

ULTIMATE LOW SELF ESTEEM MOVIE

**Screenplay by
Jennifer Heath and Michelle Wolff**

FADE IN: NEW YORK

★

INT. I-HOP RESTAURANT - EVENING

CREDITS BEGIN

CRACKED BEIGE LEATHERETTE seats, chipped VINYL TABLE TOPS, and STICKY BOTTLES, oozing SYRUPS of various colors not represented in the normal berry family. And yet the place is still too classy for most of its patrons. This is the place where old waitresses go to die. Which may explain the smell.

The camera finds LUCY TAYLOR, our heroine. Twenty-something, and way too attractive for this crowd. Lucy is "Hollywood unattractive." (Like poor, ugly Michelle Pfeiffer who couldn't get a date in "Frankie & Johnny.") But with just a little something - hair, make-up, clothes, something - she could be the ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL ACTRESSES IN ALL OF HOLLYWOOD!

Lucy's at a table, waiting. Lots of empty CRACKER WRAPPERS on the table. Lucy checks her watch for the twentieth time. She waits. And waits. One of the old WAITRESSES comes up to Lucy's table. We sense this is not the first time she has come to Lucy.

WAITRESS

Well? Are you gonna order or what?

LUCY

I'm still waiting for someone.

WAITRESS

Someone real?

(beat)

Look, if you're not gonna order,
you can't take up a booth.

LUCY

(cowed)

Oh, sorry...uhmm...I guess I'll
have the Rooty Tooty Pancake
dinner. Is that okay?

The waitress just grunts, grabs the menu and leaves. Lucy looks at the door. Out the window. Checks her watch again. She gets up, walks out of the shot. We hold on the empty table. We then see her re-entering the frame in the background and opening the door with the WOMAN ICON on it. Camera still holds on the empty table as CREDITS CONTINUE. Eventually the ladies' room door opens and Lucy emerges. A WOMAN walks past her into the ladies' room. She slams into Lucy's elbow and keeps walking. Lucy grabs her elbow in pain.

LUCY (CONT'D) ★
 (calling after the woman,
 apologizing)
 Sorry!

Lucy comes around and sits at the table again. The waitress comes by and just slings her pancake order on the table and walks off.

LUCY (CONT'D) ★
 (quietly and politely to
 waitress walking away)
 Thank you. ★

She looks down at her plate. There is a BIG WHIPPED CREAM SMILEY FACE on her pancake. She doesn't eat. She just waits.

END OF CREDITS

Lucy sees someone entering.

LUCY
 (waving)
 Walter, over here!

WALTER, A POORLY-DRESSED, PIMPLY, OVERWEIGHT guy with a BAD COMB-OVER, heads to the table.

WALTER
 Better late than never, huh? ★

Lucy smiles half-hearted. Not really.

WALTER (CONT'D) ★
 You gonna eat that?

LUCY
 (she was, but...)
 No?

Walter reaches over, and grabs one of Lucy's pancakes. He takes a big bite.

WALTER
 (mouth full)
 Shame to waste it.

Lucy stares as a WASHING MACHINE of PANCAKES and SYRUP and CREAM goes ROUND AND ROUND his mouth. She can't take it anymore.

LUCY
 Walter, we have to talk.

WALTER
(chewing)
Shoot.

A SPITTLE-SIZED GLOB of PANCAKE flies out of his mouth, lands on Lucy's arm. Trying to pretend it didn't happen, she casually FLICKS HER ARM UPSIDE DOWN to dislodge it, but it's too sticky. Totally grossed out, she SHAKES HER ARM MORE VIOLENTLY. It's still there. Can this stuff eat through skin? She scrapes the glob against the side of the table. This has all gone unnoticed by Walter, focused on eating. *

LUCY
(scrubs her arm with a
napkin)
So anyway, I know we've only gone
out a few times, but...

Walter puts up his hand to silence her.

WALTER
Oh, God, I knew this was gonna
happen. You're in love with me.
Well, I'm sorry, Lucy...
(takes another huge
mouthful of Lucy's food) *

...but I've been thinking about
this, and I just don't see
it working out.

LUCY
What?

WALTER
It's time for old Walter to move to
greener pastures.

Food drops from his mouth, he picks it up, shovels it back
in.

LUCY
You're breaking up with me? You're
breaking up with me?!

WALTER
Would you calm down.

LUCY
You can't break up with me! I came
here to break up with you!

WALTER

Yeah, sure, whatever makes you feel good.

LUCY

(shouting)

I did! I mean, look at you! You're disgusting!

The other mutants/patrons in the restaurant look up from their \$2.99 dinners. They haven't seen this much entertainment since "Donny & Marie" went off the air.

WALTER

Lucy, please, I took you to a nice restaurant so you wouldn't make a scene.

LUCY

I only dated you 'cause I knew you'd never dump me! That for once, I'd be the one doing the dumping! Look at you! I dated down!

★

★

WALTER

Me too.

Walter WIPES HIS MOUTH on his SHIRT SLEEVE. RISES TO LEAVE.

LUCY

Fine, go, you're a pig! You're gross!

Walter heads out.

LUCY (CONT'D)

You're fat, and you're bald and...!
(wailing)

Wait! What did I do wrong? Did I do something? Just tell me.

Walter turns back.

WALTER

It's not one specific thing. It's everything.

He exits. Lucy calls after him.

LUCY

I can change!

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - EVENING

*

Abbey and Hannah, both late twenties, attractive, are in the living room watching TV or reading or something. Abby is totally self-involved. Hannah only a little less so. The apartment door opens and we see a defeated Lucy enter the apartment, slowly close the door, and silently walk past Abbey and Hannah and open the door into another room.

*

*

Abbey and Hannah see Lucy's mood and follow her into the other room.

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT/BEDROOM - EVENING

A small, cramped room, with mismatched furniture. The window looks out onto a FIRE ESCAPE across the narrow alley, just loaded with people's crap. HALF EMPTY MOVING BOXES are scattered around, Lucy has recently moved in. Lucy throws her purse on the bed, grabs a PHOTO ALBUM from one of the boxes. Abbey and Hannah enter the room and see Lucy inserting WALTER'S PHOTOGRAPH into the album.

LUCY

Another guy to add to the dumper
hall of fame. Standing room only.

Abby crosses over to take a look.

ABBY

(off the picture)

He dumped you? This sewer beast?
Where do you go from there?

HANNAH

How humiliating.

(looks closer)

Is that a glass eye?

LUCY

Oh, this was nothing. This doesn't
even crack the top ten of
humiliating dumps.

She flips through the book, remembering.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Right there? That's Curt. My first
love. I thought we'd be together
forever.

INT. LUCY'S TEENAGE BEDROOM

Her room is decorated with POSTERS - MADONNA, ABBA, BLONDIE, MICHAEL JACKSON. A 15-year old Lucy is DANCING CLUMSILY and SINGING OUT OF TUNE to the RADIO.

LUCY

"...Billie Jean is not my lover,
she's just a girl who says that I
am the ooone..."

As the song continues she dances over to her MICHAEL JACKSON POSTER. She switches to the tune of "Hey, Mickey."

LUCY (CONT'D)

(to poster, shimmying)

Michael Michael you're so fine,
you're so fine you blow my mind hey
Michael!

"BILLIE JEAN" ends. On the radio, CASEY CASEM'S dedication show.

CASEY CASEM (V.O.)

That was from Tony to Sharon, with
love forever. This next one goes
out to Lucy Taylor, at Forestdale
High, from Curt...

Lucy runs to the door, excited.

LUCY

Mom, Dad, turn on the radio!

CASEY CASEM

Curt writes, "Lucy, I only used you
to make Sara jealous, and now she
wants me back, so 'bye." Well,
Curt, I hope your Lucy is
listening, 'cause this one's for
her. Patti Smythe singing "Goodbye
to You."

*

MUSIC UP: "GOODBYE TO YOU"

The 15 year-old Lucy flings herself on the bed, sobbing.

LUCY (V.O.)

And then there was Tony... We were
magic together.

INT. FRATERNITY BEDROOM - NIGHT

A PARTY goes on outside the door. Lucy, 20, HEAVIER, BAD PERM, is HAVING SEX with TONY. She looks up at him adoringly.

TONY

(climaxing)

Oh, Lucy... Lucy... Lucy... I think we oughta start seeing other people.

He collapses on top of her, spent. An upset Lucy tries to roll over and get away, but he's too heavy. She's stuck.

LUCY (V.O.)

And Phil...

*

EXT. MEXICAN ROAD - DAY

*

A desolate, dusty road. A rental car by the side of the road. Lucy and PHIL are at some sort of checkpoint.

*

*

OFFICIAL

Your car is in violation. You must pay a fine or go to prison.

*

*

*

PHIL

Oh, uh, my money's back at the hotel.

*

*

*

He starts to turn away.

*

OFFICIAL

Not so fast.

*

*

PHIL

No, no, I'll be back. I promise. In fact, I'll leave my girlfriend here as collateral.

*

*

*

*

DISSOLVE TO:

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EXT. MEXICAN ROAD - NIGHT

*

Crickets chirping. Lucy's still there. She smiles awkwardly at the official. He grins at her. The moonlight glistens off his gold tooth.

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INT. LUCY'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Back to present. She CLOSES the PHOTO ALBUM, depressed.

LUCY

The fine was only ten dollars. But
I guess that was a lot of money
back in ninety-six.

ABBY

Come on, cheer up. My mom always
used to say there's a lid for every
pot.

(not unkindly)
No matter how misshapen.

HANNAH

(supportive)
I just think it's great how you
keep trying and trying and trying.

LUCY

(putting her head on
Abby's shoulder)
Oh, Abby, Hannah. I'm so glad I
moved in here. It's good to
know I have two new friends I can
talk to because...

SFX: DOORBELL

ABBY

(cutting Lucy off)
Okay, there's our dates. Make
yourself scarce.

She STANDS, Lucy FALLS OFF HER SHOULDER. They scramble out of
her room.

INT. LUCY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - LATER

A depressed Lucy, now in FLANNEL PAJAMAS, sits at a SMALL
VANITY. Through the walls she hears male and female LAUGHTER
coming from the living room. There is an open COSMO magazine
in front of her. Off a photo of CINDY CRAWFORD Lucy carefully
draws a MOLE on her face with a MASCARA WAND. It doesn't make
her look anything like Cindy Crawford. Just Lucy with a dumb
black mark on her face.

She puts another mole on her face on the other side. And
another. And another. Starts self-destructively dabbing all
over her face.

The DOOR opens, Abby ENTERS, TIGGER the CAT in one hand, a CAT LITTER BOX in the other, and a SLEAZY GUY holding her from behind, nuzzling and feeling her. Lucy quickly rubs the moles away, leaving BLACK STREAKS. *

ABBY

Hey, Lucy, could you do me a big, big favor? Could Tigger stay with you tonight? I think he'd be more comfortable.

LUCY

But I barely know him.

ABBY

I know, I know, but he really likes you, I can tell. And he hates being locked up in that little tiny bathroom.

LUCY

It's bigger than my room.

Abby holds Tigger so it looks like his little paws are begging.

ABBY

(like Tigger's talking)
Pleeease! Please, Aunt Lucy!

LUCY

Okay. I guess.

The sleazy guy is pawing Abby a bit too much. Abby pushes him away. *

ABBY

God, put it on pause for two seconds. *

The guy shrugs, walks back to the living room. Abby deposits the box and the cat with Lucy. *

ABBY (CONT'D) *

Thanks. It's really gross for our dates to see a dirty, smelly, litter box.

She EXITS back to the living room. Lucy lays down with her stomach on the floor. She places Tigger in front of her. She's inches from him and talks to him like a little girl might talk to her doll. *

LUCY

Well, Tig, looks like we both get
shut away when company comes. I
guess that gives us a special bond. *

Tigger turns his back on her. Goes in the box and paws huge
SHOVELFULS OF LITTER which fly out of the box and hit Lucy in *
the face.

INT. LUCY'S BEDROOM - MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Lucy's asleep. We hear the SOUNDS OF ABBY having NOISY SEX in
one room, and we hear the SOUNDS OF HANNAH having NOISY SEX *
in the room on the other side. Stereo sex sounds. Lucy just
looks forlorn.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Lucy, in a TATTERED OLD ROBE, is making PANCAKES. She puts
the finishing touches of a WHIPPED CREAM SMILEY FACE onto a
pancake, and fights back tears. Abby and Hannah enter.

HANNAH

...I just wish for once Paul would
spend the night. Although I know
it's not his fault, it's that
stupid bitch wife of his. He would
be so out of there if she wasn't
pregnant again.

ABBY

Her body must be trashed after four
kids.

HANNAH

Five. They had one before I met
him.

Lucy lets out a loud GULPY SOB.

ABBY

(finally noticing)
Lucy, we're talking.

Lucy tries to hide another gulp.

ABBY (CONT'D)

What?

LUCY

(gulping)
No-thing.

HANNAH

I think she's upset. Don't be upset.

Lucy continues to cry. Hannah looks at Abby, shrugs, "I gave it my best shot," and moves away.

LUCY

(still a little sobby)
I'm gonna spend the rest of my life alone. I don't know why I bother. I should just move back with my parents..

*
*

Abby and Hannah panic a little.

ABBEY

Are you saying that just to get us to lower your rent? 'Cause we told you why you're paying more than us... It's a zoning thing. There's technically only two bedrooms, so we're taking a big risk letting you have that storage room.

*
*
*
*
*

LUCY

(still sobby)
No, I know. And you guys are being so nice, and I'm being such a drag. I mean, why would you even want me here?

*
*
*
*
*

Abbey rolls her eyes to Hannah, but she doesn't like the idea of losing their Golden Goose so....

ABBY

Hey, I have an idea. You want to come with us today?

HANNAH

(catching on)
Oh, that's a good idea. Come with us.

*

LUCY

(gulpy, sobby)
O-kay. Thanks. You sure you don't mind me tagging along?

ABBY

Of course not.

*

EXT. STREET - DAY

The three girls exit a store. Abby and Hannah are carrying
MULTIPLE SHOPPING BAGS. Lucy has no bags. Hannah pulls out a
JEWELLED SEXY TOP. *

HANNAH

I so scored. This was the last one. *

LUCY

(not her taste) *

Lucky. *

ABBY

(to Lucy) *

Sorry I forgot my purse. I always
do that. *

She gives a little laugh. *

LUCY

Oh. That's okay. *

The girls are opening their car door when... *

IN SLOW MOTION...

A guy passes them from the other direction. This is DENNIS.
WHITE T-SHIRT, FADED BLUE JEANS, GREAT BODY. Lucy and Dennis' *
eyes meet - an obvious ELECTRIC MOMENT. He moves on. Lucy
turns to look at him, he's turned back to look at her. He
SMILES. A THOUSAND KILO-WATT SMILE. He turns away and moves
on. Lucy continues to look at him... *

END OF SLOW MOTION ...

She TRIPS and FALLS FLAT ON HER FACE. Abby and Hannah help
her up. *

ABBY

Oh, my God. Was he ever cute.

HANNAH

I think he was looking at Lucy.

LUCY

He was not. Guys like that don't
look at girls like me.

HANNAH

I know. But this one did.

ABBY

Weird.

Lucy's pleased.

EXT. "HAPPY HANDS" - A VIETNAMESE MANICURE SALON - DAY

The three girls sit at different STATIONS, SOAKING HANDS and FEET in SUDSY WATER.

LUCY

(to her manicurist)

Don't cut my cuticles, okay? I've heard you can catch diseases and stuff.

MANICURIST

No worry. Only when no clean. We very clean. Sanitize.

She pulls out a simple PLASTIC BOX, CLUMSILY WRITTEN ON with a FELT MARKER - "STERILE NAIL EQUIPMENT."

MANICURIST (CONT'D)

See?

She wipes a little drop of BLOOD and CUTICLE off a tool with a tissue.

LUCY

Was that blood?

ABBY

Lucy, relax. We're here to be pampered.

The manicurist starts doing Lucy's nails.

MANICURIST

We make these nails nice, like girl's nails.

Lucy gazes out the window as the woman works on her nails.

LUCY'S FANTASY

EXT. BEAUTIFUL FOREST - DAY

Lucy on a BEAUTIFUL WHITE HORSE, cantering through woods dappled with sunlight. She's not holding the reins, her PERFECTLY MANICURED HANDS are in front of her as if trying to keep polish dry.

IN SLOW MOTION...

DENNIS in his WHITE T-SHIRT and FADED JEANS comes riding towards her on an equally gorgeous steed. Their horses come to a dramatic halt.

END OF SLOW MOTION...

DENNIS

What beautiful feminine nails. Will you be my girlfriend?

LUCY

Ow!

INT. "HAPPY HANDS" - DAY

Back to scene. The manicurist has just stabbed Lucy with the POINTY ORANGE STICK. A prick of BLOOD appears under her nail.

MANICURIST

Stop jumping!

LUCY

You stabbed me!

MANICURIST

You big baby.

INT. LUCY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lucy sits on the bed, as Abby and Hannah fish through her closet.

ABBY

We are going to make you look so hot tonight.

*
*

LUCY

I don't know. I'm not really a club person. They're loud, and smokey, and nobody really talks to me.

*

HANNAH

Oh, at the club we go to, everybody's really friendly to everybody.

ABBY

And if you're gonna be our roommate, you're gonna have to be fun.

Hannah finds a pair of LAME-ASS SHOES.

HANNAH

Oh, wow, where'd you find these relics? They went out of style like ten years ago. So you collect vintage, huh?

LUCY

(she still wears these)

Uh, okay.

Abby pulls out a FRUMPY SHAWL of Lucy's, looks at Hannah. Puts it back.

INT. CLUB - NIGHT

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The music is loud, the lights are low. Which is the most flattering lighting for the SKEEVY MEN that prowl the place. Lucy, Abby and Hannah are ENTERING. Lucy's in a pair of TIGHT, LOW-RIDING LEATHER PANTS, SLUTTY BELLY SHIRT, and CLUNKY FASHIONABLE SANDALS. Her make-up only adds to the total effect.

HANNAH

I never thought Abby's clothes would fit you so well.

LUCY

I wish you'd let me wear underwear.

ABBY

Then no one could see your crack.

Lucy tugs at the back of her pants.

ABBY (CONT'D)

You look great. I meet the best guys here.

INT. DANCE FLOOR - LATER

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A VILE FACSIMILE OF A HUMAN BEING is shimmying around Lucy, running his hands up and down her body, pressing his crotch into her buttocks. She looks over at Abby and Hannah for help. They give her a THUMBS UP, and continue happily dry-humping with their own PRIZE CATCHES.

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DISSOLVE TO:

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INT. CLUB - LATER

The three girls are up on a raised platform, where people are jumping or being thrown off into the crowd, who catches them.

HANNAH

(shouting over the noise)

Lucy, you have to try this! It's a blast!

LUCY

No, I'd rather not... It doesn't look that fun... I have trust issues...

ABBY

Chicken!

She shoves Lucy off. At the exact same time, another girl jumps off the other side of the platform. The crowds attention turns to the other girl. Lucy crashes through people, landing on the floor in a heap.

INT. CLUB - LATER

The three girls are at the bar, with various men around them. A different VILE GUY is talking to Lucy.

VILE GUY

Everybody has herpes. Everybody. If not genital, then oral. So don't play all high and mighty with me.

Hannah leans into her.

HANNAH

See, I told you people would talk to you.

INT. CAR - NIGHT.

LUCY driving while ABBY and Hannah, draped over the front and back seats, are making out with their dates.

INT. LUCY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lucy's in bed, trying to sleep. Behind the walls we hear the noises of Abby and Hannah having noisy sex (not with each other). Lucy pulls the covers over her head and rolls over.

EXT. MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS - MORNING

Lucy crosses into a BUILDING that houses a POLICE STATION.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lucy's getting into uniform. BLACK MANNISH SHOES, LIGHT BLUE SHIRT, VERY TIGHT NAVY BLUE LYCRA WORK PANTS. She reaches for a BELT and HOLSTER. Looks like she's a cop. She grabs a TICKET BOOK, and a CHALK STICK. Nope, she's just a LAME-ASS METER MAID.

Lucy proudly tucks the chalk stick into her holster. Tugs on the CROTCH of her TOO-TIGHT PANTS. The fabric is all the way up her TWEADLE. (The orifice slightly south of the poo-poo.)

Lucy digs the fabric out. It goes right back. She slowly pulls it down as far as the material will possibly stretch. Lets go. The CROTCH SPRINGS BACK with a PAINFUL TWANG. She exits the locker room uncomfortably.

INT. POLICE STATION

Lucy crosses through. The PARKING ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT is an adjunct of the POLICE DEPARTMENT. Lucy heads to the parking lot. She passes the desk, where an officer, MILES, is working. Shy, a little insecure, and smitten with Lucy.

MILES

(with a wave)

Hey, Lucy.

LUCY

Hey, Miles

MILES

(notices she's down)

Where's my morning smile?

She gives him a feeble smile and crosses out towards the parking lot. He looks longingly towards her as she exits.

EXT. PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Lucy crosses the parking lot. The METER MAID CARTS are lined up. Lucy's boss, WARREN, hands out keys.

WARREN

Frank, twenty-eight.

(tosses keys)

Mike, eleven. Taylor, the usual.

LUCY
Warren, how come I always get the
crappy cart?

WARREN
Seniority, Taylor.

LUCY
But I've been here longer than half
these people.

WARREN
Did I say seniority? I meant, shut
the fuck up and get in the cart.

LUCY
(embarrassed, to a co-
worker)
Oh, he acts like Mr. Grumpy Bear on
the outside, but on the inside,
he's just a pussy cat.

Warren TURNS SLIGHTLY towards Lucy.

LUCY (CONT'D)
I'm going!

She runs to the cart. Everyone gets in their carts and take
off. Lucy's cart STALLS REPEATEDLY. Warren stares at her,
then leaves. Lucy gets out and PUSHES THE CART UNTIL IT PICKS
UP SPEED, then hops in and CLUTCH-STARTS it.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Lucy drives slowly down the street, CHALKING TIRES.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Lucy supervises a car getting TOWED.

EXT. HILLY STREET - DAY

A bunch of cars with tickets on them. Lucy trudges past them,
back up a STEEP HILL to her cart. She gets in, releases the
brake, COASTS away from the sidewalk, and JUMP STARTS the
cart as it rolls down the hill.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

Lucy's tooling down the street in her cart. The TINNY SOUND
of a BAD RADIO. Abba's "TAKE A CHANCE ON ME," comes on. Lucy
CRANKS it up, and bops along to the music.

Lucy drives along. She sees a BLACK GUY in a GLEAMING BLACK BMW pulling into a HANDICAPPED PARKING SPOT. Lucy sighs, pulls her cart over, leaving it running, and crosses to it. BMW GUY gets out of his car.

LUCY

Sir, you know you can't park here. *

BMW GUY

Sure I can. I park here every day and every day you write me your little ticket. So just shut up with the lecture and write it.

Lucy starts writing.

BMW GUY (CONT'D)

(shouting)

You think you'd have better things to do than run around writing tickets to tax-paying citizens! Wait, what am I thinking? Of course you don't. This is as good as it gets for you.

Lucy's lip trembles a little, but she keeps writing.

BMW GUY (CONT'D)

You know what your handicap is? You've got a shit job! I make as much money in a week as you do all year!

LUCY

(trying for a clever comeback)

Oh, yeah? Well then you're underpaid 'cause I make shit!

Hmm, not quite the put-down she'd intended. She sticks the ticket under the wiper. Gets in her cart. Pulls away.

A guy passes on the other side of the street. Lucy catches a glimpse. She stops her cart... *

BEGIN SLOW MOTION

It's Dennis, the same cute blond guy we've seen before. He rounds the corner.

END OF SLOW MOTION

LUCY very tentatively follows in her cart. As she turns the corner, the guy is nowhere to be seen. Lucy pulls over, and gets out of her cart to take a look around. She walks a little way down the street. *

Suddenly a WHEELED DUMPSTER comes flying out of a SLOPED ALLEY towards her. Lucy screams and DIVES out of the way, landing with a THUD into the street. CARS HONK, SCREECH, SWERVE.

DRIVERS

Watch where you're going!/Get out of the damn street!

Lucy scrambles to safety. Another car slows down. A CONCERNED DRIVER leans out.

CONCERNED DRIVER

Are you okay, miss?

Lucy straightens up.

LUCY

(out of breath)

Yes, thank you.

CONCERNED DRIVER

(off her uniform)

Oh, you're a fucking meter maid!

Die! *

He PEELS OFF.

EXT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Lucy heads down the steps of her building, dressed for the evening.

EXT. LUCY'S PARENT'S HOUSE - EVENING

Upper-middle class home, lovely manicured lawn. No hint of the disturbing, twisted family dynamic lurking behind its doors. Lucy waits on the front step. Knocks on the door. Waits.

LUCY

Hello? Hello?

Knocks again. And again.

LUCY (CONT'D)
 Mom? Dad? Are you home?

Finally LUCY'S MOM opens the door. A genteel suburban housewife. Obsessive-compulsive, lost in her own little world. Dark blue jeans ironed down the front, crisp white shirt, pearls.

LUCY'S MOM
 Enough with the rap, rap, rap! It's deafening.

INT. PARENT'S HOUSE

Decorated with ANTIQUES and KNICKKNACKS from various foreign trips they've taken. Lucy steps inside.

LUCY
 Mom, do you think I could get my key back?

LUCY'S MOM
 (panicked)
 Why? The whole point of you moving out was for you to feel independent. You're not thinking of moving back, are you?

LUCY
 No, it would be just nice to know that if I needed to I...

LUCY'S MOM
 Anyway, it's not a good idea to let too many people have keys to your house. I saw it on Dateline.
 (looking around)
 Where are your new roommates?

LUCY
 They couldn't make it.

LUCY'S MOM
 Oh! You want to reschedule?

LUCY
I'm here!

LUCY'S MOM
 Oh, okay then. What's done is done.

INT. LIVING ROOM

They cross to the living room. Mom carefully avoids stepping on any cracks between the tiles.

LUCY'S MOM

(to Lucy, brightly)

Step on a crack, break your mother's back!

(off a mark on Lucy's forehead)

What's that thing on your face?

LUCY

A bruise. There was this dumpster...I was almost killed!

LUCY'S MOM

Well, you need to go upstairs and cover that up. It's hideous. Dinner's in a few minutes. Your dad's just finishing up with a patient.

She crosses into the living room. Lucy heads to the stairs, making sure TO STEP ON EACH AND EVERY CRACK along the way.

INT. DAD'S STUDY/HOME OFFICE - SAME TIME

An obvious psychiatrist's office - CERTIFICATES on the wall, COUCH, etc. A PATIENT stands in the doorway, just leaving.

PATIENT

I just wish I could stop feeling plagued with these thoughts of suicide.

LUCY'S DAD

Well, one way or another, they'll come to an end.

PATIENT

(confused)

What?

Dad pats the patient on the shoulder.

LUCY'S DAD

See you next week!

(closing the door)

Maybe.

INT. PARENT'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

On the wall, photo after photo of Lucy's parents and some GIRL (her cousin SUSIE), in various EXOTIC LOCATIONS, and FAMILY PORTRAIT-TYPE PHOTOS.

- 1) Mom, Dad and Susie at a SKI-LODGE.
- 2) Mom, Dad and Susie in front of the EIFEL TOWER. *
- 3) A CHRISTMAS PORTRAIT - Mom, Dad and Susie in SANTA CAPS, opening presents in front of a CHRISTMAS TREE.

Lucy, her bruise still noticeable, is looking at one of the PHOTOGRAPHS.

LUCY

Is this new? I thought you were gonna put up a picture of me. Every picture on this wall is of cousin Susie. *

LUCY'S MOM

Is it our fault you don't come on our family vacations? *

LUCY

Yes! You don't tell me about them! *

LUCY'S MOM

Nonsense. I send you postcards from every place we go. *

INT. PARENT'S DINING ROOM - LATER

Lucy and her parents are eating dinner. There are NO FORKS on the table, only spoons and knives. Lucy has a SINGLE BAKED POTATO on her plate.

LUCY'S MOM

(to Lucy)

Is your lamb tough? Mine's a little tough.

LUCY

I don't eat lamb. I'm a vegetarian.

LUCY'S MOM

Still? Well then just have more soup.

LUCY

It's chicken soup.

LUCY'S MOM

You don't eat chicken, either?

(sighs, exasperated)

Well, then pick out the chicken for heaven's sake.

(addressing dad)

She's so difficult. And why can't she do something with her hair?

LUCY

Mom, I'm right here.

LUCY'S DAD

Oh, who cares what she does with her hair?

He rubs Lucy's shoulder affectionately.

LUCY'S DAD (CONT'D)

(to Lucy)

So what if men don't find you attractive. That's why you have a good career to fall... oh.

(beat, cheerfully)

Oh, well, you never know what can happen in life. Who knew when your mother walked into my office with all her phobias and obsessive-compulsive behaviors, she'd end up marrying a doctor?

LUCY

Nobody knew, Dad, because shrinks aren't supposed to marry their patients.

LUCY'S DAD

It's a good thing too, otherwise some unscrupulous fellow might've snapped her up.

(noticing Lucy's face)

That's a nasty bruise.

LUCY'S MOM

She ran into a dumpster or something. Typical Lucy. Remember how she was always stumbling around, bumping into furniture?

LUCY

Mom, I was one. I was learning how to walk.

LUCY'S MOM

Well, it came off as clumsy.

Lucy's trying to hold the BAKED POTATO steady with her SPOON, so she can cut it. It's not working very well, she has to exert huge pressure to keep the potato steady.

LUCY'S MOM (CONT'D)

Turn the spoon upside down.

LUCY

This is one of those times when I could really use a fork.

LUCY'S MOM

Ah, ah, ah, ah, not another word about those pointy little troublemakers.

LUCY

But...

LUCY'S MOM

Ah! There's nothing you can eat with a fork that you can't eat with a spoon. But you can't eat soup with a fork.

LUCY

I'm not eating soup.

Mom reaches out, grabs the spoon, and slams it HANDLE-DOWN, RIGHT THROUGH LUCY'S POTATO. She GLARES at Lucy.

Lucy's Dad puts his hand on Mom's.

LUCY'S DAD

(to mom)

Honey, go to your calm place.

He gives Lucy a "see what you've done" look. Mom takes a deep breath, and lets go of the spoon. Dad rewards her with a pat on the hand. Mom smiles at Lucy.

LUCY'S MOM

All better.

INT. PARENT'S HALLWAY - NIGHT

Lucy is saying goodbye to her parents.

LUCY

Well, thanks. I guess I'll see you
next week.

★
★

LUCY'S MOM

Unless you have other plans!

(pointedly)

We understand that you have your
own life to live!

★

LUCY'S DAD

(aside to Mom)

She wasn't talking about moving
back, was she?

LUCY'S MOM

(aside to Dad)

We'll talk later.

(to Lucy)

Now don't you go home and throw up
my nice meal.

LUCY

Mom, I haven't been bulimic for
three years.

LUCY'S DAD

And you're still my little Miss
Piggy!

He pinches her in the belly.

LUCY'S DAD (CONT'D)

Oink, oink!

EXT. PARENT'S YARD - NIGHT

Lucy behind a tree, MAKING HERSELF VOMIT.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

Lucy finishes writing a ticket. She gets in her cart, it
stalls. She gets out, pushes it. Runs alongside and jumps in.

Driving along, she passes a NEWSPAPER KIOSK. A NEWSPAPER with
a headline - "PERFORMING BEAR ESCAPES CIRCUS." A LARGE COLOR
PHOTO of a bear on a TRICKED-OUT TRICYCLE, with PINK
STREAMERS and many fancy features.

LUCY

Sure, he gets a cup-holder.

As she drives on, she sees a meter click over. Pulls over, turns off the cart. She starts writing the ticket. Blond guy Dennis comes rushing out of the building.

DENNIS

No, wait, don't, I'm here...!

He moves towards her in SLOW-MOTION. Lucy sees his body bathed in a heavenly light as the sun glints off the building behind him. She gasps. He's SUPER CUTE. A car passes with the window down, playing HEAVENLY MUSIC, making the moment even more divine. Lucy is transfixed, until the moment is shattered by a LOW-RIDER, pumping out PUBLIC ENEMY and some FUCK-THE-POLICE song.

LUCY

Oh, God, I'm sorry, I already started writing it, and once you start writing it...

DENNIS

No, of course, no problem. It's my fault, you're just doing your job.

Lucy beams.

LUCY

Really? 'Cause lots of people don't understand that. And tickets are important you know, 'cause the money goes to pay for streets and potholes, and okay a little makes its way into our annual Christmas party but... but I'm talking too much.

★
★
★

Dennis looks at her curiously.

DENNIS

Haven't we met?

LUCY

Uh, kinda, a couple times maybe. I wasn't stalking you.

DENNIS

Yeah, yeah, I remember you. The other day, on the street. I wanted to talk to you. But I thought, why would she wanna talk to me?

★

LUCY
(laughs stupidly)
Oh, I would've... I mean, I
could've... like, said, stuff or
something. I have to go.

She hands him his ticket, and scurries into her cart. He
watches her. The cart doesn't start. Lucy grinds at the
ignition.

DENNIS
Let me help.

He starts to reach in for the key.

LUCY
No, it never starts, you have to
push it.

She starts to get out.

DENNIS
You stay. I'll push.

Lucy giggles. He leans in, one hand on the wheel,
inadvertently PRESSING HIS BODY AGAINST HER as he pushes.

DENNIS (CONT'D)
Sorry.

LUCY
It's okay. Really.

More than okay. Lucy leans into him, a GOOFY GRIN spreads
across her face, her EYES ROLL UP. Inadvertently she presses
all the way on the GAS PEDAL. The cart takes off, THROWING
DENNIS TO THE SIDE.

LUCY (CONT'D)
(circling back)
Sorry! Are you okay?

DENNIS
(brushing himself off)
No problem.

LUCY
Okay, then. Thanks.

She knows she's blown it, wants to crawl off and die. She
starts to pull away.

DENNIS

Hey, didn't you forget to write something on my ticket?

LUCY

I don't think so...

DENNIS

Your badge number? Phone number?

LUCY

Why would I write my phone number?

(realizing)

Oh. Ohhh.

INT. LUCY'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Her bed is PILED HIGH with REJECTED OUTFITS.

Lucy in front of the mirror tries unsuccessfully to BUTTON A SKIRT. Breathes in, fastens it. Breathes out. The button FLIES OFF, and lands in THE LITTER BOX. Lucy reluctantly fishes it out. Then realizes, IT'S NOT A BUTTON.

Lucy fighting to take a TOO-TIGHT TOP over her head. She starts to PANIC. CRASHES INTO THE LAMP. FALLS ON THE BED.

Lucy in a WHITE, FEATHERED POOFY DRESS WITH SWAN HEAD ATTACHED.

LUCY

Wait a second, this isn't mine.

INT. BJORK'S BEDROOM

BJORK rifles through her closet, looking in vain for something. Pulls out a LYCRA METER MAID OUTFIT wrapped in PLASTIC.

BJORK

Fucking dry cleaners.

INT. LUCY'S LIVING ROOM

Hannah and Abby are there. Abby's MAKING OUT with some CREEPY TATTOOED GUY. She pauses only to respond to Lucy.

LUCY

(off her skirt)

What do you think?

ABBY

That's the best one so far.

LUCY
You don't think this skirt makes my
thighs look huge?

ABBY
(sincere)
No, no, it's not the skirt.

LUCY
This is fate. I mean, what are the odds? This huge city and I run into this guy like three times!
(quoting)
"There's no such thing as chance. And what to us seems the merest accident, springs from the deepest source of destiny."

The guy has his hand on Abby's blouse.

ABBY
You know, Lucy, if you can land
this guy, he'll be the greatest guy
who ever dumped you.
(to the guy)
Stop! Your hands are filthy. I just
had this cleaned.

He moves his hand under Abby's blouse. Much better.

HANNAH
(to Lucy)
Oh, oh, oh, are you on your period?

No, why?
 LUCY

HANNAH
Okay, I read this thing, that
menstrual blood acts like a
pheromone, and it totally attracts
guys. It's like from caveman times.

Really? LUCY

HANNAH
You know what, don't worry, I'm on
my period. I can set you up.

LUCY
Eww. No way. That's disgusting.

EXT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Lucy heads down the steps. She gingerly tucks a PLASTIC BAG into her PURSE, and closes it.

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Lucy starts down the street. She passes a man taking out the trash. She waits for a reaction. Nothing happens. Lucy moves on.

She passes a couple of CONSTRUCTION GUYS. They ignore her.

She hears a COMMOTION. Turns. A BUNCH OF GUYS RUN FULL SPEED from around the corner.

The MEN RUN PAST HER. Lucy turns and looks after them, PUZZLED. Suddenly, A HUGE GROWL, as a GIANT BEAR IN A TUTU attacks her and bowls her over. Lucy SCREAMS. The bear TOSSES HER BACK AND FORTH, TRYING TO MATE WITH HER. They struggle furiously. THE BEAR'S ON TOP. LUCY'S ON TOP. Lucy SCREAMS, PUNCHING THE BEAR, FIGHTING FOR HER LIFE!

The bear grabs her PURSE and runs away. A bunch of CIRCUS GUYS and ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS pursue the bear, shooting at it with DARTS.

An animal control guy comes running over to Lucy, lying disheveled on the ground, BATTERED AND BEATEN, her DRESS TORN.

ANIMAL CONTROL GUY
(screaming at her)
You have menstrual blood in your
purse, don't you! Don't you!

INT. PASTATORIUM RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Dennis is at a table. Lucy approaches. She's straightened herself out somewhat, but her skirt is torn, there's a smudge mark on her face.

DENNIS
(rising)
God, are you okay?

LUCY
Yeah, I'm fine. I'm sorry. I was
attacked by a bear.

DENNIS
A bear?!

LUCY

Yeah, it's not as crazy as it sounds because I had...because... well, because there was a bear loose. Just attacked me for no particular reason. Because that's what bears do. Attack for no reason. I may have to pick him out of a line-up later.

Dennis laughs.

DENNIS

Well, you look great.
(leans forward)
Just a little spot...

He wipes the smudge off her forehead. Lucy's smitten.

LUCY

It's so weird you asked to meet here. This is my favorite restaurant.

DENNIS

No way. It's my favorite restaurant!

LUCY

You're kidding. This isn't anyone's favorite restaurant. It's a dump. I only come here 'cause they make the best...

DENNIS/LUCY

(together)
Fettucine Alfredo!

DENNIS

It's my favorite dish.

LUCY

Mine too!

They laugh.

LUCY (CONT'D)

When I was little, I used to go to this place that made the greatest fettucine Alfredo in the world. I could've eaten it every day.

DENNIS

Me, too. There was this place down the street from me, "Vittorio's." It was the...

LUCY

"Vittorios?" That's the name of my place!

DENNIS

I'm talking about Vittorio's in Forestdale.

LUCY

Oh, my God! You're from Forestdale?! I'm from Forestdale!

DENNIS

No!

LUCY

(singing badly)

"Hail, hail, Forestdale and Forestdale High!" See? Wouldn't it be weird if we knew each other when we were kids?

DENNIS

No, I would've remembered you.

He looks into her eyes. Lucy melts.

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - LATER

Dennis is wandering around the living room, looking at stuff. The couch sits facing the TV, its back to a SLIDING GLASS DOOR that leads to a BALCONY.

DENNIS

I can't believe it. We like the same music, same food, we're from the same town... Both of us want to see the Grand Canyon before we die. Isn't this strange, that we have so much in common? It's like we were destined to meet.

(quoting)

"There's no such thing as chance. And what to us seems the merest accident, springs from the deepest source of destiny."

Lucy's mouth drops.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

You know, since the Grand Canyon is on the top of both of our lists of places we wanna go, maybe someday, I mean, I don't wanna be too forward, maybe we could go.

LUCY

Together?

DENNIS

Well, that's even better. Yes, of course together.

LUCY

(too eagerly)

Okay!

(then, realizing)

I mean, in the future.

DENNIS

'Course it's hard for me to get time off, with my medical practice.

LUCY

(thrilled)

You're a doctor?

DENNIS

Surgeon.

LUCY

(all atwitter)

Excuse me for just a moment. Be right back.

Lucy exits.

INT. LUCY'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

*

Lucy enters, locks the door and stands in front of the mirror.

*

LUCY

(to herself)

Dr. and Mrs. Harris. Mrs. Dr. Harris. My husband the doctor. "Oh, I'll ask my husband about that cold. He's a doctor."

*

(beat)

"I'm divorced from Dr. Harris.

(MORE)

LUCY (CONT'D)
 My husband left me for his
 receptionist." The ex-Mrs. Dr.
 Harris.

Lucy SHRUGS, still sounds better than Lucy Taylor.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Dennis is on the balcony. Abby enters with a different SCUZZY *
 GUY. She notices Dennis.

ABBY
 (to the guy, re her room)
 I'll be right in.

The scuzzy guy crosses to her bedroom. Abby walks to the
 balcony.

ABBY (CONT'D)
 (to Dennis)
 I'm Abby. The cute one you saw on
 the street the other day. *
 (re the guy)
 He's not a real date or anything,
 in case you were wondering.

DENNIS
 I wasn't.

ABBY
 Well, in case you start to.

She exits to her room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - A MOMENT LATER. *

The room is empty. Lucy enters. Look around.

LUCY
 Dennis?
 (realizing he's gone)
 Great.

She slumps on the couch, crushed.

DENNIS (O.S.)
 Lucy?

He's on the balcony.

LUCY
 Dennis!

A thrilled Lucy rushes to the balcony.

EXT. BALCONY - CONTINUOUS

Dennis is drinking his wine, looking up at the stars. Lucy enters.

DENNIS

Hey.

LUCY

I thought you left. I mean, the living room. Which you did.

Dennis smiles, charmed.

LUCY (CONT'D)

(eager to change the subject)

More wine?

DENNIS

(teasing)

Are you trying to take advantage of me?

LUCY

I have soda.

DENNIS

More wine'd be great.

He sets his glass on the table. Lucy pours more wine.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

It's so beautiful out. Look at the stars.

Lucy joins him at the railing.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

See that big one? It's Venus.

LUCY

Which one?

DENNIS

Right there. Look.

He points off to the side. Lucy leans over the railing. It BREAKS. Lucy SCREAMS. As she falls, she desperately grabs at a piece of the railing, still embedded in the balcony.

LUCY

Ahhh! Dennis! Dennis!

Dennis leans down.

DENNIS
Let go, I'll pull you up!

Dennis grabs Lucy by the forearms... Hears Abby behind him.

ABBY (O.S.)
Way to go, Lucy! You're an alley
cat!

Abby enters in her underwear. Sees Lucy.

ABBY (CONT'D)
Oh, my God!

Dennis hauls the terrified Lucy up onto the balcony.

DENNIS
Are you alright?!

LUCY
(trying to calm down,
checking herself)
I think so. Yeah.

DENNIS
You can't leave me now. I just met
you.

He embraces her. Over his shoulder, Lucy gives Abby a look.
Mouths:

LUCY
Isn't he great?

Abby leaves and we are left with Lucy and Dennis looking into
each other's eyes. The wind softly moves Lucy's hair.
Dennis sensually envelopes her and they kiss a long slow
kiss.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. LUCY'S BEDROOM -MORNING

Dennis emerges from the bedroom first. He is buttoning his
shirt and looking very relaxed. Lucy emerges behind him.
There is a warm satisfaction about her. He takes her hand and
they walk to the front door of the apartment. He kisses her. *

DENNIS
So when are you free again?

LUCY

Oh, either tomorrow night, or the night after, or the one after that. I could check my book, but I think you get the idea. Plus I don't have a book.

*

Dennis laughs.

LUCY (CONT'D)

What?

DENNIS

You're so... honest. It's rare. You're very special, Lucy.

LUCY

I am?

DENNIS

(laughs)

Yes. And if it's okay, I'd like to see you again.

LUCY

You would? I mean, okay.

He kisses her again. Leaves. Lucy shuts the door. Her look of satisfaction turns into one of concern. *

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Lucy's at the desk, talking to Miles.

LUCY

I just know he's married. Or there's something else wrong with him. He's too good to be true. He's perfect.

*

This is difficult for Miles to hear. He wants to be the one who's perfect for her.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Do you think you could help me?
Could you check up on him for me?

*

*

*

MILES

Of course. You know I'd do anything for you.

*

*

(covering)

*

(MORE)

MILES (CONT'D)

You know, as one colleague to another. Can you get his fingerprints?

★
★

LUCY

Oh. I washed all the glasses.

MILES

Hmmmm. Is there anything else at all he might've touched?

★
★

INT. CRIME LAB - MINUTES LATER

From the front, we see Lucy, slightly stooped-over, as a couple of UNIFORMED OFFICERS ROUTINELY DUST HER ASS FOR FINGERPRINTS. We see this only from the front. WE DO NOT SEE HER ASS!!!

Behind her, one officer leans down, BRUSHES a BLACK POWDER onto her. The other officer BLOWS IT OFF. They PHOTOGRAPH HER ASS from different positions, with those big GIANT FLASH CAMERAS you only see in 50's movies.

LUCY

(to fingerprint guy)
I don't normally sleep with guys on the first date, but this guy was different. He wanted to.

EXT. PARK - LATE AFTERNOON

Lucy and Dennis are ROLLER-BLADING through the park. Clearly Lucy is new at this. Dennis is helping her, supporting her by her elbow.

DENNIS

You're doing great. You're a natural.

Lucy smiles. He's so gorgeous with the blue sky behind him, setting off his eyes. His strong muscular frame supporting her. He's perfect.

But her smile fades, he's too perfect. She watches him, still suspicious, as they roller-blade on.

LUCY

(false casual)
So Abby's cute huh?

DENNIS

What?

LUCY

Would you ever think about dating her? Would you ever think about dating someone else just to get close to her?

*

DENNIS

What?

LUCY

Hannah's dating a married man, don't you think that's awful? You'd never do anything like that would you?

*

DENNIS

Absolutely not. I would never, ever date a married man.

He smiles at Lucy.

LUCY

(laughs, then:)

But seriously?

DENNIS

I think you make a commitment to one person, and you honor that.

Lucy smiles, perfect answer. She is getting the hang of this now. They roller-blade together, holding hands.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

You're getting good at this.

LUCY

(surprised at herself)

I am.

She gets a little daring, holding up first one foot, then the other. They're moving faster.

DENNIS

Wanna try it on your own?

Before she can answer, he lets go of her, WHIPPING HER OUT in front of him. Lucy goes flying, passing pedestrians, other skaters, dog-walkers...

She's trying desperately to stop. She grabs at a PASSER-BY, he shakes her off, irritated. She grabs for a LIGHT POLE, her momentum carries her a quarter rotation around it, sending her flying towards...

A LONG FLIGHT of STEPS. She's unable to stop. Lucy flies down the steps. CRASHES at the bottom, and just lays there. A LITTLE BOY starts screaming.

PASSERBY

She's dead, she's dead!

Dennis comes rushing up. He kneels at Lucy's side.

DENNIS

Lucy?!

He bends close to see if she's breathing. Her eyes flutter open.

LUCY

Dennis?

DENNIS

You're alive!

He helps a sore Lucy to her feet. Underneath we see the BIG, STUFFED BARNEY that broke her fall, now squished and mangled. The little boy picks up his ruined toy, turns to Lucy.

LITTLE BOY

Bitch.

He runs off.

LUCY

(calling after him)

Sorry!

Dennis wraps his arm around Lucy, comfortingly.

INT. POLICE STATION BREAK ROOM - DAY

Lucy and MILES are at a small table, as he shows Lucy a SHEAF *
OF PAPERS spread out in front of them; the results of his *
investigation. His burger and fries are on the table. He's *
always a bit nervous around Lucy.

MILES

I'm afraid you were right about
him.

He grabs a paper from underneath his lunch.

MILES (CONT'D)

(reading)

He is from your home town. But he
has no pecker.

*

LUCY

What?!

MILES

(squinting at the smeared
paper)

Oh, no, wait. He's not a doctor.

LUCY

He's not?

MILES

And I bet he never mentioned that
he was committed to a mental
institution when he was 16, was
there ten years, and got out only
three months ago.

LUCY

(dream shattered)

He's not a doctor?

MILES

And last but not least, he was
committed by a doctor Reginald
Taylor.

Lucy gasps.

MILES (CONT'D)

Isn't that your father?

LUCY

Yes.

MILES

That's a pretty big coincidence,
Lucy. Has anything unusual happened
since you've met this Dennis? *

LUCY

Hmmm... not really. I mean, I was
attacked by a bear on my way to
meet him. And then I thought I saw
him on the street but I couldn't
get a good look 'cause this
dumpster came flying out of
nowhere. And the railing broke on
my balcony, but Dennis saved me...
And yesterday we were roller-
blading and... Oh, my God. *

Realization dawns.

INT. DAD'S OFFICE - DAY

★

Lucy's talking to her dad, who is playing with his BRAND NEW SEGWAY, leaning left and right to make it turn.

★

LUCY'S DAD

Ah, yes, I remember the boy. Fought like a wildcat when they came to take him away. Kept telling me I was making a big mistake, "I'm not crazy," blah, blah, blah.

★

LUCY

Did you ever stop to think that maybe he wasn't crazy?

LUCY'S DAD

If I did that, I'd never commit anybody.

LUCY

Dad, don't you wonder why I'm asking you this?

LUCY'S DAD

No.

He LEANS FORWARD on the SEGWAY, and TAKES OFF ACROSS THE CARPET.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Lucy enters, approaches the Maitre d'.

MAITRE D'

Can I help you?

LUCY

I'm looking for a lying bastard.

The Maitre d' makes a sweep of his hand, take a look. Lucy spots Dennis. Crosses to him.

Dennis is at a table. Lucy arrives.

DENNIS

Hey, you.

LUCY

(cool)
Hello.

She sits across from him. SNAPS her napkin into her lap.

DENNIS
(puzzled)
Are you okay?

LUCY
Fine. Like you care.

DENNIS
(confused)
What?

Suddenly a diner at another table begins to CHOKE!

WOMAN DINER
Oh, my God! Oh, my God! He's
choking. Somebody do something! We
need a doctor!

Lucy leans back in her chair, folding her arms, challenging.

LUCY
Dennis is a doctor.

Dennis looks at her, hesitates a moment.

WOMAN DINER
(to Dennis)
Help him!

Dennis gets up slowly. The man is prone on the floor, choking. Dennis looks at the man, back at Lucy, looks around for something, anything. He grabs a STRAW from a nearby Coke, and grasping it in his fist, PLUNGES THE STRAW THROUGH THE MAN'S TRACHEA. A HORRIBLE GURGLE is heard from the man's throat. Dennis stands up.

DENNIS
(with authority)
Okay, everybody stand back. Man
just needs some air.

LUCY
I know you're not a doctor. *

DENNIS
Well, you might've said something a
little earlier.

Another patron is doing CHEST COMPRESSIONS on the guy in the background. *

Dennis grabs Lucy, and they WALK OUT. *

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

★

Outside the restaurant.

LUCY

I know what you've been trying to do! You rigged my railing, the dumpster, the roller-blading, you let that bear loose knowing full well I had menstrual blood in my purse...!

★

DENNIS

What?

LUCY

Okay, maybe the bear was my fault. But that doesn't take away from the fact that you've been trying to kill me! And don't try to deny it. I did a background check. I had my ass dusted. I know about the mental institution, I know everything.

DENNIS

Oh.

(beat)

You had your ass dusted?

(off her look)

Okay, you're right. I am trying to kill you. And I know it sounds bad, but put yourself in my place. I'm sixteen years old, I'm bored one night, I decide to toilet paper some house. Turns out to be some muckety muck who calls the cops, my parents freak, send me to a shrink. Your father. Who decides, that rather than be grounded, I should spend a year of my life in a mental institution.

LUCY

I'm sorry. I really am. But that was like nine years ago.

DENNIS

Well, one year turned into two, then three, then ten. Your father never came to release me. Every year, I'd call and beg him to come sign the paperwork, and every

★

(MORE)

DENNIS (CONT'D)

year, he'd say he was happy with his long distance service and hang up.

LUCY

So, okay, my dad's a jerk. So kill him. Not me.

DENNIS

Believe me, I thought about that. But he's a respected doctor, there'd be an investigation. You go over a balcony, they put in a new railing. No offense. *

LUCY

No offense? You're basically saying that I could die and no one would care or even notice!

(beat, realizing)

So, go on.

DENNIS

Okay, so I wanted to make your death look like an accident, so I spent all my time studying everything about you, your likes, dislikes... Unlike the other inmates who spent their time pumping iron to better fend off the rapes. Then, when I finally got out, I started following you, learning your schedule.

LUCY

So all those things we had in common...

Dennis sheepishly pulls out his PALM PILOT. Hits a button, shows Lucy -

CLOSE UP ON THE PALM PILOT SCREEN "LUCY'S FAVORITE THINGS."

Followed by a list.

LUCY

(stunned)

And our trip to the Grand Canyon? *

Dennis shrugs apologetically. With his hand he makes a diving motion, along with a WHISTLING NOISE and a SPLAT.

LUCY (CONT'D)

So everything was a lie. There is
no fate. You don't like Fettucine
Alfredo, you don't like Abba,
and you don't like me!

She rushes off, upset.

EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A sad Lucy, brushing the tears from her eyes, walks away from
him. Dennis watches her go. He does like her. *

EXT. STREETS - DAY

Lucy is doing her rounds on foot. A YOUNG COUPLE passes hand-
in-hand. Lucy watches them enviously. A MIDDLE-AGED couple
kiss goodbye at the BART entrance. A LITTLE BOY chases a
LITTLE GIRL in a playground. She stops, turns, kisses him on
the cheek. He runs, she starts chasing him. Ah, love. Lucy
turns to see A DOG CRAZILY FUCKING ANOTHER DOG.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Lucy's on a bench, a half-eaten sandwich in her lap. A
DROOLING, FILTH-ENCRUSTED, SCABBY-LEGGED BAG LADY sits down
the bench from Lucy, sorting through her cart. Lucy's
talking, the woman ignores her. *

LUCY

I mean, why can't there be someone
for me? They say there's someone
for everyone. What a crock, huh?
But I don't have to tell you. I
don't know how you do it, you know.
I mean, what's it like to be
totally alone in the world?

An even more FILTH-ENCRUSTED BAG MAN joins the woman. THEY
START TO HAVE SEX on the bench next to Lucy, as she goes back
to her sandwich, depressed.

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Abby's making out on the couch with a WELL-GROOMED,
PROFESSIONAL-LOOKING GUY in a SUIT. His PAGER goes off. The
guy checks the pager.

SUIT GUY

Emergency. I gotta go.

ABBY

Can't you just ignore it?

SUIT GUY
You know those poor kids depend on
me.

ABBY
Oh, alright. But hurry back.

Hannah crosses through to the kitchen. Suit Guy exits.

ABBY (CONT'D)
(to Hannah)
This is why I don't like dating
drug dealers.

Lucy enters.

LUCY
Okay, I've made a decision, and I'm
really happy, so don't try to talk
me out of it.

ABBY
Alright. Good for you.

Abby crosses out of the kitchen, leaving Lucy for a beat.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Abby's looking in the fridge, Hannah's making popcorn. Lucy
enters.

LUCY
Don't you want to know what it is?

ABBY
(rummaging through the
fridge)
Sure.
(she sniffs at something
foul in the fridge)
Ew, smell this.

She thrusts it at Lucy, who takes the item and holds it.

LUCY
Alright, I know the only reason
Dennis was going out with me is
'cause he's trying to kill me, but
I don't care. I'm going to keep
dating him.

HANNAH
You're kidding.

Hannah and Abby sit at the kitchen table. Lucy joins them. She pulls a PIECE OF PAPER out of her purse.

LUCY

I've made a pros and cons list.
Look.

She unfolds the paper.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Number one, he's driven. Two, he's ambitious. He's goal-oriented. He cares about my likes and dislikes. Thinks about me night and day. He's inventive. Creative. And he's not cheap. 'Cause I hate that. And I mean, this guy was gonna spend a lot of money to take me to the Grand Canyon when he could've killed me locally.

(shows them the list)
It goes on and on. And look, on the other side, one teeny little thing.

ABBY

Yeah. He's trying to kill you.

LUCY

Sure, he's trying to kill me now, but that can all change. And I'm not going to throw away a perfectly good guy over one thing. I'm not gonna do better than Dennis!

HANNAH

What is wrong with you? How can you even think of dating someone who wants you dead?!

LUCY

I'll be dating!

INT. MOVIE THEATRE - NIGHT

A semi-darkened theatre. Lucy and Dennis are making their way down a row to their seats, carrying POPCORN & DRINKS. The COMING ATTRACTIONS are on.

DENNIS

(whispering)
I can't believe you don't have a problem with this.

LUCY
(whispering)
It's not ideal, but I think we can
work it out.
(stepping on someone)
Sorry, sorry!
(to Dennis)
I'm never sure whether I should
have my ass in their face, or be
facing them.

PATRON
What's the difference?

LUCY
Okay, I stepped on you, you don't
have to be rude.

Lucy and Dennis sit. Settle in.

DENNIS
(whispering)
How does it work out? I mean, if it
works out the way I want it to work
out, I don't think you'll be happy.

MALE THEATRE GOER
Shhh!

LUCY
(turns around)
Shhh yourself. It's perfectly
acceptable to talk during the
previews.

MALE THEATRE GOER
Okay, but if you talk during the
movie I'll fucking kill you.

LUCY
Ha, ha. You know what happened to
the last guy who tried to kill me?

MALE THEATRE GOER
(sarcastic)
You beat him up? I'm real scared.

LUCY
I'm dating him!

The horrified theater-goer shuts up, and quickly sits back in
his seat.

DENNIS
(whispering)
Lucy, you know I'm not looking for
a relationship.

LUCY
(whispering)
I know, me too.

DENNIS
(whispering)
I'm serious, I'm going to kill you.

LUCY
(whispering, patting his
hand)
I know, me too.

DENNIS
(whispering)
What?

LUCY
(whispering)
I mean, whatever you need to do.
You just be you. I don't want to
change you. I'm the kind of girl
who just rolls with the punches.
Okay, that's just a figure of
speech, but you get what I'm
saying.

She indicates the movie's starting. Big block letters fill the screen, it's the logo of the GREATEST MOVIE STUDIO IN THE WORLD, MIRAMAX. Lucy and Dennis snuggle together to watch this top-grossing and critically acclaimed movie. *

What follows is a LOVERS MONTAGE:

EXT. MOVIE THEATRE - LATER

Lucy and Dennis exit the theatre, laughing, holding hands.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT *

Lucy and Dennis watch a GUITARIST play. Dennis drops money in his GUITAR CASE.

EXT. LOCAL COFFEE HOUSE - NIGHT

Through the window, Lucy and Dennis sit at a table, heads together in intense conversation.

EXT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Lucy and Dennis are standing at the bottom of the steps.

DENNIS

I had a great time tonight.

LUCY

Me, too.

DENNIS

Well, good night.

LUCY

Good night.

He kisses her. Caresses her face. Another kiss as he holds on to her neck, hard. Really hard. Lucy can't breathe, she's turning red. He's choking her. She struggles.

LUCY (CONT'D)

(gasping)

Okay, okay, you know what, I don't feel right about this. It's too soon. I'm not ready. I have a headache...

(strangled)

Although it could just be the lack of oxygen.

As she struggles for air, her head rolls around, accidentally HEAD-BUTTING him. Dennis REELS BACK, releases her, grabs his head.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Oh, God, I'm sorry, are you okay!

DENNIS

Yeah, yeah...

(rubbing his bruised forehead)

Okay, we'll take it slow.

Lucy smiles.

INT. POLICE STATION - AFTERNOON

Miles is at the desk. Lucy, going home for the day, crosses through the station. She has obvious HAND PRINTS on both sides of her neck.

*

In the B.G. an AFRICAN-AMERICAN ARROWHEAD DELIVERY GUY delivers BOTTLES. He's the only African-American in the station.

★
★

MILES

(again nervous in her presence)

★
★
★

Lucy, hi, hey... I've been worried about you. What happened with that Dennis guy?

LUCY

(smiling)

★
★
★

Oh, it was all a big mix up. Everything's great now.

MILES

(a bit disappointed)

★
★
★
★
★

Oh, well that's good. It's nice to see you smiling again. But if you ever need help I'm here...

(takes out his gun)

...and I can use this if necessary.

LUCY

Guns make me kind of nervous, Miles.

★
★

MILES

That's 'cause you're not used to handling one.

He spins it on his index finger. The gun flies out his hands, skids across the floor and GOES OFF.

FRANTIC COPS

Gun!/Gun!/Gun!

They leap upon the BLACK ARROWHEAD DELIVERY MAN, and wrestle him to the ground.

LUCY

Thanks anyway!

She heads off happily. Miles stares after her.

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Abby's giving a guy on the couch an artfully staged BLOW JOB. Hannah exits her room, heads out the door.

★
★

HANNAH

See ya'.

★
★

Abby looks up. *

ABBY
Where are you going? *

HANNAH
Paul's wife went into labor. So if
it's anything like the last time,
we've got a good twelve hours
together! *

She exits. Abby goes back to business. *

Lucy exits her room, grabs her purse and heads out. *

ABBY (V.O.)
(mumbling)
If vat vat vore vawin? *

Lucy turns.

LUCY
What?

ABBY'S DATE
She said is that what you're
wearing?

LUCY
Yeah, why?

ABBY
Ih uh uh ih uh ite

ABBY'S DATE
It doesn't fit you right.

Lucy looks at him quizzically.

ABBY'S DATE (CONT'D)
(explains)
I'm a dentist.

LUCY
Oh.
(back to Abby)
So you don't think it's cute?

Abby comes up for air.

ABBY
I wouldn't be caught dead in it.
No, really, think about it.

Lucy does. She heads back to her room to change.

EXT. BATTING CAGES - DAY

Wide shot of BATTING CAGES. It's a lovely, romantic day. Lucy and Dennis enter the shot. They walk up to the cash register and pay for their tokens so they can bat. They each pick a bat. Lucy grabs a helmet.

DENNIS

You gonna wear that goofy thing?

Lucy points to a sign, "ALL BATTERS MUST WEAR HELMETS".

LUCY

You have to.

DENNIS

Oh, that's just something they put up for liability. I never wear one.

LUCY

(putting hers on)

Yeah, but those balls come really fast. One blow to the head, and boom!

DENNIS

(imagining it)

Yeah.

Dennis walks into a batters cage, inserts the token. He hits first, taking a huge swing. The bat slices through the air until it connects with a loud CRACK, sending a baseball flying.

LUCY

Wow, that was awesome!

DENNIS

Your turn.

Lucy picks up her bat. She takes her version of a batter's stance. Playfully grabs her crotch. SPITS. It doesn't go far enough. Spit lands on her pants. She quickly wipes it off, hoping Dennis didn't notice. He stands behind her, helping her hold the bat.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Mmmm. Your hair smells good.

LUCY
 Oh, that's my dandruff shampoo.
 (realizing)
 I mean, thank you.

DENNIS
 I just want to run my hands through
 it.

He tries to take off her helmet.

LUCY
 (playfully)
 Stop it! I have to concentrate.

She re-sets her helmet. Swings and misses at a couple of
 balls, then connects with a solid line drive.

LUCY (CONT'D)
 Yay! What was that? Single? Double?

DENNIS
 I don't know. I was concentrating
 on your form. Which is excellent, I
 might add.

Lucy smiles. She prepares for another round. Dennis is
 holding the bat, he's looking at her head...

DENNIS (CONT'D)
 (wiping his brow)
 Boy, aren't you hot in that thing?

LUCY
 No.

She takes another swing. Dennis is stymied.

Suddenly we hear a CRYING BOY, about five years old. Lucy and
 Dennis turn. Dennis lowers the bat.

LUCY (CONT'D)
 (to the boy)
 What's wrong?

CRYING BOY
 (sniffling)
 There's no more helmets so my mom
 says I can't bat.

Lucy kneels in front of the boy. She tousles his hair. Dennis
 watches her.

LUCY

Well, tell you what. This helmet looks like it might fit you. What do you think?

She takes her own helmet off and puts it on his head. This action reveals a pleased Dennis behind her.

CRYING BOY

(his sniffles drying)

Thanks, lady.

He runs off.

DENNIS

That was really sweet.

They smile at each other. Lucy picks up her bat, goes back to her stance. She's shifting her weight, waiting for the ball. Dennis sees his opportunity. He pulls his bat back, and SLAMS IT FORWARD, RIGHT AT LUCY'S HEAD. At the same time Lucy sees the pitched ball is coming right for her head. She ducks.

*
*
*

The bat whooshes over her head...

Dennis accidentally connects with the ball, hitting it so hard it flies out of the park. Lucy realizes what happened.

*
*

LUCY

(let down)

Dennis!

*

DENNIS

I knew you wouldn't be okay with this.

LUCY

(gently)

I know I said you could try to kill me, and you can, but Dennis, that won't solve anything. It won't make you feel any better.

*
*
*

DENNIS

It'll make your father suffer, and that's good enough for me.

LUCY

Wait a second. That's why you're doing this? You think that killing me will make him suffer? My dad doesn't even like me.

DENNIS

Oh, please, he's crazy about you.
You were all he talked about,
session after session. His little
precious. Susie, Susie, Susie.

(puzzled)

Why did you change your name to
Lucy?

★

LUCY

I didn't change my name! Susie's my
cousin. And my parents don't give a
damn about me! Come to my house.
You'll see.

EXT. LUCY'S PARENTS HOUSE - NIGHT

★

Lucy and Dennis are walking up the steps. Dennis stops.

★

DENNIS

You know what, this is a bad idea.

★

★

He starts to turn back. Lucy stops him.

★

LUCY

★

No, no, we have to do this. You
have to know the truth.

★

★

Dennis looks up at the house.

★

DENNIS

Last time I came here, an hour
later I was locked up in a mental
hospital.

★

★

★

★

LUCY

★

Well that's not going to happen
this time. We're just gonna have
dinner and leave. We don't even
have to have dinner. You'll see how
shitty they treat me, and then
we'll go. It won't take long.

★

★

★

★

★

★

DENNIS

★

I don't know... The thought of
seeing your father... I hate him. I
hate what he did to me. And I can't
just go in that house, smile, and
pretend that everything's okay.

★

★

★

★

★

LUCY

★

Oh, you get used to it.

Before Dennis can argue, Lucy knocks on the door. Mom answers *
instantly. She's all DOLLED-UP, way TOO MUCH EYELINER, LONG
EVENING DRESS, SPARKLY EARRINGS, UPSWEPT HAIR.

LUCY'S MOM
(gleeful)
Come in, come in!

INT. PARENT'S HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Dennis and a confused Lucy enter.

LUCY'S MOM
We were so thrilled to hear you
were bringing a young man!

Dad comes out of the living room.

LUCY'S DAD
Where's my girl?

He gives her a big hug.

LUCY'S DAD (CONT'D)
Daddy's missed you, sweetheart.

LUCY
Who are you?

Lucy shakes her head at Dennis, this is not right. Dennis
looks at her, "yeah, sure."

They all cross to the living room. Mom heads to the kitchen.

Dennis takes in the grandeur of the house. The antiques, the
art, the comfort.

DENNIS
(to Lucy's Dad)
So, this is where you live.

LUCY'S DAD
(proudly)
Yup. Be it ever so humble.

DENNIS
This is where the great Dr. Taylor
spent the last ten years of his
life.

LUCY'S DAD
(clueless)
Well, not all ten.
(MORE)

LUCY'S DAD (CONT'D)
I like to travel a lot. Get out.
Live life. Travel much, Dennis?

DENNIS
Planning to. Just have some
business to attend to first. Then
I'll be on the move. *

Lucy gives him a look.

INT. PARENT'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They move into the living room. The wall that formerly housed pictures of everyone but Lucy, has now become a shrine to her, with a GIANT PHOTOGRAPH of Lucy in the center, CANDLES burning on either side. The photo is clearly a YEARBOOK photo, BLOWN UP to huge proportions.

LUCY'S DAD
Let me get you two lovebirds some
wine. If I can tear myself away
from my little princess for a
minute!

He crosses away. Lucy stares at the picture on the wall, stunned.

DENNIS
(whispers)
You said they didn't even have
pictures of you.

LUCY
Look at it! They cut it out of my
high-school yearbook!

DENNIS
Lucy, give it up. They obviously
adore you.

INT. PARENT'S DINING ROOM - LATER

They're all sitting at the table, eating soup.

LUCY'S DAD
(to Dennis)
You know, you look awfully
familiar. Do I know you?

Dennis takes a French roll from the basket.

DENNIS

(bitter)

Nope. I'm no one who has made any impact on your life whatsoever.

LUCY'S DAD

(cheerful)

Okey-dokey.

LUCY'S MOM

(sing-song)

But I have a feeling that's going to cha-ange.

She taps her own WEDDING RING.

LUCY

Mom!

LUCY'S DAD

She's quite a prize, this one. How many times have I told her she's what I love most in the world?

DENNIS

(directed at Lucy)

You know, I need a sharper knife. This bread isn't cutting.

LUCY'S MOM

Oh, we have sharp, sharp knives in the kitchen. We have one that could slice the head off a cow like that.
(snapping her fingers)

She starts to get up.

DENNIS

No, no, I'll get it.

He exits to the kitchen. Lucy turns to her parents.

LUCY

What are you doing?! Stop being so nice to me!

LUCY'S MOM

Honey, we want him to like you. We want him to see how smart and beautiful and talented you are.

LUCY

But I'm not all those things.

LUCY'S MOM

Yes, but by the time he finds that out, you'll be married.

LUCY

What do you care if I'm married?!
You don't care about my happiness.
What difference does it make to you?

LUCY'S MOM

Daddy and I just feel it's time that somebody else shoulder the responsibility for you. I mean, love you.

She pats Lucy's hand, lovingly.

LUCY

Yeah, well, if you don't stop being so nice to me, this guy's gonna kill me!

LUCY'S DAD

Hmm. That's interesting.

LUCY

What?

LUCY'S DAD

You equate sex with death.

LUCY

Huh?

LUCY'S DAD

It's so obvious what's happening here. You're getting close to this young man, and you're terrified of intimacy. You see his penis, you think it's a gun...

LUCY

Dad...!

LUCY'S DAD

The two are so classically linked. A lot of times I have this dream where Charlton Heston and I are naked together and he's touching me... It's clearly about guns.

LUCY

This was a mistake. I should never have brought him here. I probably shouldn't even be dating him.

LUCY'S MOM

Well, you go with your heart, honey. And if your heart tells you you want to die a barren, lonely old woman, with no one to ever love you, then you break up with this young man.

LUCY'S DAD

Who is trying to "kill" you, with his "gun."
(points to his penis)

LUCY

Dad, please don't ever point to your...
(nods uncomfortably in the direction of his lap)
...you know, again.

Dennis returns to the table, with a SMALL KNIFE in his hand.

DENNIS

This is all I could find.

As Dennis's JACKET swings open a little, we and Lucy see the HANDLE of what is obviously a LARGE KNIFE sticking out from his waistband. *

LUCY

(to dad, whispering
frantically)
Look, look in his pants! It's a knife! *

LUCY'S DAD

(shrugs)
Knife, gun...

(Frank, we've stuck various size objects down our pants and think this can work) *

INT. PARENT'S HALLWAY - LATER

Everyone's in the hallway, saying good night. *

LUCY'S MOM

It's been a pleasure meeting you,
Dennis. And it's always great to
see my baby.

(pinching Lucy's cheek)

Oh, we can't bear to think of life
without her after some lucky man
takes her away!

DENNIS

(cheerful)

Well, you may have to get used to
life without her.

LUCY'S MOM lets out a little SQUEAL OF DELIGHT, she reaches
for Dad's hand.

LUCY

You know, I think I'll stay here
tonight.

LUCY'S DAD

Oh, don't be silly. You kids go off
and have a good time.

LUCY

Dad, I'd really rather not.

Dad picks Lucy up and bodily carries her across the threshold
to the step.

EXT. PARENT'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

LUCY'S DAD

Of course you would!

(to Dennis)

You take care of my little
precious.

DENNIS

I'll treat her like she's the most
important thing in the world to
you, sir.

Lucy tries to FORCE HER WAY back in, Dad blocks the door with
a RIGHT FOREARM.

LUCY'S DAD

And you take good care of him.

He starts to SHOVE THE DOOR CLOSED on Lucy. Mom leans through
the opening in the door.

LUCY'S MOM
(whispering)
Remember, guys love anal.

She WINKS. Lucy recoils.

EXT. STREET

Dennis holds the car door open for Lucy. She looks at the knife sticking out of his waistband. *

LUCY
Maybe I should walk home. *

DENNIS
Suit yourself.

He closes the door. Goes around and gets in the car.

Lucy walks briskly down the sidewalk. We hear the GUNNING of an ENGINE,

HEADLIGHTS baring down... Lucy SCREAMS, starts RUNNING.

Dennis's car JUMPS the sidewalk, chasing her. Lucy runs faster down the sidewalk, cuts across a LAWN. Looks behind her. The HEADLIGHTS from Dennis's car are nearly on top of her.

Dennis pursues her across the LAWN, leaving TIRE TRACKS. He's gaining on her... She leaps over a fence to safety. Dennis swerves to avoid the fence.

As Dennis speeds away he leans out of the car, calls after Lucy.

DENNIS (CONT'D)
Call you tomorrow?

LUCY
(holding her sides,
catching her breath)
Okay.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Miles is at the desk, doing paperwork. He stops when he sees Lucy, gives her a big smile. Lucy keeps walking.

INT. PARKING DEPARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Lucy crosses to the locker room.

CO-WORKER

Hey, Taylor, looks like you got a
secret admirer.

He indicates a desk with a FLOWER ARRANGEMENT, BOX OF CANDY,
and a STUFFED BEAR holding a BIG HEART.

LUCY

(touched)

Oh, Dennis...

(then realizing he's
trying to kill her)

Very clever.

A FEMALE CO-WORKER crosses in.

FEMALE CO-WORKER

Those are beautiful. They're so
exotic.

She leans forward.

LUCY

Don't smell them! Their scent could
be lethal.

Lucy TOSSES THE FLOWERS in the garbage. She RIPS OPEN the
bear, PULLING OUT THE STUFFING - there's nothing there. She
tosses the bear carcass. She picks up the chocolates. Before
she can do anything, her boss Warren grabs them.

WARREN

Ooh, chocolates.

He takes a couple.

LUCY

No!

WARREN

Come on, Lucy, with those thighs
you can afford to share.

He pops two into his mouth. Smiles. Then his expression
changes to one of horror. HE GRABS HIS THROAT, EYES BULGING.

LUCY

I tried to warn you!

He grasps at his throat, tearing at it.

LUCY (CONT'D)
(not doing anything to
help him)
Now you're gonna die a horrible
painful death!

Warren slams his stomach against the edge of the desk,
Heimliching himself. Something SHOTS OUT OF HIS MOUTH.

WARREN
(explaining)
Peanut.

LUCY
Oh.

He takes another one. Lucy, still wary, exits to the parking
lot.

INT. POLICE STATION

Miles has seen this whole thing. He's crushed.

COPS
Don't think your gifts to your
girlfriend went over real well,
Miles.

Several cops LAUGH. Miles is hurt and humiliated. *

EXT. STREETS

Lucy is on her rounds.

EXT. HANDICAPPED PARKING SPOT

The same black BMW is illegally parked. Lucy cruises past.
Shakes her head, pulls over, starts to write the ticket.
She's about to place it under the windshield when the BMW guy
storms over.

BMW GUY
Get your greasy little hands off my
windshield! Every time you give me
a ticket you get your fingerprints
all over my window! Look, look at
this!

He lifts the WIPER BLADE. A small PIPE BOMB explodes. The
HOOD bursts open, emitting fire. Lucy SCREAMS. The BMW guy is
thrown back, and falls to the ground, with only minor
injuries. *

Lucy rushes to him.

*

LUCY
God, are you okay?!

*
*

BMW GUY
I think so.

*
*

Lucy HANDS HIM THE TICKET.

*

INT. DENNIS'S APARTMENT - DAY

*

Dennis, TOOLBOX in hand, opens the door to Lucy.

*

LUCY
We need to talk.

DENNIS
Sure. I'm just working on something
in the garage.

They exit.

INT. GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER

They cross in to the garage. In a corner sits something which is clearly the beginning stages of a GUILLOTINE. To the side is a BOX of WATERMELONS.

LUCY
Alright. What's it going to take
for you to stop trying to kill me?

*

DENNIS
Your death.

He adjusts the rope on the guillotine.

LUCY
See, you always go right to that
negative place.

DENNIS
Hand me that.

Lucy hands him a BASKET, which he places under the guillotine as a catch-all. He puts a watermelon through the guillotine opening.

LUCY
This trying to kill me thing is
causing a lot of problems.
(MORE)

LUCY (CONT'D)

I'm distracted at work, innocent people are getting hurt... but more importantly, it's coming between us.

★

He releases the blade. It only cuts half way through. They both stare at the blade IMBEDDED HALF-WAY THROUGH THE MELON. Ouch.

He hands Lucy the rope. She holds the blade in mid-air, as Dennis starts SHARPENING THE BLADE with a stone.

LUCY (CONT'D)

How can you get to know the real me when I'm not even myself? I'm preoccupied. You know, with dying. And it's keeping us from getting close. If you could stop thinking about killing me for...

Dennis stops sharpening.

DENNIS

I knew it. I knew this was going to happen. Why do women always try to change you?

LUCY

I'm not trying to change you. I'm just asking for a chance. A week. One week without all the distractions and maybe you'll change your mind. I mean, you like me right?

★

DENNIS

That's not the point. This is all I've thought about for ten years.

He puts another watermelon in the guillotine.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

It's what's kept me going. And now you come along and you're trying to ruin my plans, and you're so nice and sweet... and, and you're screwing this up. It's very confusing.

★

He releases the blade, it SLICES THE WATERMELON CLEANLY IN HALF. The half watermelon falls in the basket. They stare at this for a moment.

LUCY

Okay, look, I want to be fair, so if you don't think it can work at the end of the week, fine, kill me. I don't care. I'll even help you make it look like an accident. You can take me to the Grand Canyon and push me off. But I know you're the guy for me, and I'll never find anyone else. Please.

DENNIS

(sighs)

Fine. One week. But at the end of that week, that's it. I'm killing you. *

LUCY

(thrilled)

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

DENNIS

No, don't be happy. Don't thank me.

Lucy smothers him in kisses.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Okay, you can thank me.

They kiss some more. Lucy stops.

LUCY

(off the guillotine)

By the by, that doesn't look like much of an accident.

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Lucy's got a spring in her step. She's in a CUTE OUTFIT, GREAT HAIRDO, GREAT MAKE-UP. She's talking to Abby and Hannah.

LUCY

The way I see it, I've got this window of opportunity, and I'm gonna take advantage of it. I'm gonna be so cute and sexy and irresistible there's no way he'd kill me. *

HANNAH

You go girl! We know you can do it. *

Lucy exits, psyched. Abby and Hannah look at each other. Ain't gonna happen.

INT. LOBSTER RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Lucy sits across from Dennis. She looks really good, (but still has the same crappy self-image).

DENNIS

You look great.

LUCY

I have on a ton of make-up. You can't really see my face.

DENNIS

I think you look great no matter what you do.

LUCY

Yeah, right.

Another AWKWARD BEAT.

DENNIS

You didn't have to go to all the trouble.

LUCY

No, no trouble.

They sit in silence. Yet ANOTHER LONG BEAT.

LUCY (CONT'D)

So this is awkward, isn't it?

DENNIS

(relieved at her noticing)
It is, yeah, I know. I don't know what it is. I guess that every date, I've had something planned for the end of the date, and now I'm not sure how this is supposed to end.

(trying to convince himself)

But it'll be fine, it's going to be great.

The waitress brings their lobster meals. Lucy picks up her LOBSTER BIB.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Here, let me.

He goes behind her, starts to tie her bib. Suddenly he's gripped by an overwhelming desire to tie it really, really tight. His hands CLENCH, SHAKE, as he looks at the back of her neck, IMAGINING STRANGLING HER. Lucy looks behind her, irritated.

LUCY

Dennis.

DENNIS

Maybe you better do it.

She ties the bib. Dennis sits.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. Old habits...

They sit in silence, looking at their food.

INT. BART STATION - NIGHT

*

Lucy and Dennis wait on the platform. We hear the TRAIN APPROACHING. Dennis LOOKS AT LUCY, LOOKS AT THE TRAIN. At Lucy again. Lucy notices out of the corner of her eye. Steps back from the platform edge. Looks at Dennis again. Dennis smiles at her, innocently.

*

INT. AQUARIUM - DAY

*

Lucy and Dennis wander the exhibits, holding hands, having a great time. Dennis stops in front of the SHARK EXHIBIT. It's feeding time. The KEEPER tosses huge CHUNKS OF MEAT into the water, as the sharks savagely RIP IT UP. Dennis gets a dreamy, far-away look in his eye. Lucy glares at him.

EXT. STREET - LATER

They're heading down the street. A STEAMROLLER rolls past slowly, SQUISHING A BIG LUMP OF TAR. Dennis smiles. Lucy looks at him.

*

LUCY

(suspicious)

What?

DENNIS

(innocent)

What what?

LUCY

That grin

DENNIS

What grin

LUCY

That stupid grin you get when you think about killing me.

DENNIS

I'm not thinking about...

LUCY

There it is! You want to push me under that steamroller!

DENNIS

No.

LUCY

You can't give it a rest for one minute, let alone one week!

DENNIS

Of course I can. I don't know what you're talking about.

LUCY

Oh, please. You've been like this for days.

DENNIS

Alright, maybe you're right. But I was just looking. There's no harm in looking. I'm not going to do anything.

LUCY

That's not the point.

DENNIS

I know, I know, I'm sorry. I'll do better.

He takes her hand. They walk on, pass a CHALK OUTLINE OF A WOMAN with POLICE TAPE around it. Dennis looks at it a beat too long. Lucy elbows him, hard.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Last time, promise.

He crosses his heart.

INT. LUCY'S BATHROOM - DAY

Lucy is doing her hair in the bathroom, trying different styles. Abby, in HALTER TOP and VERY CUT-OFF SHORTS, pops in, grabs a bottle of MOISTURIZER.

ABBY

Hey, Luce, can you do me a big, big favor? Can you put Tigger in his carrier so I can take him for his shots?

LUCY

You can't put him in?

ABBY

He wuvs you. He wants you to do it.

LUCY

Okay, sure.

ABBY

Thanks!

Abby exits.

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

SFX: DOOR BELL

Abby opens the door to Dennis.

ABBY

Hey. Come on in.

SFX: THE YELL OF A PISSED-OFF CAT

ABBY

She's almost ready. *

Dennis reacts, puzzles. Sits on the couch. Abby sits next to him. She starts applying the moisturizer to her arms, slowly, seductively.

ABBY (CONT'D)

I can't reach my back. Could you...?

She holds out the bottle. Dennis reluctantly applies a little at arms length, tentatively patting it on. Abby leans back. *

ABBY (CONT'D)

A little on my shoulders?

Dennis puts some on, uncomfortable.

SFX: THE LOUD CLATTER OF SOMETHING FALLING

LUCY (O.S.)

Shit!

Dennis starts to get up to investigate. Abby pulls him back down.

ABBY

Want me to put a little on you?

DENNIS

I don't think so. You know I'm dating Lucy?

ABBY

Yeah, but it's not serious. It's not like you care about her or anything.

DENNIS

Of course I care about her.

ABBY

Please. If you did, you wouldn't be trying to kill her.

SFX: THE BANGING OF A METAL CARRIER DOOR

ABBY

(getting up)

Anyhow, think it over and call me in a week or two.

She exits. A disheveled Lucy enters, a fresh SCRATCH running the length of her arm.

LUCY

Ready!

EXT. STREET - DAY

Lucy and Dennis head down the street, holding hands. Ahead of them they see a woman surrounded by five unruly children, and carrying a screaming baby. A BALDING MAN walks with her, trying to corral the children. As Lucy and Dennis pass...

LUCY

Hannah?

Hannah and PAUL stop, and the kids continue to run off,
terrorizing each other and passers-by.

HANNAH

Oh, hi.

LUCY

What's going on?

HANNAH

You remember Paul. His wife found
out about us, and left him. With
all the kids. So now, I've got
Paul, and all the kids! Isn't that
great!

PAUL

She's been such a sport about it.
We're on our way to get her a pair
of diamond earrings.

He chases after a kid.

HANNAH

(sotto to Lucy)

Soon as I get those suckers in my
ears, I am gone.

She walks on after the kids. Lucy and Dennis look at each
other.

EXT. PARK - DAY

During the following scenes in the park we will key in to
Dennis as we see Lucy through his eyes.

At the LAKE. Dennis helps Lucy into a canoe.

DENNIS

Careful, it's slippery.

Lucy gets in.

LUCY

You know, I could've fallen and hit
my head on the cement and died.

She looks at him, waiting for that grin. Nothing.

DENNIS

That's why I said be careful.

Lucy reacts, that's interesting.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. LAKE

Dennis is rowing. SWANS, DUCKS, GEESE swim around them.
Picture perfect.

LUCY
I love it here.

DENNIS
Me, too.

LUCY
Do you really, or you're just
saying that?

DENNIS
I admit, it started with me
following you here, but I've come
to love it. I guess it's something
I have to thank you for. So thank
you.

They smile at each other.

DISSOLVE TO:

*

EXT. LAKE

Lucy is rowing. Or attempting to. The canoe just goes ROUND
AND ROUND IN CIRCLES.

Dennis moves behind her, puts his arms around her, and helps
her. Lucy leans back, content.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. LAKE

The canoe is drifting. Lucy and Dennis are at opposite ends
of the canoe, their legs outstretched. They start playing
footsies. More and more playful. Lucy's SHOE flies off and
falls in the lake. Lucy sits up, fishes it out.

She kneels on the back edge of the canoe. Unaware that
they're drifting towards a LOW CONCRETE BRIDGE.

DENNIS
Lucy, duck!

LUCY
That's a swan.

DENNIS
Duck!

LUCY
Dennis, look at its neck.

Dennis reaches forward, grabs her arm and pulls her to safety just in time, as they pass under the bridge.

LUCY (CONT'D)
Oh. Thank you.

DENNIS
You're welcome.

He leans forward, kisses her. They drift on.

EXT. PARK ENTRANCE

Lucy and Dennis are saying goodbye.

LUCY
That canoe ride was so much fun.

DENNIS
Yeah. You know what's weird that I noticed?

LUCY
When I laughed really hard and wet myself a little?

DENNIS
Nooo....

LUCY
Good. 'Cause that didn't happen.

DENNIS
I was going to say, I didn't think about killing you once.

LUCY
Really?

DENNIS
And you'd think I would've. I mean, a boat, water... but nothing. I just totally forgot about it.

LUCY
(happy and proud)
I knew you could do it.

They kiss.

DENNIS
I'll see you tomorrow.

He leaves. A happy Lucy heads off in the other direction.

EXT. STREETS - LATER

Lucy's walking merrily down the street.

LUCY
(singing)
"Under my thumb... the boy who
once, had me down. Under my
thumb... the boy who once, tried to
kill me... It's down to me...!"

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Lucy is just coming out of Warren's office.

LUCY
(speaking to Warren in his
office)
Thank you, Warren, thank you...

She closes Warren's office door. Lucy breezes past Miles's
desk. She stops to talk to him.

LUCY (CONT'D)
I'm finally gonna get to take my
vacation time. Warren didn't want
to let me go, but in the end he
decided he could spare me for a few
days.

WARREN (O.S.)
(yelling)
IS YOUR WORTHLESS ASS STILL IN THE
BUILDING?!

Lucy laughs awkwardly. She pulls Miles further from Warren's
office.

LUCY
Oh Miles, everything is going so
great. It's all working out with
Dennis.

(MORE)

LUCY (CONT'D)

I feel like since I met him, my
whole life is changing. I'm
changing.

*
*
*

MILES

(covering his hurt)
Great. I'm really happy for you,
Lucy. But don't change too much.
Except maybe your hair. You'd look
great as a redhead...

*
*
*
*
*

Lucy finds this curious, but she's too happy to make anything
of it.

LUCY

See you when I get back! Bye!

*

And she floats out the door...

*

EXT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Dennis's car is parked outside Lucy's apartment. Lucy waits
by the car with Abby and Hannah. Hannah is sporting a nice
pair of diamond earrings.

*
*

Dennis exits the apartment with Lucy's bag. Sets it down
behind the car, opens the trunk, loads Lucy's bag.

HANNAH

(hugs Lucy like she'll
never let her go)
Oh, Lucy, I feel so bad that I
wasn't always as nice to you as I
could've been.

LUCY

I'm coming back!

HANNAH

You're so brave!

Abby's saying goodbye to Dennis.

ABBY

Bye, Dennis. Look, I'm sorry if it
seemed like I was hitting on you
before. I really want you guys to
work it out.

(beat)

But if you can't, you can't!

Dennis and Lucy get in the car. As they drive away...

ABBY (CONT'D)

(to Hannah)

I mean, I don't think he'd really do it, but what if he did? We might never see her again.

HANNAH

That'd be awful.

(beat)

Hey, do you know how to make those pancakes she does with the little smiley faces? That might cheer me up.

EXT. RURAL HIGHWAY - DAY

Dennis's car tools along. He turns on the radio. Abba's "Take A Chance On Me" is playing.

INT. DENNIS'S CAR - SAME TIME

LUCY

Oooh, turn it up. This is my favorite...

DENNIS

(reaching for volume)

I know.

They start to sing along with the song.

DENNIS/LUCY

"Gonna do my very best, and it ain't no lie, if you put me to the test, if you let me try! Take a chance on me! Take a chance on me...!"

*

They smile at each other. Lucy leans her head out the window. Her hair blows in the wind, the sun sparkles in her eyes. This is the Lucy that was always underneath. Dennis looks at her.

*

*

*

*

DENNIS

You're incredible, you know that.

*

*

LUCY

You're crazy.

*

(then, realizing)

That's just a figure of speech.

They drive along in silence. Then:

DENNIS

Do you think I'm crazy?

LUCY

No. You're like one of the sanest people I know.

(realizing)

Oh, my God, that's true!

DENNIS

I didn't always go around trying to kill people, you know. Your dad locked me up for toilet papering a house.

LUCY

I know.

DENNIS

That's all it was.

LUCY

I know.

DENNIS

I was young! When you're a kid you think sneaking up to some big ass house in the middle of the night with an arm-load of toilet paper is the most fun anyone could have.

LUCY

Huh. The most fun I ever had as a kid was... uh... uh...

None.

EXT. BIG ASS HOUSE - NIGHT

Lucy and Dennis are sneaking across a big ass MANICURED LAWN, with arm loads of toilet paper.

LUCY

(whispering)

I can't believe I've never done this before!

She runs up to the porch, and places a TOILET PAPER ROLL on each of the three steps. She runs away, thrilled.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Yay! I did it, I did it!

She goes to high-five Dennis.

DENNIS
Okay, let's start over.
(slowly)
Toilet-papering a house...

EXT. BIG ASS HOUSE - LATER

Lucy and Dennis lie on their backs on the ground side by side, looking up at the sky, exhausted, laughing. The trees, the house, the mail box, are festooned with rolls of toilet paper. A gentle wind blows the toilet paper. It's beautiful - the dark of the night, the white of the toilet paper rippling in the moonlight...

DENNIS
This week's gone so fast. It's been
so much fun...

LUCY
Hasn't it.

Lucy gazes up at the waving toilet paper.

LUCY (CONT'D)
Did you ever see "Pretty Woman?"
'Cause there's this part of the
movie that kind of reminds me of
us. Except of course I'm no Julia
Roberts.

DENNIS
Why do you always do that?

LUCY
What?

DENNIS
Put yourself down.

LUCY
I don't.

DENNIS
You do and it's ridiculous. You're
funny and sweet and beautiful.

LUCY
Dennis, I'm hardly beautiful.

DENNIS
You're beautiful inside and out.

He kisses her on the forehead. She snuggles closer to him.
They both look up at the sky.

LUCY

Anyway, in "Pretty Woman" Richard Gere kept telling her that it's just this one weekend, and then he's through with her forever. But then, in the end, they end up happily ever after. I love that movie.

DENNIS

(beat)

I never found the ending believable.

Dennis looks at her for a long moment. He takes her hand.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, Lucy.

EXT. GRAND CANYON - DAY

The car is a hundred yards from the edge. The motor is running.

INT. DENNIS'S CAR

Dennis in the driver seat. Lucy in the passenger seat. She looks at him lovingly.

LUCY

It's okay, Dennis. We made a deal. I said you could kill me, and I meant it. I support you. You have to do what you have to do.

Dennis leans into her, gives her the SWEETEST, MOST LOVING, KISS. Lucy looks at him adoringly, with all the trust in the world. Dennis puts his hands on the wheel and revs the motor. He gives her one last look, turns forward, puts the car in gear... and GUNS IT. The car spews dirt and propels toward the edge of the cliff like a rocket. Inside the car we see the background become a blur as the car races to the edge.

Dennis momentarily looks over at Lucy. She is calm, and looking at him, full of love. He snaps his head back to the front. For the first time we see apprehension in his face. He concentrates with all his might, smashing his foot on the accelerator, willing the car to go faster.

They are almost at the abyss, he turns one more time towards her, she is still calm and this time she has a loving smile on her face and she nods to him as if to say, "You do what you have to do dear." We see that Dennis is obviously severely conflicted. *

With all his effort, Dennis whips back to the front and, keeping his foot on the accelerator until the very last second, he opens his side door, and rolls out onto the dirt as we see the car FLY OVER THE EDGE OF THE GRAND CANYON. It SOARS through the air in SLOW MOTION. Dennis, covered in dust, is rolling on the ground. Quickly coming to a stop he looks to the edge and sees the car airborne. His jaw drops. *

DENNIS
(a whisper, to himself) *
What have I done? *

The car BOUNCES DOWN THE CANYON WALLS, END OVER END, UNTIL IT HITS THE BOTTOM OF THE GRAND CANYON with an ALMIGHTY CRASH, BURSTS INTO FLAMES.

Dennis looks over the edge, frozen in horror as OFF CAMERA behind him we hear:

LUCY (O.S) *
(screaming) *
YOU SON OF A BITCH! *

Dennis turns and sees Lucy. She is as DISHEVELED and DUSTY as he is. She's obviously jumped from the passenger side. *
Dennis jumps up. *

DENNIS *
Thank God, you're alive!

He starts towards her.

LUCY
I can't believe you really did it!!

DENNIS *
I'm sorry! I'm sorry! *

LUCY *
(furious) *
Oh, okay, all better now. *

DENNIS *
I don't know what happened! I *
didn't know what I was doing! *

LUCY

Oh, so you accidentally floored the car and steered it over a cliff?!

DENNIS

No, I...

LUCY

(cutting him off)

This week was the best week of my life, I thought it was the best week of your life! I thought you cared about me!

DENNIS

I do! It was!

(stumbling over his words)

It was just all those years of wanting revenge, and dreaming of the moment... but the moment always ended with me being happy... and then I saw you going over and it wasn't happy, it was the worst moment of my life... I thought I'd never see you again...!

LUCY

Well, don't worry, you won't!

Lucy storms away from him.

DENNIS

(calling to her)

Lucy!

She jumps into a nearby STATION WAGON, belonging to a SIGHTSEEING FAMILY.

She slams the door on Dennis.

INT. STATION WAGON - DAY

The family looks at Lucy in disbelief.

LUCY

Go, go, go, I'll explain everything!

The car pulls away, leaving a heartbroken Dennis in a cloud of dust.

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

★

A forlorn Lucy returns to her apartment for the first time since she and Dennis left. It looks as though she's been traveling all night. She slowly closes the door and just stands there.

LUCY

Abby? Hannah? I'm home.

(dismal)

Yay.

No one answers. Lucy sadly crosses to her bedroom.

OUTSIDE LUCY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

★

Lucy OPENS THE DOOR and looks in. The room is completely different. None of Lucy's stuff remains. A BLONDE GIRL is in there.

★

LUCY

(to the girl)

Who are you?

BLONDE GIRL

Emma. Who are you?

LUCY

Lucy. I live here. Where's all my stuff?

★

BLONDE GIRL

We sold it at a garage sale. They thought you were dead.

LUCY

It's everything I own!

BLONDE GIRL

God, relax, I'll give you the fifty bucks.

She slams the door on Lucy. Lucy just stands there. The door opens again,

★

BLONDE GIRL (CONT'D)

Oh, here. Nobody wanted to buy this.

★

★

★

She hands Lucy the Dumper Scrapbook. It has a Twenty-five cent sticker on it.

★

★

She slams the door again. At that moment the phone rings in the living room. A dejected Lucy lets it ring... but finally picks it up. *

LUCY
Hello...? *

DENNIS (O.S.)
Lucy... Thank God you're
there...Please, I need to see you.
I have to see you!! *

LUCY
You should've thought about that
before you drove me off a cliff.
Don't ever call me again! *

She slams the phone down. The apartment door opens and Abby and Hannah enter. They look at her, very surprised. *

LUCY (CONT'D)
(proud and brave)
It's over. I dumped him. I dumped
him! I did the dumping! And I
didn't just dump some loser,
either! I dumped a great guy! The
greatest guy in the world!
(her lip starts to quiver)
The one guy who was perfect for me! *

Lucy bursts into tears. Abby and Hannah look at each other, uncomfortable with the situation. *

ABBY
Look, don't cry, okay. You'll be
fine. We're here for you. Well,
maybe not right now, but as soon as
Emma's lease is done we want you
back.

HANNAH
Yeah, I mean, she's paying like
half what you did.

Abby gives her a look.

HANNAH (CONT'D)
(covering poorly)
'Cause we don't like her half as
much.

ABBY
Exactly.

Lucy looks up at them. Her tears turning to anger.

LUCY

You think I'm stupid, don't you?

HANNAH

Why? Who have you been talking to?

LUCY

You don't care about me. You used me. I knew I was paying too much rent, but I wanted friends. How sad is that? And what's sadder is I picked friends like you.

She storms out of the apartment, slamming the door behind her.

EXT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - DAY

*

Lucy just stands there on the street holding her Dumper book. She's sobby. She doesn't know what to do. Her esteem is now at its very lowest.

*

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

*

Miles is at his desk. A bedraggled Lucy wanders in. Miles notices her condition.

*

MILES

Lucy, what's wrong?

He goes around the desk to her. They both sit.

*

LUCY

I didn't know where else to go. My roommates rented out my room. My parents don't want me, I have no place to stay. And it's over with me and Dennis.

*

*

(a little sob)

*

*

*

*

I should've just let him kill me.

*

MILES

(nervous but excited that he's so close to her)

*

*

Lucy, you're too good for him.

*

You're too good for all of them.

*

Look, I'll get someone to cover for me. I'll take you to my place and you can stay for the night. I'll take care of you.

*

LUCY
You don't have to...

★

MILES
I want to. We'll have that smile
back on your face in no time.

★

★

INT. MILES'S POLICE CAR - DAY

★

Miles is driving. He can't believe his good luck at have her
next to him. Lucy, in a kind of stupor, is just staring out
the window.

★

★

A LOUD SCREECH startles her. Miles has jerked the car to the
right. She sees that ANOTHER CAR has pulled up alongside and
is trying to stop the police car. The driver of the car is
yelling at her.

★

★

★

LUCY
Oh my God! It's Dennis!

★

Dennis has rolled down the window and is yelling...

DENNIS
Lucy! Lucy, please stop! I want to
talk to you!!

★

Miles looks over and sees Dennis. He grabs his gun... too
hard... it flies into the back seat.

★

★

Lucy ducks down. Miles turns on the SIREN and TAKES OFF,
leaving Dennis stuck behind a truck.

★

INT. MILES'S APARTMENT - DAY

★

We see the door open and Miles enters with Lucy, still
carrying the Dumper Album. Miles closes the door.

★

★

MILES
(nervous)
Come in, come in, make yourself at
home.

★

★

★

★

Lucy looks at the interior of Miles's place. It's full of
weird collectibles. SALT & PEPPER SHAKERS, STAR WARS FIGURES,
the occasional BARBIE arranged in little tableaux alongside
JABA THE HUT, and JAR JAR BINKS.

★

Lucy's a little disturbed with what she sees, but feels too
defeated to care very much.

★

LUCY

Wow. Lot of attention to detail.
Barbies.

MILES

Yeah, they'd have been worth a lot
more if I left them in the original
packaging, but that's no way to
live life.

Lucy, feeling exhausted, sits on the couch. *

LUCY

I shouldn't be bothering you like
this. *

Miles joins her on the couch. *

MILES

Oh, it's no bother. *

Miles feels now is the time. He very nervously takes her
hand. *

MILES (CONT'D) *

Lucy, you've been through a lot
lately. And I know it's been a
difficult lesson, but I'm sure
you've learned that the thrill of
the bad boy wears thin. Love is not
about danger. It's not about taking
risks. Love is about having a safe
haven. *

(takes a big breath) *

And I can be that safe haven. If
you'll let me. *

LUCY

(gives up) *

Maybe you're right. I guess I got
all caught up with this fantasy
guy... *

(looks into his eyes) *

...and I overlooked what's real. *

MILES

(overjoyed) *

We have so much time to make up
for. Now, let me see that smile.
Come on. *

Lucy shyly smiles for him.

MILES (CONT'D)

Now just tilt your head a little...
Keep smiling...

Lucy tilts her head and smiles for him.

MILES (CONT'D)

Perfect.

He helps her up, and leads her to the bedroom.

MILES (CONT'D)

Did you think about what I said
about your hair? Making it red? It
would really suit you.

Lucy, as defeated and accepting as she is, finds this a bit
odd. Miles opens the door to his room, and we see MORE
COLLECTIBLES on his night stand, on the walls, on shelves.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

They enter his room.

MILES

Now, I'm not going to bother you I
promise.

He grabs a WOMAN'S FLOWERED ROBE from his closet.

MILES (CONT'D)

Here, you can put this on and
relax.

LUCY

(a little creeped out)
This is yours?

MILES

No, no, it belonged to a friend.

LUCY

Well, I'm fine. Thank you. I'll
just rest like this.

Miles pushes the flowered robe on her.

MILES

Please, really. It would make me
happy. And let's see that smile
again. And that wonderful way you
tilt your head.

This is creeping her out even more, but she does it. *

MILES (CONT'D) *

Beautiful. I'll be just outside
cooking dinner for us. *

He exits and closes the door. Lucy reluctantly puts on her robe. As she does she sees a PICTURE FRAME on his night stand hidden behind the collectibles. She picks it up and looks at it. She's confused. She looks in the full length mirror at herself in the robe. She smiles, and tilts her head to one side. Then she looks at the photo. We see that it is a photo of an OLDER WOMAN, in the same flowered robe, with the same smile as Lucy's, with her head leaning over.....and her hair is flaming red. *

Lucy's blood rises. *

INT. KITCHEN - DAY *

MILES is preparing dinner. He turns around just in time to see Lucy fling open the bedroom door and stomp up to him. She holds the robe in one hand and shoves the framed photo in front of his nose. *

LUCY

Who...is...this? *

MILES

Oh, that... that's my mother. See
how pretty you'd be with red hair? *

LUCY

You want to make me into your
mother? That's why you like me,
because I look like her? Do you
know how creepy that is? *

(angry, but feeling strong
and completely lucid)() *

Maybe my relationship with Dennis
had problems, but at least he cared
for me. He didn't want me to make
me into somebody else! Yeah, okay,
so he tried to kill me, but he
wanted to kill me for me! For the
person I am. He thought I was
special! *

She grabs her Dumper album. *

LUCY (CONT'D) *

I have to go find him. *

She opens the door and turns to him.

LUCY (CONT'D)
And boy are you wrong. Taking risks
is exactly what love is.

She exits, slamming the door. We hear her footsteps as she
runs downstairs. Miles opens the door and shouts down to her:

MILES
We can still make this work! Mommy,
come back!

Oops.

INT. TAXI - DAY

Lucy sits in the back seat, still clutching her Dumper book.
She's looking out the window. The taxi stops at a RED LIGHT,
by the alley where the dumpster almost killed her. Lucy
remembers fondly...

The DUMPSTER flying towards her.

The taxi drives on. As they pass various landmarks, she
remembers:

The PARK. Lucy flying down the steps on her roller-blades,
crashing to the bottom.

The BATTING CAGES. Dennis swinging the baseball bat and
almost killing her.

EXT. DENNIS'S STREET - DAY

The taxi pulls up, Lucy jumps out holding her Dumper book.
She runs to DENNIS'S APARTMENT/GARAGE.

LUCY
Dennis! Dennis!

NEIGHBOR (O.S.)
He's not here.

Lucy turns.

LUCY
Where did he go?

NEIGHBOR

(shrugs)

He said he was gonna go do
something he should've done a long
time ago. *

LUCY

What?

NEIGHBOR

Yeah, he was ranting on and on like
a lunatic, and saying he had to go
see a shrink. Duh.

(off the guillotine)

I'm no professional, but I think he
has anger issues.

Lucy turns to leave, then turns back. Goes to the guillotine, *
puts the Dumper Book down, releases the rope, and the book is
sliced in half. *

Lucy takes off, jumps in the taxi. *

EXT. PARENT'S HOUSE - DAY *

Dad is opening the door to Dennis. *

LUCY'S DAD

Dennis.

(looking past him)

Is Lucy with you? We're not really
expecting you.

Dennis pushes past him, and into the house.

INT. PARENT'S HOUSE

DENNIS

Lucy broke up with me.

LUCY'S DAD

Don't be ridiculous. Girls like
Lucy don't break up with guys like
you. Strong. Masculine. Shoulders..
(catching himself)

Anyway...

Dennis has crossed to the living room.

INT. PARENT'S LIVING ROOM - DAY *

Dennis looks around the living room. The homage to Lucy is *
gone, replaced by the old family photos with Susie.

DENNIS

What happened to the picture of Lucy?

LUCY'S DAD

Uh... We're having it re-framed.

Dennis sees part of the oversize picture sticking out of the waste basket. Dad notices.

LUCY'S DAD (CONT'D)

(cheery)

But you didn't come here to talk about a bunch of boring old photos, now, did you?

DENNIS

You have no idea who I am, do you?

LUCY'S DAD

Of course I do. You're Dennis. Lucy's Dennis.

(taking Dennis's side)

Unless she's done something to offend you, the bitch.

DENNIS

Let me refresh your memory, doctor. Young boy, no previous history of any delinquent behavior, commits a childhood prank. And even though he's a happy, normal guy, and exhibits no sign of mental illness, you commit him to an institution, leaving him to rot there for ten years!

*

LUCY'S DAD

(he could be one of so many)

I'm gonna need a little more...

DENNIS

You're the one who should've been locked up. You're insane! You're the worst psychiatrist ever, and an even worse father! You know, I came over here to get revenge. I thought that would fix everything. But guess what, I don't need fixing! Not anymore. And in a strange way, that's because of you.

(MORE)

DENNIS (CONT'D)

'Cause if you hadn't locked me up,
I never would've met Lucy. And even
though I screwed it up, she's still
the greatest thing that ever
happened to me. Your daughter is
the most wonderful person I've ever
known. I love her! I love her more
than anything!

EXT. STREET. DENNIS'S APARTMENT/GARAGE - DAY

A POLICE CAR screeches to a halt. Miles jumps out. We see him
talking to the same neighbor. She points in the direction
that Lucy went. He jumps back into the car and burns rubber.

INT. PARENT'S HOUSE/MOM'S SEWING ROOM - SAME TIME

The room is filled with embroidered pillows and framed
embroidery. They all say, "Don't Worry, Be Happy!" Mom is
stitching away, talking to Lucy.

LUCY

Back to the mental hospital?!

MOM

Yes. And he seemed like such a nice
boy. Even when the deputies had him
in a choke hold, he was still
saying he loved you. Of course it
was more like...

(barely gasping out the
words, as from a choking
man)

Agh uff ucy.

(beat)

And then he lost consciousness.

LUCY

Mom, I need the keys to your car.

EXT. WINDY ROAD - DAY

A MERCEDES SEDAN makes it's way.

INT. MERCEDES - DAY

Lucy's Mom is driving at breakneck speed.

LUCY

You know, I could've found the
hospital on my own.

They fly around a curve, sending Lucy slamming into the door. *

LUCY'S MOM

Nonsense. I know a short cut. And we don't want to let this one slip away...

(looks at her daughter)
You know, Lucy, I admire you. *

LUCY

What?

LUCY'S MOM

You've had nothing going for you your whole life. I mean, nothing. Anyone else would've given up. But not you, Lucy. And now you have a chance at true love.

(looks at Lucy)

You know, I remember in the hospital when they handed you to me, and I looked into your little face and said, "No, no! That's not my baby!" But now I look at you, and I see this strong, brave, and in her own way pretty, girl, and I'm proud to be your mother.

LUCY

(deeply moved)

Thanks, mom.

LUCY'S MOM

Even though I still have my suspicions.

Mom hits the gas, Lucy goes flying back in her seat.

EXT. STREET - DAY *

Miles's police car passes the Mercedes going in the opposite direction. He makes a squealing U-turn and chases them. *

INT. HEALING VALLEY MENTAL HOSPITAL/ADMITTING -DAY *

Lucy's Dad signs a form, hands it to the administrator. Dennis is being guarded by orderlies. *

LUCY'S DAD

(looks at Dennis) *

Just a few more papers to sign.

DENNIS
You can't do this! Not again!

EXT. HEALING VALLEY MENTAL HOSPITAL - DAY

Mom stops the car, Lucy jumps out and runs inside. Mom follows her. Several patients and doctors wave at Mom.

PATIENTS/DOCTORS
Norma!/Hey, Norma!/Etc.

She waves back.

INT. HEALING VALLEY MENTAL HOSPITAL - DAY

Lucy races down the halls looking for Dennis. Mom brings up the rear. More patients are waving at her.

PATIENT #1
Hey, long time no see. You coming back?

LUCY'S MOM
No, just visiting.

EXT. HEALING VALLEY MENTAL HOSPITAL - DAY

Miles drives up. He jumps out of the car and races inside.

INT. HEALING VALLEY MENTAL HOSPITAL/ADMITTING - DAY

Lucy's Dad signs the last form and hands it over to the administrator.

LUCY'S DAD
Okay, he's all yours.

The orderlies take a struggling Dennis away...

DENNIS
No! No! Let me go!!

EXT. HALLWAY - DAY

Disturbed looking inmates in bathrobes walk the hallway. They hear screaming OFF CAMERA. The orderlies emerge from the Admitting office dragging a kicking and screaming Dennis. Then Dennis stops struggling because he sees something at the end of the hallway.

SLOW MOTION BEGINS.

Dennis screams "LUUUCCY!"

We see Lucy running up the hallway towards him.

We intercut between the two.

One of the INMATES grabs his head. *

INMATE

This is fucked up, man!
Everything's in slow motion!
I'm freaking out!

He grabs ANOTHER INMATE and SHAKES HIM.

INMATE (CONT'D)

I'm freaking out!

SLOW MOTION ENDS *

Lucy has reached Dennis and throws her arms around him. *

In the B.G. we see Lucy's Mom and Miles come down the hall to camera. *

LUCY

(to her dad)

Don't do this! *

DAD

Lucy, let go of him. He needs help. *

Miles has just arrived. He's panting.

MILES

Lucy... don't worry, I'm here. *

Dennis breaks away from the orderlies, lunges at Miles, and grabs his gun out of his holster.

DENNIS)

Everybody back!

(to Lucy's dad)

You're not ruining my life again!

Lucy runs to Dennis.

DENNIS

You and I are getting out of here. *

(looking into her eyes) *

I love you. *

LUCY

I love you too. *

LUCY'S DAD
(as to a child)
Dennis, give me the gun.

DENNIS
Don't come any closer, or I'll
shoot!

Lucy's Mom edges forward... worried about what's going to
happen. *

LUCY'S DAD
It's okay, Dennis. You're okay. Go
to your calm place.

Dennis shoots him in the foot.

Dad screams. Mom screams. Dad clutches his foot. The
orderlies tackle Dennis. Miles grabs his gun back and quickly
puts it back in his holster. *

Lucy's Dad is on the floor, holding his foot. Lucy's Mom
collapses on a chair. *

LUCY'S DAD (CONT'D) *

(glaring at Dennis)
What's wrong with you?! Are you
crazy?! Get him out of here! *

The orderlies drag Dennis away as he screams for Lucy. Lucy
whips around to her dad. *

LUCY
(like a tiger) *
You can't do this! Let him go! *

LUCY'S DAD
(nursing his wound) *

Fine, but if I sign him out they'll
put him in jail. He shot a renowned
doctor, you know. Do you want him
in jail or here? *

LUCY
(pleading) *

Then Dad, do something for me. It's
the most important thing I'll ever
ask you... I can't be without
Dennis. And if he's going to be
here, I want to be here with him.
Commit me too. *

LUCY'S DAD
Are you out of your mind? I'm not
going to commit my own daughter!

*
*

MOM
(to Dad)
Dear, remember? It helped me.

*
*
*

Dad turns from Mom, looks straight at Lucy.

*

LUCY'S DAD
Lucy, I think it's time you came
back home.

*
*

BEAT

Lucy grabs Miles gun from his holster and shoots her father
in his other foot. Her father screams!

*

MILES
Lucy! You give me that gun right
now!

*
*

Lucy turns and shoots Miles in his foot. Miles screams.

LUCY
Stop telling me to do things.

*
*

Lucy turns to her seated mother. Her mother quickly pulls her
legs up under her.

*
*

LUCY (CONT'D)
(to her Dad)
Now, do you want your daughter in
jail or in here?

*
*

INT. RECREATION ROOM - DAY

*

CLOSE ON: A MINISTER.

*

MINISTER
Who gives this woman to this man in
holy matrimony?

We see Lucy's Dad, on CRUTCHES.

*

LUCY'S DAD
I do.

MINISTER

And who gives this woman to the
state of California for
ongoing psychiatric observation?

WIDEN to reveal we're at Healing Valley. We see a seated crowd of ORDERLIES and a motley assortment of PATIENTS under varying levels of sedation; as well as Lucy's Mom and Dad, and her cousin Susie.

LUCY'S DAD

That'd be me, again.

He signs a PIECE OF PAPER, hands it to the minister.

The minister turns to Lucy and Dennis, who are standing at a MAKE-SHIFT ALTAR, dressed in the typical LOONY-BIN BATHROBES and SLIPPERS. Lucy smiles at her father, thank you.

Then turns back to Dennis. They gaze into each other's eyes.

MINISTER

If there is anyone here who has any
reason, other than the blatantly
obvious, why these two should not
be married, let them speak now or
forever hold their peace.

A beat of silence.

INMATE

Ow! Tommy's touching me!

INMATE #2

Am not!

INMATE

Are so!

They're led away by orderlies.

MINISTER

Then by the power vested in me by
the state of California, I now
pronounce you husband and wife. You
may kiss the bride.

They kiss. A big, satisfying, almost movie-ending kiss.

INT. RECREATION ROOM - LATER

*

END CREDITS BEGIN

In this gathering room we see inmates in their robes...some trying to play TABLE TENNIS, some FINGER PAINTING, some just WANDERING AROUND IN A DAZE. In this company Lucy and Dennis are slow-dancing to Van Morrison's "Crazy Love." A WEDDING CAKE on a table - on the top a bride and groom in the same typical loony-bin bathrobes.

*
*
*

VAN MORRISON

..."take away my troubles, take
away my grief. Take away my
heartache, in the night like a
thief. She give me love, love,
love, love, crazy love..."

*

Dennis twirls Lucy, and we:

FADE OUT
