

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING...
by
Dan Sullivan and Fred Lebow

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EXT. QUEENS - LATE FALL - 1974

A subway car rattles beneath a cobalt sky. It's a cold November evening. Tucked amid a row of storefronts is Moderatz and Hinch Insurance Co. The door opens, a bell jingles and a little girl and a man wearing a heavy gray overcoat step out. The man locks the store, holds the little girl's hand and they walk down the street together. A woman's voice comes up in VOICE OVER.

V.O.

My father was a liar.

(beat)

I guess that's kind of strong.
He was in sales. His motto
was never leave the prospects'
house until they call the cops.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODSIDE RAILYARD

Trains pull in and out of the yard. Heavily bundled workmen trudge up and down the tracks. The man and the little girl stand off to the side. The father points to the wheezing passenger trains. The little girl looks up at him, fascinated.

V.O.

He would tell me stories. Sometimes they were about all the places we were going to visit. Exotic places like Fiji, Kuala Lumpur, even Paraguay. The Poconos weren't good enough for us.

The little girl and the man walk along the railroad tracks.

V.O.

But mostly the stories he told me were about my mother. He said they met at the World's Fair in 1964. He broke the bell with one of those mallets you swing and they gave him his choice of stuffed bears. He saw my Mom in the crowd but he didn't give her the bear. He gave it to a little girl. He told my Mom he'd get her a real bear if one was ignorant enough to cross his path. They spent a magical day together. When the sun set she gave him her phone number and told him if he didn't call her the next morning she would know he didn't truly love her. He put the number in his wallet and on the train ride home...

V.O.
(CONT'D)

...a pickpocket stole his wallet.
(beat)

Well, he said, a lesser man who wasn't so in love would have despaired but not him. He remembered she was a school teacher so the next morning he started at P.S. 1 and searched every school in New York City until he found her.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

The little girl sleeps. The man tucks her in gently and turns on her nightlight. He stands in the glow of the nightlight and watches his daughter sleep.

V.O.
I asked my father once how I would know when I was in love and he told me, "The day I met your mother, I heard Strangers in the Night."

CUT TO:

INT. SUBWAY STATION - BROOKLYN - DECEMBER - 1994

CLOSEUP ON LUCY MODERATZ. Lucy, 25, wears glasses and a thick wool MTA jacket. She sits in her token booth and peers out.

V.O.
Well, I didn't hear Strangers in the Night but, when I saw him I knew he was the one...

Lucy's P.O.V. A breathtakingly handsome man strides confidently down the subway stairs. He wears a cashmere topcoat over a pinstriped Armani suit and carries himself and his briefcase with panache. He has strong chiseled features, a square jaw and eyes Paul Newman would envy.

V.O.
He started coming to my subway booth in September. Monday through Friday between 8:00 and 8:20. One Monday he didn't show up and I started to panic. Luckily it was Columbus Day and he was back again on Tuesday morning.

He approaches the token booth, and slides \$1.25 through the slot. Lucy smiles broadly and slides him a token. He scoops it up, never looks at her and pushes through the turnstile.

V.O.
I hadn't actually spoken to
him but I knew someday I would...

He boards the train. The doors BING BONG closed. The train pulls out of the station and into the tunnel. He stands in the window.

V.O.
He was perfect.

The VOICE OVER ENDS as the train disappears into the tunnel.

CUT TO:

EXT. BROOKLYN - NIGHT

Snow falls lightly over the city. Christmas decorations are strung along Prospect Park. The North star winks above the vast span of the Manhattan Bridge. A Christmas tree stands on the sidewalk. Suddenly, as if by magic, it rises slowly in the air.

EXT. FIRE ESCAPE

Lucy, the token booth attendant, plants her feet, grips the rope tied to the Christmas tree and pulls. The tree lurches upward.

LUCY
(complains)
45 dollars for a Christmas tree
and they won't deliver. You
order \$10 worth of chow mein
from Twin Dragons and they
bring it to your door.

Lucy pulls. Her cat, MEL, watches curiously.

The Christmas tree sways as it climbs into the air.

LUCY
(to Mel)
I should have got the blue
spruce, they're lighter.

Lucy huffs and puffs as she hauls on the rope. The tree creeps closer to the fire escape. Suddenly Mel leaps into the air.

LUCY
Mel!

The cat springs onto the Christmas tree. The tree swings wildly back and forth. Lucy struggles to hold the rope.

LUCY
Don't look down!

Mel clings to the tree. Lucy tries to lower the rope.

LUCY

Hold on!

The tree swings -- CRASH! A window shatters. A voice bellows from below!

VOICE (o.s.)

LUCY!

INT. APARTMENT - LATER

Lucy nervously stands in her landlord, MR. MOLLO'S apartment. So does Mel, who stands safely behind her. Plastic covers the broken window. Mr. Mollo sits at a table with a claim form.

MR. MOLLO

(reads)

Nature of claim...Christmas tree through window.

(looks at Lucy)

How'm I gonna write that on my insurance?

Lucy casts her eyes down.

MR. MOLLO

They're still pissed off about that arson claim I made in Staten Island.

LUCY

I'll pay for it, Mr. Mollo.

MR. MOLLO

Why didn't you bring it up the stairs?

LUCY

I couldn't carry it myself and you don't like pine needles in the hallway...I'm sorry, Mr. Mollo.

MR. MOLLO

That's O.K., Lucy.

(stands)

My brother Funzie's in the glass business.

Lucy heads for the door.

LUCY

I almost forgot.

Lucy slips a tiny present out of her pocket.

LUCY
Merry Christmas.

MR. MOLLO
(surprised)
Lucy, you didn't have to do
that.

LUCY
I wanted to.

MR. MOLLO
(embarrassed)
I haven't gotten to my shopping
yet.
(beat)
What size shoe you wear?

JOE MOLLO JR. walks in. Joe Jr. is 22 and has his shirt provocatively unbuttoned to his pot belly. A gold chain with a Playboy bunny decal hangs around the folds in his neck.

JOE JR.
Hey, Pop, can I give that bottle
of Blue Nun you got from cousin
Ornella to my probation officer?

MR. MOLLO
Joe Jr., can't you see I'm
talking here?

Lucy opens the door.

MR. MOLLO
You're a nice girl, Lucy.
(whispers)
You know Joe Jr. is still
single.

Lucy looks at Joe Jr. He bends over and looks in the refrigerator.

LUCY
(uncomfortable)
Yes, well, that's a shocker.

Joe Jr. perks up. He strikes a pose.

MR. MOLLO
Just thinking out loud.
Night, Lucy.

Lucy smiles and the door closes. The hall is empty. Lucy picks up her cat and walks down the dingy hallway.

LUCY
 (scolds)
 Next time you get me set up
 with Joe Jr. I'm getting a dog.

CUT TO:

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Lucy looks through her mail. One Christmas card. She opens it. It's stamped, "Happy Holidays from YOUR LETTER CARRIER." Lucy places it carefully on her bookcase next to Christmas cards from the SANITATION MAN, the PHONE COMPANY and KEY FOOD. She finds a Christmas record and puts it on the stereo. She opens a box of Christmas tree ornaments and starts decorating her battered tree.

EXT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

LONG SHOT. Lucy is in the window draping tinsel on her Christmas tree -- alone.

CUT TO:

INT. CHOC-FULL-OF-NUTS - DAY

A waitress leaves through the busy restaurant and sweeps past Lucy. Lucy sits at a small table. She opens her pocketbook and pulls out a stack of travel brochures. The colorful pamphlets advertise everything from castles in Europe to sandy beaches in the Caribbean. She spreads them carefully on the table.

WAITRESS
 Ready to order?

LUCY
 (smiles)
 I'll have the usual.

WAITRESS
 What's that?

LUCY
 (embarrassed)
 Tuna sandwich on whole wheat.

The waitress scribbles on a pad and moves off. There's a rap on the window. Lucy looks up.

Her supervisor, JERRY WALLACE, a black man also wearing an MTA jacket, waves. Lucy quickly scoops up her travel brochures and tucks them in her pocketbook. Jerry walks in, blows some warmth into his hands and joins her.

JERRY
 I was hoping I'd find you here.

LUCY
 I was hoping you'd find me
 in Bermuda.

Jerry leans forward.

JERRY
I'm recommending you for the
MTA employee of the month award.

LUCY
(smiles)
Really, I didn't know there was
an employee of the month award.

The waitress comes over.

JERRY
(to waitress)
The usual.

The waitress nods and moves off. Lucy frowns. Jerry pulls a sheet of paper from his pocket. He slips on a pair of glasses.

JERRY
(reads)
Supervisor Jerry Wallace nominates
Lucy Moderatz for MTA employee of
the month. Lucy is never tardy
and always works holidays, even if
she has worked the previous holiday.
Just because she worked Thanksgiving
Lucy is willing to work Christmas too.

LUCY
I'm not working Christmas.

JERRY
They give you a nice plaque with
the mayor's stamp on it.

LUCY
I didn't vote.

JERRY
You get holiday pay.

Lucy isn't impressed.

JERRY
(cheerfully)
You can have your birthday off.

LUCY
My birthday's Christmas.

Jerry folds his nomination and slides it back in his pocket.

JERRY
 (sincerely)
 Listen, I know you worked Thanks-
 giving. But Arlette got invited
 to her mother's in Buffalo.
 Celeste can't switch because she's
 having a big family thing and I
 promised the kids I'd be home for
 'em this year.

LUCY
 This stinks, Jerry.

JERRY
 (sympathetically)
 I know it isn't fair and I
 can't make you do it.
 (softly)
 But you're the only one...

Jerry stops. He looks embarrassed.

LUCY
 Without family.

CUT TO:

INT. SUBWAY - JAY STREET/BOROUGH HALL - CHRISTMAS DAY

Lucy stands in the token booth carefully adjusting a tiny wreath. A portable radio plays Christmas songs. Lucy sits and stares out at the empty station.

An F train clatters into the station. The doors open. A young couple steps off laughing and carrying Christmas presents.

A family walks out of another car and pushes through the swinging exit doors. The children follow the parents like baby ducks.

Lucy sits forlornly in the booth. Andy Williams' "I'll Be Home for Christmas" comes on the radio. Lucy's lower lip quivers and her eyes start to fill. She takes off her glasses and brushes away a tear.

\$1.25 slides through her slot.

Lucy reflexively slides out a token.

MAN'S VOICE
 (o.s., pleasantly)
 Merry Christmas.

Lucy looks up. Mr. Perfect in the cashmere coat stands on the other side of the glass. He smiles. The entire station seems to light up. Lucy is stunned. She opens her mouth to answer.

LUCY

Arrrgk.

Cashmere scoops his token, and in an instant -- he's gone. Lucy is frozen. A crooked smile is stamped on her face. She sits in silence. The radio seems to fade out. There's an eerie quiet.

LUCY

(calmly)

Four months. Four months I waited for this moment.

(her voice rises)

Never took a sick day.

She stands and looks through her bubble. He's disappeared.

LUCY

I could have said...

(smiles)

"Merry Christmas to you."

(angrily)

But I said...

(shouts)

"Arrrgk!"

(bangs her head

against the glass)

Idiot! Stupid, stupid, idiot!

Suddenly she hears a yell! She looks through the glass.

LUCY'S P.O.V. -- Far down the platform Cashmere is being mugged. Two men grapple with him.

Lucy grabs the phone.

Cashmere lurches backward and falls headfirst off the platform.

LUCY

Oh, my God!

Lucy bursts out of her booth. She vaults the turnstile and races along the platform.

Cashmere lies face down on the tracks.

A train's lights appear in the tunnel!

LUCY

(runs faster)

A train's coming! Get off the tracks!

He doesn't move. Lucy skids to a stop--gets on her hands and knees. The train HORN blasts!

LUCY
 (enunciates)
 Can--you--hear me?! A--train--
 is coming!

The man looks up groggily, sees Lucy and passes out.

LUCY
 Help!

The train streaks toward him!

Lucy dangles over the edge of the tracks and extends her hand.

LUCY
 Grab my hand!

He doesn't move. Lucy...stretches! The train's HORN blares!

Lucy looks at the on-rushing train -- looks at the helpless figure -- shuts her eyes and jumps.

She tumbles next to the unconscious man, scrambles to her feet and tries to lift him. His coat is caught.

The train bears down...

Lucy pulls -- the coat tears...

The train sweeps past the CAMERA. The last car disappears into the tunnel. SILENCE.

Lucy's head pops up. She has pressed herself and the man into the notch workmen use to let trains pass. She looks down. He's unconscious but even more breathtaking. Lucy stares at him. She's in love.

CUT TO:

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM

BOOM! Paramedics sweep through the emergency room pushing a gurney with the subway victim strapped to it. Lucy scampers behind them. It's Christmas day in New York. Chaos. Gun shot wounds, car accident victims and attempted suicides crowd the halls. A nurse, WANDA COLES, holds a clipboard and meets them.

WANDA
 Head injury, this way.

The paramedics bang through a swinging door. A self-important, young INTERN stops Lucy.

INTERN
 You can't come in here.

LUCY
But I have to. I have to see
if he's O.K.

INTERN
You family?

LUCY
No.

INTERN
Staff and family members only.

The gurney is shoved into an elevator.

LUCY
(frustrated)
You don't understand, I jumped
in front of a train.

The intern stands fast. The elevator closes.

LUCY
Get out of my way!

Lucy shoves past the startled intern. Wanda intervenes.

WANDA
(sympathetically)
Come with me.

As Lucy follows Wanda we CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN

A phone is ringing. MIDGE CONLON, 50, prepares a Christmas ham.
She picks up the phone.

MIDGE
Hello...

CUT TO:

EXT. CONLON'S LUMBER YARD

MICHAEL ALOYSIUS "OX" CONLON, 56, unloads sheets of plywood from
the back of a truck. His wiry next door neighbor and employee,
SAUL TUTTLE, 73, rushes outside with a cordless phone.

SAUL
(ashen-faced)
Ox, it's Peter...

CUT TO:

INT. BINGO HALL

Ox's 200 pound mother-in-law, ELSIE, holds a pay phone and speaks
over a man announcing Bingo numbers.

ELSIE
He's been in an accident...

CUT TO:

EXT. ~~DRIVEWAY~~

Kids play hockey. The goalie whacks one of the kids across the shins with his stick. A woman opens the door to the house.

WOMAN
Mary, you've got to go home,
right away.

The goalie's mask comes off revealing MARY, a 12 year old girl.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - NURSES STATION - LATER

Wanda pokes her head around a corner. All clear.

WANDA
Come on.

Wanda starts down a hallway. Lucy follows.

INT. INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

Lucy and Wanda slip inside. They ease the doors shut...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - SAME TIME

Another set of doors BLASTS open. The Conlon family led by the Ox charge inside. Behind Ox is Midge, Elsie, Mary and Saul. They storm the front desk.

OX
Where is he!

NURSE
(looks cowed)
Who?

OX
Peter Conlon, what room's he
in!?

The nurse quickly looks through a file. She finds Conlon.

NURSE
I.C.U. but...

Ox waves the clan forward.

NURSE
You need passes you can't...

The Conlons barrel into the elevator.

INT. ELEVATOR

Ox looks at the buttons frantically.

OX
Where the hell is ICU?

SAUL
It's on 6.

ELSIE
How do you know?

SAUL
I passed a gall stone in '79.

Ox bangs six.

OX
(distressed)
This is my fault.

MIDGE
It's not your fault.

OX
I haven't talked to him
in months. Maybe I could
have done something.

The elevator BINGS opens. The family storms out.

CUT TO:

INT. INTENSIVE CARE

The subway victim lies on a bed. Monitors blink and beep. Tubes are hooked to his arms and nose. He's still unconscious.

WANDA
(whispers)
I can only give you a minute.

Lucy nods. She edges forward. The unconscious man looks serene. The room is quiet. Lucy slowly reaches out..

VOICE (o.s.)
Who are you?

Lucy jumps. A doctor enters brusquely and walks to the side of the bed.

WANDA
 (quickly)
 That's his...fiance, doctor.

Lucy looks at Wanda.

DOCTOR
 (sympathetically)
 I'm sorry but we don't allow
 visitors at this hour.

LUCY
 Will he be O.K.?

DOCTOR
 (somberly)
 He's stabilized. Nurse.

The doctor motions with his eyes for the door. Wanda leads Lucy toward the door.

OX (o.s.)
 DON'T TELL ME ABOUT PASSES!
 WHERE THE HELL IS HE!

Wanda, Lucy and the doctor look at each other. Lucy reaches for the door. Suddenly a hurricane seems to blow into the room. The door flies open and the Conlons tumble in.

Ox spots his unconscious son, PETER, the subway victim, lying in the hospital bed. Midge rushes past Ox as they crowd around the bed. Elsie clutches rosary beads. Midge grabs Peter's hand. Ox stands helplessly behind his wife.

DOCTOR
 (angry)
 What is this?!

OX
 This is my son! How is he?

DOCTOR
 You can't come bursting into
 this unit.

MIDGE
 (scared)
 He's going to be all right?

The doctor doesn't answer.

OX
 What happened here? What's
 going on?

The doctor looks uncomfortable. The family looks at him.
The doctor answers reluctantly.

DOCTOR
He's in a coma.

MIDGE
(stricken)
Dear God. On Christmas day.

Elsie fights back a sob. Saul grabs a chair for support. Ox looks like he's just been punched in the stomach. His huge shoulders sag.

OX
Jesus, Peter...

DOCTOR
I'm sorry but we're doing
everything we can.

Ox stares helplessly at his unconscious son. The rest of the family are in disbelief. The room is deathly silent.

SAUL
Are you a specialist?!

MIDGE
How could this happen?

A VOICE pipes up from the corner of the room.

LUCY
(gently)
He was pushed off a subway
platform.

The family turns. Lucy, stands against the wall by the door.

OX
Who are you?

DOCTOR
That's his fiance. Now please...

The Conlons look stunned. Everyone looks at each other.

MIDGE
His fiance?

Lucy looks confused.

ELSIE
(shocked)
Peter's engaged?

DOCTOR
 (surprised)
 Yes...I thought...

The Conlons are reeling. Ox looks at Midge.

MIDGE
 He would have told us.

ELSIE
 (diplomatically)
 Maybe he's been busy.

Ox looks angrily at Peter.

OX
 (bellows)
 Too busy to tell his own
 mother he's getting married!

MARY
 Don't yell at him!

OX
 I'm not yelling at him!

The intern who barred Lucy in the emergency room barges in.

INTERN
 What are you doing in here!

Wanda steps in front of the intern.

WANDA ,,
 (belligerently)
 She saved his life...

MIDGE
 (to Lucy)
 You saved his life?

LUCY
 Yes, but...

The Conlons are astonished.

OX
 I thought he got pushed off
 a subway platform.

LUCY
 He did...

WANDA
 She jumped on the tracks.

SAUL
You jumped on the tracks?

LUCY
Yes, but...

INTERN
(whines to doctor)
It's family members only.

Ox glares at the intern.

OX
(powerfully)
She is family!

DOCTOR
(hisses angrily)
She's the fiance, you idiot.

The intern scurries out of the room. Lucy looks dazed. Midge looks at Lucy.

MIDGE
We haven't seen him. We
didn't know...

Lucy is speechless. Midge fills up.

MIDGE
I wanted so much for him to
find someone.

She looks at Lucy emotionally.

MIDGE
Thank God he found you!

Midge breaks down. Hugs Lucy and sobs into her chest. Lucy is trapped. The whole room is choked with emotion. The rest of the family embraces Lucy. Lucy stands in the middle of the room in shock.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - LATER

Lucy sits rigidly on the couch. Ox paces. The rest of the family do their best to distract themselves. Elsie plays Chinese checkers with Mary. Midge looks exhausted. Saul dozes. His head falls against Lucy's shoulder. The door opens and DALTON CHARLES eases in. He's wearing his charcoal Brooks Brothers suit to match the somber occasion.

DALTON
 (gravely)
 Dalton Charles, colleague of
 Peter's at Lubel, Parker,
 Jacobs and Fink.

OX
 I'm Peter's father.

Dalton grips Ox's hand firmly.

DALTON
 He spoke highly of you.

OX
 We haven't seen each other
 in six months.

Dalton smiles uneasily.

MIDGE
 You know Lucy?

DALTON
 (phony smile)
 Lucy...?

OX
 Peter's fiance.

Dalton obviously doesn't have a clue.

DALTON
 So you're, Lucy. '

The family smiles.

LUCY
 (strained)
 Yes...I'm Lucy.
 (nervously stands)
 Excuse me.

INT. HALLWAY

Lucy scampers down the hall.

LUCY
 (hushed)
 Nurse...nurse...

Wanda turns, sees Lucy, and picks up her pace.

LUCY
 Wait!

Lucy dashes after her. Wanda's caught.

LUCY
What am I gonna do?

WANDA
(defensive)
I didn't know they were going
to show up. I was trying to help.

LUCY
She hugged me so tight...I
couldn't tell her.

WANDA
I know, I know...

LUCY
I've got to tell.

Lucy takes a deep breath, turns and bumps into Saul Tuttle.

SAUL
(to Wanda)
You can tell me. Is he gonna
die?
(claps his hands
over his ears)
I don't want to know. Is there
a pharmacy in the hospital?

WANDA
What do you need?

SAUL
Elsie needs her nitroglycerin
pills.

WANDA
Nitroglycerin? She has a heart
problem?

Lucy looks alarmed.

SAUL
Problem! She's had three heart
attacks already. You know what
her blood pressure is...

Lucy shakes her head.

SAUL
High. To the roof. It would
be through the roof if it wasn't
for you. I'm tellin' you...

Saul exhales.

SAUL
I think you saved her life. I
think you saved the whole family.

CLOSEUP ON LUCY. HOLD. PULL BACK.

LUCY sits on the couch again. Ox still paces. Mary sleeps in her mother's lap. Elsie has her hands folded over her ample belly and looks at Lucy.

ELSIE
(smiles)
So tell us how you met Peter.

MIDGE
Ma... she doesn't want to talk
about that now.

ELSIE
Why not? We could all use a
nice story.

Everyone turns and looks at Lucy. Lucy squirms.

SAUL
So how do you know it's nice?

ELSIE
Of course it's nice. Why wouldn't
it be nice?

SAUL
What about that last girl...what's
her name? He met her in a bar.

Ox pipes up.

OX
(disdainfully)
Ashley Bartlett Bacon.

MIDGE
Ox...

OX
What?

MIDGE
Is that nice talk?

OX
All I know is she was pretty
high and mighty for someone
named after a breakfast meat.

MIDGE

Well he has a nice girl now.

Lucy ~~smiles~~ painfully. The room goes silent again. They all stare at Lucy.

ELSIE

(smiles)

I'll bet it was love at first sight.

(coaxes)

Right...

Lucy nods.

ELSIE

I have a sense about these things.

SAUL

Will you let her tell it.

ELSIE

She is telling it.

(to Lucy)

I'll bet he picked you up in that fancy car he drives.

LUCY

(shakes her head)

We were waiting for a train.

SAUL

(impressed)

A train...Claudette Colbert met Joel McCrea on a train in Palm Beach Story.

ELSIE

I told you it was a nice story.

MIDGE

What was it about him...you know...that struck you.

LUCY

His smile. Definitely his smile.

(beat)

...It was magical.

SAUL

They're caps. \$600 a tooth.

Elsie shushes him. Ox stops pacing and joins the group around Lucy. They all look at her expectantly.

LUCY
Well, we saw each other, he smiled
and the next thing I knew...we were
in each other's arms.

SAUL
Cover your ears, Mary.

Ox puts his hands over the little girl's ears. Everyone laughs.

LUCY
(sincerely)
And I knew when I first held
him that I couldn't leave him.

PULL BACK SLOWLY.

LUCY
And I knew my life would never
be the same...

Lucy sits in the waiting room with the whole family gathered
around her. The CAMERA edges out through the doors. Lucy's
voice and the scene, FADES.

INT. CHOC-FULL-OF-NUTS - NEXT DAY

Jerry and Lucy sit at a table by the window. Jerry sips a cup of
coffee and shrugs.

JERRY
What's the big deal.

LUCY
What's the big deal! They think
I'm their future daughter-in-law
The grandmother has a heart condition.
If I tell them the truth she'll have
a heart attack and die and it will
be on my head.

JERRY
So go along with it. When the coma
guy...what his name...

LUCY
(snaps)
Peter.

JERRY
What's the matter?

LUCY
I told you his name five times.

JERRY

The guy's unconscious Lucy. It's not like he's your boyfriend or anything.

Lucy doesn't answer.

JERRY

Right?

LUCY

Of course right. I don't even know him.

Jerry looks at her strangely. Lucy avoids his look.

JERRY

When Peter comes out of the coma the family will be so happy and relieved they won't care if you lied to them. They'll probably thank you for it.

The waitress comes over with their orders. Lucy looks at her roast beef sandwich.

LUCY

I ordered tuna.

The waitress snatches the sandwich and stalks off.

LUCY

What if he doesn't come out of his coma?

JERRY

Then who's to know?

LUCY

(unconvinced)

Jerry...

JERRY

Listen, when my mother found out I was marrying my wife her intestines ruptured. If you tell them now you might as well shoot grandma.

LUCY

(groans)

Oh God.

JERRY

You shouldn't have left the booth.

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT

Lucy walks in. Her phone's ringing. She picks it up.

LUCY

Hello?

OX (o.s.)

Hi, Lucy aren't you coming down.
We're all here.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - LATE NIGHT

Lucy sits with the family. Elsie smiles and pats Lucy's knee tenderly.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - LATER

The Conlons, Saul and Lucy walk through the lobby. Saul helps Midge on with her coat.

SAUL

Go home already. If there's
any change I'll call you.

MIDGE

Are you sure, Saul?

SAUL

You rest. I can sleep during
the day.

Midge hugs him.

OX

I'll pull the car up.

Ox trudges out to the parking lot. Midge holds Lucy's arm.

MIDGE

Now you're coming over tomorrow
for a belated Christmas dinner.

LUCY

(squirms)

I don't know, I don't want to
be any trouble.

ELSIE

You're no trouble.

SAUL

I'll bring the dessert, you
like eclairs?

ELSIE
Who doesn't like eclairs?

Midge pulls her coat on.

MIDGE
(to Lucy)
Jack called, he's stuck up in
Maine. But he's coming.

Lucy looks concerned.

MARY
That's my other brother.

ELSIE
He delivers furniture.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY

A furniture truck roars down the road. As it streaks past the
CAMERA we CUT BACK TO:

INT. HOSPITAL

Ox wheels a huge Chrysler up to the doors and BLASTS the horn.

SAUL
Ox, for God's sake we're at a
hospital!

The family heads for the car. "

LUCY
I'll be a second.

Lucy runs to the water fountain and splashes cold water on her
face. The doctor calls to her.

DOCTOR (o.s.)
Miss...

Lucy turns. The doctor hands her a yellow envelope.

LUCY
What's this?

DOCTOR
Your husband's personal belongings.

LUCY
(frazzled)
He isn't my husband.

DOCTOR
I'm sorry, your fiance.

Lucy looks overwhelmed.

DOCTOR
Are you O.K.?

The horn blows again. Lucy tucks the envelope in her jacket and pushes out the door.

CUT TO:

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - LATE NIGHT

Lucy tosses and turns. Finally she sits upright.

EXT. STREET

It's late. Lucy exits walks down the deserted street.

INT. SUBWAY

The train pulls in. Lucy steps on. The train barrels through the tunnel.

INT. HOSPITAL - LATE NIGHT

Lucy sneaks down the hallway. She peeks around a corner. The coast is clear. She skirts the waiting room.

INT. WAITING ROOM

Saul is asleep on the couch.

INT. PETER'S ROOM

Lucy enters the dark, quiet room and approaches Peter's bed. He's unconscious. Lucy looks at him.

LUCY
(whispers)
Hi.

The machines beep. Lucy sits in a chair by Peter's bedside.

LUCY
I guess you're wondering what
I'm doing here in the middle of
the night.

Lucy sits in the darkness. The hospital's silent except for the whirrs of life-support. Lucy sits quietly for a moment.

LUCY
I thought I should introduce
myself. My names's Lucy.
Lucy Moderatz.

No answer.

LUCY
(smiles)
I think you should know your
family thinks we're engaged.

No answer.

LUCY
(jokes)
I've never been engaged before.
I didn't even play spin the bottle.

Lucy turns serious.

LUCY
I just want you to know that I
didn't mean for this to happen.
I don't know what to do. If you
were awake I wouldn't be in this
mess.
(quickly)
Not that I'm blaming you. I mean
being in a coma's enough trouble.

No answer.

LUCY
When I was little I used to
imagine what I'd be like when
I was 25. I thought I would
have a family and a house and
all that stuff. I'm not com-
plaining, I have a cat and an
apartment and I can watch what-
ever I want on T.V. It's just,
well, I never met someone to
laugh with.

Lucy looks at Peter. She leans forward.

LUCY
Do you believe in love at
first sight?

No answer.

LUCY
(smiles)
I'll bet you don't. I'll bet
you're more sensible than that.

No answer.

LUCY

Have you ever seen someone
and you know if only that
person knew you, they'd dump
that skinny model they're with
and realize that you're the one
who they could grow old with.
Only you never really grow old
because, well, I can't picture
you with liver spots.

Lucy looks at Peter intently.

LUCY

Have you ever fallen in love
with someone you've never even
talked to?

(smiles sadly)

Have you ever been so alone that
you spend the night confusing a
man in a coma?

The machines whirr and click around her. The CAMERA leaves Lucy
and DOLLYS to the door.

SAUL stands outside, listening.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - SAME TIME

The furniture truck rumbles toward a fork in the road. The truck
veers SOUTH on interstate 95.

CUT TO:

EXT. BOOKSTORE - MORNING

Lucy exits carrying a bag--walks quickly up the street.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL PETER'S ROOM - DAY

Peter lies unconscious. Machines BEEP around him. Lucy sits in a
chair by his bed. She reads to him. The book is Sleeping Beauty.

LUCY

*For a long time the Prince stood
and gazed upon her, for never in
all his life had he seen a maiden
so lovely. Then suddenly he bent
down and kissed her lips. That was
the end of the enchantment. The
Princess' eyelids quivered; languidly
she moved her head and stretched out
her arms. Her eyes opened and she
smiled. "Is it you, My Prince?"
she said. "How long you have kept
me waiting!"*

Lucy leans toward him, smiles gently, and kisses him. She waits expectantly. Peter doesn't move. Lucy picks up her book and turns the page. BEEP.

CUT TO:

INT. PETER'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME

Peter's answering machine clicks on.

PETER

(on machine)

This is Peter Conlon, leave a message and I'll call you back. Ciao.

BEEP.

WOMAN'S VOICE

(on machine)

Peter, this is Ashley. I'm cutting short my trip. Lisbon's beautiful. (beat)

I've been doing a lot of thinking and...YES, I'll marry you.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - LATE DAY

Lucy staggers into her apartment and flops on the couch. She shuts her eyes. A horn BLARES. Lucy looks haggard. She struggles to her feet and peers out her window. The Chrysler is parked in front. Saul waves. Lucy waves back, takes a deep breath and heads out the door.

INT. HALLWAY

Lucy starts down the stairs. Joe Jr. stands outside his door running a comb through his hair. He tries to see his reflection in the doorknob. ANGLE ON Joe Jr's distorted reflection. He spots Lucy.

JOE JR.

(cocky)

Tomorrow night, 8:00.

LUCY

What?

Joe Jr. fans two tickets.

JOE JR.

I got Dice tickets.

Lucy nods absently and races down the stairs.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR/EXT. EXPRESSWAY

The Chrysler sails along the expressway like a yacht. Saul can barely see over the steering wheel. His soft hat is pulled down over his eyes. Saul's right blinker is on. He turns into the left lane. Horns blast.

LUCY

(smiles nervously)

I thought Mr. Conlon was picking me up.

SAUL

He wanted to but I thought this would be a good chance for us to talk.

Lucy smiles uneasily. Saul sticks his hand out the window and abruptly changes lanes.

SAUL

Did you know I'm Peter's Godfather, Lucy?

LUCY

(surprised)

I thought you had to be Catholic?

SAUL

Ox fudged it over with Father Shea. He donated the oak for the new church pews.

(pause)

Being a Godfather is very important to Catholics. It means you're practically part of the family.

LUCY

You're lucky. It's nice to have someone to watch "It's a Wonderful Life" with this time of year.

SAUL

(probes)

Who do you watch it with?

LUCY

Well, there was only my Dad and he passed away a few years ago.

SAUL

I'm sorry.

LUCY

He was sick a long time.

Saul looks at her sympathetically.

SAUL
Was it just the two of you?

Lucy nods.

SAUL
How did you manage?

LUCY
We managed O.K. We talked a lot.
(smiles)
We talked about everything.
When I was a little girl, my
Dad always had plans, places
to go and see but he never got
to do any of them. He spent his
life taking care of me. When
he got sick I quit school and
got a job with the MTA.
(proudly)
I just got nominated for an
award. Employee of the month.

SAUL
You're a good daughter.

LUCY
He was a great father.

SAUL
My wife of 51 years died two
years ago February 9th. That
was a very tough time for me.
(looks at Lucy)
Ox saw me through.

LUCY
You're good friends.

SAUL
Best.
(smiles softly)
We sing in a barbershop quartet.
We entered a competition two
weeks ago. There were twelve
groups. We finished twelfth.

Lucy laughs.

SAUL
If there were fifty-five we'd
have finished that. We're no
Schmitt Brothers.

Lucy grins. Saul gets serious again.

SAUL
The Conlons took me into their family, Lucy. I would never let anyone hurt them.

LUCY
(nods)
Me either.

Saul looks at her. She meets his eyes.

SAUL
(sincerely)
I believe you wouldn't.

The car barrels down the parkway. It passes the CAMERA. All you can see of Saul is the steering wheel and a hat.

CUT TO:

EXT CONLON HOUSE - LONG ISLAND

Saul wheels the car into the driveway. His directional is still on. Saul and Lucy step out of the Chrysler and walk to the house. A big wreath hangs on the door. Christmas decorations and strings of lights adorn the house. Lucy starts up the walk and stops. She can't do it. She turns to Saul.

LUCY
(falters)
Saul...

A voice calls behind her.

VOICE(O.S.)
Lucy...?

Lucy turns. Midge stands in the doorway.

MIDGE
(happily)
Hey, everyone, it's Lucy...

Excited voices ring from the house. The family gathers at the door. Lucy looks at the smiling faces waiting for her. She walks inside.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Mary sits under the tree, tears open a present and pops open a box. She wrestles out a New York Jets football helmet.

MARY
Wow! Thanks, Gram!

Ox looks disgruntled.

OX
Girls don't play football.

ELSIE
(pugnaciously)
They do now. Mary's a killer.
(beat)
Aren't you, sweetie?

Mary nods and straps on the helmet. She reads the tags and quickly passes around the Christmas presents. Lucy sits in a big chair and watches the gift giving.

MARY
(reads tag)
To Lucy, from Santa.

Lucy is surprised. She takes the gift awkwardly. Saul hands her another present.

SAUL
Happy Channukah, Lucy.

Lucy takes the gift thankfully. She looks around. Everyone is opening gifts, laughing, exchanging presents and she's a part of it. Tears well in her eyes. Above the fireplace hang a row of stockings. Tacked at the end is one labeled "Lucy."

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. NEW YORK STATE THRUWAY

The FURNITURE TRUCK whisks past the CAMERA.

CUT TO:

INT. CONLON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

The family relaxes. Torn gift wrapping litters the floor. Ox and Saul stand by the fireplace and harmonize a barbershop quartet standard. "How Can I Miss You When You Won't Go Away." Lucy wears a new sweater.

Mary snuggles beside Lucy on the couch. She holds a photo album and points to a yellowed newspaper clipping. It's a picture of a little boy in a Cub Scout uniform.

MARY
This is Peter when he saved
three baby squirrels.

Lucy is engrossed.

LUCY
How?

MARY

He was playing in the woods
and he found three little
squirrels that fell out of
their nest. He fed them
with an eye dropper.

Lucy looks touched. Ox proudly points to a fruit basket on the
dining room table.

OX

He sent us a beautiful fruit basket
for Christmas. Had strawberries
in it that melt in your mouth. I
don't have to tell you what those
cost this time a year.

Ox shakes his head proudly.

OX

He's some kid.

CUT TO:

INT. FURNITURE TRUCK/EXT. STREET

JACK CONLON sits behind the wheel. He's a younger, scruffier
version of Peter. Jack has his sleeves rolled up and looks out
at the road wearily. He snakes the truck around a corner at the
end of the Conlon's street.

Suddenly a tiny field mouse darts in front of the truck.

Jack yanks the wheel. The furniture truck skids! Jack fights the
wheel.

The truck slides through a white picket fence, smashes into a
lawn jockey and lurches to a stop.

Jack slams the wheel and gets out.

The door opens and a man, BERT, wearing his bathrobe and
slippers, looks at the carnage on his front lawn.

BERT

Jesus Christ!

JACK

(apologetically)
This field mouse ran right
out in front of me...

BERT

Mouse! What do you do if a
chipmunk runs in front of you?
Take out Massapegua!

A middle-aged woman, PAULINE, pokes her head out.

PAULINE
What's goin' on, Bert!?

BERT
I'm sittin' up watchin' Angie
Dickinson and this maniac almost
drives right through the front door.

Jack helps Bert locate body parts of his lawn jockey.

PAULINE
(squints)
Isn't that that Conlon boy?
He used to mow our lawn.

JACK
You fired me.

BERT
You wouldn't get under the
trees!

JACK
Your crab apples broke my mower!

BERT
Your dog took a dump in our
living room!

JACK
You should have kept your door
shut!

BERT
You should have kept him on a
leash!

Jack heads back for the truck.

BERT
(angrily)
Where you goin'?

JACK
My brother's been in an accident.
I'll fix your fence tomorrow and
I'll pay for this thing.

Jack points at the crumpled lawn jockey.

BERT
What about the sprinkler?

PAULINE
That was already broke.

Bert ~~glances~~ at Pauline. She pushes her fingers to her lips.

Jack ~~climbs~~ back in the truck. The arm of the lawn jockey sticks out of the grille. Jack shifts the truck in reverse, backs off the lawn, ~~drives~~ to the Conlon house and parks. He grabs his jacket, ~~crunches~~ through the frozen snow and lets himself inside.

INT. LIVING ROOM

It's dark. Jack shuts the door.

Lucy ~~sleeps~~ on the couch. Peter's photo album is on the coffee table ~~beside~~ her. A blanket is tucked around her. She stirs but doesn't ~~wake~~.

Jack hangs his jacket over the bannister and tiptoes through the living room. He passes the couch and enters the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN

Jack ~~opens~~ the refrigerator. Light splashes out.

VOICE(o.s.)
When you slide you should
turn into the skid.

Jack turns. Mary sneaks in the kitchen doorway.

JACK
You saw that?

MARY
(shakes her head)
I heard it. I saw the time when
you backed into the telephone
pole and knocked everyone's
power out for three hours.

JACK
Thanks.

MARY
(eagerly)
I'll tell Ma you're home.

JACK
No, don't. I don't want to wake
'em. I'll see everybody in the
morning.

MARY
Peter's in the hospital.

JACK
I know, I just came from there.

MARY
Grandma says he's sleepin'.

Jack nods.

MARY
I think he's in a coma.

JACK
He'll wake up soon.

Mary listens to her brother intently.

MARY
Promise?

Jack nods. Mary hugs him. Jack digs in his pocket.

JACK
Here, I brought you somethin'.
Merry Christmas.

He hands her a tiny present. Mary tears it open. Inside is a key. Mary looks at it.

JACK
That goes to the lock.

MARY
What lock?

JACK
The lock to the bike.

MARY
(excited)
A bike! Where?

JACK
I made a special deal with the store. They make sure it doesn't get rusty all winter and all I do is give them a little money every month. I told 'em we'll pick it up in the spring.

Jack takes out a magazine clipping.

JACK
This is the one. I got it in red but you can pick any color you want. That's part of the deal.

Mary studies the picture.

MARY
I like red best.

Mary clutches the magazine clipping.

MARY
Thanks, Jack.

JACK
Let's go to bed.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Jack pushes the door open. The light from the kitchen hits Lucy's face. She stirs.

MARY
(whispers)
Don't wake Lucy.

Jack stops. Mary points to the lump on the couch. Jack can't see anything in the dark.

JACK
(confused, whispers)
Who's Lucy?

Mary drags Jack up the stairs.

MARY
(whispers)
Lucy's gonna marry Peter. That's his fiance.

Jack stops. Mary pulls him along.

JACK
That's not Peter's fiance.

Jack and Mary move upstairs. Lucy's eyes are wide open with fear.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - ICU

Peter's still unconscious. He appears to be sleeping.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - CONLONS

Jack can't sleep.

JACK
(to himself)
Who the hell is Lucy?

INT. LIVING ROOM - EARLY MORNING

The radio is on in the kitchen. Lucy wakes. She sits up groggily and tries to get her bearings. She sees the jacket hanging from the bannister. JACK is stitched above the pocket. She remembers what she heard last night and sits up with a start.

A bedroom door opens upstairs.

Lucy ducks behind the couch.

Jack stumbles out in a pair of gym shorts. He crouches and looks down the stairs. He can't see her. He walks down the hall to the bathroom. The bathroom door closes.

Lucy throws off the blanket and jumps up.

INT. KITCHEN

Midge brews coffee. Ox reads the newspaper. Lucy scurries in.

LUCY

God, I must have overslept!

OX

Overslept, it's seven A.M.

MIDGE

Do you have time for some coffee?

LUCY

I can't...I'm late.

MIDGE

Jack came in last night...

LUCY

(smiles nervously)
Really...

OX

She's got to go, Midge. Put it in a thermos for her.

MIDGE

She can't go without her jacket.

LUCY

My jacket...

Lucy opens the door and looks upstairs. She spots her jacket on the couch. She scampers across the living room and grabs it.

The bathroom door opens.

Lucy swan dives back onto the couch.

Jack walks out. All he can see of Lucy is her feet.

Jack ducks into his bedroom and closes the door.

Lucy jumps up and sprints back into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN

LUCY
(breathless)
Got it.

Midge pours coffee into a thermos and screws on the lid. Lucy waits impatiently. Midge hands Lucy the thermos. Lucy grabs it. She heads for the door. The kitchen door swings open. Saul walks in cheerfully with a box of doughnuts.

SAUL
We got doughnuts.

Lucy cringes.

OX
No time, Saul, Lucy's late.

SAUL
Late, it's Saturday.

They look at Lucy.

LUCY
I've got to feed the cat.

MIDGE
Peter's allergic to cats.

Ox and Midge look at Lucy quizzically.

LUCY
(stammers)
My neighbor's cat. She's
on vacation.

SAUL
Her neighbor's cat's on vacation?
My nephew's had seven years of
college and he can't get a job.

OX
(laughs)
Let's go, Lucy.

SAUL
Where?

OX
I'm driving her home.

SAUL
(shakes his head)
It snowed last night.

Lucy and Ox look out. Drifts are piled against the garage door.
Lucy looks trapped.

SAUL
I called a plow. They'll
be here soon.

Lucy looks sick.

LUCY
Can I use your bathroom?

OX
Top of the stairs.

Lucy hustles out of the kitchen.

INT. LIVING ROOM

She dashes through the living room and scoots quickly up the stairs. She sees Jack's door. Lucy fishes in her pocket. She finds a subway token. Lucy looks around. She wedges the token between the latch and the door frame and zips to the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM

Lucy shuts the door. She runs the tap and throws some water on her face. Outside she hears a loud SCRAPE. She pushes the curtains back and looks out.

EXT. STREET

Lucy's P.O.V. - A plow rumbles up the street.

INT. BATHROOM

Lucy looks hopeful. She dries her face and sneaks back into the hall. As she passes Jack's door the knob turns. The door's jammed. Lucy bolts down the stairs.

INT. KITCHEN

Lucy barrels in.

LUCY
Plow's here!

Lucy walks to the door. She grabs the knob. The sound of banging can be heard from upstairs.

JACK (o.s.)
Hello...Anybody out there...

MIDGE
(perks up)
Jack...

Lucy winces. Midge, Ox, Saul and Lucy head into the living room.
Lucy follows.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Mary stands outside Jack's door.

MARY
He's locked in.

OX
How the hell did that happen?

Elsie comes out in her housecoat.

ELSIE
What's going on?

MIDGE
The door's jammed.

JACK
(o.s., impatiently)
Somebody get me out of here!

Saul bends.

SAUL
Looks like there's something
stuck in there. Maybe I can
pry it loose.

Lucy looks nervous.

OX
To hell with it, I'll break
it down.

Ox steps back.

MIDGE
Let Saul try first.

SAUL
I need a screwdriver.

Mary zips down the stairs. Midge nudges Ox.

MIDGE
Introduce Lucy.

Ox nods. He calls through the door.

OX
Jack... I want you to meet someone.

Midge motions Lucy forward. Lucy stands in front of the door.

LUCY
Hello. I'm Lucy.

Lucy bends and looks through the keyhole. An eye stares back.

JACK (o.s.)
Nice to meet you.

His eye blinks.

LUCY
Yes,...nice to meet you.

ELSIE
Lucy swept Peter off his feet.

JACK (o.s.)
If you step back, I might be
able to see you.

Lucy steps back.

OX
Can you see her? = ?

JACK (o.s.)
Just her crotch.

Lucy looks embarrassed.

MIDGE
Jack, for heaven's sake...

Mary runs back upstairs with a screwdriver. Hands it to Saul.

SAUL
Everybody stand back.

Lucy looks panic stricken. Saul notices. He bends to pick the lock. He stiffens.

SAUL
(groans)
My back...

Saul is stuck on his hands and knees.

MIDGE
What happened?

SAUL
I served with Patton.

Saul pretends he can't move. Midge takes charge.

MIDGE
Ox, they must be done plowing,
take Lucy home. Ma, put Saul
on the couch and get him a heat-
ing pad. Mary get me the yellow
pages and I'll look up a locksmith.

JACK (o.s.)
What do I do?

MIDGE
Make your bed.

CUT TO:

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT

Lucy walks in. She looks harried. Mel greets her.

Lucy's worried. She fills Mel's bowl with milk and sets it on the floor. As Lucy straightens she notices the yellow envelope the doctor gave her buried under a pile of bills and newspapers.

Lucy opens the envelope and shakes it. Peter's wallet and keys spill out. She stares at the wallet for a minute then slowly reaches over and flips it open. She sits for a moment. Finally she looks inside. Lucy pulls out his plastic covered photos. There's a photo of Peter in cap and gown, Peter driving a jeep, Peter skiing, all the photos are of Peter.

She fans his pile of cards...American Express Gold card, health club memberships, a deck of credit and bank cards...under the bank cards she finds a deposit slip with his address on it.

LUCY
(reads)
425 East 51St.

CUT TO:

EXT. CONLON HOUSE - SAME TIME

Ox stomps out of the garage carrying a ladder. He wears a hat, boots and his pajamas. He props the ladder against Jack's window. Jack climbs unsteadily onto the window sill.

JACK
So who's this Lucy?

OX
Your future sister-in-law.

Ox braces the ladder.

JACK
I ran into Joey DeMauro the other
day. He saw Peter at a Knick game.

OX
So?

JACK
So Joey said Peter was talking
about proposing.

OX
He did.

JACK
He was dating Ashley Bartlett
Bacon.

OX
(firmly)
He proposed to Lucy.

Jack starts unsteadily down the ladder.

JACK
How do you know?

Ox is getting agitated. Mary comes out of the house with her New
York Jets helmet on.

OX
Because she said so.

Mary buttons the chin strap, takes a few steps back, runs and
rams her head into the side of the house. The house shakes.
Jack loses his grip. He flops off the ladder. Mary staggers
backwards and plops in a snowdrift beside him.

Ox runs over and helps them up.

OX
Are you O.K.?

Jack looks up.

JACK
Next year get her a Barbie.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOSPITAL - NEXT MORNING - ESTABLISHING SHOT

INT. HOSPITAL - ELEVATOR

Lucy stands in the elevator with a bouquet of flowers. The
elevator stops on six. Lucy steps off. Jack steps on.
Neither knows the other. The doors close.

Lucy enters Peter's room.

The other elevator opens. The lawyer, Dalton Charles, steps off.

INT. PETER'S ROOM

Lucy carries a vase into the bathroom and fills it with water.
As she walks out...

...Dalton Charles pokes his head in. Lucy looks startled.

LUCY

Hi.

(thinks)

Charley Dalton, right?

DALTON

(insulted)

Dalton Charles...

LUCY

Oh, yeah.

DALTON

(looks at Peter)

Great guy.

(admiringly)

King of the Loopholes.

Lucy frowns.

DALTON

(shakes his head)

He's had a tough year.

Lucy looks at him quizzically.

DALTON

I mean with the accident
last month.

LUCY

What accident?

Dalton looks surprised.

DALTON

We were playing basketball...

CUT TO:

EXT. HOSPITAL - DUSK

Lucy walks out the front entrance and sits at the bus stop. She fishes in her pocketbook. She finds Peter's address. The bus pulls to the curb. Lucy gets on.

CUT TO:

EXT. EAST 51st St

Lucy exits the bus at Lexington. Hustles east toward the river.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING

Lucy spots 425 and enters.

INT. LOBBY

Lucy looks at the directory, finds Peter's name and pushes the UP button on the elevator. She steps on.

INT. HALL

Lucy finds Peter's door. She tries his keys. Third try is the charm. She shoves open the door and walks in.

INT. PETER'S APARTMENT

It's magnificent. Lucy looks astonished. She steps into the vast living room. A picture window overlooks Manhattan. Lucy looks around the apartment cautiously. She sees his stereo cabinet and pushes the ON button to the radio. Strangers in the Night comes over the sound system.

LUCY

Oh my God.

Peter has a picture of himself framed prominently on his mahogany desk. Lucy picks it up. The sweet sound of Sinatra drifts through the room. She holds the picture and looks out the window. A beautiful winter sunset. The city sparkles with freshly fallen snow. Lucy breathes in the spectacle. She is totally exhausted. The music soothes her. She stumbles into Peter's bedroom and lies down on his bed. As soon as her head hits the pillow she falls asleep.

CUT TO:

INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH

C.U. on angels depicted in stained glass. Mass is in progress. The Conlons - Ox, Midge, Elsie and Mary - are lined in a pew toward the front. A LECTOR leads the "Prayer for the Faithful."

LECTOR

...We pray that the Lord's healing presence will be felt by those who are sick and their families, especially JoJo Goreki, Craig Little, Margaret Fisher and Peter Conlon. We pray to the Lord.

CONGREGATION

Lord hear our prayer.

The back door opens. Jack walks in.

Everyone turns and looks. Jack spots his family and tries to squeeze in at the end of the pew. A pious looking man in the middle of the pew looks annoyed. Elsie hip checks him. The whole aisle shuffles to the right. The people at the other end of the aisle are mumbling. Jack crams in.

OX

(whispers)

What are you doing here?

JACK

I don't remember you banging
down the doors.

OX

I donated the pews. I don't have
to go every week.

The congregation kneels. Jack looks down the aisle.

JACK

Where's what's her name?

OX

Her name's Lucy and she's your
brother's fiance.

JACK

If Peter was getting married he'd
have announced it in the Times.

OX

We read the Post.

JACK

Where does she live?

MIDGE

242 Prospect Park West.

JACK

Brooklyn?

(skeptically)

Peter's marrying a token booth
attendant from Brooklyn?

OX

(angrier)

So what!

JACK

He would have told us!

OX
 (snaps)
 He wasn't talking to us.

Ox looks sorry he said anything. Jack looks stung.

JACK
 And it's my fault, right?

Ox doesn't answer. Midge tries to change the subject.

MIDGE
 I liked the mass better when
 it was in Latin. It was nicer
 when we didn't know what they
 were saying.

The communion hymn begins. Parishioners file toward the altar.

JACK
 He wasn't talking to the family
 because of me.

The people in the pew behind them kneel so they can listen.

JACK
 It's because of the fish.

Everyone looks uncomfortable.

Jack steps out of the Conlons' pew and walks against the traffic.

OX
 Where are you going?

Jack doesn't answer. He walks past the organist out the door.

Elsie looks at the altar.

ELSIE
 How did Joe Kelly get to be a
 lector? He takes marijuana.

CUT TO:

EXT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - LATER

Jack pulls up his furniture truck and parks. Enters the building.

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT BUILDING HALLWAY

Jack walks to Lucy's door and bangs on it. No answer. Joe Jr. steps out of his apartment. Jack approaches him.

JACK
 You know the woman in 204?

JOE JR.
I should. I'm dating her.

INT. PETER'S APARTMENT

The moon has taken the place of the sunset out of Peter's picture window. The apartment is dark. CLICK. Someone fumbles with the lock. The door swings open and the light splashes on. Jack walks in. He hears the radio.

JACK
(cautiously)
Hello?

No answer. Jack looks around and walks warily into the bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM

Jack gropes for the light. He bangs into the night table. Lucy wakes with a start. A dark figure stands over her. Lucy SCREAMS! She reaches in her pocketbook. SSSHHHHH!

JACK
AAAHHH!

Lucy blasts Final Net hairspray in Jack's eyes. Jack stumbles backwards into the bookcase. The bookcase crashes over him. Jack is sprawled on the floor covered with Scott Turow and John Grisham novels.

INT. PARKING GARAGE

Lucy and Jack enter the structure. Jack holds a compress over his eyes. Lucy is nervous.

LUCY
Why don't you let me call
an ambulance?

JACK
I don't need an ambulance. Just
lead me to Peter's car.

Lucy scans the rows of cars. All the cars are BMWs or Mercedes. Lucy stops. She has no idea which car is Peter's.

JACK
(impatiently)
Well...

Lucy hits the alarm on the key chain. The lights on Peter's BMW flash. Lucy looks relieved. She opens the door and gets in the car. It's beautiful. Lucy feels the plush upholstery. Jack flops in.

JACK
Let's go.

Lucy turns the key.

LUCY
It won't start.

JACK
What are you talking about
it's running.

LUCY
(impressed)
Wow, I couldn't even hear it.

Lucy backs carefully out of the space.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - INT./EXT. BMW

Lucy grips the wheel with both hands and putts cautiously down the Avenue. Cars whiz past her. Jack lifts one of the compresses. His eye is bright red.

JACK
If you go any faster we'll
get a parking ticket.

LUCY
It's not my car.

JACK
Then don't worry about it.

Jack flips the compresses back over his eyes.

JACK
What were you doing there anyway?

LUCY
I have a key.

JACK
How long have you known Peter?

LUCY
Briefly, everything happened kind
of fast.

JACK
Let me feel your hand.

LUCY
Why?

JACK
(sarcastically)
I'm a palm reader.

Lucy reluctantly sticks her hand out. Jack feels it.

JACK
Your other one.

Lucy pulls her hand back and sticks out her left hand. Jack runs his hand over her fingers. Lucy looks embarrassed.

JACK
Where's your ring?

LUCY
What ring?

JACK
Your engaged to my brother,
aren't you? Most women wear
engagement rings.

Lucy pulls her hand back.

LUCY
I work in the subway.

JACK
So?

LUCY
Nobody wears jewelry in the
subway.

Lucy crawls around a corner.

JACK
(challenges)
Let's see a picture.

LUCY
Of what?

JACK
You and my brother.

LUCY
I'm not very photogenic.

JACK
(angrily)
Listen, I want some proof that
you're engaged to my brother.

LUCY
How do I know you're his
brother?

JACK
What?

LUCY
You don't look like him, he's
handsome.
(suspiciously)
Maybe you're a thief.

Jack angrily searches in his pants pocket and finds his wallet. He opens it, yanks out his driver's license and thrusts it at her. Lucy looks at it.

JACK
That's a New York driver's
license.

LUCY
It's expired.

Jack grabs his license back. It's expired. Jack is totally frustrated. Lucy creeps into the parking lot.

LUCY
Lucky thing I'm driving.

She stops the car at the far end of the parking lot. Jack lifts his compress.

JACK
What are we stopping here for?

LUCY
I don't want to scratch the car.

Lucy and Jack get out.

CUT TO:

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM

Lucy and Jack walk inside.

JACK
Now listen to me, I don't know
what kind of scam you're running...

LUCY
Scam! I saved your brother's
life!

Lucy turns.

JACK
Wait a minute...

LUCY
I'm sorry I beat you up.

JACK
(embarrassed)
You didn't beat me up.

As Lucy walks to the elevator we CUT TO:

INT. AIRLINE TERMINAL - LISBON

An elegant woman in a designer suit stands impatiently in front of a Departure monitor. The Monitor flashes LISBON TO NEW YORK - ON TIME:

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - PETER'S ROOM

Lucy sits by Peter's bed. The Conlons troop through the door. They greet Lucy cheerfully and crowd around the bed. Everyone stares at the coma guy.

ELSIE
His color looks good.

Everyone agrees. Silence. Ox notices a TV hanging on the wall.

OX
What the hell does he have a T.V. for? He's in a coma, for Chrissakes.

MIDGE
(whispers)
Ox, he might be able to hear you.

OX
(whispers back)
Then get him a radio.

MIDGE
Maybe he'd like us to sing to him.

OX
(rolls his eyes)
Midge, this is a hospital not a karaoke bar.

VOICE (o.s.)
Maybe Lucy knows his favorite song.

Everyone turns. Jack strides in. He stands on one side of Peter. Lucy is on the other. The room goes quiet. Jack waits. His eyes are blazing red.)

LUCY
(uneasy)
I'm not sure.

Jack smirks. The family looks uncomfortable.

MIDGE
What happened to your eyes?!

Jack doesn't answer. He watches Lucy.

JACK
Which one of the Three Stooges
is Peter's favorite?

Lucy glares at him.

LUCY
(guesses)
Curly.

JACK
(triumphant)
Curly! Hah!

The rest of the family stares at Jack. ≡

JACK
(realizes, frowns)
He's everyone's favorite.

SAUL
I like Shemp.

OX
What the hell's going on!

JACK
I'm asking Lucy some questions.

OX
Why don't you read her a list?

JACK
Good idea.

Jack pulls a list out of his pocket.

MIDGE
(admonishes)
Jack...

JACK
(reads)
Favorite ice cream?

MIDGE
Lucy doesn't have to answer
any questions.

OX
You're jealous.

JACK
Of what?

OX
Of Lucy and Peter.

MARY
Maybe that's why you killed
his fish.

JACK
I didn't kill his fish.

SAUL
They didn't commit suicide.

JACK
What are you attacking me for?
(looks at Lucy)
I just talked to her boyfriend.
(points at her)
She's a fraud!

LUCY
(incredulous)
I have a boyfriend?

JACK
Joe Jr.

LUCY
Joe Jr!

JACK
He says he's your lover.

LUCY
He says he's John Gotti's nephew
too. He's delusional.

OX
Peter's the only man in Lucy's
life.

Elsie ~~looks~~ faint.

MIDGE
You O.K., Ma?

Elsie ~~noes~~ and sits.

OX
(to Jack)
See what you did!

JACK
What did I do!

ELSIE
If she wanted to prove it,
she could prove it.

Everyone looks at Lucy. Saul holds his breath. Lucy sets her jaw.

LUCY
He has one testicle.

The room goes silent. Everyone stares at Lucy, then slowly they look at Peter.

JACK
No way.

Everyone looks back at Lucy.

LUCY
He had an accident a month ago.
(beat)
He was playing basketball and
his friend had a pencil in
his back pocket.

Ox winces.

JACK
I don't believe it.

Everyone looks at Peter.

SAUL
(squeamish)
I'll take her word for it.

No one ~~makes~~ a move. Midge finally steps forward.

MIDGE
I'm his mother.

Midge ~~walks~~ to the side of his bed. She carefully lifts the sheet. ~~She~~ peeks.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY

The Conlons file somberly into an elevator.

ELSIE
 Look at the bright side.
 He's got more room in his
 jockey shorts.

The doors close.

INT. PETER'S ROOM

Lucy and Wanda are inside. Lucy peeks around the corner to make sure they're alone.

LUCY
 I can't do this anymore, Wanda.
 I've got to tell them.

WANDA
 I know.

Lucy looks at the comatose Peter.

LUCY
 He'll probably never speak to
 me again.

WANDA
 Lucy...

Lucy looks at her.

WANDA
 He never spoke to you in
 the first place.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOSPITAL - LATER

Lucy trudges back toward the BMW. A snowplow rumbles through the lot. SSHHRRRRIP. The plow sideswipes the BMW.

CUT TO:

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - LATER

Lucy lurches into her apartment and shuts the door. Mel runs from her. There's a knock on her door. Lucy groan--calls out.

LUCY
 Who is it?

JOE JR.(o.s.)
 What gives?

INT. BEDROOM

She shoves Joe Jr. in the closet.

LUCY
(warns)
Not a word.

JOE JR.
Nice underpants.

Lucy grabs her panties out of the closet and shuts the door.

INT. KITCHEN

Lucy opens the door. Saul walks in. He looks at the panties in Lucy's hand. Lucy shoves them in her pocket. Saul takes his hat off politely.

SAUL
Lucy, I think you should know something.

LUCY
What?

SAUL
I was outside the door the night you visited Peter. I know the truth.

Lucy is stunned. She looks defeated.

LUCY
You don't have to worry, Saul. I'm telling them everything.

She picks up her jacket and reaches for the door. Saul blocks the door.

SAUL
Don't tell them anything.

Lucy stops.

SAUL
Remember that day you said you'd never do anything to hurt the family...

Lucy nods.

SAUL
Ever since they met you they feel like they have Peter back. If you tell them the truth now, you'll be taking him away again.

A beat.

SAUL
They need you, Lucy. Same as
you need them.

Lucy doesn't answer.

SAUL
You're a good girl, Lucy. I
think you'll do the right thing.

Saul puts his soft hat back on and opens the door.

SAUL
I'd be remiss if I didn't say
you make a very nice couple.

Saul shuts the door. Lucy exhales. A beat.

CRASH! Lucy runs back in the bedroom. She throws open the closet. Joe Jr. is in a heap.

JOE JR.
I slipped.

LUCY
You're trying on my shoes!

Lucy grabs him by the back of the neck and drags him out.

INT. KITCHEN

Lucy hauls Joe Jr. to the door. There's a knock on the door.
Lucy freezes.

LUCY
Who is it?

JACK (o.s.)
It's me. Jack Conlon.

Lucy yanks Joe Jr. back into the bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM

She stuffs Joe Jr. back in the closet--races back to the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN

Lucy regains her composure and opens the door. Jack stands on the other side.

LUCY
What do you want?

JACK
I wanted to apologize.

LUCY
Good. You're forgiven.

JACK
Can I come in?

LUCY
No.

COUGH. Joe Jr's. muffled cough comes from the closet.

LUCY
I was just going out.

JACK
I'll walk with you.

LUCY
That's not necessary.

Joe Jr. rustles around in the closet. Lucy quickly walks out and slams the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET

Lucy walks briskly along the avenue. Jack follows a few steps behind. Lucy ignores him.

JACK
So you work in the subway?

Lucy doesn't answer.

JACK
C'mon. We're going to be in-laws.

Lucy keeps walking.

JACK
You just don't seem like Peter's type, that's all.

Lucy slows.

LUCY
So what's his type?

JACK
I just can't picture him dating a transit worker. The only reason he rides the subway is because he paid \$70,000 for that BMW and he's afraid to nick it.

Lucy winces.

JACK
If I had 70 grand I'd buy a
Hyundai and hire a chauffeur.

LUCY
You're jealous.

JACK
Maybe I am. My truck's fallin'
apart.

LUCY
Why don't you buy a new one?

JACK
Can't.

LUCY
Why not?

JACK
I'm going to open a restaurant.

Lucy looks at him. She turns into Prospect Park.

EXT. PROSPECT PARK

The park is frozen. Lucy tries to walk along the path but she slips and slides every step of the way. Jack follows. They take baby steps. Jack tries to catch up with her.

JACK
(frustrated)
Will you wait a minute...

He loses his balance, slips comically and grabs Lucy. Lucy teeters.

LUCY
Don't take me with you!

Jack lets go. He wildly tries to maintain his balance. Lucy grabs him. He clings to her. They start inching forward.

JACK
This is how Torvill and Dean
started.

Lucy starts to slip. Her legs wildly try to gain traction. Jack slides backwards. Lucy grabs his neck. Finally they stabilize.

JACK
I think we got it.

CRASH! Jack and Lucy fall to the ice in a heap. They're tangled together. Jack tries to stand.

JACK
I can't get up.

He slips and does the splits. His pants tear.

JACK
Was that my pants or my muscles?

LUCY
If we can crawl to the snow
we can get traction.

JACK
(looks at the back of
his pants)
You first.

Lucy crawls on her hands and knees.

LUCY
My knees are freezing.

JACK
Quit complaining.

Lucy looks back. Jack hides his torn pants by sliding along on his butt. Lucy scurries to the snow at the edge of the path.

JACK
I think I've got frostbutt.

Lucy bends, grabs Jack's hands and lifts him to his feet.

JACK
Do you have an extra pair of
pants?

LUCY
If you fit in my pants I'll
kill myself.

Jack and Lucy trudge through the snow. Jack follows her.

LUCY
You don't have to follow me.

JACK
You block the wind.

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - LATER

Lucy enters her apartment and closes the door.

Lucy immediately goes to her closet and peeks inside. Joe Jr's gone, but an empty package of cookies and a quart of milk litter the floor. She picks up the debris and throws it in the trash can. She looks out the window.

LUCY'S POV. - Jack walks down the street. His torn pants flap in the breeze.

Lucy and Mel watch him. Lucy smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - PETER'S ROOM

Peter lies in bed. His fingers move slightly.

CUT TO:

INT. 747

A stewardess shoves a food cart along the aisle in first class. She stops beside the stunning woman from the airline terminal.

STEWARDESS

Would you like cereal or eggs,
Ms. Bacon?

CUT TO:

EXT. FIRE ESCAPE - LATE DAY

Lucy stands in the chilly cold air looking out across Brooklyn to the East River and the silhouette of the World Trade Centers. Mel slinks out beside her. Lucy bends and scoops him up. Her phone rings. Lucy ducks through her window and picks it up.

LUCY

Hello?

CROSSCUT - JACK AND LUCY

JACK

Lucy?

LUCY

(smiles)

Yes.

JACK

You hungry?

LUCY

No.

JACK

So you don't want dinner?

LUCY

No.

JACK
Good. Let's go to my restaurant
it's not open yet.

CUT TO:

EXT. LONG ISLAND - LONG BEACH - EVENING

We hear the rhythmic, soothing sound of the surf as Jack parks his truck. He and Lucy climb out and walk along the boardwalk. They cross a vacant lot and stop in front of a tiny boarded up hot dog stand.

JACK
(proudly)
This is it.

Lucy stares at the decrepit building.

JACK
I know it doesn't look like
much now but that's the trick.

Jack stands in front of the building.

JACK
Everyone wants something if it
looks good but I see the potential
in things.
(points)
It's like Mt. Rushmore. Most people
look at that they see a rock. A
sculptor sees Washington, Lincoln
and...those other two guys.

LUCY
So this is Mt. Rushmore?

Jack points to the two windows in front.

JACK
This is going to be the food
window and this will be the
ice cream window. I've got a
friend who's gonna paint the
signs. He usually only paints
pictures of bowls of fruit but
he owes me a favor. We're going
to have multiple flavors of
soft serve. Nobody does that
around here. And we're going to
hand the customers napkins. I
don't want people coming up and
grabbing 'em by the fistful.
I'm going to bolt big menus on
the walls here and the sign goes
right up there.

He points to the roof.

JACK
Conlon's Mountain View. What
do you think?

Lucy looks around.

LUCY
Where are the mountains?

JACK
There's a million Sea Views.
This separates us from the pack.

Jack looks at the restaurant proudly.

LUCY
Have you always wanted to run
your own business?

JACK
(nods)
I always wanted my name on a
sign.
(beat)
Besides delivering furniture wasn't
my life's ambition.

Lucy nods.

JACK
What's yours?

Lucy looks embarrassed.

LUCY
I don't have one.

JACK
Everyone has one.

LUCY
Well, I always wanted to see
things.
(thinks)
I'd like to go to Florence and
see the churches.

Lucy digs in her pocketbook.

LUCY
I've got my passport.

She finds it out and shows it to Jack.

JACK
You're right, you're not very
photogenic.

LUCY
Who are you, Clark Gable?

Jack laughs. He flips through the passport.

JACK
There aren't any stamps in it.

LUCY
I haven't gone anywhere yet.

JACK
Why not?

LUCY
They need me at work.

JACK
They need me at work too,
but I bet if I died tonight
that ottoman would still
be delivered in the morning.

In the distance, a train horn sounds. Lucy hears it.

LUCY
Long Island Railroad.

JACK
(points)
Long Beach Station's over there.

LUCY
When I was a kid if I'd wake up
in the middle of the night the
rhythm of the trains would put
me back to sleep.

JACK
(smiles)
A New York lullaby.

Lucy nods. She walks around the restaurant like a golfer
measuring a putt.

LUCY
Know what you should do? You
should knock out that wall and
add a little sit down restaurant
that way you could stay open year
round.

Lucy thinks.

LUCY
 You should advertise too and
 make sure you sell a child
 size cone. Knock off a dime
 and give 'em half the ice cream.
 You'll make a killing.

JACK
 (impressed)
 Want a job?

Lucy smiles.

EXT. CONLON'S MT. VIEW - LATER

Jack and Lucy are bundled up and sit on a bench on the deserted boardwalk. A street light bathes them in light. The Atlantic Ocean stretches before them. In the distance the lights of ships blend with stars.

JACK
 So, how do your parents feel
 about Peter?

LUCY
 They never met him.

JACK
 Why?

LUCY
 My Mom died when I was real
 little. I don't remember her.
 My Dad died three years ago.

JACK
 I'm sorry.

Lucy nods.

LUCY
 (smiles)
 I think about my Dad a lot.

Jack doesn't say anything.

LUCY
 He liked maps. If he heard
 of a place on T.V. he would
 get out the atlas and find
 it, then we would figure
 out how to get there.

JACK
Did you ever get to travel?

LUCY
(smiles)
We drove to Cooperstown once.
We packed a lunch and mapped
our route and when we got there
he was real proud. He said he
got to the Hall of Fame before
Pete Rose.

Jack grins.

JACK
You miss him.

LUCY
(nods)
I miss how he swam in the
ocean...

The surf foams up and ebbs away.

LUCY
(softly)
And how he peeled an apple...

Her eyes mist.

LUCY
And I miss how he loved me.

A cold wind blows. The lights from the boats bob in the
distance. The streetlight shines brightly.

DISSOLVE:

EXT. RESTAURANT - DAWN

The streetlight blinks off. Far off, another train horn sounds.
Lucy and Jack still sit on the bench. Talking.

DISSOLVE:

EXT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - EARLY MORNING

Jack pulls the furniture truck to the curb. Lucy gets out and
looks back in the cab.

LUCY
Thanks.

JACK
(smiles)
See you at the hospital.

Lucy smiles and waves. The truck starts up and pulls away.

Joe Jr. walks belligerently out of the apartment building.

JOE JR.
O.K., Lucy, it's either me
or him.

LUCY
Him.

She walks into the building.

CUT TO:

INT. SUBWAY STATION - NEXT DAY

Lucy's in the booth. The trains SCREECH IN and OUT. Lucy doles out tokens. She looks tired. Dark circles have formed under her eyes. She sweeps money in and shoots tokens out. She barely looks up until she hears a knocking on the booth window.

Mary, dressed in her Brownie uniform, stands in front of the window.

LUCY
Mary, what are you doing here?

MARY
My Brownie troop's at the
Nutcracker. I snuck out.

The people in line look impatient. Lucy waves Mary around to the door. She unlocks it and lets her inside. Lucy keeps dispensing tokens. Mary watches, fascinated.

CELESTE, a heavy-set black woman, enters.

CELESTE
There's gonna be another service
delay.

LUCY
What happened?

CELESTE
(casually)
Nothin'.

Celeste peels her jacket off and looks at Mary.

CELESTE
And who are you?

MARY
Mary.

LUCY
Mary's my...ahh...

MARY
 Lucy's going to marry my
 brother.

Lucy cringes. Celeste looks delighted.

CELESTE
 She is!

LUCY
 Well, it hasn't actually been
 announced...

CELESTE
 (concerned)
 You pregnant?

LUCY
 (sarcastically)
 Yeah, I'm pregnant!

Mary hears.

CELESTE
 Then why the big secret?

LUCY
 (hisses)
 Celeste...

She looks at Mary who's glued to every word.

CUT TO:

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT HALLWAY - LATER

Lucy walks down the hall. There's a small gift-wrapped package in front of her door. Lucy opens it. It's a snow bubble of the skyline of Florence, dominated by its famous domed church. FIRENZE is printed on the side. Lucy smiles.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Lucy sweeps her Christmas cards off the shelf and places her snow bubble carefully in their place. A horn HONKS outside. Lucy looks out the window.

Jack's truck is parked at three parking meters on the street below.

JACK
 Throw me some change!

Lucy looks. A parking enforcement cart zips up the street.

Lucy runs across the apartment. She opens her wallet, runs back to the window and throws out some coins. Jack catches one and sprints to a meter. He stops.

JACK
This is a subway token!

LUCY
(calls)
Hold on!

Lucy ducks back inside.

The parking enforcement cart stops.

JACK
Hurry!

INT. APARTMENT

Lucy paws through a tin can, grabs some coins and throws a fistful out the window.

Change showers down on Jack. Two little boys run after it. Jack runs after them.

Lucy stands in the window watching Jack chasing coins and kids. She's laughing.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - PETER'S ROOM

Jack and Lucy play poker. Jack sits on one side of Peter. Lucy sits on the other. Jack deals. Lucy looks at her cards. She throws two tongue depressors into the pot. Jack looks past her.

LUCY
You're cheating. /

JACK
What?

Lucy glances behind her.

LUCY
You're trying to see my cards
in the bedpan.

JACK
(smirks)
If I had that hand I'd fold.

Lucy shields her cards.

LUCY
I called you.

JACK
Three Jacks.

Jack flips over his cards and reaches for the tongue depressors.

LUCY
Wait a minute, you only have
a pair of Jacks.

JACK
I'm including myself.

Jack grins. Lucy grabs the pot.

CUT TO:

INT. CHOC FULL OF NUTS - DUSK

Jack and Lucy sit at a small table by the window, laughing. The waitress shuffles up. She looks at Lucy. Lucy glows.

WAITRESS
The usual?

CUT TO:

INT. TRUCK/EXT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - LATER

Jack pulls the truck to the curb. Snow falls gently.

LUCY
Thanks for the gift.

JACK
I found it in Little Italy.
I had to deliver a bedroom set.

LUCY
(smiles)
It's beautiful.

Lucy takes her hat and glasses off and shakes out the snow. Her hair cascades to her shoulders. Snowflakes dance around her. Jack is mesmerized. He stares at her. Her at him.

LUCY
Well, goodnight.

JACK
(quickly)
Goodnight.

Lucy shoves open the door and runs to her apartment. The snow falls lazily around her. She looks back at Jack and opens her apartment door.

CUT TO:

INT. CONLON HOUSE -LATER

Jack opens the door and walks in.

OX
Lucy's pregnant!

Mary stands next to Ox in her Brownie uniform. Jack is in shock.

OX
(hushed)
C'mon.

Ox leads Jack and Mary outside.

EXT. HOUSE

C.U. on baby Jesus in his cradle. Ox, Jack and Mary duck behind the nativity scene.

MARY
I hope it's a girl.

JACK
Are you sure?

MARY
She said it herself.

Jack staggers against one of the three wise men. Ox looks around to make sure no one else is in earshot.

OX
(hushed)
Don't say a word to your
mother.

MARY
(disappointed)
Why not?

OX
I'm not ready to be married
to a grandmother.
(orders)
Now go inside. I want to
talk to Jack.

MARY
Why do I have to go inside?
Peter's the one who knocked
up Lucy.

OX
(bellows)
Now!

Mary stalks back in the house. Ox looks beside himself. He paces. Jack looks troubled.

OX
We've got to get them married.

JACK
Who?

OX
Peter and Lucy.

JACK
Peter's in a coma.

OX
(nods)
No priest will marry an
unconscious groom.
(thinks)
I'll petition the Pope.

Ox grabs a pencil and a bar napkin out of his pocket. He writes
"Dear Pope." Jack looks worried.

JACK
They can't get married.

OX
Why not?

JACK
(uneasy)
Maybe Peter's feelings have
changed.

OX
What are you talking about?

JACK
Subliminally.

OX
Jesus!

Jack jumps.

JACK
What?

OX
Your mother's a twin! I'll
bet Lucy's carrying two.

CUT TO:

EXT. BROOKLYN/QUEENS - EXPRESSWAY - LATER

LONG SHOT. Jack drives his truck over the BQE.

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - LATER

Lucy watches T.V. with Mel. There's a knock on the door.

LUCY
Who is it?

JOE JR.(o.s.)
Joe Jr.

LUCY
I'm not home.

JOE JR.(o.s.)
I know that trick.

Lucy doesn't respond.

JOE JR.(o.s.)
My old man's got a key.

Lucy angrily yanks open the door.

INT. HALLWAY

Lucy confronts Joe Jr.

LUCY
That's against the law.

Joe Jr. stands in front of her with a horseshoe-shaped wreath of roses. He thrusts them forward.

JOE JR,
I told 'em to give me the ones
they use in the winners' circle
at Aqueduct.

Lucy softens.

LUCY
They're beautiful, Joe Jr. I
just can't accept them.

CUT TO:

EXT. LUCY'S HOUSE

Jack pulls the furniture truck to the curb and gets out.

CUT TO:

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT BUILDING - HALLWAY

JOE JR.
I could move in here. I bet
my Dad would knock 50 bucks
off the rent.

Lucy looks Joe Jr. in the eye.

LUCY
I've got six months to live.

JOE JR.
You're just trying to make me
feel better.
(dejected, a beat)
It's that other guy isn't it?
I seen the way you look at him.

LUCY
(concerned)
How?

JOE JR.
Like you just seen your first
Trans Am.

Lucy doesn't answer.

JOE JR.
(despondent)
Here, take 'em. You can
lay 'em on my coffin.

INT. STAIRWELL

Jack enters and starts up the stairs. =

JACK'S P.O.V. - Joe Jr. thrusts the bouquet of flowers in Lucy's
hands. Lucy hugs him sympathetically.

Jack ducks back around the corner.

JACK
(shocked)
Jesus.

Jack slips back out the door.

INT. HALLWAY

Joe Jr. is in Lucy's embrace.

JOE JR.
You wearing the black bra?

Joe Jr.'s flowers smack him in the face.

JOE JR.
I love black underwears.

CUT TO:

INT. FURNITURE TRUCK

Jack sits behind the wheel, brooding.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - LATER ()

Lucy walks down the hall. The whole family, except Jack, is gathered in Peter's room. Lucy pokes her head in.

LUCY

Hi.

The family greets her heartily. She looks at Peter.

LUCY

Same?

MIDGE

(nods)

Do you have plans for New Year's Eve tonight?

LUCY

(smiles)

I'm going out with friends.

She looks around casually.

LUCY

Where's Jack?

CUT TO:

INT. CONLON DINING ROOM - EVENING

Jack, Ox, Midge, Elsie, Saul and Mary sit around the dinner table. Jack stabs at his food.

JACK

Where's Lucy?

MIDGE

She's going out with friends.

MARY

I wish she was here.

Everyone nods. Jack snorts.

MIDGE

I thought Peter looked good today.

ELSIE

He had more color.

SAUL
That kid could have been an
actor.

ELSIE
(nods)
He's tall.

OX
All the great ones were tall.

JACK
Alan Ladd wasn't tall.

OX
Marshall Dillon was 6'5".

JACK
What's height got to do with
acting?

Midge tries to defuse the argument.

MIDGE
Aren't the mashed potatoes creamy?

ELSIE
I could never make a good pot
roast.

SAUL
You need good beef. Argentina
has great beef. Beef and Nazis.

OX
John Wayne was tall.

MIDGE
Mary mashed them.

SAUL
(pats Mary's hand)
They're beautiful, honey.

JACK
(argues)
Dustin Hoffman's 5'6".

OX
Who wants to see Dustin Hoffman
save the Alamo!

Jack slams his fork down goes to the closet, grabs his jacket and
storms out. The family looks surprised.

CUT TO:

EXT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Jack pulls his furniture truck into a parking spot just as Lucy walks out and gets in Peter's crumpled BMW. Jack spots her, shifts the truck into gear and follows.

INT. BMW

The car motors along Prospect Park and turns onto Flatbush Avenue. Lucy looks in the rearview. She sees Jack's truck following her. Jack hangs two cars back.

EXT. FORT GREENE

Lucy putts through the working class neighborhood. Jack follows.

Lucy bangs into the curb and parks in front of a small house.

The truck eases to a stop up the street. Jack spots the BMW. No Lucy. Jack slips out of the cab. He sneaks up to the house, tiptoes along the shrubs, spots a window, looks around and quietly tries to peek in. Too high. Jack hoists himself with his elbows.

Suddenly Lucy yanks his ankles. Jack CRASHES into the shrubs.

LUCY
Peeping Tom!

Jack struggles to untangle himself from the bushes.

LUCY
What are you doing here!

JACK
Me! What are you doing here!

LUCY
I was invited!

Jack struggles to his feet.

JACK
I'll bet. Wait 'till Peter finds out about this.

LUCY
About what!

Jack stalks to the door.

LUCY
(horrified)
What are you doing!

Jack bangs on it.

JACK
Open up!

The door swings open. A black woman, CANDACE, looks out.

CANDACE
Lucy, come on in!
(turns)
Hey, everybody, Lucy and her
fiance's here!

Jack looks confused. Lucy and Jack are swept into the house.

INT. HOUSE

Lucy and Jack enter. Music throbs. The house is full of MTA workers. The women are all dressed to kill. Lots of sequins and hats. The men are nattily attired in suits and ties. Balloons and streamers hang everywhere. A few couples dance in the living room. Celeste and Geraldine scurry over to see Lucy's date. Geraldine shouts above the din.

GERALDINE
This him!?

Candace nods.

CANDACE
(shouts)
Peter, this is Celeste and
Geraldine.

JACK
(can't hear)
What...?

LUCY
Wait a minute...

Candace shouts louder.

CANDACE
This is Celeste and Geraldine!

Jack nods uncomfortably. Celeste elbows Lucy out of the way.

CELESTE
There any more at home like you?

JACK
Well, I have a brother...

CELESTE
He married?

VOICE(O.S)

Lucy!

Jerry comes across the room smiling broadly. Lucy cringes.

CELESTE

Jerry, you know Peter?

JERRY

(confused)

Peter?

Jerry looks at Jack closely.

JERRY

Geez, you look good.

CELESTE

Amen.

LUCY

Jerry, can I talk to you?

Lucy hustles off with Jerry.

LUCY

(whispers)

That's not Peter, that's Jack.

JERRY

Who's Jack?

LUCY

Peter's brother.;

JERRY

Peter's the one in the coma?

LUCY

Yes.

JERRY

Then why did you bring Jack?

LUCY

I didn't bring him, he followed me.

JERRY

So Jack's your fiance?

LUCY

(shakes her head)

No, Peter.

JERRY
Peter doesn't know you exist.

LUCY
I know.

JERRY
Now Jack's Peter?

LUCY
Yes.

JERRY
Lucy?

LUCY
What?

JERRY
I need a drink.

Celeste and Geraldine are flirting with Jack. Lucy and Jerry go to the bar. Jerry makes a gin and tonic minus the tonic. Lucy scoops fruit punch. Jack breaks away from Celeste.

JACK
That's spiked.

LUCY
Thank God.

JACK
You shouldn't have any.

LUCY
Why not?

The music stops.

JACK
(yells)
It's not good for the baby.

Everyone at the party hears. Jack looks embarrassed.

LUCY
What baby?

Everyone stares.

JACK
(hisses)
The twins.

Jerry pours himself more gin.

GERALDINE
I thought her Levis were a
little snug.

CELESTE
(hugs Peter)
Congratulations.

JACK
They're not mine.

The women gasp!

CELESTE
Than who's the father?

JACK
My brother.

The party buzzes.

GERALDINE
(whispers)
This is better than Montel.

Everyone looks at Lucy.

LUCY
(shocked)
I'm not having twins! I'm
not pregnant.

Everyone stares at her.

LUCY
I have to go.

Lucy races to the closet and finds her coat.

LUCY
I'm sorry, Candace.

CANDACE
Sorry, hell, you're the life of
the party.

Lucy opens the door.

JACK
Wait a minute.

Lucy bolts out into the night. Hurries down the street. She
looks at the BMW. The tire's flat. Headlights appear behind
her. The car horn blows.

JACK
C'mon get in.

Lucy keeps walking.

JACK
I'm sorry, I thought....

LUCY
(interrupts)
You thought I was having Peter's
illegitimate child.

JACK
Well, yeah...

LUCY
And that's the only reason he
would be interested in me.

Lucy spots a subway entrance and trots up the stairs.

EXT. ELEVATED SUBWAY PLATFORM

It's New Year's Eve. All fares are free. Lucy walks up the steps, through the open swinging door and waits on the platform. In a moment Jack runs up the stairs.

JACK
O.K., you're right. I thought
Peter was going to marry you
because you were pregnant, but
the truth is there's no way Peter
could be in love with you.

Lucy is near tears. Jack grabs her arm.

LUCY
Let go.

He doesn't. Lucy tries to pull away.

JACK
He can't love you because I do.

Lucy stops struggling.

JACK
I love you, Lucy. You're sweet
and smart and we have fun together.

Lucy looks embarrassed. She looks down the tracks. Far in the distance the light of the train can be seen.

JACK
And you have dreams about distant
places and you know that Cooperstown
is the Baseball Hall of Fame.

LUCY
(quietly)
The Football Hall of Fame's in
Canton.

JACK
You're beautiful, Lucy.
(beat)
I knew that when I first looked
into your eye.

Lucy looks down shyly. Jack slips her glasses off. Jack bends
to kiss her. Their lips move close.

LUCY
Can you put my glasses back
on? I can't see you.

Jack smiles and puts her glasses on.

JACK
(repeats)
You're beautiful.

It's midnight. Horns blare. Auld Lang Syne sounds from a radio.
Jack and Lucy kiss. Fireworks explode. People cheer. Lucy and
Jack embrace.

CUT TO:

EXT. KENNEDY AIRPORT

A 747 jumbo jet lands softly on the runway.

CUT TO:

INT. CONLON HOUSE

Jack slips in the house and walks quietly upstairs. He turns and
tiptoes down the hall. Mary peeks out from her room.

MARY
Jack.

JACK
What are you doing up?

MARY
(tattles)
You have lipstick on your face.

Jack quickly puts his hand to his cheek. He flushes.

JACK
I went to a party.

MARY
I thought you went out with Lucy?

JACK
(guilty)
Lucy who?

MARY
Peter's Lucy.

JACK
(agitated)
She's not Peter's Lucy, well,
she is but...
(flustered)
Why would I go out with Lucy?
She's Peter's fiance.

MARY
I don't know.

JACK
(snaps)
Go to bed.

Mary ducks back in her room. Jack stalks down the hallway and turns into his bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM

Jack flops on his bed. A picture of him with Peter as kids sits on the dresser. He stares at the picture guiltily, stands and turns it toward the wall.

CUT TO:

INT. JERRY'S OFFICE - NEXT MORNING

Jerry is hung over. He plops some Alka Seltzer in a glass. Lucy sits on the other side of his desk in her uniform.

LUCY
I'm having an affair.

Jerry looks at her, groans and guzzles down the Alka Seltzer.

LUCY
I'm in love with Jack.

JERRY
So?

LUCY

He thinks I'm engaged to Peter.

Jerry holds his temples.

JERRY

Lucy, I can't deal with this,
I'm hungover, I'm tired, I got
a schedule to make out.

LUCY

(desperate)

What should I do?

JERRY

Tell the truth.

LUCY

I can't. They practically adopted
me.

JERRY

You're too old to be an orphan.

LUCY

You're never too old to be
an orphan.

JERRY

You're born into families, Lucy
you don't join them like a
Christmas club.

LUCY

If I tell Jack I lied to his
family he'll never speak to
me again. And what about Mary
and Ox and Midge and Saul...

JERRY

Saul?

LUCY

The next door neighbor.

(thinks)

Actually he knows.

Jerry throws up his hands.

JERRY

You want to get out of this,
Lucy?

LUCY

Yes.

JERRY
Pull the plug.

LUCY
(angrily)
You're sick.

Lucy stands and stomps out.

JERRY
I'm sick. You're cheating on a
vegetable!

CUT TO:

INT. CONLON HOUSE - THAT NIGHT

The Conlons, Lucy and Saul sit around the dinner table.

OX
Pass the turnips.

Jack and Lucy sit across from each other.

MIDGE
Did you have a nice New Year's
Eve, Lucy?

LUCY
(nods, shyly)
Yes...it was...very nice.

Jack squirms. Lucy looks at him. Mary looks at Lucy. Ox looks at Mary.

ELSIE ;
New Year's Eve hasn't been the
same since Guy Lombardo died.

SAUL
I love a clarinet. No one
plays the clarinet anymore.

ELSIE
Guy Lombardo didn't play clarinet.

SAUL
Did I say Guy played clarinet?

OX
Now Benny Goodman he could
play the licorice stick.

Elsie agrees.

MIDGE
(smiles)
Peter took trumpet lessons.

OX
He was a natural.

JACK
(flatly)
Peter stunk.

Everyone looks surprised. Lucy stops eating.

JACK
He knew one song, The Lonely
Bull, and he couldn't even play
that in tune.

The table goes quiet.

ELSIE
Al Hirt could play a beautiful
trumpet.

SAUL
He was no Harry James.

Jack is fed up.

JACK
Doesn't anybody get what's going
on!

The table goes silent.

JACK
So he sends a lousy fruit basket!

Jack rips the tag off.

JACK
He didn't even sign the card.
His secretary ordered it!
(stands)
We haven't seen Peter because
he wants it that way. Don't
you understand? He's in a different
world now and it doesn't include
us. We're not even in his rolodex.
He won't even cross the Goddamn river!
So before you canonize him think about
that!

(beat)
You know why he didn't show up for
your birthday, Ma? He didn't show
up because he was getting his eyebrows
waxed!

Midge looks hurt.

OX
 He didn't show up because you
 overfed his fish!

Jack throws his napkin on the table, gets up and leaves the room.

LUCY
 Excuse me...

Lucy follows Jack.

INT. HALLWAY

Jack grabs his jacket out of a hall closet.

LUCY
 (whispers)
 Jack...

Jack heads for the door.

JACK
 (whispers)
 What we did the other night was
 wrong.

LUCY
 It wasn't.

JACK
 We can't speak to each other
 anymore, Lucy.

Jack walks out of the house. Lucy goes after him.

EXT. HOUSE

It's cold. Lucy wraps her arms around herself.

LUCY
 Jack, I have to tell you
 something.

JACK
 What?

Lucy holds her breath then lets it out.

LUCY
 I don't know Peter. I never
 knew him.

JACK
 Whatever your problems are with
 Peter, you have to work them out.

He heads for his truck.

LUCY
Jack, listen to me...

JACK
No! I can't. I'm in love with
my brother's fiance and he's in
a coma for God's sake!

LUCY
Jack...

Jack gets in the truck.

JACK
I need to get away from here.
Soon as I get everything settled
I'm moving.

LUCY
What about the restaurant?

JACK
Let somebody else sell fudgicles.

He starts the truck.

LUCY
Don't you do that.

JACK
Don't tell me what to do!
I don't sit in a token booth
all day and plan vacations I
never go on. You don't act
on anything and then you tell
me what I should do!

LUCY
You don't know what it's like
to be alone!

JACK
You have Peter!

LUCY
I don't have anybody!

Tears stream down her cheeks. Jack is devastated. He can't look at her. He jams the truck in reverse and backs into the street. The Christmas lights blink on. Lucy is left alone in the driveway.

CUT TO:

EXT. ELEGANT APARTMENT BUILDING - CENTRAL PARK WEST

ESTABLISHING SHOT

INT. APARTMENT

Ashley Bartlett Bacon sits in the middle of her plush apartment and punches numbers on her cordless phone.

BACON
Peter...it's me. I'm back.
Call me. Love ya.

Bacon kisses into the phone and hangs up.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL

Peter lies in his coma. The steady beep of his heart monitor echoes through the room. Peter's eyes flutter.

CUT TO:

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Lucy sits alone in her apartment. She has her tiny table set. Her dinner is untouched. She looks at her snowbubble. She shakes it. Snow swirls. A tear runs down her cheek. Mel looks at her. Lucy cries.

CUT TO:

EXT. LONG BEACH - DAWN

Jack sits alone on the same bench he and Lucy sat on. He stares out at the ocean. In the distance a train horn sounds. Jack listens. He sets his jaw, stands and runs toward his car.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET

Jack parks his car opens the door and heads toward Lucy's subway entrance. He walks, then runs faster...

INT. SUBWAY

Jack races down the steps. He spots Lucy's booth. Lucy sits inside.

JACK
(yells)
Lucy...!

Lucy looks up, surprised. Jack runs for the booth. Their eyes meet. She wants him. He wants her. Lucy opens the door. VOICES echo behind her.

VOICE
Jack! Lucy!

Lucy turns. Ox, Midge, Elsie, Saul and Mary huff down the other stairs.

OX
HE'S AWAKE! IT'S PETER!
HE'S OUT OF HIS COMA!

CUT TO:

INT. CHRYSLER

Ox speeds to the hospital. Jack and Lucy sit in back. They look miserable.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL

The family runs down the hall. Elsie brings up the rear breathing heavily.

INT. PETER'S ROOM

The family slips into the room and forms a semi-circle around the bed. Peter sleeps. The doctor leans over and whispers to Peter.

DOCTOR
(gently)
Peter...Peter. Your family's here.

Peter's eyelids flutter. The family holds their collective breath. The doctor backs off. Lucy inches behind Ox.

Peter's eyes open.

The whole family smiles at him. Tears run down Elsie's face. Peter smiles as he takes in his family. He looks from one happy face to the next. His gaze finally rests on Lucy. He looks puzzled. Lucy smiles crookedly.

PETER
Who's she?

Everyone turns and looks at Lucy. Sweat beads on her forehead. She looks like a deer trapped in a hunter's headlights.

OX
(shocked)
My God...

Peter shuts his eyes and drifts off to sleep.

OX
...he has amnesia!

CUT TO:

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE

The doctor sits at his desk. The Conlons are jammed inside the small office.

DOCTOR
 Lacunar amnesia is a condition
 in which the memory loss is
 localized and patchy, limited to
 isolated events.

MIDGE
 Selective amnesia?

DOCTOR
 Exactly.

OX
 He fell in love with Lucy
 once he'll fall in love with
 her again.

Lucy can't take anymore.

LUCY
 Everyone, listen I have some-
 thing important to tell you...

The family looks at Lucy.

LUCY
 (awkward)
 This isn't easy for me...
 (a deep breath)
 I was never...

PLOP. Elsie flops on the floor.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY

Another gurney BANGS through the swinging doors. Elsie is
 strapped to it. The Conlons race behind it.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - LATER

The Conlons sit in the waiting room. The doctor is with them.

DOCTOR
 It was her angina. As long as
 she takes her medication and
 avoids physical exertion
 or shocks she should be fine.

Lucy stares at the doctor.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - PETER'S ROOM

Peter sits upright in his hospital bed. An old man is in the next bed. Ox peeks around the corner and smiles.

OX
How you feeling, Champ?

PETER
I don't know.

Ox nods and smiles. The buzzing of voices sound behind the door. Lucy comes around the corner apprehensively. The rest of the family crowds behind her. Peter looks at her blankly. Ox watches Peter closely.

OX
Remember her?

PETER
(blankly)
Should I?

Ox looks disappointed.

OX
Peter, look closely...

Peter stares at Lucy. There's is a faint hint of recognition in his eyes.

PETER
I don't know. She looks a little familiar. Why?

Lucy is sweating.

OX
It's coming back.

MIDGE
(nods)
I think so.

PETER
(nervous)
What's coming back? What's going on?

MIDGE
Peter, you have amnesia.

PETER
I do?

The family nods.

OX
Peter...You and Lucy are
engaged.

Peter drops his fork. He stares at Lucy in stunned disbelief.

MIDGE
You don't remember?

PETER
(scared)
No.

A nurse comes into Peter's room pushing a lunch cart.

NURSE
Time for lunch, Mr. Conlon.
(smiles)
Turkey.

Peter is agitated.

PETER
(panics)
Do I like turkey?

OX
Peter, calm down.

PETER
I want to see the doctor!

MIDGE
You're going to be fine...

Peter tries to climb out of bed.

PETER
DOCTOR!

Two nurses rush in.

DISSOLVE:

INT. PETER'S ROOM - LATER

Ox walks in.

PETER
22-10-40 eighth grade locker com-
bination. Birthdate 3/11/64.
Social Security number 102-60-7892...

OX
 (interrupts)
 Lucy's a nice girl, Peter.

PETER
 3.73 grade point average at Hofstra.
 Senior class president 1986.

OX
 You love her, you just don't
 remember it.

PETER
 Won by 74 votes. It would have
 been 75 if I didn't break up with
 Suzanne Duggan just before the election...

OX
 She saved your life!

Peter is stunned.

PETER
 She saved my life?

OX
 Jumped right in front of a speeding
 train.

CLOSEUP ON PETER

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. SUBWAY STATION CHRISTMAS DAY - FLASHBACK

Peter lies on the tracks.

Peter's P.O.V. -- There's a hazy image above him. It's Lucy.
 She's calling to him. BLACK.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM

Peter is unsettled.

PETER
 Oh, God. It's coming back.

OX
 (gently)
 Good. Peter...

PETER
 What?

OX
 (smiles)
 There's more.

PETER
 (apprehensively)
 More what?

OX
 (happy)
 More Conlons.

Peter doesn't understand.

OX
 Lucy's carrying your child.

Peter's pulse rate goes wild. BEEP...BEEP...BEEP...

CUT TO:

INT. HIGH RISE OFFICE BUILDING - MANHATTAN

The ELEVATOR DOORS OPEN. Ashley Bartlett Bacon steps off into a plush reception area. She walks to the receptionist. LONG SHOT. Bacon speaks to the receptionist. She listens, turns and runs back to the elevator. The elevator opens.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - HOSPITAL

Ox steps on the elevator. The doors close. The other doors open. Lucy steps off.

INT. PETER'S ROOM

Peter picks up his turkey sandwich. Lucy pokes her head in.

LUCY
 Hi.

PETER
 Hi.

Silence.

PETER
 How long have we been engaged?

LUCY
 Since you introduced me to your family.

PETER
 What's your name again?

LUCY
 Lucy.

PETER
(discouraged)
I don't understand it. I've
been sitting here thinking
and I can remember everything,
even my body fat. 7 percent.

LUCY
Do you remember the squirrels?

PETER
The squirrels. The picture in
the paper.

LUCY
(nods)
You saved them.

PETER
Not exactly. Actually what
happened was I was cutting
through the woods with my
friends and we hit their nest
with rocks.

Lucy looks disappointed.

PETER
(quickly)
Then I saved them.

LUCY
(disillusioned)
I don't think that counts.

PETER
(nods)
I've never told anyone the
truth about that before.

LUCY
Now it's my turn.

Peter waits. Lucy takes a deep breath. She looks over her
shoulder to make sure no one's listening.

LUCY
I'm not your fiance.

PETER
Listen, if you're mad about
the squirrels that was a long
time ago.

LUCY
I work in a subway token booth.
We don't even know each other.

PETER
(conspiratorially)
We don't?

LUCY
You can't say anything because if
your grandmother finds out she's a
goner.

Peter nods.

LUCY
(whispers)
We were never engaged.

There's silence. Lucy looks relieved that she's finally told the truth. Peter starts crying. Lucy is stunned.

PETER
You're protecting me.
(sobs)
You must love me very much.

LUCY
I'm not protecting you!

Peter's doctor and a nurse walk in.

DOCTOR
Excuse me, we need to take
his temperature.

Peter opens his mouth.

NURSE
Not there.

Peter grimaces. He rolls over. The doctor looks at Lucy. Lucy leaves.

EXT. HALLWAY

Lucy staggers down the corridor.

PETER(o.s.)
(calls)
You're the sweetest woman I've
never known.

She steps on the elevator. The other elevator opens. Saul gets off.

INT. PETER'S ROOM

Peter's doctor and the nurse walk out of Peter's room.

() NURSE
Any news on your brother?

DOCTOR
Yeah, the Gas Company's definitely laying him off.

INT. HALLWAY

The doctor and nurse step into the hall. Saul walks up behind them.

NURSE
(somberly)
Is there any chance?

DOCTOR
(sadly)
None.

Saul listens.

NURSE
How long does he have?

DOCTOR
Two weeks.

Saul looks stricken.

NURSE /
Does the family know?

DOCTOR
Not yet.
(beat)
He doesn't want anyone to know until he moves on.

Saul reels back to the elevators. He steps on. Jack steps off.

INT. PETER'S ROOM

Peter picks up his turkey sandwich. Jack walks in.

JACK
Hey.

Peter nods.

JACK
How you doin'?

PETER

O.K.

(beat)

I'm engaged you know.

Jack sits in a chair and pulls it to Peter's bedside.

JACK

Listen, I know you don't need advice from me but I'm going to give you some anyway.

Peter yawns.

JACK

Lucy's the best thing that ever happened to you. Treat her right.

Peter puts down his sandwich. He eyes Jack suspiciously.

PETER

What are you saying?

JACK

(fidgets)

I'm saying she's a great girl.

PETER

What's going on?

JACK

Nothing's going on.

PETER

(angrily)

This is my wife we're talking about, Jack.

JACK

You don't even remember her.

PETER

It's coming back.

JACK

Do you remember the way she touched you? Do you remember how she looks when the snow is falling and how the streetlight shines on her? Do you remember driving home and missing the exit you've taken a million times because you can't stop thinking about her?

Jack looks intently at Peter.

JACK
Do you remember loving her?

PETER
I remember who killed my fish.

JACK
(angrily)
Who cares about your goddamn fish!

PETER
I do! You overfeed my fish and everyone thinks it's a big joke.
(mimics)
Oh, well, that's just Jack.
(angrily)
All my life I've worked hard and met goals while you plan to take the stairs out of the house and put in an escalator.

JACK
So what?

PETER
So gain some responsibility.

JACK
I have responsibility. It's to my family. Something you've forgotten about.

Peter doesn't answer. He looks angrily at Jack.

PETER
(firmly).
I'm moving the wedding up.

Jack stands--ready to explode. He points at Peter, turns and walks out.

INT. ELEVATORS

Jack stalks on. The elevator opens. Lucy steps off more determined than we've ever seen her.

INT. PETER'S ROOM

Lucy marches in.

LUCY
You're going to listen to me!

PETER
(interrupts)
It took a coma to wake up Peter
Conlon.

LUCY
What?

PETER
We're getting married tomorrow.

Lucy is dumbstruck.

VOICE(o.s.)
Psss.

Lucy turns. Saul flags her frantically from the doorway.

LUCY
(to Peter)
Wait a minute...

INT. HALLWAY

Lucy bursts into the hall.

SAUL
(distraught)
Peter's dying.

LUCY
What are you talking about?

SAUL
I heard the doctor. He's got
two weeks to live.

LUCY
The doctor said that?

Saul nods.

LUCY
Are you sure?

SAUL
Sure as the Kaiser is German.

Lucy sways. She grabs the wall to keep her balance.

LUCY
Does the family know?

SAUL
Nobody knows. You've got to
marry him.

LUCY
Are you nuts!

SAUL
He loves you.

LUCY
He doesn't know me!

SAUL
He thinks he does. Besides
think about the Conlons.

LUCY
What do you mean?

SAUL
They'll be losing a son.
If you get married at least
they'll be gaining a daughter.
It'll temper their grief.

LUCY
What if he doesn't die?

SAUL
He's a lawyer, a girl could
do worse.

LUCY
I can't do it, Saul.

Lucy paces.

SAUL
Lucy, if you marry Peter, you'll
be a member of the family forever.

CUT TO:

INT. SUBWAY - NIGHT

Lucy sits in her booth. Jerry unlocks the door and walks inside. He fishes in his jacket, pulls out an envelope--drops it in front of Lucy.

JERRY
What's this?

Lucy opens the envelope.

LUCY
(embarrassed)
A wedding invitation.

JERRY
It's your wedding invitation.

LUCY
I'm only going to be married
for two weeks. He's dying.

JERRY
Now you're his widow! You
haven't even dated!

LUCY
This was your idea!

JERRY
My idea! I told you to tell a
white lie, not to make funeral
arrangements on your honeymoon.

LUCY
Well, I don't need any more of
your help.

JERRY
(yells)
Good, I can return your wedding
present!

CUT TO:

EXT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - LATER

Lucy starts the battered BMW, bangs into the car behind her
pulling out of the parking space and drives off.

CUT TO:

EXT. CONLON HOUSE - NIGHT

The BMW stops. Lucy gets out and sneaks to the house. She sees
Jack getting undressed in his upstairs bedroom window. She
stealthily moves along the hedges, digs some gravel out of the
cold, hard ground and tosses it against his window. She waits.
Nothing. She tosses some pebbles. The stones rattle against the
window. Still nothing. Lucy throws a snowball. The snowball
bangs off the window, ricochets and hurtles back at her. Lucy
trips. Dogs bark. The light comes on in Jack's room.

JACK
(scared)
Who is it?

Lucy hushes him.

JACK
(surprised)
Lucy?

LUCY
Shhh. We have to talk.

JACK
We can't.

LUCY
Jack, I can't go through with
the wedding.

JACK
You have to. Peter loves you.

LUCY
He doesn't even know me. It's
a lie. I'm a lie.
(beat)
I love you.

JACK
I'm the best man.

LUCY
(sincerely)
I know.

A light blinks on in another window.

OX(o.s.)
Jack?

Lucy ducks behind a tree.

JACK
Yeah?

OX(o.s.):
What's going on? Somebody
out there?

JACK
No.

The light goes off. Lucy pokes her head out.

LUCY
(whispers)
Jack...
(looks at him)
Do you love me?

JACK
(lies)
No.

Lucy is crushed.

JACK
I never loved you, Lucy.
I lied too.

OX(o.s.)
Jack...what's going on!

JACK
Nothing!
(hisses)
Lucy...

Jack looks out. Lucy's gone. The cab pulls away down the street. Jack is devastated.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL PETER'S ROOM

It's 2:01 in the morning. Peter is wide awake.

CUT TO:

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Lucy is wide-awake.

CUT TO:

INT. CONLON HOUSE - JACK'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Jack is wide-awake.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL CHAPEL - NEXT DAY

Jack and Peter are trying on their tuxes. Peter looks miserable. So does Jack.

PETER
This tux doesn't fit.

He looks at himself in the mirror.

PETER
Do you have the rings?

JACK
(nods)
Yeah.

PETER
What's the matter with you?

JACK
You suck.

The wedding march filters in from the chapel OFFSCREEN.

EXT. HOSPITAL

Lucy hustles down the street toward the hospital. Saul waits outside.

SAUL

Hurry up.

LUCY

Saul, this is crazy.

SAUL

You're telling me. The wedding band doesn't even know "The Girl From Ipanema."

As he pushes Lucy inside we CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL CHAPEL

There's a small crowd in the chapel. Mostly people in wheelchairs or with walkers. The Conlons are lined up in the first pew. They keep looking toward the door. Ox looks anxious.

OX

I should have picked her up.

MIDGE

She'll be here, Ox.

OX

(looks at his watch)
Maybe she forgot.

MIDGE

A woman doesn't forget her wedding.

Peter and Jack walk out of the side room to the altar. They look hostile. The wedding march comes to an end. The priest looks toward the back door for the bride. Nothing. The organist starts playing again.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY

Lucy and Saul run down the hall. The wedding march begins again. Saul gets to the doorway.

SAUL

Good luck...

Saul kisses her. Lucy enters the chapel.

Saul notices Peter's doctor striding down the hall toward him.

SAUL

Oh my God!

DOCTOR
What?

SAUL
Will he survive the ceremony?

INT. CHAPEL

Lucy practically sprints down the aisle. The organist plays twice as fast to keep up. The chapel buzzes. She bounds up to the altar next to Peter. She's out of breath.

PRIEST
(forces a smile)
Dearly beloved...We are
gathered here today...

SAUL(o.s)
I object!

Saul runs down the aisle. The chapel is in shock. He runs up to Lucy.

SAUL
(whispers)
He ain't dyin'.

Lucy raises her hand.

LUCY
I object too.

PRIEST
(whispers)
I haven't gotten'to that yet.

JACK
(steps forward)
Count me in.

PRIEST
(looks at Peter)
What about you?

PETER
I'm thinking.

The priest is flustered. Ox edges up to the altar. Whispers.

OX
What the hell is going on?

LUCY
I'm in love with your son.

OX
 (confused)
 I know.

LUCY
 (looks at Peter)
 Not that one.
 (looks at Jack)
 That one.

The priest shuts his bible. Ox is pissed at Jack.

OX
 What the hell did you do?!

LUCY
 He didn't do anything. It was me. Remember the first day at the hospital? Well, there was a mix-up. I saw Peter get pushed on the tracks and I saved his life. Only when I got to the hospital they wouldn't let me see him so the nurse told the doctor I was his fiance only it's not true.

Jack is stunned. Everyone stares at Lucy--confused.

PETER
 (relieved) = :
 Thank God.

LUCY
 I didn't know how to tell you.
 (beat)
 I was never engaged to Peter. We never even met until that day in the subway. But when we were in the hospital room everything happened so fast. At first I couldn't tell you the truth and then I didn't want to tell you the truth. Because the truth was. I fell in love with you. All of you. I went from being all alone to having...
 (looks at Peter)
 a fiance...
 (looks at Midge)
 a daughter...
 (looks at Elsie)
 a granddaughter...
 (looks at Saul)
 a friend...
 (looks at Mary)
 and a sister.

Lucy looks at Peter.

LUCY
I saved your life that day
in the subway but you really
saved mine. You let me be part
of your family. And even if it
was only for a little while, I'll
love them always.

Lucy looks at Jack.

LUCY
(softly)
Jefferson and Roosevelt.

JACK
What?

LUCY
Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson and
Roosevelt. Mt. Rushmore. I'm going
to go see it. I already called a travel
agent. And I'm going to Florence next.

JACK
What about your job?

LUCY
It's time to leave the booth.

Lucy quickly turns and heads back down the aisle. The family
stands in stunned silence. Lucy stops. She turns to Peter.

LUCY
Sorry about your car.

PETER
What about my car!

The doors of the chapel fly open. Bacon storms in.

BACON
Peter Conlon's engaged to me!
I object to this wedding!

PRIEST
Get in line.

An elegantly dressed older man follows Bacon in.

STRANGER
I object to your objection.

JACK
Who's that?

PETER
(sheepishly)
Ashley's husband.

JACK
You proposed to a married woman?

PETER
(angrily)
I was in a coma and you made
a play for my fiance.

Jack and Peter argue. The chapel's in an uproar! Everyone's arguing. Lucy walks past Bacon. Bacon and her husband are yelling at each other.

Joe Jr. busts in.

JOE JR.
I object!

LUCY
The wedding's off.

JOE JR.
(proudly)
I guess the better man won.

Lucy walks out. Arguing and shouting fill the chapel behind her.

EXT. STREET

Lucy walks down the street alone. Snow falls gently. A subway train rattles along an elevated track. A barking dog is drowned out as the train rumbles past rows of tenements and rocks past the hospital.

CUT TO:

INT. LUCY'S APARTMENT - LATER

Lucy packs her belongings in boxes. There's a knock on the door. Lucy opens it. Mr. Mollo stands on the other side.

MR. MOLLO
You're moving, Lucy?

LUCY
(nods)
Sorry, Mr. Mollo.

MR. MOLLO
 (shrugs)
 I can jack up the rent. Besides
 I understand.

LUCY
 You do?

MR. MOLLO
 Joe Jr. told me all about it.

LUCY
 Where is he?

MR. MOLLO
 On a date with the divorcee
 in 209.

The last thing Lucy packs is her snowbubble.

CUT TO:

INT. TOKEN BOOTH

Lucy sits in her booth. Celeste shrugs on her jacket.

CELESTE
 Last day...?

Lucy smiles.

CELESTE
 You come see me before you leave.

LUCY
 I will, Celeste.

They hug. Celeste opens the booth.

CELESTE
 You take care.

Lucy nods. Celeste leaves. Lucy's alone. A few commuters come up to the window and buy tokens. Lucy turns on the radio. She pulls a photograph out of her pocket. It's the picture of Lucy with the Conlons at Christmas. In the picture, Lucy stands front and center with a big smile on her face. Lucy's eyes fill.

Suddenly an object slides through the token slot. She looks at it. It's a diamond ring. Lucy looks up. The entire Conlon family, including Saul, stands by the booth. Jack looks at her through the glass.

JACK
 Lucy, will you marry me?

Lucy is overwhelmed. She picks up the ring tenderly.

ELSIE
(whispers)
Get down on your knee.

JACK
(argues)
She won't be able to see me.

ELSIE
Well, move back then.

SAUL
He's proposing, let him do it.

ELSIE
I am letting him do it.
(to Lucy)
Will you marry him?

Lucy smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. CHAPEL - NIGHT

Lucy and Jack stand at the altar.

PRIEST
The ring, please.

Peter, the best man, hands Jack the ring. Jack slips the ring on Lucy's finger. There's an explosion of LAUGHTER and CHEERING.

CUT TO:

INT. CONLON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The wedding reception is packed with guests. Midge guides a tray of food past Ox, Joe Sr. and Jerry who are harmonizing. Saul argues playfully with Elsie. Jack and Peter compete at darts. Mary watches Joe Jr. hover over the buffet stuffing hors d'oeuvres in his mouth. Lucy stands by the alcove--smiling.

LUCY(V.O.)
The wedding went off without a hitch except when Joe Jr. passed out with his head in the macaroni and cheese.
(beat)
And since he needed a new paint job anyway, Peter let us spray "Just Married" on his BMW. He even paid half the deductible.
But best of all...

CUT TO:

INT. TRAIN STATION

A TRAIN WHIZZES PAST THE CAMERA.

LUCY(V.O.)
...I finally got a stamp on my
passport.

The train stops for a moment and then clatters away. As it disappears OFFSCREEN, it reveals Jack and Lucy standing side by side in the station.

LUCY(V.O.)
Peter asked me when it was I
fell in love with Jack...

Jack grasps her hand and they walk together out of the train station.

LUCY(V.O.)
And I told him...it was while
you were sleeping.

EXT. FLORENCE, ITALY - DAY

The scene is Lucy's snowbubble come to life with Florence's famous Duomo rising above its red-tiled roofs. CAMERA HOLDS as they walk hand-in-hand into the city. "Strangers in the Night" comes up on the SOUNDTRACK.

THE END