

# SOMETHING SO RIGHT

(aka BASTER)

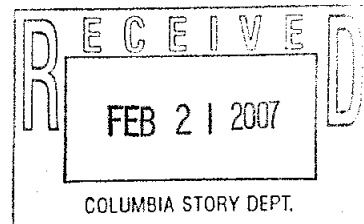
by

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SOMETHING SO RIGHT

INT. MANHATTAN - DAY

And here comes everybody. Talking on cells, walking briskly and checking watches.

CARD: MARCH... 2000

Eighth Avenue alive in the mid-day. Hundreds of heads bobbing up and down as they walk -- all together and at the same time... all very alone.

VOICE OF WALLY MARS

Look at us. All players of the genetic lottery filtered through thousands of years of evolution.

INT. COLUMBUS CIRCLE/SUBWAY STATION - DAY

The daily melting pot of throng...

VOICE OF WALLY MARS

Think of all the losers in history's cache... the ones that failed to procreate. The ones not worthy of offspring.

All waiting for the train. Short... tall... thin... fat...

VOICE OF WALLY MARS

The poor victims of evolution that were too weak or ugly to make it to this point. The ones that died off long ago... undoubtedly alone in some cave... taking their flawed blood-lines with them.

... fashion victims... bad haircuts... buck teeth...

VOICE OF WALLY MARS

But we don't have to worry about them. Because we're the winners.

A homeless man kicks around an imaginary soccer ball. People stay well clear of him.

VOICE OF WALLY MARS

Even that guy.

INT. UPTOWN A,C,E - DAY

A full car. They read, they listen to iPods, they stare off into a distance that isn't there.

VOICE OF WALLY MARS  
 But we all still have to play the  
 genetic lottery... even before  
 we're born.

And we find him. WALLY MARS. He looks around the car with a  
 strain of disdain on his otherwise blank face.

Wally looks at a beautiful girl in her late teens with red hair.

VOICE OF WALLY MARS  
 Some of us winning a lifetime of  
 free apple martinis...

And now Wally looks at a rail-thin guy with a pock-marked face.

VOICE OF WALLY MARS  
 Others handed extended virginities  
 laden with excessive masturbation  
 and confusing misogyny.

AND WALLY

fashionable and youthful but not conventionally handsome.

INT. THE DOWNTOWN 4,5,6 - DAY

We're on another subway car. Looking at men. One after the  
 other. Stop on a dark haired man wearing a suit.

VOICE OF KASSIE LARSON  
 Good posture... clear eyes...  
 that's important.

He cracks open the new issue of "The Federalist."

VOICE OF KASSIE LARSON  
 Republican... that sucks. I feel  
 violated for even admiring.

Now we find blond haired guy in an old sweatshirt.

VOICE OF KASSIE LARSON  
 Great skin-tone. Baby-face.

We scan down to his shoes. Lifts. Three inch soles.

VOICE OF KASSIE LARSON  
 Boy heels. Such a shame.

And we're now looking at Professor looking type wearing  
 circular rimmed glasses and a shaggy sweater.

VOICE OF KASSIE LARSON  
 Mid-forties with all his hair.  
 Poor eye-sight...  
 (MORE)

VOICE OF KASSIE LARSON (cont'd)  
 but with that new Lasik thing,  
 what's it matter? Tall...

The guy lifts up his book... "Letters To Young Poet."

VOICE OF KASSIE LARSON  
 And he reads Rilke... we have a  
 winner!

And now we see her -- staring straight at him.

KASSIE LARSON

33, big brown eyes, undeniably feminine, flawless skin,  
 cultivated, fashionable without being in fashion... she's  
 what perfection wishes for while sitting on Santa's lap.

VOICE OF KASSIE LARSON  
 I have to see the tongue. It's all  
 about the tongue... our  
 grandchildren's health is in that  
 tongue. But it might be weird to  
 ask him to show me.

And he looks up from his book to catch this beauty staring at  
 him. So he smiles -- his teeth yellowed and askew.

As she quickly looks away.

VOICE OF KASSIE LARSON  
 Yikes. Not so much.

EXT. 14TH STREET - DAY

Wally waits at a light with the bustle around him.

He notices a guy wearing a METS HAT standing on the corner.

Mets Hat sways from side to side and shouts out something to  
 himself. Wally takes note.

METS HAT  
 Fat-slanty-eyed-pedaling-bitch.  
 Fat-slanty-eyed-pedaling-bitch.

And Wally turns to see a heavy Chinese woman riding by on a  
 bicycle. Met's Hat isn't shouting it at her but more  
 announcing what he sees to himself -- obviously mentally ill  
 with some form of Tourettes. And now he spits out...

METS HAT  
 Pig-faced-gimpy-limpin'-mama. Pig-  
 faced-gimpy-limpin'-mama limpin' on  
 by.

Wally turns to see a woman limping by. And her face does  
 have pig-like features...

METS HAT

Potato-head-looking-motherfucker.  
Potato-head-looking-motherfucker.

As Wally turns back to see... Mets Hat starring right at him.

METS HAT

I gotta potato-head-looking-  
motherfucker lookin' at me.

Wally's face falls. He just stands there... stunned... the world sucked out of him.

The light changes but Wally doesn't move... frozen in insult. Horrified. Absolutely crushed.

INT. PASTIS - DAY

Wally and Kassie eat lunch at this trendy Meat-packing District restaurant. It's crowded. Above the din...

KASSIE

You are not a potato-head-looking-  
motherfucker.

WALLY

I am. I'm a potato-head-looking-  
motherfucker.

KASSIE

Wally, he was mentally ill.  
Standing on the corner.

WALLY

Exactly. He had no reason to be  
polite. It was like this Tourette-  
style truth-serum affliction.

She's laughing.

KASSIE

Wally please. This can't really be  
bothering you.

WALLY

No, no. Because the "fat-slanty-  
eyed-pedaling-bitch" was fat and on  
a bicycle. And the "pig-faced-  
gimpy-limpin'-mama" did have a pig  
face. So I am a potato-head-  
looking-motherfucker.

KASSIE

Wally, you're adorable.

Silence -- he's genuinely upset. They continue to eat.  
Wally moans as he savors the food. It sounds almost sexual.

KASSIE

Wally!

He snaps out of it.

KASSIE

Stop making love to your food.

WALLY

I don't even know when I do it.

KASSIE

It's disturbing.

He continues to eat. Until he looks up to say...

WALLY

I have a growth.

KASSIE

What?

WALLY

I think it's a tumor. It's in a very difficult place to tell.

KASSIE

You're fine, Wally.

WALLY

It's down there. In my... under-carriage.

KASSIE

Your scrotum?

WALLY

No. Behind it. In-between there and my--

KASSIE

Your perineum. It's called a perineum.

WALLY

Well, I had to see it. So I--

She holds up her hand.

KASSIE

I don't think I want to know.

WALLY

You're right, it's probably best.

A silence, then...

KASSIE

Okay, I have to know. What did you do, Wally?

WALLY

I took a picture of it. With my phone.

KASSIE

What?

WALLY

This Swedish company we're taking public places cameras inside cell-phones. It's the coolest thing... you can e-mail the pictures.

KASSIE

(incredulous)

You took a picture of it?

WALLY

Well, the mirrors didn't work so I lied down on the bed and opened my legs and--

She stops him there.

KASSIE

Jesus, Wally.

He opens his phone and scrolls through the pictures.

WALLY

I want you to see it.

KASSIE

No way!

He finds the picture and slides the phone over to her.

WALLY

It's life or death, Kassie. I have prostate cancer.

She clinches her eyes shut and slides it back.

KASSIE

You don't have prostate cancer.

WALLY  
Just look at it for a second.

KASSIE  
Not on your life!

Wally accepts that and closes his phone.

KASSIE  
Wally... you're exhausting.

He nods. Silence. Until he sighs in defeat...

WALLY  
I'm a potato-head-looking-  
motherfucker.

EXT. HUDSON RIVER WALKING PATH - DAY

Kassie and Wally walk by the river. A crisp spring day.  
She has her arm around him. The pace is slow.

KASSIE  
I had an epiphany and I'm going to  
need your help.

WALLY  
An epiphany...

KASSIE  
Yes. And I don't want you to say  
anything until I am done talking,  
okay?

WALLY  
Fine.

KASSIE  
Okay. I'm thirty-three years old,  
Wally and I want a child. And it's  
all been plan A. One plan. Meet a  
man, date, move in together, get  
married and then have a child.  
Plan A.

WALLY  
Thirty-three's still young.

KASSIE  
What happened to the you not  
talking part?

He just shrugs.

KASSIE

Look, I'm done with plan A. Plan A isn't working. Let's face it -- the landscape is littered with adulterers, losers, hit and runners, village burners...

WALLY

You're being dramatic.

KASSIE

Am I? You're taking pictures of your prostate cancer and I'm the one being dramatic.

He capitulates with a nod -- touche. She continues...

KASSIE

Plan A is what... idealistic... dated...

WALLY

Did you ever think that you're being too picky?

KASSIE

Yes. I get that. But whatever. Because see... the real problem with plan A is that the longer you devote to it, you diminish time and investment for plan B. It's called "economies of scale," you're an investment banker -- you know the term.

WALLY

Kassie, I think you're confusing--

She stops and faces him.

KASSIE

I'm ready for plan B, Wally, and I'm going to need your help.

WALLY

What's plan B?

KASSIE

Having a baby by myself. Raising a baby by myself.

He lets it register. Doesn't like it.

WALLY

That's crazy. What if you do this then meet the love of your life?

KASSIE  
I'm not meeting shit.

WALLY  
What if you already met the love of  
your life and you don't know it?

As she dismissively waves the idea off...

KASSIE  
Time's moving. Life's in session,  
Wally.

WALLY  
Where'd you get that... an  
infomercial?

KASSIE  
No...

As they cross the West Side Highway...

KASSIE  
Yes.  
(and then)  
I didn't buy the program -- it was  
the only thing on and it resonated.

WALLY  
I think you're being irrational.

And now they're back on the cobblestone streets of the meat  
packing district.

KASSIE  
I want a baby... I don't want to  
wait anymore... plan A bites...  
it's time for plan B.

She looks at him. Wants his approval. They both know it.

WALLY  
I don't know...

KASSIE  
I'm so in love with plan B. It's  
devious and inspired... it doesn't  
depend on the hustle of romance and  
it's brave. Let me be brave,  
Wally.

WALLY  
You don't need my approval.

KASSIE

But I value it... and I'm going to need your help.

And then it dawns on him... what she's saying... and he stops... and with a nervous smile...

WALLY

How are you going to need my help?

KASSIE

Okay... I'm in the market for semen, Wally, and...

She stops short. Too nervous to finish the sentence...

WALLY

And...

She draws in a breath of courage, then...

KASSIE

I need you to help me find some.

She resumes walking. He stands there... stunned.

INT. UPTOWN 4,5,6 - DAY

Upset, Wally's hangs on to the pole, shaking back and forth. Kassie sits.

KASSIE

You're being ridiculous.

WALLY

Answer the question -- what's wrong with my sperm?

KASSIE

Nothing. I'm sure you have killer sperm. I just think having a baby with you might affect our friendship.

Angry and rejected, Wally shakes his head in disapproval.

WALLY

So what -- you're going to use a service? You're going to read resumes? Those things are all bullshit. I heard about a woman in Queens who thought she was buying the sperm of an Ivy League athlete and it turned it came from a homeless guy.

KASSIE  
You didn't hear that.

WALLY  
And the kid ended up being  
homeless. And she sued and lost.

KASSIE  
You just made that up.

He doesn't deny it. Just stares straight ahead in grimace.

KASSIE  
Look, I don't want to choose off  
paper anyway. I don't trust it.

WALLY  
Trust issues.

KASSIE  
Yeah, Wally, whatever. I need to  
see the man. I need to find the  
right genes... I can't do this  
alone and you're my best friend.

Frustrated, he ponders his reflection in the window of the  
subway car. He quickly looks away then back down to her.

WALLY  
It's wrong. It eliminates the man.  
We're not racehorses...

KASSIE  
Let's do some math, Wally. I meet  
my husband today. I date him for a  
year before moving in with him.  
Then I move in with him and realize  
I hate him. He's not my husband  
after all.

(keeps going)  
Okay, so now I'm single for a year  
before I meet this other guy. Then  
I move in with him after a year and  
live with him for another. Then we  
get engaged. A year later we get  
married. Then I get pregnant after  
another year. Now, I'm thirty-  
eight.

WALLY  
(correcting her)  
Thirty-nine.

KASSIE  
You get it.

And she glares at him!

KASSIE  
 Why are you even on this train?  
 It's going uptown -- don't you have  
 to be back at work?

He doesn't answer. The train stops. Kassie stands.

KASSIE  
 I'm hurt you're not going to  
 support this.

The doors open.

KASSIE  
 And you should know something.  
 Whether you like it or not, Wally  
 Mars...

As she goes...

KASSIE  
 Life's in session.

... leaving Wally in her wake.

INT. EQUINOX GYM - DAY

Wally runs on a treadmill. Next to him is his boss, LEONARD, 50s, who walks very slowly on a treadmill that barely moves.

LEONARD  
 You're jealous.

Sweating and out of breath...

WALLY  
 I'm not jealous.

LEONARD  
 You are. She put you in the friend  
 zone five years ago after you guys  
 were set up and you've been there  
 ever since.

Wally turns up the speed and runs even faster.  
 Leonard calmly unwraps a Snickers bar.

WALLY  
 (correcting)  
 We put each other in the friend  
 zone. It was a mutual placement.

Sweating... out of breath...

WALLY

If Kassie and I were lovers it  
would be a complete train wreck.  
She's Narcissistic and afraid of  
men -- I'm immature and indulgent.

As Leonard rolls his eyes as he enjoys his snickers.

LEONARD

You can throw denial into that bin.

Wally scoffs then leans over to read Leonard's treadmill to  
change the subject.

WALLY

That thing's set to three point one  
-- you're barely moving!

LEONARD

I'm in the fat-burning zone.  
You're going too fast. You're not  
burning fat. I am.

(and then)

Wally, I don't want this Kassie  
thing effecting your work.

WALLY

I heard you.

Catching his breath...

WALLY

Leonard, you just ate three hundred  
calories and burned nine.

EXT. 67TH STREET - NIGHT

Kassie and Wally carry gift-wrapped presents as they walk.

KASSIE

I don't know. Internet. I'm  
thinking a college kid might be a  
good idea so I might place an ad in  
the local college newspapers.

WALLY

What qualities are you are looking  
for in the donor?

KASSIE

Height, athleticism... intelligence.  
Sense of humor is most important...

He rolls his eyes.

KASSIE  
What?

WALLY  
You all say that.

KASSIE  
Okay. Height is most important...  
but funny height.  
(and then)  
Oh! I figured out your dog.

WALLY  
I don't want a dog.

KASSIE  
No, you do. Listen to me. What  
you need is... are you ready?  
(drum roll, and... )  
... a Portuguese water dog!

Wally just shakes his head and laughs.

KASSIE  
They're highly intelligent,  
incredibly loyal and very  
affectionate.

WALLY  
No thanks.

KASSIE  
Just think about it, Wally... you  
need very affectionate.

INT. ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Wally and Kassie share the elevator with another couple, also  
holding gift-wrapped presents.

They all look up to the counting numbers.

WALLY  
How much are you going to pay?

KASSIE  
Twenty thousand.

A moment, then she turns to him and asks...

KASSIE  
Is that too much to pay a college  
kid to masturbate?

As the couple standing with them share a look...

INT. UPPER-EAST SIDE PARTY - NIGHT

About forty upscale Manhattanites in a large apartment.  
Kassie and Wally wait for a drink at the bar.

Still churning this, Kassie turns to him...

KASSIE

Intelligence is going to be crucial  
so we should hit Columbia before NYU.

As Wally nods with a smile to someone he knows.

WALLY

And I thought men were shallow.

They get to the bar and order their drinks.

KASSIE

I know this all sounds vapid but  
I'm in a unique situation here.  
Look, what do women do when they  
choose a man? Whether they're  
aware of it or not, Wally, they  
analyze which man will produce the  
healthiest and strongest offspring.

Drinks now in hand, pulling away from the bar...

KASSIE

So, that's all I'm doing. I'm just  
cutting out the middleman.

As they greet a group they know with big smiles and hellos.

INT. PARTY - LATER

Wally's bored, sipping his drink and smiling to various  
people. He spots Kassie locked in conversation with a good  
looking dude sporting a five o'clock shadow wearing two  
hundred dollar jeans.

As Wally approaches...

WALLY

I'm tired. Can we go?

KASSIE

Wally, this is Sandy... he's from  
L.A. Wally's an investment banker.

Kassie looks right at Sandy as she addresses Wally.

KASSIE

I'm going to stick around.

Sandy likes that, holds her charged look. Wally just stands there staring at Sandy. Making him nervous.

SANDY

Um... hey Wally... you have any good stocks for me?

WALLY

They're all going straight up Sandy... it's the new economy, fundamentals don't matter. Put everything into telecom... optical networking. Leverage is everything. Go on margin -- strong and long.

He turns to Kassie.

WALLY

Can I talk to you for a sec?

He pulls her away.

KASSIE

What was that? You keep saying it's a bubble and to get out.

WALLY

Yeah, I don't like him. What are you doing?

KASSIE

I'm flirting. He's cute.

And it dawns on Wally...

WALLY

You're not thinking--

KASSIE

I haven't seen his tongue yet.

As she checks out Sandy from a distance.

WALLY

You're drunk.

KASSIE

I am not.

WALLY

I know when you're drunk, Kassie. Your eyes squint and your face smothers into a permanently amazed glare.

She's not listening to him anymore. As she Looks at Sandy...

KASSIE  
Look... he's tall, he has a great  
jawline, he's smart.

WALLY  
Smart? He lives in Los Angeles.  
She smiles and kisses Wally on the forehead.

KASSIE  
Go home, Crazy. I'm a grown up.  
Kassie returns to Sandy.

AND WALLY

scowl on his face, traverses the party, finds the side of his  
friend ARTIE who is overweight, benign and a little drunk.  
Wally nods over to Sandy.

WALLY  
You bring him?

ARTIE  
Yeah. He was my roommate sophomore  
year. I spent a lot of time out in  
the hall.

WALLY  
What's his deal?

ARTIE  
He lives in LA. Works in film.

WALLY  
It's a dilettante art-form.

Artie agrees while pondering the ice in his drink.

Wally looks on as Sandy says something that causes Kassie to  
flirtatiously exaggerate a laugh.

WALLY  
What exactly does he do?

ARTIE  
I don't know -- what do they all  
do? He doesn't really work, still  
takes drugs, sleeps with beautiful  
women and lives beyond his means.

WALLY  
I hate him.

ARTIE  
Me too.

WALLY  
And the French. I hate the French.

Artie nods. Might agree. As he swirls his drink...

ARTIE  
Of course he's married.

WALLY  
What?

ARTIE  
But don't tell Kassie -- I don't  
wanna cock-block.

WALLY  
Of course I'm going to tell her.

Artie smiles... sly.

ARTIE  
I know.

AS SANDY

comes in for the kill.

SANDY  
I think we should get out of here.

Kassie flirtatiously bites her lip in mock-thought.

KASSIE  
I'm not sure...

And Wally sides up to them.

WALLY  
Can we get a smoke?

KASSIE  
You don't smoke, Wally.

WALLY  
You do. I'll join you.

She looks at him... reads his urgency.

KASSIE  
Sandy, I'll be back in a minute.

Sandy winks at Kassie as Wally leads her off... through an  
empty bedroom...

WALLY  
 He winked. Did you see that?  
 He actually winked.

And out to the...

BALCONY

Manhattan a carpet of lights below.

WALLY  
 He's married.

As Kassie lights up a smoke.

KASSIE  
 I know.

WALLY  
 You know?

KASSIE  
 There's a tan-line where his ring  
 should be.

WALLY  
 Then lose him.

She takes a quick drag, then...

KASSIE  
 I'm thinking I'm going to do it.

And in jealous mortification...

WALLY  
 What! Why?

KASSIE  
 It's perfect... and I'm pretty sure  
 I'm ovulating.

WALLY  
 But you're drunk. And this guy.  
 He's married and he winks and--

KASSIE  
 He lives in another city so there  
 will be no strings attached. And  
 he has good genes.

WALLY  
 Good genes! He's an adulterer!

KASSIE  
(correcting)  
Nurture not nature.

Wally shakes his head in disapproval.

WALLY  
It's cuckoldry... and it's of ill  
turpitude.

KASSIE  
Jesus -- where the fuck do you get  
these words, Wally?

As Wally huffs off back into the party.

WALLY  
Ill turpitude, Kassie!

She sucks a staccato drag off her smoke -- shouts out after him.

KASSIE  
Glass houses, Girlfriend.

He's gone. So Kassie ponders the city below.

She takes a reflective moment. Something Wally said  
resonates with her... the turpitude thing.

And she comes to a conclusion as she stubs out the smoke.

Kassie heads back for the party... but the door won't open.  
She tries it again... it's locked.

As she bangs on the door.

KASSIE  
Hello! I'm locked out here!

INT. PARTY - SAME

Wally wonders through the party. He turns up the volume on  
the stereo as he passes it.

As Wally finds Sandy and pulls him aside.

WALLY  
So Kassie had to go.

SANDY  
What? Where?

WALLY  
To see her dealer. The guy's  
paranoid so she went alone.  
(MORE)

WALLY (cont'd)  
 She's picking up some drugs --  
 ecstasy and I think some viagra.

Sandy raises a brow.

WALLY  
 Look, she's a bit of a freak show  
 but great in bed. And she digs  
 you.

SANDY  
 She digs me?

As Wally writes something down.

WALLY  
 It's so on. She wanted me to tell  
 you that. Those exact words.

Sandy's eyes light up. Wally hands Sandy the slip of paper.

WALLY  
 She wants you to meet you at this  
 address. You need to leave right  
 now.

EXT. BALCONY - SAME

Kassie bangs on the door... but the music from the party is  
 too loud for anyone to hear.

As she bangs one more time...

EXT. 3RD AVENUE - NIGHT

Furious, Kassie walks quickly. Wally keeping stride.

KASSIE  
 What did you do, Wally?

WALLY  
 I sent him to Harlem.

KASSIE  
 You have no right. I wasn't even  
 going to do it.

WALLY  
 It wasn't right. It was of il--  
 you weren't going to do it?

KASSIE  
 I could never do that... it was  
 just a fanciful thought that I let  
 breathe.

She stops and faces him.

KASSIE  
But where the hell do you get off,  
Wally Mars?

And he blurts out...

WALLY  
Don't do it.

KASSIE  
You can't just do whatever you want  
because you think you're right.

WALLY  
Don't have this kid, Kassie.

KASSIE  
You're not the moral authority of  
life and you've got serious impulse  
problems.

WALLY  
You're acting like those movie  
stars who get kids because they  
want kids but they don't want to be  
parents.

KASSIE  
Don't tell me what to do!

WALLY  
Fine!  
(takes a beat, then...)  
But don't do it.

She throws up her arms in frustration.

KASSIE  
What is it, Wally? Why does my  
wanting a child make you feel so  
small?

WALLY  
It doesn't make me feel small.

KASSIE  
Then why, Wally? Why is this so  
hard for you?

WALLY  
Because--

And he stops short.

KASSIE  
Why? Because why?

WALLY

Because if you do this...  
everything will change between us  
and I'll never see you.

A moment for it to resonate with her. Then...

WALLY

And because it makes me feel small.

And she looks into his eyes. Sees genuine pain. Softens.

KASSIE

I think it's best if we take a  
break.

He sharply turns away.

KASSIE

Because I'm going to do it, Wally.  
I'm going to have a child.

She leans in and kisses his forehead... slow and with care...

KASSIE

I'll call you when I'm ready.

And she turns... and she goes...

INT. AU MANDARIN - DAY

Wally and Leonard lunch at this upscale Financial District eatery with a woman in her seventies named MARTHA.

LEONARD

The tax benefits to the foundation  
would accrue in a flow-through  
situation.

As Wally eats, he quietly moans... making love to his food.  
Leonard kicks him under the table. Wally stops.

MARTHA

(cutting through the  
bullshit)

I'm willing to commit the liquid  
assets right now. Once we sell the  
real estate holdings -- those as  
well.

Leonard shares a look with Wally. This is big money.

MARTHA

I don't use the internet but my son won't shut up at how well these stocks are doing. He says I'm missing the boat.

LEONARD

Well, we have access to the brightest internet and technology analysts in the world.

WALLY

But you should always diversify.

Leonard throws Wally a deadly look.

LEONARD

That's up for debate. Martha, this is the new economy... many of the old fiscal barometers simply don't apply anymore.

Martha stands.

MARTHA

I'm going to leave the allocation up to you. Where's the washroom?

Leonard stands and directs her. When he returns...

LEONARD

What are you doing?

WALLY

I'm sorry, I don't even realize I'm doing it... Kassie calls it making love to my food.

LEONARD

Not that. "Always diversify." What is that crap? Do you have any idea how much more our take is in the optical and biotech funds?

WALLY

It's a bubble, Leonard.

LEONARD

You don't know that!

WALLY

(exacerbated)  
It's a bubble. It's a bubble.  
It's a bubble.  
(and then)

(MORE)

WALLY (cont'd)  
Blodget's a glorified surfer,  
Becker's a twit, Bartiromo is not a  
movie star... I swear -- this  
thing's going to pop.

An impasse. Silence, then...

LEONARD  
I'm getting another divorce.

WALLY  
Jesus, Leonard.

LEONARD  
I want the money in optical  
networking, semiconductors and  
biotech...

WALLY  
It's not just her money. It's a  
foundation. Scholarships and  
cancer research...

Martha heads back toward the table. Leonard quietly asserts.

LEONARD  
You're pissing me off, Wally.

Under his breath...

WALLY  
It's a bubble.

INT. WALLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A nice Union Square two bedroom co-op with Southern views.  
Tastefully decorated with indirect lighting and framed prints  
from recent Met exhibits.

Wally heads in while checking his mail. He stops on a large  
envelope and immediately rips it open.

WALLY  
You have to be kidding me.

And we see the invitation for Kassie's "I'm Getting Pregnant"  
party... only in New York.

INT. 820 5TH AVE/LOBBY - MORNING

An insanely opulent lobby to one of the most expensive  
addresses in the world. In his suit, Wally waits on a couch.

The elevator doors open and Martha emerges with two toy dogs  
on leashes. She greets him.

MARTHA

Wally, this is highly unusual.

WALLY

I know. Thanks for meeting on short notice.

MARTHA

Well, you can walk Mitzi and Burt with me.

EXT. 5TH AVENUE - MORNING

Wally and Martha walk her dogs.

WALLY

My father was an old school broker. A commission jockey... a relic. When I was eight years old, he took me to the local pharmacy.

She's looks at him -- interested as to where this is heading.

WALLY

He grabbed a can of Barbasol shaving cream then asked me to predict what would happen to its price if it were the only one in the store and everyone in New Rochelle needed a shave.

(and then)

He must've seen something in me because most eight year olds couldn't grasp the concept of Keynesian efficiency... but I was hooked right away. Supply and demand. It narrowed the world for me. It was... honest.

And he stops walking, turns to her -- arrives at the point.

WALLY

Martha, what's going on in certain areas of the market today couldn't be farther from efficient or honest.

She slowly nods. Understanding what he's trying to tell her.

INT. KASSIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The party in progress. Think birthday meets Bachelorette.

Nodding hello to a few familiar faces, Wally heads into the kitchen and fixes himself a drink. He pours it heavy and sucks it down. Surveying his first and probably only...

## I'M GETTING PREGNANT PARTY

Music. Balloons and baby decorations. Mostly women but some men. Candles everywhere.

Wally pours himself another drink. Sucks down a large gulp.

And Wally sees Kassie, laughing with a few friends... telling some story. She catches Wally's gaze and holds it for a beat... then turns back to her group.

PABLO, Kassie's rail-thin African American gay friend, joins Wally's side.

PABLO

Not in the mingling mood, Wally?

WALLY

No, I'm in the avoiding mood.

(then)

I've counted six women here that Kassie set me up with over the last five years.

PABLO

Aha.

They just stand side by side taking in the party. Until...

WALLY

This whole thing is crazy. A party for insemination. I mean, who does that?

PABLO

I think it's kitchy.

Wally finishes his drink. Then...

WALLY

Gays think everything is kitchy.

As he pours himself another...

WALLY

It's wrong and it's indulgent.

PABLO

You really need to hear yourself one of these days, Wally... you're a poster boy for transparency.

Wally simply lifts his glass to that then downs another gulp.

PABLO

Have you met the donor yet?

WALLY  
(surprised)  
He's here?

PABLO  
Oh yes.

As he goes...

PABLO  
(sing song)  
And he's hot...

INT. PARTY - LATER

Wally leans against the wall. He's drunk. A woman in her late 30's named BECKY faces him.

BECKY  
Hi Wally Mars.

WALLY  
Becky.

BECKY  
Still not married I see.

He notices her ring.

WALLY  
That's right, Becky -- you win.

BECKY  
I wish my husband were here. I told him all about you.

WALLY  
I'm sure you did.

And she regards him. For a long moment. Then...

BECKY  
You weren't very nice to me.

WALLY  
I was honest, Becky. The whole time.

And he looks over to see Kassie in conversation with someone.

BECKY  
Oh -- you're way too late on that one, Wally.

With that, she goes. Wally takes it in stride. Closes his eyes in anguish. Then...

KASSIE (O.S.)  
Is she still angry?

And Wally opens his eyes to find Kassie in front of him.

WALLY  
She's married now.

KASSIE  
Not happily.

And she leans against the wall next to him with...

KASSIE  
I didn't know if you'd come.

WALLY  
There was a business trip that I  
was going on but... here I am.

KASSIE  
Why?

With a capitulatory sigh...

WALLY  
Because there wasn't any business  
trip.

KASSIE  
I missed you.

He nods.

WALLY  
How do you know it's even going to  
work?

KASSIE  
I don't. But my basal body  
temperature is raised, my period  
was fourteen days ago and my  
secretions are luteinized... I'm in  
a very follicular place.

He simply shakes his head in disapproval.

KASSIE  
What?

As he sucks down the rest of his drink then angrily pulls  
away from the wall and heads for the kitchen to refill it...

WALLY  
Let's just say I'm not in a very  
follicular place right now.

As she watches him go!

INT. KITCHEN - LATER

Wally sucks down another. Five... six... not sure.  
He turns to be face to face with...

ROLAND NILSEN

Tall, long lemon yellow hair, slicing jaw-line, perfect complexion, big baby blue eyes and a toothy smile of strong white teeth that he casts onto Wally.

ROLAND  
Mind pouring me one?

WALLY  
Not at all.

Wally pours Roland a drink and hands it to him.  
They stand side by side taking in the party.

Wally zeros in on two guys, both super thin, eating voraciously off a platter on the dining room table.

WALLY  
Look at those shameless ectomorphs... stuffing their mouths with refined carbohydrates ... flaunting their metabolisms.

ROLAND  
I can't eat cheese anymore.

As Wally swigs off his glass...

WALLY  
What are they even eating?

ROLAND  
It's a pistou spread served with crostini.

WALLY  
I hate the French.

ROLAND  
So do I.

Wally turns to face Roland.

WALLY  
You do?

ROLAND  
I find them thankless and elitist.

WALLY  
Yes. That's exactly it.

Wally smiles and offers a hand.

WALLY  
Wally Mars.

Roland shakes his hand.

ROLAND  
Roland Nilsen.

As they both take in the lunacy of the event.

WALLY  
Only Kassie would do it this way.

ROLAND  
Yeah, I don't know her well.  
(and then)  
I'm the donor.

Wally lets it register.

WALLY  
I'm um... Wally... Kassie's best  
friend.

ROLAND  
Then you'll be around to take care  
of my kid.

Wally just regards him.

ROLAND  
That was of ill-color, I'm sorry.  
My wife would kill me if she heard  
that.

WALLY  
You're married?

ROLAND  
She's right there...

Roland points out his wife across the way... MARIE.

WALLY  
She's beautiful.

ROLAND  
Isn't she? She gave up a child for  
adoption when she was younger so  
she thinks this is fair.

(MORE)

ROLAND (cont'd)  
I don't particularly see it that way, but... we need the money.

Wally sucks down another big gulp.

WALLY  
How much is Kassie paying you?

ROLAND  
Thirty thousand. I'm going for a dual-masters at Columbia.

Drunk, Wally looks Roland up and down... this guy is beautiful, that's for sure... but also... invitingly benign.

And this kills Wally Mars.

As he glares at this man through rejected drunk small eyes...

WALLY  
Roland, did you know that only five percent of the male elephant seal population gets to mate with ninety-three percent of the females?

Roland smiles. Because somehow...

ROLAND  
I did.

As Wally sucks in another swig and heads on his way...

WALLY  
Good for you.

HALLWAY

Wally waits for the bathroom, turns and finds himself face to face with...

KASSIE  
I thought you left.

He swallows back his anger. Cements his furious gaze onto her.

KASSIE  
What the hell is wrong with you, Wally?

WALLY  
(fumbling)  
I can't believe... you... this is... what...

He can't get any words out...

KASSIE  
You're drunk.

WALLY  
I mean... how could... I can't  
believe...

She's getting frustrated.

KASSIE  
Use your words, Wally!

And he stops, faces her... calms into a piercing stare.

WALLY  
Vapid. Insignificant. Eliminated.

She holds his hurt look. Until...

KASSIE  
Holly's sick in there. Use the one  
off my bedroom.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Wally zips up his pants and flushes the toilet.

There's nothing to wash his hands with so he opens the  
cabinet under to the sink to see...

A PLASTIC DISH

closed tight. Officially called a "Semen Bottle." It looks  
like a small dish that people put baby food in. There's a  
sign on it; "DO NOT TOUCH". Next to it there's a turkey  
baster next to it and an issue of "Playboy's Girl Of The Ivy  
League."

Wally takes a deep breath, looks at the large breasted woman  
on the cover of the magazine then grabs the dish. He lays it  
on the sink and opens it.

ROLAND'S SPERM'S POV

looking up at Wally Mars... who looks down at us with pained  
squinty drunk eyes.

And we hear...

VOICE OF WALLY MARS  
And there you are... commanding  
height... lucid blue eyes...  
crushes of youth... rows of  
straight A's... first to third  
base... permanent parental pride...  
alpha bloodline...

(MORE)

VOICE OF WALLY MARS (cont'd)  
 all-star lineage... the lucky male  
 elephant seal...

AND WALLY

in a fit of anger... in a rush of impulse... in a drunk quick  
 movement... throws us into the sink -- the barrel of the  
 faucet staring us down.

VOICE OF WALLY MARS  
 (threatening)  
 You don't look so tough... just a  
 splash of water... that's all it  
 would take... just a... splash...

And he turns on the water... which races down at us.

And everything...

FADES TO BLACK

VOICE OF WALLY MARS  
 What did you do, Wally?

FADE BACK IN ON

an anguished Wally Mars. Breathless and sitting on the floor  
 -- his head buried into his hands.

WALLY  
 How are you going to tell her?

A long moment. The water splashes about in the sink.  
 That's all we hear. Wally is still... a longer moment...  
 excruciating stillness.

UNTIL WALLY MARS

raises his head... finds his feet... walks over to the  
 sink... turns it off... a new look on his face... one of  
 determination... one of concentration... looks down into the  
 newly washed out dish... turns to make sure the door is  
 locked... and then unzips his pants.

INT. WALLY'S APARTMENT - LATER

Darkness. Wally sleeps. Then suddenly... he shoots up with  
 a start.

WALLY  
 What did I do?!?

EXT. KASSIE'S HELL'S KITCHEN WALK-UP - LATE NIGHT

Wally quietly climbs the steps to Kassie's brick building and  
 removes a set of keys. He looks down the street in both  
 directions like he's about to rob the place.

INT. KASSIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Darkness. Until, the door knob slowly moves and light spills in from the hall. Wally heads into the living room apartment, quietly and carefully.

And Wally tip-toes toward that fateful bathroom to undo... his impulsive crime... but...

KASSIE (O.S.)  
What are you doing?

Startled, Wally jumps back. Sees...

KASSIE LARSON

on the couch... in her jammies... with her legs in the air.

WALLY  
Jesus! You scared the hell out of me.

KASSIE  
Oh, I'm sorry I disturbed you breaking into my apartment.

WALLY  
I didn't break in. I used the spare set of keys you gave me. What are you doing?

KASSIE  
They say this helps. Why are you here at three in the morning?

WALLY  
So, you already... did it.

KASSIE  
Yes. Why are you here, Wally?

Good question. Wally takes a beat.

WALLY  
I came to talk you out of it.

KASSIE  
Not this again.

WALLY  
You still can. You can flush it out.

KASSIE  
Flush it out?

She leans forward into a normal position.

KASSIE  
You came here at three in the  
morning to say flush it out?

He confirms.

KASSIE  
Go home, Crazy.

WALLY  
What are the chances it works?

KASSIE  
Because you're rooting against it?

WALLY  
Yes. You don't understand. I...  
Shit... I...

She just looks at him. Listening.

KASSIE  
You... ?

A long moment. He can't do it.

WALLY  
What are the chances?

KASSIE  
Go home.

As he backpedals toward the door.

WALLY  
Okay.

And she resumes the fertility position -- legs in the air.

KASSIE  
Okay.

But he doesn't go anywhere. Repeats...

WALLY  
What are the chances?

KASSIE  
Fifty percent!

Wally thinks about it. Decides he likes the number.

WALLY  
Okay. Good night.

He heads for the door. She calls out after him.

KASSIE

Wally?

And he stops and turns.

KASSIE

Leave the keys on the table.

INT. WALLY'S OFFICE - DAY

Leonard slams the door behind him. Furious.

LEONARD

What the hell did you do, Wally?

WALLY

Leonard--

LEONARD

Martha called me this morning. She wants at least two-thirds of the assets placed in old economy funds.

WALLY

Good for her. She'll be safe when the bubble pops.

LEONARD

You're fired.

WALLY

No, I'm not... you need me.

Leonard takes a seat with a sigh.

LEONARD

I know... but I wanted to say it.

Wally looks at a picture on his desk of he and Kassie on a beach in the Bahamas... gets lost in it.

LEONARD

Even if it does pop... even if you did the right thing... the way you went about it... the arrogance...

Wally's not listening...

LEONARD

It's not always enough to be right, Wally...

... lost in the picture.

LEONARD

Wally!

Wally snaps back.

WALLY

Sorry.

LEONARD

I want you to get help. You have a problem with self-control.

WALLY

I'm fine.

LEONARD

What about that disgusting picture you e-mailed me?

WALLY

I told you, I'm afraid I have prostate cancer and since you did a year in med school I figured--

LEONARD

I insist!

And Wally just shrugs.

EXT. VIVIAN BEAUMONT THEATER - NIGHT

A crowd exits the theater for intermission. The marquee reads "Susan Stroman's Contact." The theatergoers light up and turn on their cell phones.

Find Wally and Kassie in the mix.

KASSIE

It's not technically a musical. The recorded music and all. I mean it's resonant and moving... just not a musical.

Wally nods in agreement.

KASSIE

I miss you Wally. How come we haven't seen each other that much lately?

WALLY

I don't know... I've been busy.

KASSIE

Since my party you've been very unavailable to me.

WALLY  
 Just work... the market's  
 crashing... I knew it was a  
 bubble...

KASSIE  
 I'm pregnant.

He stops. Lets it register for the shortest of beats,  
 then... continues...

WALLY  
 ... people are panicking... and  
 it's only going to go down  
 further...

KASSIE  
 Did you hear what I just said?

He faces her. Looks in her eyes. Swallows.

WALLY  
 Yes. I heard you.

And Wally's now sweating, flushed red and...

KASSIE  
 You're shaking, Wally.

WALLY  
 I'm happy for you. I really am.

She sizes him up and down.

KASSIE  
 Wally, are you okay?

Wally doesn't answer her. He just stands there --  
 thunderstruck and shell-shocked.

INT. VIVIAN BEAUMONT THEATER/LOBBY - LATER

Stunned and starrng straight ahead, Wally sits on a bench  
 nursing a water. Kassie has a seat next to him.

KASSIE  
 Wally. I have something to tell  
 you.

We can hear the live show wafting in from the theater.

WALLY  
 I think I have something to tell  
 you.

KASSIE

Okay.

WALLY

You go first.

KASSIE

I'm moving back to Minnesota.

It takes a moment to register. He turns to her.

WALLY

When are you going?

KASSIE

Next month.

He's almost in tears.

WALLY

I don't know what to say. I'm just... shattered.

KASSIE

You'll come visit.

As she studies him up and down...

KASSIE

You've never been this emotional before, Wally. It kind of doesn't suit you...

Wall recedes in thought... aloud...

WALLY

It is best for the kid... isn't it? Minnesota. There's orchards and plenty of room to play and benign people who fish and able educators who aren't resigned to pass illiterate children.

A little misty-eyed...

WALLY

I'm going to miss you.

KASSIE

I'm going to miss you too, Wally, I really am.

As they hold the look.

KASSIE

What were you going to tell me?

And Wally takes a moment. Then he swallows and lies...

WALLY

I forgot.

INT. WALLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Wally looks out onto Union Square below. All the lights are off in his apartment. He's deep in thought -- very alone.

VOICE OF WALLY MARS

What do people do when they're this alone?

INT. WALLY'S APARTMENT - DAY

STRIKE PRICE nervously smells the wall. He's a six week old adorable Portuguese Water Dog.

Wally watches Strike Price from across the way. He smiles and turns to see that picture of him and Kassie taken in the Bahamas. And he gets lost in it.

And Wally finally looks back to see his new puppy's first donation to the apartment.

INT. WALLY'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Strike Price runs full steam ahead and stops... his paws sliding him across the wood floor. He's a gorgeous strong boy of seven, his coat shining... his tongue wagging.

CARD: TODAY

And Strike Price jumps onto the bed. Waking up Wally.

WALLY

Hey buddy.

Strike Price licks his owner voraciously. And seven years older, Wally now has some gray... just a little... on the sides... it looks good. He's aged well.

The lump next to Wally comes to life. She rubs her eyes. Her name is PAULINE and she's cute. Not beautiful but really sweet with small almond eyes and an accent.

PAULINE

Bon Jour Strike Price...

A French accent. She leans over and kisses Wally.

PAULINE

We should see that movie about the Dolphins?

WALLY  
I can't. I've got a ton a work  
today. I'm actually going into the  
office.

As she plays with his hair.

PAULINE  
Why do you always run away in the  
morning?

WALLY  
I don't.

PAULINE  
You do... you always have  
something. What are you afraid of?

WALLY  
Look, what'd I tell you when we  
first got together. Don't fall in  
love with me.

She starts to vacantly pet Strike Price.

PAULINE  
What's so bad about falling in love  
with you, Wally?

WALLY  
I'm not looking for that right now.

She looks down. Hurt. Rejected.

PAULINE  
What makes you so special?

And the phone rings. Wally smiles to Pauline... the phone rings  
again. Wally doesn't answer it.

EXT. 7TH AVENUE - DAY

Wally walks Strike Price down the street... his cell phone to  
his ear.

AUTOMATED VOICE  
You have one new message.

VOICE OF KASSIE LARSON  
Wally! Guess what? We're moving  
back to New York!

Wally stops dead in his tracks -- Strike Price yanked back.

VOICE OF KASSIE LARSON  
 I got an amazing offer from CBS  
 evening news and they're going to  
 pay for Dalton. Sebastian's  
 already practicing his accent.  
 Call me -- this is so exciting!

And Wally doesn't move. Just looks at his phone.

EXT. WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK - DAY

Leonard and Wally walk through the square holding their  
 coffees. Wally finishes up his dilemma...

WALLY  
 ... and now she's back and she  
 doesn't know.

Leonard is white. Takes a seat on a bench.

LEONARD  
 Jesus...

Wally sits down next to him.

WALLY  
 I know.

LEONARD  
 Is that... even... legal?

WALLY  
 I don't know. Probably not.

And Leonard turns to Wally. A little stunned.

LEONARD  
 I've cheated on everyone of my  
 wives and three of my mistresses.  
 I've lied to my children. I've  
 sold information... I've pumped and  
 dumped... I've cooked books.  
 (and then)  
 But you've put me to shame with  
 this one, Wally.

WALLY  
 I know. It's horrible.

They sit in silence, until...

LEONARD  
 I feel like I need to take a  
 shower.

INT. WALLY'S OFFICE - DAY

Wally paces while speaking loudly toward his speaker-phone.

WALLY  
What's his favorite food?

From the squawk box.

KASSIE (O.S.)  
Chinese.

WALLY  
Great. I know this place on Bayard  
that has the best duck. Does he  
like duck?

Wally inadvertently grabs a piece of paper off his desk and crumples it up.

KASSIE (O.S.)  
Duck's fine, Wally.

Wally closes an eye and aims for the trash can across the way. It's a pretty easy shot.

WALLY  
This duck is the best. If I get  
him a baseball glove will he like  
that?

And Wally shoots... and completely misses...

KASSIE (O.S.)  
He's not really that athletic.

WALLY  
Then what should I get him?

INTERCUT AS NECESSARY

with Kassie as she's checking into the Le Meridien hotel.

KASSIE  
He collects picture frames.

WALLY  
Picture frames?

KASSIE  
Yes. It's weird. He's weird,  
Wally. He doesn't put pictures in  
them.

WALLY  
That is unusual.

KASSIE  
We'll see you tonight.

She closes her cellular and receives her room key from the clerk. She looks around the lobby to see a bellboy giving her son, SEBASTIAN, a ride on the luggage cart.

She heads over and nods to the bellboy.

KASSIE  
Thanks.

She grabs her son's hand.

AND SEBASTIAN LARSON

Seven years old, small, precocious, glasses, Wally's features softened by Kassie's beauty -- the best of the both of them.

And he looks up to her with a big smile.

SEBASTIAN  
That was cool.

INT. CAB - NIGHT

Kassie rides with her arm around her son. He looks to his feet.

KASSIE  
Are you sad?

He looks up to her sad eyes.

SEBASTIAN  
I'm homesick.

She kisses his head.

KASSIE  
I know baby.

SEBASTIAN  
I think I have cyclothymic disorder.

KASSIE  
I don't know what that is but you don't have it.

He lists the symptoms by rote.

SEBASTIAN  
 Sadness, loss of interest and/or  
 pleasure, lack of sexual drive,  
 changes in appetite, insomnia,  
 irregular bowel activity, slow  
 movement, guilt and poor  
 concentration.

KASSIE  
 I thought I made myself clear about  
 Web MD!

He just sadly looks out the window.

KASSIE  
 Your uncle Wally is so excited --  
 he hasn't seen you in two years. I  
 think he got you some frames.

SEBASTIAN  
 (pouting)  
 He doesn't know which ones I  
 already have.

Kassie begins to get angry.

KASSIE  
 I don't want you acting like this  
 all night, Sebastian.  
 (calms)  
 I know you're sad to leave home and  
 you're scared about living in a new  
 city but it's going to be great.  
 You have to trust me on this.

SEBASTIAN  
 I have trust issues.

KASSIE  
 You don't have trust issues.

Silence, until Sebastian vacantly notices that...

SEBASTIAN  
 This city is dirtier than Saint  
 Paul.

EXT. CANTON RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Hands full of wrapped gifts, Wally excitedly greets the cab.  
 Kassie and Sebastian get out. Wally hugs Kassie.

KASSIE  
 Wally Mars! We haven't seen you in  
 two years -- you look good.

They break and Wally smiles down to little Sebastian.

WALLY

Hey Sebastian. You're a New Yorker now.

Sebastian smiles...

SEBASTIAN

No.

Wally smiles back. They hold the look. Until...

PAULINE

Hello. I'm Pauline.

As Wally snaps back...

WALLY

Right. This is Pauline.

And Kassie's face falls.

KASSIE

Hi Pauline.

PAULINE

Wally has told me all about you.

Kassie forms plastic smile. Nods. Clearly taken off guard and upset. Pauline bends down to face Sebastian.

PAULINE

And how are you, Sebastian?

SEBASTIAN

I have cyclothymic disorder.

INT. CANTON RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Sebastian unwraps his gifts -- all picture frames. With each one, he announces...

SEBASTIAN

Have it. Have it. Oh cool, I could use another Boom Magna Lucite...

Wally looks to Kassie who can only shrug.

SEBASTIAN

Have it... Awesome -- a four by six Lunt Sterling Silver!

That was the last one.

WALLY

I'm sure you can return the ones  
you already have.

PAULINE

Think of all the great pictures you  
can put in them, Sebastian.

And Sebastian shoots her dirty look.

SEBASTIAN

(duh!)

I don't put pictures in them.

PAULINE

Okay.

Pauline gives Wally a glance. He breaks the moment.

WALLY

Do you still go onto Homestar  
runner.com, Sebastian?

SEBASTIAN

Yeah. Strong Bad is so funny.

Pauline rubs her hand through Wally's hair.

PAULINE

What is this Homestar?

Wally grabs her hand, takes it out of his hair, squeezes it  
for a perfunctory beat then lets it go.

SEBASTIAN

Nothing.

KASSIE

They E-mail each other these stupid  
cartoon web sites.

SEBASTIAN

They're not stupid.

The WAITRESS brings a huge platter of roasted duck.

WALLY

Okay, the main attraction. I had  
to call to preorder this... it's  
their specialty and it's the best  
duck in the world!

Sebastian blankly looks at the platter.

SEBASTIAN

I can't eat duck.

WALLY

What?

SEBASTIAN

Wally, do you know what they do to the ducks at the waterfowl farms?

KASSIE

Sweetie, that was veal!

SEBASTIAN

No, I read about the ducks too.

KASSIE

I thought I made myself clear about peta.com!

Kassie already sighs in defeat. Wally looks at her.

WALLY

What is this?

KASSIE

Not good.

SEBASTIAN

They force feed the ducks seven pounds of food a day through a plastic tube they drill into their throats.

WALLY

I had to call and specially order this.

They're going to toe to toe. Pauline tries to calm Wally.

PAULINE

C'mon Wally. It's okay.

SEBASTIAN

The ducks get this liver disease called hepatic lipidosis and they can't walk.

Kassie leans into Sebastian and whispers.

KASSIE

I want you to stop this right now.

WALLY

It costs eighty-four dollars and it's one of the most delicious culinary treats in the world.

Wally stares him down. Sebastian doesn't budge.

SEBASTIAN  
I won't do it, uncle Wally... and  
I'll hate you if you do.

The kid is intractable. Kassie sighs.

KASSIE  
He's stubborn, Wally... maybe more  
than you.

Wally looks at the sizzling duck platter.  
Then back to Sebastian who simply shrugs.

SEBASTIAN  
I like sushi.

EXT. UNIVERSITY PLACE - NIGHT

Wally and Pauline walk slowly through the village.

PAULINE  
The sushi was good, no?

WALLY  
Yeah, I mean that duck would've  
been better.

She agrees. They walk in silence, until...

PAULINE  
Why do you e-mail a little boy,  
Wally?

WALLY  
What?

PAULINE  
It is strange. You would e-mail  
Sebastian.

WALLY  
No. It's just...

His thought trails off. They keep walking.

PAULINE  
And tomorrow, you are taking off  
from work to be with him?

Wally just shrugs.

PAULINE  
I'm sorry -- I think it's strange.

And Wally... just keeps walking... with no answer to that.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK ZOO - DAY

Wally and Sebastian stand in awe of the PEACOCKS while they flaunt their impressive plumage.

WALLY

Peacocks have always been a bit of a mystery.

SEBASTIAN

I think puppets are a mystery.

Wally regards the boy for a beat, then...

WALLY

Yeah. In most other species, the females mate with the strongest males but female peacocks mate with the prettiest. In a sense, peacock females are more like the males of most species.

Sebastian points to the peacocks.

SEBASTIAN

Are those males?

WALLY

Yes. It's evolution. Those magnificent colors. Do you know what evolution is, Sebastian?

As they walk through the zoo.

SEBASTIAN

No -- do you know what Parkinson's disease is?

WALLY

Yes -- there was this guy named Charles Darwin and he came up with this theory called natural selection.

SEBASTIAN

Do you ever get scared that you could have Parkinson's disease?

Wally ignores the question, continues...

WALLY

Natural selection basically states that the females in all breeds mate with the strongest males and thus weed out weakness within the species.

Sebastian looks up at him. Now listening...

WALLY

But Darwin's theory was resisted by scientists across the globe for years.

SEBASTIAN

Why, Wally?

WALLY

Because scientists are by and large scrawny... and they couldn't accept the rejection.

A moment, then...

SEBASTIAN

That was a joke.

WALLY

Yes, Sebastian, it was.

Sebastian thinks about it for a beat, then...

SEBASTIAN

Sometimes a joke can be funny without me laughing.

Wally looks down at the boy with easy loving eyes and agrees.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK/PLAYGROUND - DAY

Wally takes it in... a day in the park... with his son. They swing side by side in silence, until...

WALLY

Sebastian, what do you know of your father?

SEBASTIAN

I don't have a father. Mom had me all by herself. I'm special that way.

WALLY

But you know -- a man had to be involved with um... your mother getting pregnant...

Sebastian stares at his feet as they fly in the air.

SEBASTIAN

Duh...

WALLY

What do you know about him? The man that helped your mom get pregnant.

Sebastian doesn't answer. Retreats within a bit. Wally senses this and doesn't push.

SEBASTIAN

Sometimes I get scared that I have Parkinson's disease.

WALLY

You don't have Parkinson's disease, Sebastian.

SEBASTIAN

But I blink too much.

WALLY

Trust me. You don't have Parkinson's.

And Sebastian says it so quietly.

SEBASTIAN

I have trust issues.

And Wally admires the boy -- sees himself.

EXT. LE MERIDIEN HOTEL - DAY

Kassie waits at the 57th street entrance of the hotel. And she sees them before they see her.

WALLY AND SEBASTIAN

walking in a lock step... with the same stride... both of them completely at ease... Sebastian talking Wally's ear off... and Wally truly listening to him.

And Kassie takes this in... this sight... man and boy...

Sebastian now sees his mother, breaks a sprint toward her.

AND KASSIE LARSON

picks up her boy, showers him with kisses, looks up, right at Wally -- eyes connect -- and she smiles...

AND WALLY MARS

holds the smile, takes in this sight -- Sebastian and Kassie together -- and it registers to him that she's never looked more beautiful...

INT. JECKYLL AND HYDE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A horror-themed restaurant with costumed creeps and bad food. Sebastian plays a video game across the way while Wally and Kassie wait for the check.

KASSIE

I just thought it was weird because you hate the French.

WALLY

She's great. I'm not sure it will last but she's really... great.

As Wally looks over to Sebastian playing the video game.

WALLY

I can't believe how fast he's growing up.

KASSIE

You're amazing with him. The gifts and the time you've spent. The duck thing.

(and then)

The Wally Mars I knew six years ago wouldn't have given in like that.

WALLY

Well, he's an incredible kid.

With a smile...

KASSIE

Yeah but... it's more than that. You've grown up.

And he holds her look with confidence.

WALLY

We both have.

KASSIE

Maybe.

Now they both admire the boy for a beat, then...

KASSIE

I was so arrogant then, Wally. It was selfish, actually... I wanted a baby but I didn't want a family. But what I'm learning is... what...

She sorts through her thoughts -- this is important to her.

KASSIE

I was fearless of rearing but  
horrified of love. Truth is -- I  
really was only thinking of myself  
the way I brought him into this  
world.

WALLY

But you don't regret it?

KASSIE

Please -- how could I regret  
anything that has to do with him.

WALLY

Exactly.

KASSIE

Let me tell you -- my pathology was  
Narcissistic, I'll admit it. My  
romantic head-space was weak, it  
was lazy. So yes... everything  
that lead to that little boy was  
wrong... but something so right  
came out of that wrong.

And this resonates Wally into a smile...

WALLY

The ends justified the means.

KASSIE

Exactly.

High off a what feels like a victory, Wally looks around.

WALLY

This place bugs.

KASSIE

Totally.

They share a smile. Sebastian runs over and Wally hands him  
another dollar bill before he even asked.

SEBASTIAN

Thanks.

With that... he's gone.

KASSIE

Jesus, I think I've had one too many  
Mummy's Elixirs -- I can't believe  
I'm going to say this.

(MORE)

KASSIE (cont'd)  
 And it's not out of weakness, or  
 laziness... but out of institution...  
 out of sentiment... out of biological  
 and hard-wired need... I want a man,  
Wally.

(sums it up)  
 I want a man for me and I want a  
 man for him.

And Wally registers this with a slow nod.

INT. TARGET - DAY

Playing hookey from work, Leonard and Wally walk through the  
 aisles. Every few feet, Wally throws something new into the  
 cart.

Leonard just looks at him.

WALLY  
 What?

LEONARD  
 Are you kidding?

Toys... basketballs...

WALLY  
 No. I'm not. I'm not kidding.

LEONARD  
 I don't think you fully understand  
 the situation.

WALLY  
 Why don't you explain it to me  
 then?

... video games... DVDs...

LEONARD  
 Okay. You're spoiling your son.  
 Who doesn't know he's your son.  
 Because his mother never actually  
 slept with you.

Wally is lost in thought, then...

WALLY  
 After the male honeybee climaxes,  
 his genitals explode inside the  
 female in order to create a  
 blockage...

LEONARD  
 Interesting.

As they make their way to check-out line...

WALLY

Yes, it is. He actually dies for the sake of this homemade chastity belt.

LEONARD

Wally, do you have a point?

WALLY

I do. All of this... Darwin... sperm wars... blood-line battles... it's nature... it's... natural...

LEONARD

But we're not bees.

As they step up to the CLERK.

WALLY

The Jordan salamander... Leonard, the Jordan salamander male will camouflage himself to look like a female and then actually have sex with his rival. And after his rival is satisfied and has gone off to produce new sperm, that tricky salamander will then get with the female and win the day.

And Wally smiles to the patient clerk then hands her his credit card.

WALLY

It wasn't his strength or size that advanced his blood-line, Leonard. It was his cunning!

LEONARD

It's a justification.

WALLY

It's evolution.

LEONARD

Then it's an evolutionary justification.

As he signs the slip, gathers the bags and heads for the door...

WALLY

All my life I've given into myself... into my emotions... and I've always gotten away with it.

LEONARD

I don't know what to say.

And Wally stops, turning to his boss...

WALLY

I do. I know what you should say.

LEONARD

Okay. Help me out.

WALLY

It's not going to work, Wally. You can't run away from consequence... nobody can.

LEONARD

That sounds right.

WALLY

The ends don't justify the means.

LEONARD

Exactly.

WALLY

Honesty will set you free.

Leonard agrees. They hold the look, until Wally sucks in a troubled breath, then...

WALLY

And you'd be right.

INT. BEACON RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A midtown restaurant with soft lighting and good fish. Wally's nervous. Fidgeting.

Kassie works her wine while talking.

KASSIE

He does it for attention. All the internet parental control programs focus on porn. I can't find any that block on medicinal webpages... it's ridiculous.

Wally vacantly nods. Not all there.

KASSIE

It was because I was seeing a doctor in Minnesota. Sweet guy, didn't feel it. But Sebastian bonded with him.

(then)

(MORE)

KASSIE (cont'd)  
That was the worst part of breaking  
it off. Shit, that's when I knew I  
had to move back here.

Wally sucks in some air, nervous, readying himself for...

WALLY  
Kassie, there's something I think I  
need to confess to you.

Not missing a beat.

KASSIE  
I know, what it is.

WALLY  
I don't think so.

KASSIE  
Yes, I do... because I feel it too.

Wally summons a breath for confidence. And...

WALLY  
The night you threw the part-- feel  
what?

KASSIE  
It's just since I've been back...  
the way you've changed... the way  
you are with Sebastian.

And she takes his hand.

KASSIE  
That's what you were trying to say.  
That you have feelings for me. No?

Overwhelmed, Wally looks at their hands locked in a hold and  
doesn't answer.

KASSIE  
I know. I didn't plan it this way  
either. Trust me -- I did not come  
back here thinking this would  
happen.

And he just looks at her. Not expecting this.  
Not knowing how to react...

WALLY  
What would happen?

KASSIE  
Remember that night in the Bahamas  
when we kissed?

WALLY  
No. Not really. I mean, I guess.

KASSIE  
Yes, you do.

Wally removes his hand. He's somehow now getting angry.

WALLY  
We were drunk.

KASSIE  
You were a good kisser.

He looks away. Then back... not sure why he's so upset.

WALLY  
This sucks.

KASSIE  
Ouch.

WALLY  
I wanted to tell you something  
tonight and now...

Stops short. Just regards her.

KASSIE  
What? Wally, now what?

WALLY  
Now I can't.

KASSIE  
Yes, you can.

WALLY  
No. I can't. Because you're  
confusing me.

KASSIE  
I'm not trying to confuse you,  
Wally, I'm trying to seduce you.

And Wally goes to his feet -- flustered and insecure.

WALLY  
I wasn't good enough for you seven  
years ago but now I am?

KASSIE  
That's not true.

On the defensive... no idea what she's done wrong...

KASSIE  
I'm drinking wine. I'm attracted  
to you.

WALLY  
No you're not. Because I'm not  
attractive and we both know it.

And he goes.

EXT. 57TH STREET - NIGHT

Wally storms down the street. Kassie catches his stride.

KASSIE  
You've always been so insecure,  
Wally. Like that time the retarded  
guy on the corner called you a  
lopsided-faced-asshole.

Still walking. Not looking at her. But correcting...

WALLY  
Potato-head-looking-motherfucker.

KASSIE  
Whatever. Stop walking. Wally,  
stop walking and look at me.

Now he's more angry.

WALLY  
I can't believe I have a lopsided  
face...

KASSIE  
Oh my god!

WALLY  
You just said it. Lopsided-face-  
asshole.

KASSIE  
Well the asshole part is true.

And he finally stops and turns to face her.

WALLY  
What do you want from me, Kassie?

KASSIE  
I want...

With a shrug...

KASSIE

... you.

He nods sharply. Listening. Nervous. Angry. Waiting.

KASSIE

You're kind and you're honest and  
you're funny and you don't look  
like a potato and your face is  
symmetrical...

She takes a beat, not finished, then...

KASSIE

And my kid's crazy about you.  
And you're incredible with him.

As she moves closer to him. Their mouths inches apart.

KASSIE

We were different people back then.

Silence. The look holds, until... he grabs her.  
And he kisses her. Long. Hard. Explosive and unending.

And She has to catch her breath before saying...

KASSIE

That little boy grew me up, Wally.

As they unite in a flurry of baby kisses.

KASSIE

I wasn't afraid to have  
Sebastian... but I was too scared  
to have you.

He stops kissing.

WALLY

So, you rather I thought you as  
vapid than vulnerable?

She thinks about it for a beat... and confirms with a slight  
nod. He falls against the wall with a laugh. His lifetime  
frame of inadequacy obliterated in a moment... this moment.

WALLY

I'm blown away.  
(and then)  
I always thought I wasn't good  
looking enough.

Another kiss... scary good...

KASSIE  
You're beautiful, Wally Mars.

And another. It's like they've been drowning their whole lives and these kisses are air.

They finally stop. Hold a look.

KASSIE  
I think we need to get out of the street.

And he's charged.

WALLY  
Jesus.

They both are.

KASSIE  
I know.

WALLY  
Oh man.

KASSIE  
We should wait -- right?

WALLY  
Right. I think so.

KASSIE  
Or.

Charged again.

WALLY  
Right.

KASSIE  
Stop saying right, Wally.

WALLY  
Right.

KASSIE  
You're with someone.

WALLY  
I'm ending it.

KASSIE  
(concerned)  
Because of me?

WALLY  
No. I always end it.

KASSIE  
(sad)  
So not because of me?

WALLY  
I don't know. Do you want it to be  
because of you?

KASSIE  
Only if you want it to be because  
of me.

WALLY  
Kassie, I don't know what we're  
saying.

KASSIE  
Either do I.

Coming to the conclusion.

KASSIE  
We should wait.

And he looks at her -- draws in a breath. Agrees.

WALLY  
We should wait.

She agrees.

KASSIE  
Then I have to go right now. Very  
quickly. Otherwise--

WALLY  
Right.

So she quickly kisses him one more time then runs away in a  
little girl skip.

Stunned, Wally just leans against the wall, watches her go  
and collects himself.

INT. WALLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Pauline leans against the wall. Tears in her eyes.

Wally sits on the bed... hating this...

WALLY  
It's nobody's fault.

She nods. Wipes a tear.

WALLY

It's just that people are idealistic -- they want to believe their relationships are on equal footing but they rarely are.

He moves to her, tries to comfort her by placing his hand on her shoulder but it doesn't work so he quickly removes it.

WALLY

There's always someone with the power and someone without it. And when someone falls in love, they give up their power... and the imbalance ends up killing the whole thing.

And she looks up with...

PAULINE

You're very egotistical, Wally Mars.

WALLY

I know.

PAULINE

And you're very insecure.

He agrees. Gives her that.

PAULINE

I didn't think I could meet someone who could be both.

And then...

PAULINE

And I sure as hell didn't think I'd fall in love with him.

INT. WALLY'S APARTMENT - LATER

Wally sadly looks out the window... on the phone...

WALLY

She said I was both egotistical and insecure.

with...

KASSIE

Folding Sebastian's laundry.

KASSIE

You are.  
(then)  
Was it hard?

And he takes to a pace...

WALLY

It always is. There were times  
that I thought she might be falling  
in love with me but I never really  
believed it.

KASSIE

That's because you don't think you  
can be loved, Wally.

And he stops walking. Allows that to hang in silence.  
Until...

KASSIE

I'm sorry -- I shouldn't have said  
that.

Wally thinks for a moment. Then...

WALLY

Kassie?

KASSIE

Yes.

WALLY

What's Sebastian doing tomorrow?

INT. WALLY'S OFFICE - DAY

Sebastian and Wally sit on the couch eating ice cream.  
Strike Price at their feet... concentrating for any spillage.

Sebastian is completely fixated on the large electric ticker  
that wraps around the office.

SEBASTIAN

What are all those letters?

WALLY

They represent companies,  
Sebastian. I make money by buying  
at one price and selling them at a  
higher one.

SEBASTIAN

Do you know what all those letters  
mean?

WALLY  
Most of them.

Sebastian finishes his cone. Chocolate ice cream smeared all over his face.

SEBASTIAN  
How?

WALLY  
How do you know about all those picture frames, Sebastian?

As Strike Price jumps on his lap and licks up the ice cream.

SEBASTIAN  
I dunno... it's in my head.

WALLY  
Same thing.

SEBASTIAN  
Does everybody have as much room in their heads as we do, Uncle Wally?

And with a proud smile...

WALLY  
No.

And Sebastian -- his eyes fixated on the ticker.

SEBASTIAN  
But what makes them go up and down?

INT. 200 BROAD STREET/GIFT SHOP - DAY

NAHRA, the Pakistani owner of the shop, pets Strike Price while Wally indoctrinates Sebastian.

WALLY  
Okay, see all those cans of Pringles... let's say the store only had one can. And let's say everyone in the building decided they were hungry for Pringles. What would Nahra do?

SEBASTIAN  
Sell the can to the first person that came in the store?

WALLY  
Let's say fifty people came at the same time... all wanting that one can.

Sebastian looks to Nahra... then back at Wally.

SEBASTIAN  
Ask for more money?

WALLY  
Exactly. That's called demand.  
When there is demand... the price  
goes up. Now let's say nobody  
wanted the Pringles and Nahra had a  
hundred cans. How would he sell  
them?

SEBASTIAN  
But nobody wants them.

WALLY  
Let's just say they kinda wanted  
them but didn't really care.

Sebastian thinks about it for a moment, then...

SEBASTIAN  
He'd lower the price. Or give them  
away if someone bought something  
else.

Wally smiles proud.

WALLY  
That's called supply.

Sebastian lets the complexity of it register.

WALLY  
That's the basic idea of price  
fluctuation.

Sebastian thinks for a beat, a deep thought, then...

SEBASTIAN  
Wally?

WALLY  
Yeah...

SEBASTIAN  
Can I have a can of Pringles?

Wally takes a can to the counter while Nahra hands Strike  
Price back to Sebastian. As Nahra returns to the counter...

NAHRA  
You have a very smart son.

Wally starts to correct him but defers to say...

WALLY

I know.

INT. KATZ'S DELICATESSEN - DAY

As Sebastian and Wally devour the best pastrami in the world.

WALLY

Your first day of school is tomorrow.

SEBASTIAN

Yeah.

WALLY

Are you nervous?

Sebastian just shrugs.

SEBASTIAN

I dunno

And they eat in silence... until...

SEBASTIAN

(mouth full)

Nahra thought you were my father.

WALLY

I know. He gets confused sometimes.

Sebastian nods. A long moment... until he asks...

SEBASTIAN

Are you?

WALLY

What?

SEBASTIAN

Are you my father?

Wally looks down to the kid... who looks back up with big questioning eyes.

WALLY

No, Sebastian... I'm not.

Sebastian simply nods, inhales his sandwich then washes it down with a Dr. Brown's. Wally smiles... delighted at Sebastian's appetite.

And Wally hears something. Something disturbing.

Sebastian is quietly moaning while he eats. Wally stops eating and concentrates.

It's true -- the kid has inherited Wally's strange habit.

WALLY  
What are you doing?

SEBASTIAN  
Huh?

WALLY  
No! You can't be doing that?

SEBASTIAN  
What?

WALLY  
Making love to your food.

Sebastian just looks at him.

WALLY  
You're moaning while you eat.  
You don't notice it?

Sebastian just shrugs. Wally's mortified.

WALLY  
How long have you been doing this?

SEBASTIAN  
I dunno.

WALLY  
You can't do that! You can never  
do that... especially in front of  
your mother.

SEBASTIAN  
Why not, Wally?

WALLY  
Why not? Why not? I'll tell you  
why not...

And Sebastian -- wide eyed... waiting...

WALLY  
Because if you do that -- you can  
get Parkinson's disease.

Sebastian swallows in fear.

SEBASTIAN  
Really?

WALLY

Yes, this is very serious.

SEBASTIAN

But I don't even know when I do it.

WALLY

You have to be very careful,  
Sebastian, you have to pay  
attention while you eat, okay?

SEBASTIAN

But I don't understand how I can  
get Parkinson's disease if I moan  
while I eat...

WALLY

It's medical, Sebastian. They're  
still doing studies. Please,  
promise me... you will never do it  
again.

SEBASTIAN

I promise.

WALLY

And I don't want to worry your  
mother so let's keep this between  
us, okay?

And Sebastian... horrified...

WALLY

Now finish your sandwich.

Sebastian looks at his pastrami...

SEBASTIAN

I don't think I'm hungry anymore.

INT. WALLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Wally looks in the mirror intently. He's dressed very nice.  
He squints ardently to make sure he looks just right.  
And something else... he's a little nervous.

Excitedly, Strike Price runs up to him, sets to jump...

WALLY

Don't even think about it!

The dog gets the message, wags its tail and looks up at him.

INT. JOJO RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A romantic French Upper East Side eatery.

KASSIE

He'd been crying. He wouldn't talk about it but his first day of school clearly didn't go well.

With a frustrated sigh.

KASSIE

He's small. He's not athletic. Kids are cruel.

And Wally takes this in. And it really seems to bother him. As she thinks for a moment, then...

KASSIE

Also, can I ask you something?

WALLY

Anything.

She stops short and lightly laughs to herself.

KASSIE

Forget it.

WALLY

What? Tell me.

KASSIE

No. It's embarrassing.

WALLY

Because I've never done anything embarrassing in front of you...

Good point. Blushing, she leans forward and asks...

KASSIE

Okay, does it get bigger when you get older?

WALLY

What?

KASSIE

Well, Sebastian. His... you know... thing. I'm worried it's smaller than it should be.

WALLY

Jesus.

Covering her face in mortification.

KASSIE  
I know. Maybe it's his age.  
(then)  
Does it grow?

WALLY  
I think so.

KASSIE  
Well, did yours grow?

WALLY  
You mean more than the rest of my  
body?

Blushing, she confirms. Wally suddenly becomes very  
concerned as well as nervous.

WALLY  
You have to understand -- the  
difference in size between default  
and erect can be substantial.

KASSIE  
Default and erect? Why are you  
talking like a scientist?

WALLY  
(defensive)  
I'm just saying it shouldn't be  
judged without the blood.

KASSIE  
Without the blood?

He's now sweating.

WALLY  
Yes. It's a completely different  
beast.

This is excruciating... Kassie can't take it anymore.

KASSIE  
Know what -- forget I asked. I'm  
sure it's fine.

Pale as a ghost, he nods. She looks over the menu.

KASSIE  
Oh -- they have dorado.

Wally just stares blank ahead... disturbed.

WALLY  
Excuse me.

INT. JOJO RESTAURANT/BATHROOM, - NIGHT

As Wally heads into a stall produces his cell phone then unzips his pants.

AND LEONARD

In his apartment, looking at his cell phone for a long moment, then... speaking into it.

LEONARD

It's fine.

Standing at the sink...

WALLY

Fine? Just fine.

LEONARD

Yes. Wally. Normal.

A guy steps up to the sink and washes his hands.

WALLY

Know what -- that wasn't erect.  
You should see it erect.

Wally half-smiles to the guy at the sink then turns away.

WALLY

I'll get erect.

LEONARD

Wally! Listen to me. It's of  
normal size.

WALLY

Okay.

LEONARD

And don't worry about the kid...  
mine was on the small side at his  
age and you've seen it now.

WALLY

No, I haven't.

LEONARD

Well, you should. It's huge.

Wally closes his phone, takes a breath, then... heads out.

INT. JOJO RESTAURANT - NIGHT

And Wally moves across the restaurant to notice someone standing at their table... someone talking to Kassie... and as he approaches, Wally Mars realizes who that someone is.

WALLY

Roland.

And it is... Mr. Alpha Sperm himself. Seven years later and looking even better than he did then.

Roland doesn't recognize Wally.

WALLY

Wally. We've met at the pregnancy party.

ROLAND

Right. How are you?

Wally just nods and has a seat. Roland looks at Kassie.

ROLAND

You look great, Kassie. Minnesota was good for you.

KASSIE

I'm working at CBS now.

ROLAND

Kyle Ford told me it was a boy.

She slowly nods. A little uncomfortable.

KASSIE

How's Marie?

ROLAND

I hear she's fine.

KASSIE

Oh... Roland.

ROLAND

It's okay. Amicable. Woman marry believing their husbands will change; men marry believing their wives won't and well -- they're both wrong.

He smiles with resign -- at peace with this.

Kassie returns the smile. And it's not out of sympathy. Wally catches the exchange.

KASSIE  
His name's Sebastian.

ROLAND  
Does he look like me?

And Wally chimes in.

WALLY  
No.

KASSIE  
Do you -- want to join us?

WALLY  
No! I'm sure Roland is here with  
people, Kassie.

ROLAND  
Actually, since the divorce, I've  
learned to eat alone without shame.

WALLY  
You know. Roland... sometimes  
there is actual value to the  
emotion of shame.  
(a beat)  
It keeps animals with their herd so  
they don't get attacked.

Roland regards Wally for a beat. Then...

ROLAND  
Right. I'll um... leave you both  
to your meal.

KASSIE  
Are you sure?

ROLAND  
Yes. Enjoy.

He kisses her on the cheek, nods to Wally and heads on his  
way. Kassie sits back down.

WALLY  
(imitating Roland)  
"Women expect change and men don't  
and they're both wrong." What does  
he -- practice that enlightenment  
in the mirror?

KASSIE  
You were rude.

Wally simply shrugs. Severely upset.

EXT. LEXINGTON AVENUE - NIGHT

They walk in silence. Wally is clearly upset.  
Kassie cuddles up to him.

KASSIE

So... where to now?

And in self-imposed rejection.

WALLY

I'm tired. I'm going to go home.

A little confused and rebuffed, Kassie can only nod.

And he goes.

INT. A 757/FIRST CLASS - DAY

Leonard sits next to Wally. They both wear earphones and stare straight ahead at their little first class monitors through out the whole scene.

LEONARD

You're an idiot.

WALLY

I know.

LEONARD

You get in your own way.

WALLY

I know.

LEONARD

I've been married three times and  
I've never been in love.

Wally nods. Silence.

LEONARD

It doesn't come around all the time  
by the way.

A long moment, then...

WALLY

I know.

INT. NEWARK/BAGGAGE CLAIM - NIGHT

Waiting for his bag, Wally opens his cell and makes a call.

INTERCUT WITH

Kassie as she makes Sebastian's bed.

WALLY

Hey.

KASSIE

How was St. Louis?

WALLY

We got the pension.

KASSIE

That's good.

WALLY

Yes, it's a lot of money.

KASSIE

Good.

An uncomfortable beat, then...

WALLY

Look, the other night--

KASSIE

It's okay.

WALLY

I get in my own way sometimes.

KASSIE

Wally.

Wally grabs his garment bag off the belt. Heads for the exit.

WALLY

I act like an idiot. I'm over it now.

KASSIE

Wally.

WALLY

Yeah.

KASSIE

I went out with Roland.

He drops his bag.

INT. 57TH STREET DELI - NIGHT

Wally sits across from Kassie.

WALLY  
Reading thing?

KASSIE  
A reading. Of a book. About the  
Sudan. At the University.

WALLY  
Sudan?

KASSIE  
Yes, Wally. I'm confused. We're  
not exclusive and we haven't even  
been together and...

It trails off.

WALLY  
And what?

KASSIE  
And... well, when we went through  
the donation process... I had a  
major crush on him.

WALLY  
What does that have to do with  
anything? Everyone has a crush on  
him -- I have a crush on him.

KASSIE  
Every time I see my son, I'm forced  
to think about him.

Wally swallows his world.

WALLY  
But what about us?

KASSIE  
I'm confused Wally. Aren't I  
allowed to be confused?

WALLY  
No! Because you have a son! And  
people with children waive their  
right to confusion.

KASSIE  
That's the thing that makes this so  
difficult, Wally. Roland is  
Sebastian's natural father.

And now Wally swallows his tongue.

KASSIE

I'm not saying I don't want to see you anymore... or that I'm definitively interested in Roland.

She looks to her feet. Then back up. 'Sad.

KASSIE

I just need a few days to sort this out. Can you give me that?

He shakes his head in disgust.

KASSIE

Wally? Can you give me a few days?

As he slowly draws in a troubled breath, then...

WALLY

Yes.

And she matches it with a troubled breath of her own.

KASSIE

Thank you.

INT. WALLY'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Wally stares into the mirror. Checks the gray in his hair. Then he looks down to Strike Price and disapprovingly shakes his head...

WALLY

The God-damn Sudan...

INT. KASSIE'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Kassie opens the door in a fluster.

KASSIE

This isn't a few days, Wally!

She rushes through the apartment toward Sebastian's room.

KASSIE

He won't leave his room.

And she bangs on the door.

KASSIE

(shouting at the door)  
Sebastian! You need to come out!  
I'm not saying you have to go to school today but you need to talk to me about it!

(MORE)

KASSIE (cont'd)  
 (turns to Wally)  
 Why are you here?

SEBASTIAN (O.S.)  
 (from behind the door)  
 I don't want to!

WALLY  
 I need to know something.  
 (shouts at the door)  
 Hey Sebastian!

SEBASTIAN (O.S.)  
 Hi Wally.

She bangs on the door harder.

KASSIE  
 Open this door right now!  
 (turns to Wally)  
 Okay, what do you need to know,  
 Wally?

WALLY  
 Did he cry?

She bangs on the door.

KASSIE  
 Sebastian -- I am not kidding!  
 (turns to Wally)  
 Did who cry?

WALLY  
 Roland. When they talked about the  
 atrocities in the Sudan... I bet he  
 cried.

KASSIE  
 I can't believe this...  
 (to the door)  
 You need to go to school!  
 (to Wally)  
 You need to go to work.

WALLY  
 Did he?

As she repeatedly bangs on the door.

KASSIE  
 It wasn't about the atrocities, it  
 was about a little girl who builds  
 a boat.

Wally rolls his eyes.

WALLY

That's lame.

She bangs on the door again.

KASSIE

There will be no internet for two weeks, young man!

(back to Wally)

It wasn't lame -- it was moving.

WALLY

Did he try to kiss you?

And she turns to Wally with squinted unbelieving eyes.

KASSIE

Do you have any control over your emotions at all?

Wally doesn't answer.

KASSIE

(shouts at the door)

You can't avoid it forever, Sebastian.

SEBASTIAN (O.S.)

Yes I can.

WALLY

Did you kiss him back?

And she's had it. As she storms down the hall.

KASSIE

Both of you children are driving me crazy!

And she slams her bedroom door behind her.

Wally has a seat on the floor with a sigh. He leans back against the wall and throws his head in his hands. Shakes it in frustration. That didn't go well.

A moment, then Wally looks up to see...

SEBASTIAN

standing in his doorway, looking down at him.

SEBASTIAN

She's mad.

Wally nods. Sebastian has a seat next to Wally.

Now they both lean against the wall... sitting in silence,  
until...

WALLY  
Why don't you want to go to school,  
Sebastian?

SEBASTIAN  
I don't wanna talk about it.

Wally understands. Then asks...

WALLY  
What's his name?

Sebastian thinks about denying it, then capitulates...

SEBASTIAN  
Billy O'Conner.

Wally nods.

SEBASTIAN  
How'd you know?

WALLY  
I've been there.

SEBASTIAN  
You went to Dalton?

WALLY  
The proverbial there.

Sebastian nods. Doesn't know what that means.

SEBASTIAN  
He doesn't even pay to go there.  
It's like some sort of program.

WALLY  
Right.

SEBASTIAN  
I hate that program.

Then...

SEBASTIAN  
I'm scared...

WALLY  
I know.

And Wally looks at Kassie's closed bedroom door.

WALLY

I am too.

EXT. A HELL'S KITCHEN WALK-UP - MORNING

Wally knocks on the door and it opens. A large man answers, cigarette dangling from his mouth.

WALLY

Are you Patrick O'Conner?

PATRICK O'CONNOR

Yeah.

WALLY

I'm Wally Mars. My... son... goes to school with Billy.

PATRICK O'CONNOR

Yeah.

WALLY

Well, it seems Billy is picking on Sebastian a little and I was hoping we could talk about it.

And Patrick O'Conner simply regards Wally, sucks in a mouthful of nicotine and shrugs.

PATRICK O'CONNOR

Boys will be boys.

Wally nods.

WALLY

Right.

And Wally notices a tattoo on Patrick's forearm. "Local 342."

WALLY

You're a welder?

PATRICK O'CONNOR

Yeah.

WALLY

Three forty two.

PATRICK O'CONNOR

Yeah.

WALLY

Your pension was privatized two years ago.

As Patrick O'Conner just blankly looks at Wally...

INT. O'CONNER APARTMENT/KITCHEN - LATER

Wally and Patrick O'Conner sit at the kitchen table looking over documents.

WALLY  
You're completely overexposed in  
financials and have no income  
producers whatsoever.

Looking up.

WALLY  
Who put this portfolio together?

PATRICK O'CONNER  
My brother-in-law.

WALLY  
Well, your brother-in-law is an  
idiot.

Patrick O'Conner stares at Wally for a long moment. Then...

PATRICK O'CONNER  
I know.

As Wally grabs a pen and begins to write...

WALLY  
I'm writing down exactly what you  
need to sell and what you need to  
buy... along with my phone number.  
(then)  
Call me when you get your profit  
sharing check every quarter and  
I'll tell you where to put it.  
Okay?

Patrick O'Conner nods. And Wally looks up with...

WALLY  
And please tell Billy to lay off of  
my son.

INT. WALLY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Both seated, Leonard and Wally look over some documents on Wally's desk.

But Wally stares off into the distance. Not paying attention.

LEONARD

Wally.

Still vacantly starrng out onto nothing...

WALLY

She's brought in this outsider,  
Leonard... this blond, Nordic,  
vanilla, girl-building-boat-story-  
loving perfect toothed Professor.

Leonard sighs and leans back in his chair.

LEONARD

Okay, let's call it a day.

WALLY

If this is love... love sucks.

LEONARD

You may love Kassie, but Wally...  
this is not love. This is  
dysfunction.

Wally turns to Leonard. Earnest...

WALLY

He's me, Leonard. He's me and he's  
her. He's my cool indignation and  
my stubbornness -- he's her big  
brown eyes and her dry unabashed  
humor.

Leonard just looks at him. Caring...

LEONARD

Look, you need to take a break from  
Kassie and the kid. A few days,  
even a week. Just to cool off.

WALLY

I don't know if I can.

INT. WALLY'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Putting on his suit, Wally listens to his cell phone.

VOICE MAIL VOICE

You have one new message. First  
new message... sent yesterday at  
eleven fourteen p.m.

Beep...

KASSIE'S VOICE

Hey Wally. I'm sorry I freaked out a few days ago. Sebastian's back in school... I don't know...

Wally stops getting dressed, has a seat on his couch.

KASSIE'S VOICE

I haven't heard from you in a few days... I guess you're mad. I'm confused, Wally. Just call me back.

As Wally Mars coldly clicks closed the phone.

EXT. COLUMBUS AVENUE - DAY

Wally emerges out of the subway and storms down Columbus Ave.

EXT. KASSIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Wally knocks on the door. Sebastian opens it and heads back into the apartment.

SEBASTIAN

Hey Wally.

WALLY

Hey Sebastian, where's your mom?

Sebastian jumps on the couch and continues watching his show.

SEBASTIAN

She went to a breakfast.

WALLY

It's seven at night.

SEBASTIAN

I dunno. She went with Roland.

Wally sharply nods with a little wince then looks over to the kitchen where JANICE, the 17 year old baby sitter, sits. She vacantly listens to her iPod and stares off into the distance.

WALLY

Who's that?

SEBASTIAN

Janice.

WALLY

Get her attention.

Sebastian simply shouts at the top of his lungs.

SEBASTIAN,

Janice!

She jumps back and rips off her headphones.

JANICE

What?

Janice looks at Wally sideways.

SEBASTIAN

This is Wally. He's my mom's friend.

JANICE

She's on a date.

WALLY

I know. You don't have to say it like that.

JANICE

Like what?

WALLY

Maliciously.

JANICE

I don't know what that word means.

WALLY

It doesn't matter. What time are you supposed to leave?

JANICE

Sunday. I'm here for the whole weekend.

SEBASTIAN

I told you. They went to a breakfast.

Janice corrects him.

JANICE

A bed and breakfast, Sebastian.

And Wally. Dread. Anger. The basic ingredients of jealousy.

WALLY

But they've only been dating a few weeks.

Janice stands there and does nothing. Wally shakes his head in disgust and moves for the door.

But when he gets there he stops walking and sniffs the air.

WALLY  
What is that smell?

Janice sheepishly shrugs.

JANICE  
I don't smell anything!

Wally steps back into the living room and sniffs a little more. And it dawns on him.

WALLY  
Yeah. Tell me -- is that chronic kind?

JANICE  
I don't know what you're talking about.

WALLY  
You're not watching, a six-year-old boy baked on hydro. I'll take over from here.

JANICE  
No way.

He steps closer. With authority.

WALLY  
Go home, Snoop Dog.

And she doesn't back down.

JANICE  
Not so much.

WALLY  
Go. Do whatever it is you do.  
Call Skippy... watch a bad sequel... let him up your shirt.

As Janice goes into the kitchen and gathers her stuff.

SEBASTIAN  
What's maliciously mean, Wally?

WALLY  
With malice. Spiteful. Hateful.

SEBASTIAN  
What's baked on hydro?

Wally has no answer for that, so he asks...

WALLY  
How's school?

SEBASTIAN  
Cool. I made a friend named  
Daruka. He's Hindu.

Janice slams the door behind her.

WALLY  
Is Billy O'Conner still bothering  
you?

As Wally goes to fridge and grabs the phone number off of it.

SEBASTIAN  
No, he bothers Daruka now.

Wally takes the phone and heads into the hall.

INTERCUT WITH

Kassie in the flower wallpapered bathroom of the B&B.

KASSIE  
I thought you were mad at me.

WALLY  
You're already taking trips  
together?

KASSIE  
I'm hanging up.

WALLY  
No! Wait. Look, I came by to work  
things out...

She locks the door. Speaks quietly. Softens.

KASSIE  
Wally, I don't know what's going  
on. I miss you. I wish you  
would've called me back.

Wally looks over to Sebastian plaintively watching TV.

WALLY  
Listen, when I got here... I  
smelled marijuana.

KASSIE  
No way.

WALLY  
For real. Like a reggae band was  
crashing on your couch.

Kassie lets it register. Then...

KASSIE  
Well I can't get a new sitter now.  
I wouldn't even know who to call.

WALLY  
I'll do it.

KASSIE  
Okay.

WALLY  
Okay. I'm not going to tell you to  
have fun so I'm just going to hang  
up.

KASSIE  
Okay.

But before he does...

KASSIE  
Wally...

WALLY  
Yeah.

KASSIE  
Thank you.

EXT. AUGUSTUS PLAYGROUND/BASKETBALL COURTS - DAY

Wally and Sebastian head out onto the court. Wally dribbles  
a basketball.

WALLY  
Okay, Sebastian, listen up. You're  
never going to be powerful or tall.

And Wally takes the shot...

WALLY  
So what you're going to need...

... swish.

WALLY  
Is an outside shot.

SEBASTIAN  
Nice!

As Wally gets the ball.

WALLY

It's the great equalizer.

As Wally brings the ball over, places it in Sebastian's hand and displays...

WALLY

Hold the ball close to your chest, just below your chin. Your shooting hand should be here and your non-shooting hand should be...

(adjusting)

Right... like so. Now lock your wrist and cock it back. See those wrinkles on the back of your wrist?

Sebastian nods.

WALLY

That's good. You always want to see those right before you shoot. Now when you shoot, be sure you're releasing upward and toward the basket. The shot should feel like it comes off your fingers not your hand. Now in the follow through... you need to visualize literally putting your hand into the basket.

Wally steps back.

WALLY

Give it a shot.

Sebastian does. Not even close. He sadly looks down to his feet. As Wally chases down the ball.

WALLY

You need to Practice. Look at me.

And Wally walks very far back. Three point range.

WALLY

I practiced every day... even in the winter.

And nails the shot. All net. Sebastian smiles.

SEBASTIAN

You're really good.

WALLY

You'll be just as good.

As Wally gets the ball and moves back to take another shot.  
But Sebastian just shrugs.

SEBASTIAN  
I dunno -- I want to play the  
piccolo.

WALLY  
No way.

SEBASTIAN  
Why not?

WALLY  
Because you'll end up becoming a  
band geek.

Hitting another long shot...

WALLY  
And that will scar you the rest of  
your life.

Sebastian chases down the ball and attempts another shot.  
Horrible miss.

WALLY  
You need an outside shot.

As Wally gets the ball.

WALLY  
Trust me...

Lines up the shot, and...

WALLY  
... it's the only thing that got me  
out of high school alive.

... swish.

INT. KASSIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The kitchen's a disaster area. Flour everywhere.  
Pots and cookie trays scattered about.

The lights are all off. Covered in flour and cookie dough,  
Strike Price goes to town on the bowl across the way.

Basking in the blue glow of the television set, Wally washes  
down a cookie with a swig of whiskey. Pours a fresh glass.  
He's drunk and watching "Carnal Knowledge."

The movie ends. Wally sighs. He takes another swig and  
turns around to see... on the couch behind him...

SEBASTIAN

awake, feet dangling off the couch, a little confused.

WALLY

Holy shit. You're supposed to be in bed.

Sebastian just shrugs,

WALLY

How long have you been there?

SEBASTIAN

Since Jonathan and Susan had sex.

(and then)

What's a ballbuster?

Wally just looks at the kid. Then...

WALLY

Okay, you're going to have to learn it all eventually. A ballbuster is a woman who backhandedly manipulates a man into doing things he doesn't want to.

Sebastian lets it register. Then asks...

SEBASTIAN

Why did Susan have sex with Jonathan when she was Sandy's girlfriend?

Wally ponders his response. Sucks down a big swig. Then...

WALLY

Because Sandy was decent, he was nice. And some women view that as weakness and women aren't attracted to weakness. And Jonathan was kinda mean but very sure of himself and he was aggressive.

Wally grabs a cookie and takes a bite. As he chews...

WALLY

See Sebastian, it's the hypocrisy of femininity and it's rooted in deep psychological and evolutionary protocol. Women claim they want a nice guy. They claim they want a funny guy. A decent man who is sensitive to their needs.

SEBASTIAN

Like Sandy.

WALLY

Exactly -- Art Garfunkel. But they're lying. They don't know they're lying and they don't mean to lie because they believe it themselves. But what most women really want is a tall man. A tall man who is confident and who is a little mean to them. Like Jonathan.

SEBASTIAN

Why Wally?

Good question. Wally takes a moment to sort his answer.

WALLY

Maybe because thousands of years ago the tall men fought off invaders from other tribes while the nice short men cowered in the caves telling jokes. Maybe because people are attracted to what rejects them and reject what is attracted to them.

SEBASTIAN

Is Roland mean to my mom?

Wally thinks about it. And honestly assess...

WALLY

No. Roland is actually a good guy. It's just that Roland is tall. And tall is the most important thing to women. And Roland's beautiful.  
(a long moment, then...)  
And I'm not.

SEBASTIAN

Am I going to be tall, Wally?

Wally sadly shakes his head.

WALLY

No.

SEBASTIAN

Then women will never love me?

WALLY

You'll make a lot of money. And you'll be funny. And you'll be really smart.

Sadly. Quietly.

SEBASTIAN

But they won't love me because I'm short.

WALLY

Maybe not. I don't know. It feels that way sometimes.

Sebastian thinks about it. The perceived iniquity of it all. And he says...

SEBASTIAN

Ballbusters!

And Wally agrees.

INT. WALLY'S OFFICE - DAY

Notice the Halloween decorations everywhere.

Sleeves rolled up, Wally looks at the ticker in deep concentration. THREE ASSOCIATES sit at laptop computers and study him as he shouts out orders.

WALLY

Sonic missed earnings. Six cents versus nine proforma. It's going to drop like a rock. Start buying at nine forty--

And Wally stops talking. In reference to the person standing in the doorway. And she's pissed off...

KASSIE

Can I speak to you in private?

WALLY

Sonic Systems just announced earnings, can it--

Through stone eyes encased in vitriol.

KASSIE

Now...

Drake shares a concerned look with another associate.

WALLY  
 (nervously swallows)  
 Sure.

INT. WALLY'S OFFICE BUILDING/HALLWAY - DAY

Kassie collects herself for the briefest of moments before going into it.

KASSIE  
 I give my son his breakfast this morning and he says; "There's too much milk in my Count Chocula you ballbuster."

Through a cringe.

WALLY  
 I was afraid of this.

KASSIE  
 Carnal Knowledge?

WALLY  
 It was an accident.

KASSIE  
 Why not show him porn, Wally? Why not just throw a Rob Jeremy flick into the basket next time you take him to Blockbuster?

WALLY  
 (correcting)  
 It's Ron Jeremy. Doesn't matter.

She glares at him for a extra long beat.

KASSIE  
 Women won't love him because he's going to be short? Who tells that to a seven year old boy?

WALLY  
 I thought he was asleep. I drank some whiskey. I didn't know he was watching it behind me on the couch.

KASSIE  
 I'm thinking he's better off with the seventeen-year-old Bob Marley.

WALLY  
 Don't say that. Please don't say that.

She takes a breath to center herself. Very upset. Then...

KASSIE

He's going to get Parkinson's  
Disease if he moans while he eats?

Wally's eyes go wide.

KASSIE

He got that from you, didn't he?  
Making love to his food.

WALLY

(horrified)

I'm not sure I understand what you  
mean...

KASSIE

Well, he didn't do it in Minnesota  
so he must've saw you do it and  
followed suit.

WALLY

Right. Of course. Yes, that's it.  
I noticed it when it happened.

KASSIE

But why on earth would you tell him  
he would get Parkinson's Disease?  
(confused and shaken)  
Why Wally?

Wally thinks about it for a beat.

WALLY

Because it's my tick. I'm very  
protective of my unique traits. He  
stole it. It wasn't right.

Best he could do.

KASSIE

That's mature, Wally. Threaten a  
hypochondriacal child with  
Parkinson's disease. Tell him  
women are beasts who only love tall  
men. Show him provocative Jack  
Nicholson films from the seventies.

WALLY

Well, you weren't exactly around,  
were you?

KASSIE

What is that supposed to mean?

WALLY

You were off with your white horse,  
your alpha sperm, your... your...

He stops to think of another metaphor -- she doesn't wait.

KASSIE

I knew that's what this is all  
about! I understand you're hurt.  
You're jealous. You feel  
inadequate.

(and then)

Truth is, Wally, I don't know  
what's going on. The whole time I  
was with Roland... I missed you.  
You Wally. Short you. Retarded  
you. Imperfect you.

WALLY

Really?

KASSIE

But to take out your insecurities  
on my child.

WALLY

That's not what it was...

KASSIE

Then tell me what it was, Wally.

WALLY

We live in a jaded world, Kassie.  
And Sebastian's going to need to  
learn feminine hypocrisy early and  
often if he plans to survive. He's  
not tall or blond, Kassie. He  
doesn't have Roland's eyes or smile  
and he's never going to. There's  
so much he needs to know. He needs  
to develop an outside shot and he  
shouldn't ever play the piccolo.  
And there's more... so much more...

She opens her mouth to argue but he keeps going.

WALLY

I lived it and trust me -- I know  
what's in store for that kid more  
than you know.

He finishes. Kassie doesn't say anything. She allows it to  
resonate, gives it thought, then says...

KASSIE

You have no right.

Tears in her eyes...

KASSIE

He's not your son.

And Wally. Still as can be. Until...

WALLY

Are you still with Roland?

KASSIE

I think we need to take a break,  
Wally.

She's dead serious.

WALLY

What about Sebastian?

She sadly looks to her feet... then back up with conviction.

KASSIE

I'm sorry, Wally. You just... have  
no control.

And he watches her go.

EXT. UNION SQUARE - DAY

A cold November rain pounds the city. Umbrellas dot the square as nobody can get a cab.

Find Wally's building and climb it. To his window... go inside...

WALLY'S APARTMENT

where Wally stares vacantly out the window. Alone and lonely. And reverse back out the window, where...

SNOW

now falls lightly onto the Square. Christmas lights everywhere. Time is moving.

INT. TOJI SUSHI - NIGHT

The frosted window reveals a snow storm outside. Kassie, Sebastian and Roland enjoy a fine platter of sushi.

Roland holds a piccolo... explaining...

ROLAND

The guy at the store told me never  
play it in the cold. It's bad for  
the instrument.

While inhaling his sushi...

SEBASTIAN

So I shouldn't play it outside.

ROLAND

That's right. And you warm it gradually by placing it in contact with your body or hands.

Sebastian nods while eating. Immersed in the meal. And moaning.

ROLAND

Also, gently blow warm air into the instrument before playing.

Kassie seems lost. Looking out the window into the snow storm. Sebastian's moans grow louder.

KASSIE

Sebastian stop that!

SEBASTIAN

What?

KASSIE

Making love to your food.

SEBASTIAN

But it's safe.

KASSIE

It's also disgusting. Just stop it.

And Roland just regards her. Confused at her anger.

INT. NEW YEARS EVE PARTY - NIGHT

Wally rings in the new year with some co-workers. He hugs Leonard. Both are a little drunk. Balloons fly about.

LEONARD

I met someone.

WALLY

Don't marry her.

They share a laugh. Leonard regards his old friend and colleague.

LEONARD

You know, Wally... you need to meet someone.

Wally doesn't disagree. As the balloons dance around them...

INT. IL MULLINO RESTAURANT - NIGHT

All couples tonight for some reason. Roland sits across from Kassie. Grabs her hand and looks into her eyes.

ROLAND  
I have a confession to make.

KASSIE  
Okay.

ROLAND  
I didn't just bring you here  
because it's Valentine's Day.

He reaches into his pocket and produces a ring box.

ROLAND  
Kassie, we live in a beautiful  
world...

And we leave him to it...

INT. WALLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Strike Price at his feet, Wally reads on his bed. Shubert's No. 8 in B minor plays. BUZZ from the wall. Wally heads to the wall and presses a button on the intercom.

WALLY  
Who is it?

KASSIE (O.S.)  
Me.

Wally's tentative reaction as he buzzes her in.

INT. WALLY'S APARTMENT - LATER

Shoes off, wine in hand, Kassie sits close to Wally.

KASSIE  
And I think he's over the frames.

WALLY  
Just like that?

KASSIE  
He's gotten into music.

WALLY  
The piccolo?

And she doesn't answer... looks at him... then...

KASSIE  
He misses you.

Wally slowly nods.

KASSIE  
I miss you.

WALLY  
How's Roland?

But it was said calmly... with no edge to it...

KASSIE  
I'm marrying him.

And Wally sits there. Still. No reaction.  
She waits for one... but nothing...

KASSIE  
Do something... react. It's why I  
came here. To tell you that. I  
was nervous.

WALLY  
I'm happy for you. I'm crushed...  
but happy for you.

She stands up and goes to the window. Looks out of it while  
she speaks.

KASSIE  
Roland's perfect. And he's  
Sebastian's natural father and I  
want a traditional family. And  
maybe it's not love but it's like  
and life isn't about soulmates...  
it's about family and fathers  
taking their sons to ballgames...  
even if Roland hates ballgames.

And she turns back to face Wally.

KASSIE  
Will you kiss me?

WALLY  
No.

She walks to him. Speaks quietly. Her mouth inches from his.

KASSIE  
I want to sabotage my engagement  
and I want to be with you, Wally.  
I want to give into my emotions.

He simply regards her and coldly says...

WALLY

I don't do that anymore.

He looks to his feet. Allows the moment to pass.  
Allows her to gain her head... her reason.

KASSIE

You're right.

(exhales)

I never thought you'd be the clear-headed one.

As she heads for the door.

KASSIE

We're having an engagement party at  
"One If By Land" Saturday night...  
now that you're all grown up... why  
don't you come?

WALLY

I'm going out of town on business.

They both know that's bullshit.

KASSIE

Sebastian would love to see you.

WALLY

He has Roland now. Roland will be  
a great father to him.

She accepts that. And she leaves.

EXT. 14TH STREET - NIGHT

It pours. And it's late at night. Wally walks the streets  
alone. Sad. In thought. He gets to the light at 8th  
Avenue. And he sees.

METS HAT

That crazy homeless man with Tourettes. Mets Hat now wears a  
Yankees Hat and looks at a Hasidic man trying to hail a cab.

METS HAT

Small-bearded-Jew gettin' wet.  
Small-bearded-Jew gettin' wet.

And Wally heads over to him.

WALLY

Hey. Remember me?

Mets hat faces him. Doesn't say anything.

WALLY  
Potato-head-looking-motherfucker?

METS HAT  
Potato-head-looking-motherfucker.

WALLY  
That's right... that's me.

METS HAT  
Potato-head-looking-motherfucker.

But Wally notices...

Mets Hat isn't looking at him. He's looking over Wally's shoulder... across the street... at a store.

PIP'S LOCKSMITH

with a picture of Pip on the sign. And Pip is bald.  
And Pip does look like a...

METS HAT  
Potato-head-looking-motherfucker.

And Wally looks back at Mets Hat.

As the sky pisses on him... Wally stands there... with his new friend... and he laughs... and it rains... and he laughs.

INT. KASSIE'S APARTMENT - DUSK

Wearing a beautiful dress, Kassie primps in her mirror. She looks at her own reflection. A trace of uncertainty washes across her face. But before it takes hold...

SEBASTIAN (O.S.)  
Mom.

She turns to see Sebastian looking adorable in a suit. His tie on completely wrong. As she bends down to fix it.

KASSIE  
Baby, hold still.

SEBASTIAN  
Is Roland going to be my father or step father?

She stops working the tie. Looks at her son. Decides it's time.

KASSIE  
Roland is your father.

SEBASTIAN,

You mean he's going to be my father.

As she gets on her knees in order to go eye to eye...

KASSIE

Sebastian, there's something I need to explain to you, okay?

And Sebastian. Wide-eyed and listening.

INT. LINCOLN CENTER/VIVIAN BEAUMONT ROOM - NIGHT

It pours outside. A grand event is taking place. Men in their tux's and women in their long dresses.

At the center of the room stands Martha at a mic. Next to her is a model of a four building complex.

MARTHA

The Sydney Rothman Center for Coronary Research will not only provide vital work toward the study of the human heart but it will also feature a surgical center for those who can not afford the life-saving procedures everybody in this room would take for granted.

The room applauds. Find Wally and Leonard. Clapping away.

INT. LINCOLN CENTER/VIVIAN BEAUMONT ROOM - LATER

The party in full swing. Drinks being served. Jazz plays. Martha, a little drunk, grabs Wally's arm.

MARTHA

You know everybody has you to thank for this.

They stroll arm and arm.

WALLY

That's not true.

They arrive at the model. She looks down lovingly at it.

MARTHA

Oh, it is, Wally. If you didn't risk your job and warn me of the bubble... this wouldn't exist.

Wally looks to the complex. Smiles.

WALLY

I didn't risk my job, Martha,  
Leonard could never manage without  
me.

MARTHA

That doesn't diminish what you did.  
Honesty is a tricky thing, Wally.  
(and then)  
When we have nothing to lose is  
when it has most of its power.

Martha leans in, gives Wally a peck on the cheek and greets  
some wealthy older couple.

Wally looks at the model. Gets lost in it. And something  
washes over him.

The last time Wally has this look determination was when we  
left him to jerk off in Kassie's bathroom.

And Wally moves for the door.

Leonard, with his girlfriend named ALICE on his arm, block  
his path.

LEONARD

Wally, where you going?

As Wally side-steps them.

WALLY

There's something I've got to do,  
Leonard and it can't wait!

Leonard calls out after Wally.

LEONARD

But Alice and I have great news.

Not looking back... darting for the exit...

WALLY

Congratulations... I'd be  
honored... spring is a great  
choice...

EXT. LINCOLN CENTER - NIGHT

Wally emerges into the rain storm. Hails a cab.

EXT. 7TH AVENUE - NIGHT

As Wally jumps out of the cab and runs in the rain.

EXT. ONE IF BY LAND - NIGHT

A former carriage house on Barrow street -- this famous Manhattan restaurant sits idyllic and inviting.

Soaking wet, Wally stops running when he sees the restaurant and stares it down.

INT. ONE IF BY LAND - SAME

Kassie's engagement party takes place. About sixty people at ten tables. Kassie shares a table with Roland and Sebastian in the center.

Ray, Kassie's father, finishes his toast into a microphone.

RAY

(making his toast)

And she looked up at me... she  
couldn't have been a day over seven  
years old...

Emotional, Kassie listens. Wally leans down next to her.

WALLY

I have to talk to you.

KASSIE

Wally, what are you doing?

RAY

And she said... "Will I get married  
like you and mommy one day..."

WALLY

(whispering)

I have to talk to you.

KASSIE

Hello! A little busy here!

Sebastian looks over.

SEBASTIAN

Hey Wally.

WALLY

Hey Sebastian.

RAY

And I said; "of course you will."  
And she looked up at me and asked;  
"But can I marry you?"

Sweet sighs from the room. Roland sees Wally and gives Kassie an inquisitive look. She just shrugs.

WALLY

It has to be now.

Kassie ignores Wally Mars sitting next to her in his soaking wet tuxedo.

RAY

(raising his glass)

I didn't have the heart to tell you that day, Sweetie, but no... it can't be me. Roland will have to suffice.

The room laughs...

WALLY

Did you hear me?

Clinched teeth... through laughter...

KASSIE

Get out of here, Crazy.

RAY

(raises a glass)

With that, I want to wish Kassie and Roland a happy life together.

WALLY

It can't wait.

Under the clinks of glasses...

KASSIE

Go away.

SEBASTIAN

Wally, are you going to make a toast?

Wally regards the question with a blank stare. The din picks up in the restaurant.

A busboy moves to take the mic apart, until... the wet crazy man motions him off and grabs it.

WALLY

(into the mic)

Excuse me. Excuse me. I have a toast.

KASSIE

Jesus...

The room quiets and looks to Wally.

WALLY

I'm not here to make a toast as much as a confession. I have something to confess, Kassie. You're not going to like it but it has to be told. Not because I think you're going to forgive me or choose me or anything like that... it's just... I don't know... time.

Kassie opens her mouth to object, but...

WALLY (CONT'D)

I know, I'm ruining your engagement party but this has to happen now. After I'm done, ruining your party will pale... trust me -- it'll blanch.

She fumes... but closes her mouth.

WALLY (CONT'D)

I was drunk and I was hurt. It wasn't just me you were rejecting... it was my DNA. You were passing on my lineage, you were essentially placing my ancestors in the friendzone. And for whom? A stranger.

(he points to Roland)

Okay, I know he's perfect, I know his sperm is alpha and tall and the foundation of every schoolgirl's crush. And I can't even hate him... which makes me hate him. And you know my impulse problem and I was drunk and I was angry. And none of these are excuses... they just are what they are.

And Kassie... utterly confused... now standing...

KASSIE

Wally -- what are you saying?

WALLY

I hijacked your pregnancy, Kassie. I took matters into my own hands. I replaced Roland's... offering... with mine. In the bathroom. That night. Your party. I unzipped my pants and I thought about the way you looked in the Bahamas... the night we fell into that drunken kiss... I thought of your glowing skin... that yellow sun dress and I... well...

(MORE)

WALLY (cont'd)  
 (and then)  
 Sebastian's my child, Kassie.

She's stunned. The room is silent.

Roland's eyes go wide as he looks at Sebastian who simply eats his chicken.

WALLY (CONT'D)  
 Was it wrong? Of course it was wrong -- so wrong. And I know the ends don't justify the means --, I get that. It was narcissistic and impulsive and unforgiveable. I know this. But would I take it back?

And he looks at Sebastian... at his son.

WALLY (CONT'D)  
 Not in a million years!

And he points to Sebastian.

WALLY (CONT'D)  
 Because look at what we did.

Then...

WALLY (CONT'D)  
 I'm not proud of my actions, but Kassie... when I look at this kid -- I've never felt prouder. And it is what it is... and it happened... and it was wrong... but he's so right. He's you and me, Kassie. The best of both of us. He's something so right... even though he came out of something so wrong.  
 (and then)  
 And when someone does something unforgiveable, maybe... well maybe... the only thing you can do is forgive them.

As Sebastian looks up from his chicken and simply shrugs, barbecue sauce on his face...

SEBASTIAN  
 I forgive you, Wally.

Stone silence. Roland is blank. Kassie stunned.

And Wally draws in a deep breath. Winds it down.

WALLY

And I love him... and I love you...  
and I'm sorry.

And Wally stands there. And Kassie lets it register.  
And she slowly walks to him. And she faces him.

And she SLAMS him with a RIGHT CROSS. He recoils back.

KASSIE

Never talk to us again.

Wally recovers from the blow... didn't feel it to begin  
with... blood streaming down his nose. And he goes.

EXT. ONE IF BY LAND - NIGHT

Broken and alone, Wally heads away from the restaurant.  
The rain has turned to drizzle.

EXT. 24TH STREET - NIGHT

Holding a whiskey bottle thinly veiled by a paper bag, Wally  
waits outside of a prominent Gramercy Park building in the  
rain. Leonard emerges from the building in his robe.

LEONARD

Wally. It's two am.

WALLY

I did the right thing, Leonard.

LEONARD

Come in out of the rain.

Wally doesn't. Gets soaked. Leonard stands under the awning.

WALLY

I told her.

LEONARD

That's good, Wally. That's real  
good.

Truly sad...

WALLY

But I lost her. And Sebastian. My  
son.

LEONARD

But you did the right thing.

WALLY

But it sucks.

LEONARD  
But it'll get better.

WALLY  
But I'm drinking whiskey out of a  
paper bag.

LEONARD  
Go home, Wally.

And then...

WALLY  
They're my home, Leonard.

And Leonard really doesn't know what else to say.

INT. UPPER WEST SIDE - DAY

A glorious spring day takes hold of Manhattan.

CARD: 2 MONTHS LATER

Just having left a lunch, Wally walks with four other men in  
suits down Columbus Ave. Business chatter...

WALLY  
It's an interesting sector right  
now. We've got sizeable position  
in the top three proxys but we're  
looking to sprinkle a little action  
in a few of the interesting mid-  
caps.

Wally sees someone across the street and stops.

WALLY  
Excuse me for a second, guys.

Wally crosses the street and approaches...

WALLY  
Roland.

And sure enough. In all of his alpha-glory.

ROLAND  
Wally.

WALLY  
Hey.

ROLAND  
Hey.

WALLY

Are you living on the upper west side?

ROLAND

No. Tutoring for some extra cash.

Wally nods. Roland nods. Silence. Until...

ROLAND

Do you know the one thing about Sebastian I could never get my mind around?

Wally doesn't.

ROLAND

His ability to hold strong... his stubbornness. His capacity to lie with a straight face when it suits him. I'm not capable of that. And he's not a push over. I was so enamored by it because I am.

WALLY

Roland--

ROLAND

I always assumed it came from Kassie but I couldn't really see it in her... not to that degree.

WALLY

I'm sorry, Roland.

ROLAND

It's okay.

WALLY

No. It's not. You should be furious. You should hit me.

With a half-smile...

ROLAND

Like I said...

Wally understands. Another stilted moment, then...

WALLY

Well...

ROLAND

Yeah...

With a polite smile, Wally turns to go. But...

ROLAND  
We didn't get married, Wally.

Wally stops. Turns.

ROLAND  
She couldn't go through with it.  
And Wally -- as he allows it to register.

EXT. KASSIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Holding two bags of groceries, Kassie walks up to her building and stops when she sees...

WALLY MARS

waiting for her at the steps.

KASSIE  
Wally.

WALLY  
Will you take a walk with me?

And she just stands there. Looks at him.

EXT. RIVERSIDE PARK - DAY

He sits on a bench. She stands.

WALLY  
I ran into Roland.

She nods.

WALLY  
I don't know what to say.

KASSIE  
I was going to call you...

WALLY  
Why didn't you?

KASSIE  
I'm still so angry, Wally.

He accepts that.

WALLY  
I love you.

KASSIE  
I don't know if that's enough.

WALLY

Why didn't you marry Roland?

And she walks to the railing... ponders the Hudson...

KASSIE

It was a few hours before the wedding and Sebastian didn't want to get out of the pool but he did. Then he asked if he could go to his grandfather's room. I said yes... but to call me as soon as he arrived.

Wally stands and joins her side.

KASSIE

And he did. But I found out it wasn't from Papa Ray's room. No, Sebastian called from the pool phone and said he was at Papa Ray's. Then he went right back into the pool. He lied. Flat out lied to serve himself. And I caught him. And I really let him have it. Shouted at him. "You can't always do what you want just because you want to." "The ends don't justify the means."

(and then)

And I guess I called him Wally. Then I realized -- I have to raise you.

She turns to him.

KASSIE

... and I don't think I can do that without you.

Tears in her eyes. A moment.

WALLY

That first trip I took to Minnesota five years ago. When I first met Sebastian. It wasn't even a question. I saw myself. And I immediately feel in love with him. And for the first time in my life I truly realized how to love myself.

(a beat)

Don't forgive me, Kassie. Just know that I love you... and I love him.

She wipes away a tear. Sighs.  
Loves him despite everything and knows it.

WALLY  
Will you marry me?

She shakes her head no with a laugh and says...

KASSIE  
Probably.

And he takes her hand. That's it. They just hold hands.  
In silence. Looking straight ahead. At New Jersey.

Until...

KASSIE  
Of course I'm pregnant...

EXT. WALLY AND KASSIE'S HOUSE - DAY

CARD: THREE YEARS LATER

A nice house on a nice street in a nice suburb.

Wearing his reading glasses, Wally devours a book in his home office, old Strike Price sleeping at his feet.

From outside...

SEBASTIAN (O.S.)  
Dad, she's on the court again.

Never to look up from his book, Wally shouts out.

WALLY  
Honey!

KASSIE (O.S.)  
What?

WALLY  
Can you bring her inside?  
She's bothering their game.

EXT. WALLY AND KASSIE'S HOUSE - DAY

On the driveway, Sebastian plays basketball with a couple of friends. He's older and surprisingly athletic. And he's taller... endured a serious growth spurt the last few years.

Kassie heads out onto the driveway.

KASSIE  
C'mon Melissa... let's go inside  
with Mommy...

And she scoops up...

## MELISSA MARS

Sebastian's younger sister. Two and a half years old. Adorable. With lemon yellow hair, bright blue eyes... and Roland's smile.

INT. WALLY AND KASSIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Kassie takes little Melissa through the hallway where we see...

PICTURE FRAMES

Everywhere. Dozens of them. Sebastian's whole collection. But they're all filled with pictures. Pictures of this family.

As Kassie heads into Wally's home office and hands Melissa off to him with a kiss...

AND WE PULL BACK

Out of the house... as Sebastian hits a jump shot... further still... up over the green of Long Island... over all the normal American families... including this one... enjoying a Saturday in the suburbs... while we...

FADE OUT.