Lucy and Justin sit at a table laughing.

LUCY

Oh my gosh, your Mom always was *extremely* opinionated. I hope your poor fiancée makes it through the wedding planning. I don't envy her!

JUSTIN

Well, believe it or not, my Mom never had anything mean to say about you. She liked your "spunk".

Lucy smiles, then goes quiet. She takes a long look at Justin.

LUCY

Justin, can I ask you something?

JUSTIN

Lucy, you don't have to do this.

LUCY

I do. I mean, I'm totally over you and everything, but...why? I just need to know. Why'd you break up with me?

JUSTIN

I liked you, Lucy. A lot. I loved you, actually.

LUCY

I loved you, too.

JUSTIN

I guess, I just felt like...it didn't really matter to you if I was in your life or not.

LUCY

Wow. Was I that cold?

JUSTIN

No, sorry. This is coming out wrong. (BEAT) You never really let me in. I never ONCE saw you cry-- not that you needed to be *sad*--

LUCY

So...I didn't cry enough?

JUSTIN

NO! I'm really bad at this.

Justin takes a second to gather his thoughts.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

I saw a glimpse of it once. That Christmas I brought you home to meet my family. I finally saw you come to life. Like I was seeing the real you for the first time. But then we went home and you just threw yourself back into work again. And I realized you were never going to let me into your heart, even though I know you loved me...in your way. I know it sounds lame, but people want to feel *needed*. I guess I just wanted to know that I somehow was making your life better by being in it. And I realized that wasn't true for you.

Lucy sighs deeply and sits with this a second.

LUCY

Thank you. I mean, it sucks to hear that, but...thanks for being honest. I'm really sorry I made you feel that way.

JUSTIN

So. How are you--really?

LUCY

Well, life has been hit-and-miss recently. I'm working on it.

JUSTIN

Good. My unsolicited advice: let people in, Lucy. I promise you it's worth it.

(phone buzzes)

I should get going. But please... keep in touch. I mean it.

They stand and hug.

LUCY

I will. And congratulations again. I mean it.

Lucy sits back down. She takes a deep breath, picks up her phone, and dials.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Hey, it's Lucy. Don't hang up, please.

(MORE)

LUCY (CONT'D)
Listen, I want to talk to you. Can
you meet me? It's important.

INT. THE GAGE RESTAURANT - DAY

Lucy sits at a table in a pretty dress. She looks towards the door, checks her phone-- 1:15 PM. Late. The WAITER comes by.

WAITER
Ma'am, are you still expecti--

LUCY
Yes. Just give me five more
minutes. Thank you.

Jack walks in, a little under-dressed for this place. Lucy spots him and stands.

LUCY (CONT'D)
Jack! Thank you so much for coming.

JACK
Well, it was against my better
judgement.

Lucy gestures for Jack to sit. Jack takes a seat.

LUCY
How's Ben?

JACK
You told me we weren't here to talk
about that.

LUCY
I'm sorry, you're right. I just
can't stop thinking about him.

Jack starts to get up.

LUCY (CONT'D)
Wait, please.

Jack reluctantly sits back down.

INT. THE GAGE RESTAURANT - DAY

Jack and Lucy finish lunch as Jack looks over a presentation folder filled with photos of the Mayberry family, the maple factory, and accompanying story boxes.

JACK
I had my doubts, Lucy, but this is
fantastic.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

People across America sharing
breakfast with my family in every
bottle. "Say 'Good Morning' with
the Mayberry's"! I'm impressed.

LUCY

Thank you. I'm doing this because I
believe in the company, Jack. I
believe in what you've built.

JACK

It's wonderful, Lucy. But I need to
sleep on it. I always say, "A good
night's sleep is like a PHD in
common sense." I'll be in touch.

He stands to exit.

LUCY

Jack, thank you. (BEAT) Will you
tell Ben that I--

JACK

I like you, Lucy. I always did. But
I let my children live their own
lives. If you have something
important to say to Ben, I suggest
you find a way to tell him
yourself.

Jack winks at Lucy and exits.

EXT. THE TROVE - DAY

Lucy walks through the snow towards The Trove in high
spirits. She is surprised to see a "For Lease" sign. She
peers into the empty shop. She sighs, picks up her phone, and
dials.

OPERATOR

This number is no longer in
service. Please check the number
and try again.

She hangs up the phone, defeated.

INT. BEN'S BEDROOM AT MAYBERRYS - NIGHT

Ben sits on his bed reading a book. There is a knock on the
door.

BEN

Come in.

Phyllis enters and holds up one of the letters from Lucy.

BEN (CONT'D)

Just leave it on the dresser.

PHYLLIS

You can't keep ignoring her, Ben.
She loves you. And I know you still
love her. Just look at you.

BEN

She lied to me, Mom. To all of us.
Even if I wanted to, how could I
ever trust her again?

PHYLLIS

Honey, people make mistakes.
Sometimes big ones. Your father and
I have hurt each other more times
than I care to count. But I love
him more today than I ever have.
Sweetheart, it doesn't get easier.
But it's worth it if you know that
you're with the one person you
can't wait to fall asleep beside
each night, and wake up to again
the next morning.

She kisses Ben on the forehead and puts the letter down. Ben
throws it in a box full of the same envelopes. He flips open
his book and looks at his bookmark and smiles. It's a photo
from the New Year's Eve party with Lucy.

INT. LUCY'S NEW OFFICE - DAY

TITLE CARD: Christmas Eve

Snow falls outside the windows of Lucy's new office, which is
decorated for Christmas. Lucy stands with her friends and a
handful of new faces. A modern sign on the wall reads "Morris
Marketing". The office decor is vintage chic. Lucy raises a
glass of champagne.

LUCY

I want to thank you all for
supporting me over the past year. I
never thought I would see the day
that I'd have my own marketing
firm. So, Merry Christmas and drink
up!

Cheers all around. Christmas music plays. Lucy walks over to
her friends. Pam buttons up her shirt as she steps out from
behind a desk.

PAM
WOW, this place is sick!

LUCY
Pam, please don't mess with
anything, those computers are new.

It's too late. Pam clicks a button. On the flat screens
appear an extreme close-up of her cleavage.

PAM
I made you a new screensaver!

LUCY
You have a daughter.

PAM
(thrilled)
I knooooow. Riiight? Preggo boobs!

Mary and Anne approach with their husbands.

MARY
Lucy, I'm impressed. This is great!

LUCY
I have to thank you all. If it
wasn't for you, I don't think I
would've done this.

DANA, Lucy's assistant, approaches.

DANA
Lucy, your ride is here to take you
to the airport.

Dana hands Lucy her boarding pass.

LUCY
Thanks, Dana. Alright, guys, I
gotta go. Feel free to party on me
tonight. There's something I need
to take care of.

Lucy exits.

MARY
Go get him!

ANNE
So romantic!

PAM
Why aren't you ever that romantic?

FRANK
Because I've already got you. And
now I've knocked you up.

Frank grind-dances up on Pam. Pam playfully socks him.

FADEOUT TO SNOW.

EXT./INT. MAYBERRY HOME - NIGHT

Lucy gets out of a cab. She walks to the door and takes a breath. She looks in the window and sees Chelsea, already engrossed in her Lifetime Christmas movies. Lucy smiles. She knocks. We hear voices from inside.

PHYLLIS (O.S.)
Ben, she's here!

BEN (O.S.)
I'll be down in a second!

Jack opens the door and is surprised.

JACK
Lucy?!

LUCY
Jack! Merry Christmas!

Jack is taken a bit off-guard and gives Lucy an awkward hug.

JACK
Phyllis, look who it is. Lucy!

PHYLLIS
Oh, Lucy! My gosh, what are you
doing here?

LUCY
Phyllis, Merry Christmas. I need to
talk to Ben.

BEN (O.S.)
I'm almost ready, hold on a sec!

PHYLLIS
I think you'll want to come down
now!

Meghan and Dave come out of the kitchen with popcorn, watching in awe. Chelsea pauses her movie. Francis comes down the stairs and jumps on Lucy.

FRANCIS

Lucy, how I've missed you! I have so much to tell you. I'm into something new. A musical revolution called "tongue humming" and--

LUCY

Sounds great, Fran, I can't wa...

Lucy sees Ben walk downstairs.

BEN

Lucy?

LUCY

Ben. I--I need to speak with you.

BEN

No thanks. I'm good.

LUCY

Please...if you can just give me a moment alone, to let me explain.

BEN

Whatever you've come to say, you can say in front of my family. You've got two minutes.

Lucy looks around nervously. The family watches, riveted.

LUCY

Ben, you were right. I lied to you. I WAS using you and your family, like all those other guys. And I'm sorry. But I didn't lie to you about everything. My mom really did die over Christmas when I was little, and I never got over it. After she died, I hated the Holidays cause it would just remind me of how she wasn't here anymore. But then I went home with a guy for Christmas one year and I found a way to make myself happy again. To just be able to forget everything and pretend to be part of a normal family for a while. And I got addicted to that feeling. I started using guys selfishly, but I really thought I wasn't hurting anyone as long as I never got attached. But then I met you.

(MORE)

LUCY (CONT'D)

This weird guy in a dick-in-a-box costume who made bad jokes and wanted a milkshake instead of sushi. Who wanted to get to know me so badly, he was ready to strip down in front of total strangers. A guy who cared if I was hurt or sad and always knew exactly what to say to make me laugh. And I felt this strange thing inside me--like when you unthaw your hands in front of a fire after being out in the snow. I guess what I'm trying to say is... Ben, when I'm with you, I don't need Christmas. I just need you.

CHELSEA

This is SO awesome.

The family shushes her. Ben is speechless.

LUCY

I'm just asking for you to give me another chance, Ben. To let me hold your hand, be your date, and maybe buy you a strawberry milkshake.

Ben hesitates and looks at his family, who are all beaming. Lucy tears up. Ben slowly moves towards her. Suddenly a car honks outside loudly, breaking the mood.

CHELSEA

Oh crap, this is good. DUN-DUN-dunnnn!

Chelsea types furiously on her keyboard. Dave and Meghan move in closer. Vanessa exits her car and comes up to the door. She knocks and lets herself in.

VANESSA

Ho ho ho!!

(noticing Lucy)

Well, look who it is! Lucy Morris.

LUCY

Vanessa?

Vanessa brushes past Lucy forcefully. Vanessa stands next to Ben and puts her arm around him. Ben is speechless.

VANESSA

Oh, Lucy, I forgot. Slutbags Anonymous called looking for you.

(MORE)

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Your sponsor was worried that you had missed your meeting. For slutbags. Because you are one.

LUCY

Vanessa, do you mind? I'd like to speak to Ben privately.

VANESSA

I bet you would. Too bad he's leaving with me for the Bahamas.

Lucy looks at Ben.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Oh, he didn't tell you? Boo hoo. Let me put this in terms that you can understand, Lucy.

(as if speaking to an imbecile child)

BEN-DOES-NOT-WANT-TO-BE-WITH-YOU. BECAUSE-YOU-ARE-A-LYING-BITCH. Got it?

BEN

Vanessa, you don't have to--

VANESSA

Ben, she doesn't deserve another word from you. C'mon sweetie, we've got a flight to catch. And I've gotta make up for this little floozie trying to ruin your Christmas by showering you in lots and lots of loving. Let's go!

Vanessa grabs Ben's hand and leads him out the door as Ben just looks at Lucy blankly. Lucy pulls him back.

LUCY

Ben!

Ben just shakes his head and walks out. The door slams and the car drives off. Lucy stands in total shock as Jack walks up behind her.

JACK

I'm so sorry, Lucy. It's too late. Ben is proposing to Vanessa this weekend.

PHYLLIS

Oh, Lucy... Please stay the night
and spend Christmas with us. We'd
love to have you.

She hugs her. Lucy nods in shock "yes".

INT. MAYBERRY LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lucy sits on the couch watching the Mayberrys play games. She looks over at a blanket fort the twins have made and smiles wistfully. Meghan comes over, puts her arm around Lucy, and pulls her over to join in the games.

INT. AIRLINE TICKET COUNTER - NIGHT

Vanessa chats happily with the ticket agent and beams at Ben, as he stands lost in his own thoughts.

INT. BEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Lucy stands in borrowed pj's in Ben's room, looking around at his old toys, awards, childhood pictures. She finds the box of her letters and a photo of the two of them. She turns off the lights, gets into bed, and starts to cry as moonlight filters in from the window.

INT. MAYBERRY HOME - MORNING

TITLE CARD: Christmas

Lucy sits at the kitchen table alone. A car door slams outside. Lucy looks, but it's just the neighbor's family arriving. She sits back down. Silence. Another car pulls up. Feet crunch in the snow, keys jingle in the front door. Lucy goes to the door. It opens, revealing Ben.

BEN

Hi.

LUCY

Hi. I thought you'd be in Bermuda
by now.

BEN

The Bahamas, actually. I was
supposed to be. But, I remembered
that I forgot something...

Ben's family slowly trickles in one by one in pajamas to see what's going on. Ben nervously looks around, spots his phone charger on the entry table, and grabs it.

BEN (CONT'D)
This! Okay, well, I got what I
needed.

He walks back out the door with his charger towards the cab.
Lucy is crushed. Ben stops in the snow. He turns around.

BEN (CONT'D)
Lucy, get out here.
(then to family)
JUST Lucy!

Lucy looks at the family for support, then steps forward and
closes the door. She faces Ben in the snow. A light
sprinkling of snowflakes begins to fall.

BEN (CONT'D)
Lucy, the thing is...I hate you.
I've been trying to hate you every
day for almost a year now. And, I
think I got pretty good at it. But
every time I read one of your
letters, it made it harder. It made
it that much more difficult to
forget that the girl I fell in love
with was the same girl who broke my
heart--actually *planned* to break
it, on purpose.

Lucy ramps herself up for another big monologue. The music
begins to swell.

LUCY
Ben, I know there's nothing I can
say that will make it okay. But I
came here, on Christmas, to show
you that I love you and if you can
find it in your heart--

The music swell abruptly cuts off as Ben interrupts.

BEN
--Lucy, just shut up for a sec. I
know you're good at the Holidays.
It's your thing. I want to see if
we can be good at life. Together.

He steps in close to her and puts out his hand.

BEN (CONT'D)
What d'you say? You in?

Lucy shakes his hand.

LUCY

Yeah. I'm in.

Ben pulls her in tight for a kiss. Snow swirls around them and the lights fuzz. Suddenly, cheering and crying is heard behind them, revealing the entire Mayberry family watching from the windows. The family runs out and hugs them.

BEN

Merry Christmas, Lucy.

LUCY

Merry Christmas, Ben.

MAYBERRY FAMILY

Merry Christmas!

Christmas photos of the Mayberrys and Ben and Lucy's expanding family play over the credits.

THE END.