

Wedding Banned  
or  
Dis-Engaged

by

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&

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FADE IN:

CU: MATCH.COM. A CURSOR moves around the screen trolling the prospective MEN, 25-35. It stops on CARDIO-DOC28. The screen fills with his profile. Cardiologist, Never Married, Athletic, Duke Grad "Go Blue Devils!".

INT. RESTAURANT - WINTER EVENING

Cardio-Doc28 is telling a long story as his date ZOE FISCHER, 26, politely listens, but is obviously bored.

CU: MATCH.COM. The cursor continues to troll. It lands on GOODGUY 4U. Attorney, Never Married, Athletic, Loves bike riding in Central Park.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK BIKE PATH - SPRING DAY

Zoe dressed in a t-shirt and jeans, riding her old "girl" bike is a bit mortified by her riding partner, GoodGuy 4U who is dressed in full, skin-tight, racing gear ala Lance Armstrong, with a high tech bike, and not so "athletic."

CU: MATCH.COM. The cursor scrolls through more pictures, landing on JEFF-NYC. Finance, Never Married, Athletic, Georgetown Grad. "Go Hoyas." Frisbee.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - SUMMER DAY

An ULTIMATE FRISBEE game is in progress. Zoe is thrown the frisbee and catches it. Jeff-NYC yells to her. Zoe throws it to him but it goes over his head. He is really, really pissed.

CU: MATCH.COM. The cursor is now clicking picture after picture. Smoothie Mike, GQ-Guy, Yanksfan, Wild-civility, Wine-luvr, NYTrader, Youngdwnwn, RunsWithBulls.

A HAND stops the madness and shuts the LAPTOP.

INT. ZOE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

We see the hand belongs to Zoe, who puts the closed laptop in her briefcase, downs her coffee, and heads out.

INT. LAW OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Zoe sits with other attorneys. They all have thick contracts in front of them.



ZOE

So, I revised sub-section seven, chapter nineteen, paragraphs C, D, and double A through double I...

ATTORNEY

Does that include H and F?

ZOE

No, but it does include F-1-A and G-4-C.

ATTORNEY #2

If you revised G-4-C, then I think we'll need a footnote to sub-section twenty-two, chapter four, paragraphs B, C, D...

ATTORNEY

What about chapter 6, M and P?

As the attorneys yammer on, Zoe looks across to another young, female attorney, LIBBY. Zoe puts her finger to her head as if she's blowing her brains out. Libby laughs.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Zoe and Libby are walking.

ZOE

God, some days I just can't take it. I'm suffocating in that place.

LIBBY

We only have to do this a few more years and then -- God willing -- we'll make junior partner.

ZOE

Where we'll get to do the same exact job, just for more money. Hoo-rah. Can't wait for that parking space with my name on it.

LIBBY

I have something that might cheer you up. I found a guy for you.

ZOE

Really? Do tell.

LIBBY

He works in Mark's firm --

ZOE

Stop. I can not date another "good-looking," "athletic" attorney.

LIBBY

But this guy is different, Zoe.

ZOE

How?

LIBBY

He's not that good-looking...

(off Zoe's non-plussed  
look)

I'm trying here.

ZOE

I know, and I appreciate it. It's just -- I don't know. These guys all sound so great on paper, but the problem is that I'm not dating them on paper, and in the real world... they're just not doing it for me.

LIBBY

I'm sorry, sweetie.

(looking at watch)

I have a conference call starting. You coming back up?

ZOE

I need another minute before I wade back in.

Libby heads back to the building. Zoe sits, dejectedly, on the edge of a fountain, staring at the ground. Suddenly...

VOICE (O.S.)

You look like you're having a great day. What's your secret?

Zoe looks up to see CYRUS, a guy, about her age, standing in the side serving window of a really tricked-out ICE CREAM TRUCK at the curb.

CYRUS

Seriously, I'd like to know how I can be that happy.

Zoe smiles.

ZOE

Work in a law firm, date the wrong guys --



CYRUS

(writing it down)

Wait, talk slower. I don't want to miss any of this... Which guys shouldn't I date?

Zoe laughs in spite of her self.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

How 'bout some ice cream to make you feel better?

ZOE

So this was all just to sell me ice cream. I feel a bit used.

(smiling)

Thanks, anyway.

CYRUS

You know what? It's on the house. No one can resist a free bomb pop.

ZOE

I'm okay.

CYRUS

Really, take it... Incoming...

Cyrus tosses the Bomb Pop to Zoe, but she's looked away for a split second, and the frozen mass hits her in the face. She goes down.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Oh, my God.

Cyrus comes rushing out of his truck and kneels over her.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

I am so sorry.

She has a bruise on her cheek.

ZOE

I'm okay.

She tries to get up.

CYRUS

No, please, just let me do this...

He takes the Bomb Pop and gently puts it on her bruised cheek. Zoe looks up at him. He returns her gaze.

DISSOLVE TO:

THREE MONTHS LATER

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - MORNING

Zoe stands with Cyrus next to his truck, making out. We see Libby is waiting for her. She's getting impatient.

CYRUS

I love you.

ZOE

I love you, too.

They kiss some more. Libby clears her throat.

CYRUS

I know you have a busy day so I packed you a lunch. You know how much you love those Japanese bento boxes?

He gives her a wooden box.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Well, I couldn't sleep last night so I carved you one. It's got a little piece of salmon teriyaki, some rice, tempura. Oops...

(picking something out)

Splinter. That wouldn't taste good.

ZOE

You are so sweet.

They kiss one more time. Zoe walks over to Libby. She shows Libby the box.

ZOE (CONT'D)

(gushing)

Look what he did for me.

LIBBY

Wow. I always said if a man will make you a poorly-constructed box of food, give him your heart asap.

ZOE

You think I'm crazy for being with Cyrus.



LIBBY

No... yes. I guess I just don't see you two together.

ZOE

I didn't think he was my type either, but what the hell did I know? Sure, it might look wrong from the outside, but it feels so right. More right than I've ever felt with anyone before. Cyrus is just... amazing. He doesn't care about all the stuff that I've spent my whole life convincing myself is so important. He's his own person. He's funny and spontaneous. Just this real breath of fresh air. It's like he's opened up all the windows and doors and let everything wonderful into my life.

LIBBY

(wistfully)

I could use some wonderful. I'm happy for you. So, what does your Mom think of him?

ZOE

She's going to meet him tonight.

LIBBY

You haven't introduced him to your mother yet?! You're hiding him from her.

ZOE

I'm not hiding him... I've been... hiding him. But, come on, you know my Mom. Cyrus isn't exactly the kind of guy she's used to me dating. You know how judgemental she can be.

LIBBY

Oh, yeah.

INT. COURT ROOM - DAY

An arraignment is underway. ELAINE FISCHER, late 50's, sits on the bench berating a DEFENDANT in a style only Judge Judy would love.



ELAINE

Let me get this straight, Mr. Quigg, you see the police, the guardians of peace and safety in our community, forcibly enter your domicile...

(holding up pictures)

... however filthy it might be... and identify themselves. At that moment, one could say you had a choice. You could stay still and raise your hands above your head, which would seem to logically be what a law-abiding citizen might do, or you could do what you chose to do... run out the back door like a crazy person, hop a fence, get bitten by your neighbor's dog, leave a trail of blood to your cousin's equally-filthy house, where the very same officers find you in the middle of shaving off your truly-disgusting beard to hide your identity.

We see the defendant now has HALF-A-BEARD with one side of his face clean-shaven, and the other with hair.

DEFENDANT

No, I just wanted to look good for my mug shot. I was going to turn myself in right after. I swear.

ELAINE

In my capacity as the arbiter of your fate in this courtroom, I'm sitting here seriously trying to determine exactly how stupid are you?

DEFENDANT

I went to college... technical college, but still --

ELAINE

I'm done with you.

(turning to cop)

Now, Detective Hardesty, I pose the same question to you.

HARDESTY

I think the defendant is very stupid, your honor.



ELAINE

Thank you, Detective, I agree, but I think the real prize for idiocy actually goes to you today. What possibly makes you think you could get away with entering into a suspect's house without a search warrant and still make the charges stick?

HARDESTY

Your honor, we had an excellent tip, and I mean, look at the evidence. The guy had laptops and digital cameras stacked to the ceiling.

ELAINE

And none of it is admissable due to the fact that you didn't follow a simple procedure that anyone who has seen an episode of "Law and Order" would know he needed to do.

DEFENDANT

I love that show.  
(making Law & Order sound)  
Bong-Bong.

ELAINE

Shut it, Mr. Quigg. Now, in the absence of any admissible evidence, I have no choice but to dismiss the charges.

HARDESTY

Your, honor, you can't be serious --

ELAINE

You performed an illegal search, Detective! You have no one to blame but yourself. You're free to go, Mr. Quigg. And Detective, rest assured I will be passing along the details of this debacle to your superiors for disciplinary action.

She bangs her gavel. Pissed, Hardesty starts to exit the courtroom with another DETECTIVE.

HARDESTY

(sotto)  
Just my luck I pull in the bitch of the court house.



ELAINE

And this bitch has excellent hearing,  
Mr. Hardesty. Have a good day.

INT. ELAINE'S HOUSE - EARLY EVENING

Elaine is in the house pouring herself a glass of wine. She strains to hear something. It sounds like an ice cream truck but the song is not the usual "Pop goes the Weasel." It's...

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

"Sweet Emotion" by Aerosmith playing from Cyrus' truck as Cyrus drives. We see the inside of the truck is tricked out like a 70's van on steroids. The truck pulls up to the curb as Elaine comes out to greet it. Elaine looks stunned as Cyrus and Zoe get out.

ZOE

(nervously)

Mom, this is Cyrus.

Elaine, barely hiding her displeasure, comes over and puts out her hand to shake.

ELAINE

Hello, Cyrus, it's nice to meet --

Cyrus gives her a big, long, long hug. It's really uncomfortably long. He finally kisses her on the forehead and then lets go.

CYRUS

I am so happy to meet you, too.  
Zoe's told me so much about you.  
You actually know a friend of mine  
from high school. Peter Ravner.

ELAINE

Is he an attorney?

CYRUS

No, you put him away for selling  
fake Harvard Medical degrees. He  
was kind of an idiot, but a genius  
with Photoshop.

ELAINE

Okay... well... How about we just  
head to dinner?



CYRUS  
Great, I'll drive.

ELAINE  
In your ice cream-mobile? Really I  
don't think--

CYRUS  
Have you ever ridden in an ice  
cream truck before?

ELAINE  
Yes, all the time. I dated a long  
succession of Good Humor men.

CYRUS  
Good choice. Bet you wouldn't have  
had nearly as much fun with Mr.  
Softie.

Cyrus laughs... Elaine doesn't.

ELAINE  
Let's just take my car.

CYRUS  
C'mon, think of it as an adventure.

ZOE  
It's fun, Mom. You'll see.

EXT. UPSCALE RESTAURANT - EVENING

A valet pulls away in a Jaguar, making room for Cyrus' truck which is now playing an ice-cream truck version of Ice Cube's "It Was A Good Day." We can see Elaine in the passenger seat looking mortified as people watch her pull up. They get out. Elaine is both embarrassed and rattled.

ELAINE  
Wanna know my first impression?

ZOE  
Mom, please, just give him a  
chance.

INT. UPSCALE RESTAURANT - LATER

Zoe, Elaine, and Cyrus have settled in at a table. Wine is being poured into their glasses. Cyrus raises his...

CYRUS  
A celebration toast.

ELAINE  
What are we celebrating?

CYRUS  
Well, Elaine...

ELAINE  
I prefer Judge Fischer.

CYRUS  
Even after the hug?

ELAINE  
Yes.

ZOE  
(explaining)  
Cyrus' family's a bit less formal  
than we are, Mom.

CYRUS  
No, it's okay... Judge Fischer, I  
have based my life on the nine --  
no seventeen, we've hugged, so the  
other eight are going on the table,  
too -- the seventeen things that  
are most important to me in the  
world.

ELAINE  
(under her breath)  
Oh, Jesus...

Zoe watches Elaine, nervously.

CYRUS  
You've already seen my truck, that's  
*numero uno*. Number two: I have  
named over four-hundred stars after  
myself, and I no longer fear death  
because I know my galactic legacy  
will live on forever. Three: I love  
big dogs... can't get enough of  
those Marmadukes. Four: I hate  
little dogs... my cut-off is eleven  
pounds... unless they have gigantic  
ears and shake a lot, then they're  
okay with me. Five: Education. I  
never want to stop learning. I've  
been enrolled at City College for 10  
years now. Have over 320 credits.  
(MORE)



CYRUS (CONT'D)

One of these days I'll pick a major, it's just so hard when you love everything. And since I haven't graduated, I haven't had to pay back all the student loans.

He winks at Elaine. Elaine flinches.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Six: Water. The world's running out, and I'm on a mission to save as much as I can. I don't use plates or utensils in my house so I don't have to wash them after. I eat with my hands as much as possible...

ELAINE

It really is a such a fine line between filthy pig and environmental crusader.

CYRUS

Isn't it? Which brings me to seven: If it's yellow let it mellow, if it's brown flush it down... After a minimum waiting period of at least three days. It's just responsible.

ZOE

You know, Cyrus was the first person to ever point out that one of my firm's biggest clients is a huge water waster.

CYRUS

Learned that in an environmental law class I audited back in '03. Eight: Bee Pollen... Self explanatory. Nine: My first child is going to be named Hondo, whether it's a boy or a girl.

(real cool)

Hondo. Ten: Barnaby Jones. The greatest TV crime fighter of the seventies -- take that Jim Rockford -- I'm proud to carry good ol' Barnaby right here on my arm. "Tonight's Episode: Rest in Peace, Buddy Ebsen."

Cyrus shows Elaine his tattoo of BUDDY EBSSEN on his arm. There are no words for how flabbergasted Elaine is right now.



CYRUS (CONT'D)

Eleven: Family is everything to me. There is nothing more important to me than my brothers and my parents.

ELAINE

Then shouldn't that have been number one?

CYRUS

(thinks for a sec)

Yes. I will consider that and get back to you. Twelve: Let's Go Mets! Thirteen: Getting to the Kill Screen on Dig Dug. Had to repeat third grade because of it, but it was worth missing all that school because it taught me to have goals. Fourteen: Always vote for Asians, they're good eggs. Fifteen: Cork. An under-appreciated natural material that I believe could replace all plastic. Sixteen: My rejection letter from World Wrestling Entertainment. Truly humbled me. And Seventeen: In order to be completely happy, I know I have to spend the rest of my life with your daughter.

ZOE

Mom, we're getting married.

ELAINE

No, you're not.

Zoe and Cyrus laugh.

ZOE

Yes we are. We're engaged.

Zoe excitedly hugs the stunned Elaine.

ZOE (CONT'D)

I know this seems fast, Mom, but when Cyrus proposed I instantly said yes, because it felt so completely right.

Zoe takes Elaine's right hand and looks at the engraved ring on her mother's finger.



ZOE (CONT'D)

Remember how we always talked about you giving me Grandma Bella's engraved wedding band when I got married?

ELAINE

Hmm... Did I say that?

CYRUS

I can't wait to put it on your finger and make you mine forever.

The room is spinning for Elaine. She pulls her hand back and feigns taking the ring off.

ELAINE

I must be retaining water. I can't seem to get it off.

CYRUS

I once had a toe ring that wouldn't budge. You just need to grease it a little. Allow me.

Cyrus takes a large pat of butter and greases Elaine's finger. He starts to pull on the ring. Elaine tries to slightly bend her finger so that it won't come off.

ZOE

And Cyrus is so sweet and old fashioned, he even called Dad last week and asked for his permission.

Hearing this, Elaine's eyes go wide just as Cyrus jerks the ring from Elaine's finger, causing his hand to fly smack into her face.

INT. MASSACHUSETTS COUNTRY HOUSE - EVENING

It's a nice, quiet house. JOHN FISCHER, 50's, sits there with his girlfriend, Trudy, playing CLUE.

TRUDY

I'm going to say Ms. Scarlet in the study with the lead pipe.

JOHN

You got it. Best two out of three?

TRUDY

You're on, mister.

The phone rings.

TRUDY (CONT'D)  
It's after nine. Who could be  
calling this late?

John looks at the Caller ID.

JOHN  
Only one person.  
(picking it up)  
Hello, Elaine --

Intercut:

INT. ELAINE'S HOUSE

Elaine is on the other end of the phone with ICE on her face.  
She pulls back the ice to reveal a small SHINER by her eye.

ELAINE  
How in the hell could you give a  
blessing to someone you haven't met?!

John sighs... here we go again.

JOHN  
He seemed like a sweet kid on the  
phone.

ELAINE  
He's my worst nightmare for Zoe.

JOHN  
He didn't sound black on the phone.

ELAINE  
He's not black. I'd be fine with  
black -- Well, I'd be okay with  
black, you know, Obama black.  
This guy's an imbecile.

JOHN  
And here we go with your  
overreacting.

ELAINE  
Don't tell me from three-hundred-  
miles away that I'm overreacting!

JOHN  
(annoyed)  
Then what would you call it?



TRUDY  
(protective)  
John, you're getting excited.

ELAINE  
I think she's rebelling against me.

JOHN  
How is it that our daughter falls  
in love and you make it all about  
you?!

TRUDY  
Sweetheart, don't let her get you  
all worked up.

ELAINE  
You tell that mousy, little  
girlfriend of yours to go back to  
her birding and quilting and all  
her other annoying "ings," and mind  
her own damn business.

JOHN  
I'm done with this conversation,  
but you can feel free to continue  
without me on the line. Good  
night, Elaine.

John hangs up. The phone rings immediately again. John  
turns off the ringer.

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - MORNING

John goes to the front door and grabs the morning paper. He  
walks by the phone and turns on the ringer. It rings  
immediately. He picks it up.

ELAINE  
Our daughter's marrying the  
Antichrist! And I'm not talking  
figuratively. I think he has Zoe  
under some spell. We might need to  
perform an exorcism to get this  
beast out of her. We cannot let  
this wedding happen. You have to  
take back your permission.

JOHN  
This isn't the 1800s. They don't  
need our permission. I trust our  
smart, capable daughter to make her  
own choice.

ELAINE

Even if that choice is a total repudiation of everything I hold dear?

JOHN

Well, if you think Zoe's rebelling against you now, just wait until you tell her she can't marry this guy, she'll never give him up.

ELAINE

I just want her to see she's making a huge mistake. It's puppy love. And not the puppy love we had when we first met, more like she-found-a-one-eyed-half-retarded-three-legged-puppy-and-took-pity-on-it-love.

JOHN

Then my advice to you -- which we all know will be impossible -- is to hold your tongue and wait it out. The wedding isn't for another few weeks so if the guy is as bad as you say, then our little girl is smart enough to realize that, and she'll come to her senses before the big day.

ELAINE

You think so?

JOHN

Like I said, I trust her.

INT. ZOE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Zoe is trying on the ring as she and Cyrus lay on the couch.

ZOE

It looks perfect. Don't you think?

CYRUS

You know it killed your Mom to let us have that. I don't think she likes me very much.

ZOE

It's an adjustment for her.

CYRUS

Zoe, I punched her in the face.



ZOE

Look, she's had this one image of the guy I was supposed to be with in her head for a long time.

CYRUS

Still, she should be happy for you. Maybe I should talk to her. Take her out for a spa day.

ZOE

(sitting up, serious)

I appreciate it, but honestly, that's a really bad idea.

CYRUS

I just think it would help if she knew me better. I'm usually pretty good with moms--

ZOE

My mom's not like other moms. I know you want her to like you, but you have to trust me, it'll only make things worse. The only thing that's going to work with her is to let time pass and eventually she'll come to love you like I do. So, promise me you won't go talk to her.

CYRUS

Okay, I promise...

(beat)

Can I send her a link to my MySpace page?

ZOE

No.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Cyrus is in his truck serving ice cream to kids in karate outfits. He looks up to see the top of the courthouse a few blocks away.

EXT. STREET - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Cyrus passes the courthouse. We stay on the courthouse. We then hear "beep, beep, beep" of a truck backing up, and Cyrus' truck reverses back into the frame.

EXT. COURTHOUSE PARKING LOT - LATER

Elaine exits the courthouse and heads to her Mercedes.

CYRUS (O.S.)  
Hey, you the judge that tried to  
put me away for life?

Elaine jumps. Cyrus steps out from between cars.

CYRUS (CONT'D)  
Just kidding. Figured after a  
tough day on the bench you might  
need a laugh.

ELAINE  
Too bad my bailiff wasn't here with  
his gun. He'd have loved it. What  
are you doing here?

CYRUS  
I wanted to talk to you.

ELAINE  
Well, I'm in a hurry right now...

Elaine unlocks her car and starts to get in.

CYRUS  
That's okay. I'll ride with you.

Cyrus jumps in the passenger seat.

INT. ELAINE'S MERCEDES - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Elaine's face is tight, but she tries to seem polite and casual as she drives her top-of-the-line Mercedes with Cyrus in the passenger seat.

CYRUS  
This is a really nice car. I've  
never ridden in one of these  
before.

ELAINE  
Then we're even. I'd never ridden  
in an ice cream truck before. Good  
thing the windows were so huge or  
all my friends wouldn't have been  
able to see me.

Elaine pushes a button on her steering wheel. A VOICE comes over the car's speakers.



TELEAID OPERATOR (O.S.)

This is the Mercedes TeleAid operator, Judge Fischer, how can I help you?

CYRUS

Okay, that is the coolest thing ever.

ELAINE

I need the address of the closest pharmacy to my position.

TELEAID OPERATOR (O.S.)

I've located your GPS signal, I have you passing the 200 block of West River Road. The nearest pharmacy is at 4035 Benton Way. That's six blocks north and two west. Will there be anything else?

ELAINE

No.

CYRUS

Yes, could you tell me who was the Emperor of Japan in 1805?

TELEAID OPERATOR (O.S.)

One second please...

(beat, we hear typing)

That would be Emperor Kokaku.

Cyrus smiles at Elaine, hoping she thinks this is funny. Elaine tries to fake a smile, but it's clear to Cyrus he's not making any headway.

CYRUS

That will be all. Thank you, Operator.

(to Elaine)

Look, I've taken enough psychology classes to know that it must be hard watching your daughter find someone and fall in love.

ELAINE

Because you think that psychologically, I don't want my daughter to be happy.

CYRUS

No, of course not... I just know it may be hard to remember back to when you fell in love with Zoe's dad.

ELAINE

Because I'm so old and it's been so long?

CYRUS

I didn't mean--

ELAINE

And in that time I've become so cold and bitter I can't remember what it's like to feel real, passionate, human emotions?

CYRUS

This isn't coming out right... I just mean that in a circumstance like this... with your situation...

ELAINE

My situation? What situation?

CYRUS

Maybe situation isn't the right word. Status? No...

ELAINE

Oh. You mean that because I'm divorced I'd rather make my daughter suffer along with me, than want her to go out and have her own life.

CYRUS

No, not at all. You've kind of got me kind of confused here. I have no idea what I'm saying.

ELAINE

But you took all those psychology classes. You must know a lot about it.

CYRUS

No, really, I don't know anything. I'm an idiot.

ELAINE

If you say so.  
(pulling up to pharmacy)  
(MORE)



ELAINE (CONT'D)

Well, I'm here. Thanks for helping me get to know you better.

Elaine gets out of the car, leaving Cyrus there, stunned.

INT. ZOE'S APARTMENT - LATER

Cyrus is watching WWE Wrestling. Zoe enters, pissed.

ZOE

I just got off the phone with my Mom. You went and saw her?

CYRUS

I was going to tell you.

ZOE

You promised me you wouldn't. You swore. Cyrus, you lied to me.

CYRUS

I know. I'm sorry. I just wanted her to get to know me. To warm things up.

ZOE

How can I trust you, when you don't keep your promises? If we're getting married, I need to know you're being honest with me.

CYRUS

I will be. I promise I'll never betray your trust again.

ZOE

(kissing Cyrus)

Okay. You get one pass... That's it. So, how'd it go with her, anyway?

CYRUS

Not good. She's like some kind of evil lawyer genius who got me all twisted up. Good news is I didn't let her see me cry.

ZOE

Nice. I told you going to her was a mistake. Look, it doesn't matter what my mother thinks. I love you and that's all that should matter.

(MORE)

ZOE (CONT'D)

Besides, my dad's coming in to town for the wedding, and I just know he's going to love you.

EXT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

Elaine's Mercedes pulls up. Zoe, John, Trudy and Elaine step out and walk into the restaurant.

INT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

Zoe looks around.

ZOE

There they are.

John and Trudy see a NICELY-DRESSED, OLDER COUPLE look up. Could this be Cyrus' parents?... Of course not. Now we see, charging past the couple's table, a MOTLEY HUSBAND and WIFE, LEE and TANGIE and their OTHER SONS. John is immediately bear-hugged and kissed on the forehead by Cyrus' father.

ELAINE

(sotto, to John)

Tell me when you've changed your mind on the whole "hold your tongue" advice thing.

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER

The families are now sitting around the table. Zoe and Cyrus talk to Lee. Elaine sits between Tangie and Cyrus's brother BERT, the poster boy for the brain-dead. On the other side John and Trudy sit next to Cyrus' other brother, LANCE.

BERT

(to Elaine)

So, you really a judge?

ELAINE

Yes, Bert, I am.

BERT

Are there any qualifications?

ELAINE

Well, you have to be appointed --

BERT

I used to do a lot of acid.



ELAINE

Oh --

BERT

I went into a coma for like a month because I did five hits at once and tried to smoke a hundred bowls. So, I don't know if that would disqualify me from getting on the bench... That's judge talk.

Elaine nods and then quickly turns to Tangie.

ELAINE

My, Tangie, those are lovely nails. What color is that?

TANGIE

Guess... Tangerine! I just love anything the color of my name. My nails, clothes, hair...

(pointing to head)

Drapes...

(pointing to crotch)

And carpet. You dye?

ELAINE

No --

TANGIE

Well, let me tell you it's done wonders for our marriage. Nothing turns my man on more than jumping head first into a four alarm fire, if you know what I mean.

Tangie lets out a wicked laugh. Elaine is aghast.

Angle on: John and Trudy who can feel Lance staring at them.

JOHN

So, Lance, what do you do?

LANCE

I spay and neuter dogs and cats.

John and Trudy look surprisingly impressed.

JOHN

Oh, you're a veterinarian.

LANCE

No.

John and Trudy don't know how to react. Thank God the moment is broken by Lee tapping a spoon against a glass. He stands.

LEE

You know when I was in the Air Force I was called in to fly a very important mission. A new plane called The Space Shuttle. See, it was a shuttle that would go into space.

John and Elaine look at each other.

LEE (CONT'D)

Well, I loved serving my country and when President Johnson asks you personally, you do it. Well, right before I left to go train in NASA-City, Tangie and I had sex all night. We must have tried out forty different positions. Who knew if and when I would return. Anyway, nine months later I'm up in space when I get a call on my cell phone. Tangie was in labor. Now I was supposed to be up there for like five years. But I said to my commanding officer, Patrick Stewart, I had to be back in Pound Ridge. And he said why? And I said, because there is nothing more important than your children. So, he put the thing in full throttle and I was there the moment Cyrus popped out. Yeah, the Shuttle went back up, and on to do great things without me, but, I got to be with my family and what could be better than that? Which is why I'm so happy to be here with you, Zoe, John and Elaine, toasting the coming together of our two families into one big family that has two last names and lives in lots of different places and just met an hour ago. I love all of you.

John and Elaine look stunned when they look over at Tangie, Bert, Lance and Cyrus who are all crying.

LEE (CONT'D)

And now Tangie would like to sing a little song she wrote and sang to me in space thirty years ago.



Tangie begins to sing "I Will Always Love You" completely off key.

EXT. RESTAURANT - LATER

The entire party exits the restaurant.

JOHN

Thank you so much for a lovely dinner, Tangie and Lee.

LEE

You don't think the evening's over, do you? We've still got the bachelor party planned.

JOHN

Don't you think we should leave the partying to the younger guys?

LEE

We gotta show these boys we ain't dead yet.

TANGIE

Oh, he's got a lot of life in him. I can tell.

CYRUS

I was really hoping you'd be there.

ZOE

I want you to get to know Cyrus.

ELAINE

Yes, so do I.

Everyone is looking at John. He has no choice.

JOHN

Sure. Why not? I'd love to go.

TRUDY

(alarmed)

But, John, it's eight-thirty.

JOHN

I'll just go for an hour to be polite.

(to Lee and Cyrus)

So, men, where we headed? A bar?



CYRUS  
Way better.

EXT. HOUSE - BACK YARD - LATER

Suddenly, a man's body goes flying through the frame and lands with a thud. We pull back to reveal a makeshift wrestling ring, and the guy who just flew through the frame is Cyrus, in a homemade wrestling outfit. Bert, in his own homemade wrestling outfit stands over Cyrus in the ring. We see lots of guys with beers in their hands, they're going nuts and cheering. Lee's voice comes over a crappy PA system.

LEE (ON P.A.)  
Oh, Cyrus the Virus just got  
flapjacked by the Bonesnapper!!!

We now pan over to John whose mouth hangs open at the spectacle.

Bert takes a lap of the ring with his hands raised. Just then Cyrus "surprises" Bert with a countering move that stuns him. The crowd erupts. Cyrus does a few moves including a Polish Hammer and a Gorilla Slam that sends Bert over the ropes, out of the ring, and landing on John.

CYRUS  
Behold "Bonesnapper Bert" has  
finally had his own bones snapped  
and a new champion rises tonight!!

Cyrus jumps up on the turnbuckle and the crowd cheers.

WOMAN'S VOICE (ON P.A.)  
Why don't you pick on someone your  
own size?

Suddenly, some weak spotlights turn to illuminate dry ice-induced smoke rising in front of a screen door at the back of the house. There, in the doorway, appear FOUR HOT WOMEN IN DAISY DUKES AND TIGER-STRIPED BIKINI TOPS.

CYRUS  
Oh, no, you guys didn't.

LEE (ON P.A.)  
No! It can't be! It is! Raised  
on the meat of their man prey in  
the hot, sweaty jungles of Timbuktu  
to show no mercy and spare no man's  
life... it's the Tigresses!



The guys all go crazy as the sexy women parade through the crowd hissing and pawing like tigers.

LEE (CONT'D)  
Happy bachelor party, son.

CYRUS  
(still in the ring)  
Bring it on! Bring it on!

The women enter the ring and surround Cyrus. They growl and make motions like cats with claws. Cyrus throws a few of them around. They throw him around. Finally Cyrus is brought down by all the women. That's when one of them, we'll call her THE ONE WITH THE BIGGEST BOOBS (because, well, they're huge) climbs on top and wraps her long legs around Cyrus' throat. Her crotch is inches from Cyrus's face.

THE ONE WITH THE BIGGEST BOOBS  
We love taking on big boys like you. Some of us attack high. Some of us go down... way down. We like to pounce with our mouths open real wide, take a bite, and see if we can choke down all that meat.

The guys all go berserk.

LEE  
Whoo wee! Choke it down!  
(to John)  
I always thought these two would get married some day, dating as long as they did.

John gives Lee a confused look.

THE ONE WITH THE BIGGEST BOOBS  
You my bitch boy, Cyrus?

CYRUS  
No, but you know I could be your boy, bitch.

Suddenly, something comes flying off the roof of the house, does a flip, and lands in the ring. It's someone wearing a freakish wrestling outfit and leather S & M mask with zipper mouth. The Freak is now on the canvas doing flips and preening like a monkey on amphetamines as he challenges the women.

LEE  
Go get em', Lance!



EXT. HOUSE - VERY LATE

The party has ended and people are heading out. John is completely shell shocked as he stumbles over to Lee's truck and gets in. He sees Cyrus standing with The One With The Biggest Boobs by her Mustang.

LEE

Cy Guy, you need a lift?

CYRUS

No, I've... got something to do.

Cyrus and The One With the Biggest Boobs get into her Mustang. John can't believe it.

INT. ELAINE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The door bell is frantically ringing, as Elaine comes downstairs in her robe. She opens the front door to find John standing there.

JOHN

Okay, now you can let go of your tongue. She can't marry that retard.

INT. ELAINE'S HOUSE - MORNING

John and Elaine are there both dressed for the wedding.

JOHN

We'll just be calm, loving, supportive but direct. Agreed?

Elaine nods.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Did you take any of the Xanax I gave you?

ELAINE

A fistful. I've had Skittles with more effect.

The front door opens and in walks Zoe carrying her wedding dress and shoes.

ZOE

Good morning.



JOHN

Good morning, sweetheart.

ZOE

Everything okay?

JOHN

Just marvelous.

ZOE

I'm going to go up and get ready.

JOHN

Honey, before you do, would you mind if your Mom and I had a word with you?

Zoe steps into the living room.

ZOE

What's up?

JOHN

Sunshine, when a man and woman first meet --

ELAINE

We think this relationship with Cyrus is a mistake and marrying him will ruin your life forever.

ZOE

Excuse me?

JOHN

What your mother is so ineloquently saying is that we just think that you've only known each other a short time and these feelings you have could fade for either one of you.

ZOE

You're really trying to talk me out of marrying Cyrus hours before my wedding.

ELAINE

(points to John)

Blame him for that. I hated Cyrus from the day I met him, but like an idiot, I listened to your father and waited to tell you.

JOHN

And you did it in the nicest possible way.

ZOE

I kind of expected this from Mom, but not from you, Dad.

JOHN

We're both concerned. I mean, how well do you really know him?

ZOE

Enough that I love him with all my heart, I love the way he treats me, his sense of humor, his kindness. I love that he isn't so linear in his thinking. That he wants to start off our married life travelling around the country in his truck.

ELAINE

And how long are you going to be "travelling in his truck?"

ZOE

I don't know. A few months maybe. We'll see where the wind takes us.

ELAINE

Where the wind takes you? You're not the goddamn feather from Forrest Gump. What about your job?

ZOE

I'm taking a leave of absence.

ELAINE

You just started working there.

ZOE

I know but talking it over with Cyrus, he made me realize how unhappy I've been.

ELAINE

I just went blind for a second. Zoe, go to your room!

ZOE

What? I don't live here.



ELAINE

Go to your room and do not come out until you've come to your senses.

ZOE

My senses are fine. I love Cyrus and I'm going to marry him today! And if you don't like it, you don't have to be there!

Zoe grabs her dress and storms upstairs. John looks at Elaine.

INT. CHURCH - MORNING - LATER

John and Trudy enter. It is abundantly clear which side of the pews are guests of the bride and which are guests of the groom. He is immediately bear-hugged from behind by Lee and then given a kiss on the forehead.

INT. ELAINE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Elaine enters holding a WHITE FLAG to find Zoe dressing.

ELAINE

I come in peace.

Zoe is fuming but is struggling with some small buttons on her wedding dress and Elaine comes over to help.

ZOE

One cherry tomato and half-a-diet coke in the last four days has paid off. It fits. How does it look?

ELAINE

Just wonderful. Look, about before... I'm sorry. I probably am just emotional about losing my little girl. It's your day. Let's go out there and enjoy it.

Zoe smiles and hugs Elaine.

ELAINE (CONT'D)

Oh, don't forget your veil.

Zoe steps into the walk-in closet and puts on her veil. She turns around.

ZOE

All right, I'm ready.

Zoe smiles. Elaine smiles back and before Zoe can step out of the closet Elaine slams the door shut, locks it, and leans up against it. From the other side we hear light knocking...

ZOE (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 Mom... Mom...  
 (now pounding)  
 MOM!!!

INT. CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

John and Lee are greeting guests when John's cell phone rings. He looks at the caller id... it's Elaine.

INT. ELAINE'S HOUSE - A FEW MINUTES LATER

John rushes into the house to find Elaine in the living room.

JOHN  
 Elaine --  
 (noticing)  
 You didn't sprain your ankle.

ELAINE  
 If I told you the real reason, you think you would have rushed back here?

Elaine leads John upstairs. He hears pounding.

JOHN  
 What is that?

ELAINE  
 Your daughter is locked in a closet.

JOHN  
 Then why'd you call me? You should have called a locksmith.

ELAINE  
I locked her in there!

INT. CLOSET - CONTINUOUS

ZOE  
 Let me out! Let me out right now!  
 (then, furious)  
 (MORE)



ZOE (CONT'D)

Mom, if you do not let me out, I swear to God, I will destroy everything in here!

INT. ELAINE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

JOHN

Elaine, there's a church full of people waiting. You can't do this.

ELAINE

John, would you let our daughter jump off a cliff to certain death?

JOHN

No --

ELAINE

Then why would you let her leap into the bottomless Cyrus Caverns to certain misery?

JOHN

So, what are you planning to do, leave her locked in the closet forever?

INT. CLOSET - CONTINUOUS

ZOE

(yelling)

I'm holding your Marc Jacobs couture!

INT. ELAINE'S HOUSE

ELAINE

So help me Zoe, you touch that dress --

We hear a rip.

ELAINE (CONT'D)

Well, now you can just rot in there!

(to John)

Dammit, this is all your fault.

JOHN

How is this my fault?

ELAINE

You gave Cyrus permission and you told me not to say anything.

JOHN

It's too late, Elaine.

ELAINE

Not for me. John, we let this wedding happen and you'll be spending every birthday, Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter, and New Years with that awful family.

John looks at Elaine for a beat.

JOHN

So, what do we do?

ELAINE

I don't know.

JOHN

We have to tell all those people at the church something. I'm the bride's father, I guess I would be the one to do it.

ELAINE

Okay, but whatever you say, just get right to the point. No soft pedalling.

JOHN

I don't soft pedal. I'm tactful.

ELAINE

What are you going to say then?

JOHN

That unfortunately Zoe has had second thoughts--

ELAINE

No, that's soft pedaling. Second thoughts sounds like there might be a third thought... one that could have her deciding to marry him again.

JOHN

So, I'll say she got cold feet.



ELAINE

That could one day warm? This isn't about them liking you, John. Trust me. Tear off that Band-Aid in one fast jerk. Just say she changed her mind and she never wants to see him again. Do not give him any hope.

JOHN

How about a little compassion?

ELAINE

How about a little balls?

John starts to exit. Elaine hears another rip.

ELAINE (CONT'D)

And for God's sake, hurry.

INT. CHURCH - A LITTLE LATER

John peers inside. The crowd seems to be getting restless. John walks up to the altar and addresses the crowd.

JOHN

Excuse me, if I could have everyone's attention for a moment please. Unfortunately, I have some bad news. Zoe has decided to call off the wedding.

LEE

What?

TANGIE

(bursting into tears)

No!!

CYRUS

(startled and upset)

That doesn't make any sense.

JOHN

(feeling everyone staring)

I know it's just that Zoe had... second thoughts.

CYRUS

(confused)

Second thoughts? If she loves me as much as she said, why would she have second thoughts?

JOHN

Oh, she loves you very much. That's why she wants to make sure that this is the right decision before the two of you are locked-in to this forever. It's enough to give anyone cold feet. But she wanted to let you all know how touched she is that you all came today and to please enjoy the catered lunch courtesy of Elaine and me.

John grabs Trudy and heads down the aisle leaving a stunned congregation.

INT. ELAINE'S HOUSE - A LITTLE LATER

John enters with Trudy. There's some faint banging from Zoe upstairs.

JOHN

So, it went well.

ELAINE

How well?

JOHN

Well.

ELAINE

Could you be less specific?

JOHN

(annoyed)

Well. Great. Fantastic. It's in the top ten wedding calling offs that I've ever been involved in.

TRUDY

(to Elaine)

See how worked-up you're getting him? You make him crazy. It's not good for him.

ELAINE

(blasé, to Trudy)

Did you say something?

Suddenly, we hear some cars pull up outside. They look out the window to see Cyrus' ice cream truck and Lee's pickup. The whole family is piling out of the vehicles and heading toward the house.



ELAINE (CONT'D)

Damn!

JOHN

What are they doing here?

ELAINE

We need to act naturally.

JOHN

Right... Or not.

ELAINE

What do you mean?

JOHN

Our daughter just broke off her wedding to this guy... it's a totally unnatural situation... really awkward, right? If we're natural, it'll tip them off that something's wrong.

ELAINE

So, you're saying what?

JOHN

We need to act unnaturally which is how we would naturally be in this unnatural situation.

ELAINE

You're an idiot!

TRUDY

This is why he moved away... For sanity. How could you get him involved in something like this? Locking your daughter in the closet... it's awful.

The doorbell rings.

ELAINE

(to Trudy, threateningly)

You know that isn't my only closet that locks. Keep your mouth shut or you're going to be spending a whole lot of alone-time with my linens and towels.

Trudy looks terrified. Elaine is about to open the door when she quickly sticks her finger in a vase filled with flowers and dabs the water under her eyes to create FAKE TEARS. She opens the door to Cyrus and his family.

ELAINE (CONT'D)  
(sweetly)  
Oh, you poor thing.

INT. ELAINE'S HOUSE - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Cyrus' family is now making themselves at home. There's some distant banging every few seconds and some incredibly faint yelling. Elaine and John are acutely aware of it. Cyrus and his folks don't seem to really notice.

CYRUS  
She's not answering her cell. I went to her apartment. She wasn't there. Did she come here to get ready like she said?

ELAINE  
No. She just told us her decision and then drove off. Who knows where?

TANGIE  
We've got to do everything we can to get these two back together, Elaine.

ELAINE  
Absolutely. But she's a hard-headed girl. I mean when she changes her mind and ends a relationship...

TANGIE  
Well, I wouldn't call second thoughts an end to the relationship. Would you?

ELAINE  
(staring daggers at John)  
"Second thoughts?"

JOHN  
(to Lee)  
So, did you rent those tux's or buy them? Because they are sharp.

We hear another THUMP. Trudy shakes nervously.



CYRUS

What is that?

ELAINE

Squirrels on the roof. A couple of them are real fatties.

(quickly changing topic)

Gosh, in all this excitement I've totally forgotten to offer you coffee or tea. John, come help me in the kitchen.

BERT

I'll take a Clamato and a non-alcoholic beer if you have it.

They head toward the kitchen. As she passes Trudy...

ELAINE

(firm whisper)

Linens and towels!

INT. ELAINE'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

ELAINE

You soft pedaled! You gave that mutt hope.

JOHN

Okay, I screwed up. I admit it, I'm not as good as you at being cruel.

ELAINE

And you're poorer for it. Always Mr. Nice Guy. So busy being kind that no one ever hears the hard realities that need to be told.

JOHN

Well, in the future, as a pediatrician, I'll try to be more of a dick. "Sorry, Jimmy, you have terminal cancer, and since I don't want you dying in here, get the fuck out of my office."

ELAINE

You never know, the kid might appreciate the honesty. So, what are we going to do now?



JOHN

I don't know.

ELAINE

If they find out Zoe is upstairs, I have a very strong feeling we'll end up buried in the crawl space of their house along with the dozens of woodland creatures they've sacrificed over the years.

JOHN

I have an idea. It's a little drastic but --

ELAINE

As long as it doesn't involve you speaking, I'm in.

INT. ELAINE'S BATHROOM - A MINUTE LATER

John opens the medicine cabinet and grabs some bottles of PILLS. He takes several pills out and puts them into a glass, then takes a second identical glass and places it inside the first one, causing the bottom of the second glass to crunch down on the pills. It's a crude mortar and pestle. He's about to pour the crushed pills into a cup of hot TEA but pauses.

JOHN

What the hell am I doing? I can't drug my daughter.

John puts the tea down on top of the toilet tank and then takes the crushed pills and pours them into the toilet. He reaches across to flush and when he does, unbeknownst to him, he knocks into the sink which causes the prescription bottle of pills to topple over. The pills spill out and land in the hot tea cup.

INT. ELAINE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

John exits the bathroom and hears Zoe still banging away.

ZOE (O.S.)

Mom, please. I have to go bathroom. I'm going to pee in my dress. Please!

John stares at the closet for a beat and then opens it.



JOHN

Honey, are you okay? I just got here and heard you banging.

ZOE

(hugging John)

Dad, thank God. She locked me in here. She's gone completely crazy.

JOHN

Come on out of there, my poor baby.

Zoe exits the closet and heads over to the nightstand. She picks up the phone and dials.

JOHN (CONT'D)

What are you doing? I thought you had to go to the bathroom.

ZOE

I have to call Cyrus.

John looks panicked.

INT. ELAINE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Cyrus' cell phone rings. He goes to answer it.

CYRUS

Hello... Hello?

INT. ELAINE'S HOUSE BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

ZOE

Hello? Cyrus?

We see John has kicked the PHONE CORD out of the wall.

ZOE (CONT'D)

The phone is dead.

JOHN

Must be the battery. I think there is another one in the bathroom... Against the back wall.

Zoe walks in there. John quickly closes the door and shoves a chair under the knob.

ZOE (O.S.)

Hey!

INT. ELAINE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The family is helping themselves to tea and coffee. Bert is putting a tremendous amount of salt in his.

ELAINE  
Bert, that's salt.

BERT  
I know.

Cyrus is looking at a PHOTOGRAPH on the mantel of a young Zoe, Elaine and John on a LAKE DOCK. A small sailboat in the background has "Mohican Lake" painted on its bow. His eye then catches something by the front door.

CYRUS  
Why are her Nikes here?

ELAINE  
What?

CYRUS  
By the front door. Those are Zoe's Nikes.

Cyrus walks up to them as John comes down the stairs.

ELAINE  
Obviously she's in a hurry to start living her new, single life and took off without her shoes. Sounds to me like she doesn't want to be found.

Cyrus looks out the window.

CYRUS  
Then why is her car across the street. How did I not notice that before?... None of this is adding up. I'm going to check out her car. Bert, do me a favor and go through Zoe's old bedroom, see if there is anything up there that might clue us in on where she might be.

Cyrus heads outside. Bert heads upstairs.

JOHN  
Let me help you out there, Bert.

Elaine watches from the window as Cyrus walks out to the car.



LEE

This is just like when I was working for the CIA and the King of Africa's daughter went missing.

TANGIE

When did you work for the CIA?

LEE

Oops. Wasn't supposed to tell you. It was that winter I said I was working as a ski lift operator.

Elaine rolls her eyes.

INT. ELAINE'S HOUSE - ZOE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bert is going through the room. He looks confused and clueless. He picks up a few items, not really sure what he should be looking for. John watches him from the door and steps away.

INT. ELAINE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

John enters the room and sees the chair still in front of the bathroom door. John knocks gingerly.

JOHN

Zoe?... Zoe?

No answer. John removes the chair and peeks inside to see a very, very druggy Zoe sitting on the floor holding the empty tea cup.

ZOE

(very drugged)

Daddy to the rescue.

She laughs and passes out.

JOHN

Oh, shit.

(noticing the knocked-over pill bottle)

Oh, shit!

BERT (O.S.)

Dr. Fischman?

John quickly exits the bathroom and closes the door as Bert enters carrying a MUPPET BABIES POSTER.

BERT (CONT'D)  
Is this a clue, you think?

JOHN  
Not sure.

BERT  
Oh... could I have it? Hey, why is there a chair in front of that door?

JOHN  
Because no one is allowed in there.

ZOE (O.S.)  
(mumbling)  
Mmmdffediedmmmff.

BERT  
What was that?

JOHN  
It's... the ghost. The bathroom is haunted.

BERT  
No shit?

JOHN  
Oh, yes shit. An angry sea captain used to live in this house and he doesn't like visitors.

BERT  
I once partied and did a bunch of mescaline with this sea captain. We did a a bunch of mescaline and partied. He wasn't really a captain. He cut meat at Foodtown, but he had a party boat and a hat with an anchor on it... or a duck, I'm not sure. Some anchors have feathers, right?  
(long, long beat)  
What was I doing again?

JOHN  
You were leaving this room because there was nothing.

BERT  
Oh.



Bert looks down and sees a small corner of WHITE WEDDING DRESS FABRIC poking out from under the door. He bends down to look at it. John watches nervously. John picks up a lamp like he's going to hit Bert on the head with it...

BERT (CONT'D)

This looks like part of a wedding dress.

John can't do it. He puts the lamp back.

BERT (CONT'D)

(feeling the fabric)

Now I gotta look in there.

Above his head, unseen by Bert, John bangs on the bathroom door with his fist.

JOHN

Argh, who dare be bothering Captain Cadaver?!

Bert jumps.

BERT

I'm gonna get Cyrus. He ain't afraid of no ghosts.

INT. ELAINE'S HOUSE - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Bert is outside talking to Cyrus. John comes down and grabs Elaine.

JOHN

We've got to get Zoe out of here now.

ELAINE

Why?

JOHN

Just trust me. In about twenty seconds Cyrus is going to march right up there and find her.

They hustle up the stairs.

INT. ELAINE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

John opens the bathroom door.

ELAINE

You drugged our daughter?

JOHN

I didn't mean to. Well, at first I did, but I was panicked.

ELAINE

I thought I was the crazy one.

JOHN

You started this. This was an accident. I must have left the tea in here and she drank it. We don't have time to argue. We have to get her out of here. Grab her legs.

They grab Zoe by her arms and legs and awkwardly head out of the room. Elaine catches a glimpse into the closet.

ELAINE

Look at my clothes!

(to Zoe)

Are you even my daughter?

INT. ELAINE'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

They carry Zoe into the hallway. From the front stairs they hear Cyrus and Bert.

JOHN

The back stairs.

They head toward the back stairs and disappear down them just as Bert and Cyrus reach the top of the front stairs.

INT. ELAINE'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Elaine and John carry Zoe down into the kitchen, and then keep hustling out the back door toward the garage.

INT. ELAINE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Cyrus and Bert enter and see the bathroom is open and empty. Cyrus glances out the window and sees John and Elaine loading Zoe into the back seat of the Mercedes.

CYRUS

Hey!

Cyrus bolts down the stairs.



## EXT. ELAINE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Elaine is in the driver's seat of her Mercedes as John is trying to put Zoe's seatbelt on her.

JOHN

Okay, let me go in and get Trudy  
and we can --

Cyrus and his family come running out the back door. Elaine FLOORS the accelerator, causing John to fall into the back seat. The car turns out of the driveway and roars down the street.

Cyrus quickly runs over to his truck and hops in. The truck starts up. A ice cream truck version of The Clash's "Rock the Casbah" blares out the loudspeakers. Cyrus guns the truck. The faster he goes, the faster the song plays.

## EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

The Mercedes whips around a corner. A second later the truck follows.

The Mercedes passes a slower car and runs a stop sign.

## INT. ELAINE'S MERCEDES - CONTINUOUS

JOHN

That was a stop sign!

ELAINE

So, I'll see myself in court!

She looks in the rearview mirror and sees the truck passing the slower car.

## EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

A group of kids play kickball. The Mercedes honks. The kids get out of the way. The truck is right behind.

KID

Ice cream man!!!

The kids take off after the truck waving their ice cream money.

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

The Mercedes whips around another corner, followed by the ice cream truck, followed by the group of kids all running after it and yelling.

KIDS  
Ice Cream Man! Stop! Stop!

EXT. TOWN CENTER - MOMENTS LATER

The Mercedes speeding.

The Ice Cream Truck speeding and blasting the music.

The kids chasing.

INT. ELAINE'S MERCEDES - CONTINUOUS

ELAINE  
Is he still behind us?

JOHN  
And gaining.

ELAINE  
I have an idea. Hold on.

EXT. TOWN CENTER - CONTINUOUS

The Mercedes makes a jarring left turn across traffic and into a...

EXT. PARKING STRUCTURE - CONTINUOUS

Elaine drives into the structure. She has to keep slowing down because of the speed bumps. She finds a spot and turns into it.

INT. ELAINE'S MERCEDES - CONTINUOUS

Elaine and John try to catch their breath.

ELAINE  
Do you think we lost him?



They suddenly hear the fast "Rock the Casbah" and then the "THUNK" of the truck going over a speed bump, slow "Rock the Casbah" speeding up, THUNK, slow "Rock the Casbah" speeding up...

JOHN

No, I don't think so.

They see the truck come around a corner.

EXT. PARKING STRUCTURE - CONTINUOUS

The Mercedes quickly backs out and heads down, past the truck. The truck does a relatively quick K-turn and is back in pursuit.

It's an incredibly awkward chase because of all the stopping and starting due to the speed bumps.

EXT. PARKING STRUCTURE GATE - CONTINUOUS

Elaine reaches the gate. She rolls down her window.

ELAINE

Where's the ticket?

JOHN

Hurry.

Elaine finds it.

ELAINE

It's not validated!

JOHN

First fifteen minutes is free!

Elaine puts it in wrong. John looks behind to see the truck is bouncing over the last speed bump.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Hurry!

Elaine fixes the ticket and gets through the gate. Cyrus has his ticket ready to go. The gate goes up. Cyrus guns it, but has to slam on his brakes immediately due to the pursuing kids all screaming for ice cream.

Cyrus watches the Mercedes disappear down the road as he begins to search for his cell phone.

INT. MERCEDES - CONTINUOUS

As Cyrus' truck recedes in the car's rear window, an amped-up John and Elaine celebrate.

JOHN  
We lost him!

ELAINE  
Yes!

JOHN  
I can't believe how you drove!

ELAINE  
I was like a crazy person!

They're still giddy... it subsides. Then...

ELAINE (CONT'D)  
How is Zoe doing?

John looks at Zoe.

JOHN  
Zoe... you okay?

ZOE  
(loopy)  
Where are we going?

JOHN  
Just taking you away from Cyrus.

Elaine hits John.

JOHN (CONT'D)  
What, I'm tired of lying.

ELAINE  
We're just running errands, honey.

ZOE  
(loopy)  
Okay.

ELAINE  
So, where are we going? We've got to take Zoe somewhere to talk some sense into her, and obviously we can't go back to my house.



JOHN

How about up to my place? It's not that far, maybe a four-hour drive. Plus, Cyrus' family doesn't know where I live.

ELAINE

(considers, then dreading)  
Fine. Even if they did, I don't think they'd be smart enough to find it.

INT. POLICE STATION - A FEW MINUTES LATER

The phone rings and a DETECTIVE in a crowded bullpen answers.

DETECTIVE

(into phone)  
Sarazin... Yeah?... You sure about that?... Uh-huh... Got it.

He scribbles some details down on a pad of paper, and hangs up. He then turns and yells to the back of the room.

DETECTIVE (CONT'D)

Hey, Hardesty! You'll never guess what your favorite judge just did.

Hardesty, the cop from the earlier courtroom scene with Elaine, pops his head up and comes over.

EXT. GAS STATION NEAR THE HIGHWAY - A LITTLE LATER

Elaine is pumping gas. Nearby on the pump is one of those new built-in flat screen TVs that shows ads and news. It's currently showing an ad for a hair loss product. John stands a little bit away speaking on his cell phone.

JOHN

Trudy, we had no choice.

Intercut:

INT. HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

TRUDY

I don't know what has gotten into you, John.

JOHN

Just take a cab to the airport and see if they can change your ticket. I'll meet you back at my house.

TRUDY

You even sound different... This is not the caring, cat-friendly, flute enthusiast I met on eHarmony.

A newscast comes up on the nearby flat screen TV as John approaches.

NEWSCASTER

In a bizarre twist, a respected Westchester County judge has become an alleged kidnapper.

Elaine and John wheel around to watch the screen.

JOHN

(into phone)

I have to go.

He hangs up.

NEWSCASTER

It is believed that fifty-eight-year-old judge, Elaine Fischer, and her ex-husband, Dr. John Fischer, kidnapped their daughter Zoe earlier today in order to stop her from marrying.

The screen cuts to a shot of Cyrus in Elaine's house.

CYRUS

Zoe, if you can hear me... I love you. I love you! Stay alive! I will find you!

NEWSCASTER

The detective assigned to the case has already begun his search in an attempt to locate the couple and bring their daughter home safely.

The screen cuts to a shot of Detective Hardesty standing in front of Elaine's house.

ELAINE

Uh-oh.



HARDESTY

(on screen)

Possible charges against the Fischers could include kidnapping, wrongful imprisonment, and narcotics charges stemming from the possible drugging of their daughter.

JOHN

Accidental drugging! Technically she did it to herself.

HARDESTY

I've already obtained a warrant...  
(holds it up smugly)  
... to search Judge Fischer's home, and a similar legal search is being conducted by local police at the home of her ex-husband. The Fischers are fugitives from justice and we will use every means available to us to hunt them down and bring the full force of the law to bear upon them.

INT. MERCEDES - A FEW SECONDS LATER

Elaine floors it and gets on the highway.

JOHN

How could this have gotten so out of control so fast?

ELAINE

They were in my house. They said my age!

JOHN

Oh, get over it. You're old. I can't believe they're talking about real charges and real crimes. They can't be serious. She's our daughter.

ELAINE

Our adult daughter. And I can guarantee that cop, Hardesty, is more than serious. He's motivated.

JOHN

You know him?

ELAINE

Yes.

JOHN

Then call him up. Explain it to him. I'm sure he'll understand.

ELAINE

He doesn't want to understand. He wants to nail me. A few months ago I really tore him up in my courtroom.

JOHN

Of course you did.

ELAINE

He deserved it. And for the record, the lecture worked because he did make sure to get a warrant this time. So, as far as I'm concerned, I'm vindicated here.

JOHN

See, this is what you get when you don't care about being liked. You get people hating you.

ELAINE

Look, that's not what's important right now. What's important is that we can't go to your place anymore... we need to find somewhere else to go.

Suddenly, they pass a sign on the highway that flashes...  
"Amber Alert: Child Abduction. Gray Mercedes S550 Lic# 427J817"

JOHN

Get off the highway!

Elaine is fast approaching an exit.

ELAINE

I can't make it!

JOHN

Yes, you can! Get off!

Elaine yanks the wheel screeches across the entire highway, just barely making it onto the exit ramp in time.



INT. MERCEDES - A FEW MINUTES LATER

John and Elaine sit in the car on the side of a rural country road.

JOHN

What about Canada? We could go to Canada. They'd be sympathetic.

ELAINE

We're not dodging the draft, we're kidnapping. No one's sympathetic to that.

ZOE

(drugged)

Are we there yet? I want to be there yet.

JOHN

No. Not yet, honey.

ZOE

(drugged)

Well, tell me when we're at the lake. I want to go for a swim.

JOHN

Sure thing.

Zoe conks back out.

JOHN (CONT'D)

You know, the lake's not a bad idea. It's deserted right now. The cabins are easy to get into. If we stay off the main roads, avoid big towns, I think we could be there in an hour or two.

ELAINE

Well, at least no one knows to look for us there.

JOHN

And if we're going to try to talk some sense into Zoe and get her to see we have her best interests at heart, it couldn't hurt to be in a place where we had so much fun as a family.

ELAINE

We haven't been there in years.  
Are the cabins even still there?

JOHN

Oh sure. I took Trudy there last  
summer. It's just the way it  
always was.

ELAINE

(a little hurt)

Oh... I hope Trudy enjoyed it.

Elaine starts up the car and heads down the road.

ZOE

I want to go for a swim...

JOHN

You'll be swimming in no time.

ZOE

I want to go for a swim with you,  
Cyrus, and have slippery willie  
sex.

JOHN

(so uncomfortable)

All right --

ZOE

I want you to go down on me and do  
that thing I love where you make  
vroom vroom sounds on my --

ELAINE

How about some music?

John quickly turns on the radio. They sing loudly...

ELAINE (CONT'D)

(singing)

Delta Dawn, what's that  
flower you got on, la la la,  
something now I have to  
fly...

JOHN

(singing)

Delta Dawn, what's the power  
that you got. Could it be  
you found it somewhere in the  
sky...

INT. ELAINE'S HOUSE - LATER

Officers search the house as Hardesty sets up a little  
command center. He turns to another detective. Cyrus is  
listening.



HARDESTY

Put a trace on their cell phones. They make a call I want to know about it. We'll also need an alert out on their ATM and credit cards.

CYRUS

You won't need it on Judge Fischer's.

All the cops look at Cyrus.

HARDESTY

You say something.

CYRUS

Judge Fischer didn't have time to take her purse. But I'm sure John, I mean Dr. Fischer, has his wallet.

HARDESTY

(dismissive)

Thanks.

CYRUS

I also went on the Judge's computer and looked through her appointment book to see who her close friends were --

HARDESTY

Let me guess. You watch a lot of cop shows?

CYRUS

Not a lot --

HARDESTY

Got a scanner? A book of police procedures? Know a few radio calls? Maybe even have a regular, old belt you hang your toys off of to make it feel like a real, live policeman's belt?

CYRUS

I was only trying to help.

HARDESTY

We don't need your help. We don't play cop, we are cops, and we don't need the help of some wannabe who thinks he's at a police fantasy camp.

CYRUS

Fine, but you don't have to be a dick about it.

Hardesty gets in Cyrus' face.

HARDESTY

You want to investigate something? Maybe you should investigate how big a loser you've got to be for a chick's parents to want to kidnap her rather than let her marry you?

Hardesty pushes Cyrus back as an officer rolls out yellow police tape between them. Cyrus looks hurt and angry.

INT. MERCEDES - LATER

John is now driving down an empty back road. The radio is still on. John and Elaine still sing...

ELAINE

"Black velvet and that little boy smile. Black velvet and that old southern style. A new religion that'll bring ya to your knees. Black velvet..."

JOHN

"If you pleasssseeeee."

They both laugh.

JOHN (CONT'D)

It's like it's twenty years ago when we used to do this drive.

ELAINE

Every weekend in the summer. I'd load Zoe in the car, pick you up outside the hospital.

JOHN

I would change in the car.

ELAINE

The amount of times we almost got killed because your elbow knocked into the steering wheel trying to take off your shirt.

They laugh.



JOHN

(still reminiscing)

The little dinners you would pack.  
The baggies of Doritos and the  
roast beef sandwiches.

ELAINE

It was nice.

JOHN

Zoe would fall asleep in the back.  
Just like she's sleeping now.

ELAINE

Pretty much... except that we're  
fugitives and our daughter's  
actually asleep because we  
accidentally drugged her with about  
a billion milligrams of Xanax and  
Valium.

They sit there in silence for a beat.

ELAINE (CONT'D)

We're doing the right thing, right?

JOHN

Absolutely. What choice did we  
have?

Suddenly a BIKER on a Harley comes up behind the Mercedes.  
He tailgates for a second and then noisily blasts by them at  
a huge rate of speed. In seconds the guy's barely a speck on  
the horizon.

ELAINE

You see that? People are idiots.  
That's why I'm so hard on them in  
my courtroom. They have no respect  
for the law.

JOHN

Said the woman on the run from the  
police.

Elaine laughs. John does, too.

ELAINE

Well, you can't claim I'm not  
exciting, right? I bet this is the  
most excitement you've had in a  
while.

JOHN

What are you talking about? My life is plenty exciting.

ELAINE

Who are you kidding? Look, John, everyone needs someone in their life who will tell them the hard truths...

JOHN

I bet you're that person in way too many people's lives.

ELAINE

I'm doing you a favor here. You need to know that over the last couple of years you've become very dull.

JOHN

No, I haven't.

ELAINE

Yes, you have. You're a big snooze. You've got the kind of life that Garrison Keillor would narrate.

JOHN

Some people find me thrilling.

ELAINE

Only people even more boring than you... And that's not a swipe at Trudy, so if that's where your mind went, it's on you, not me.

JOHN

Okay, well then I should tell you, that you've gotten nastier. You were always tough, but now you're just unbearable.

ELAINE

That's horseshit. And, by the way, if I was a man I'd be celebrated for it.

JOHN

If you were a man, you'd have invaded Poland by now.

Long pause.



ELAINE

It was nice there for a second.

JOHN

Didn't last long, did it?

ZOE

(groggy)

What's going on? Where are we?

ELAINE

We'll be at the lake soon, honey.

ZOE

(groggy)

The lake? What time is it?

ELAINE

Just go back to sleep.

Zoe closes her eyes again. John spots something up the road.

JOHN

What's that?

They approach, and come upon the motorcycle from earlier, on its side in the middle of the road. Its wheels are still spinning. A few feet away from the bike is the BIKER, splayed out on the tarmac.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Oh, my God.

John slows down and stops.

ELAINE

What are you doing? Keep driving.

JOHN

Are you crazy?

ELAINE

He'll be fine.

JOHN

Elaine, I'm a doctor. There's a man hurt on the road. This is what human beings do.

John stops the car and gets out.

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

John rushes over to the man in the road. Elaine gets out of the car and follows. John kneels down beside the biker.

JOHN  
Sir, can you hear me?

BIKER  
Just fine.

The Biker rolls over revealing he is holding a gun.

BIKER (CONT'D)  
Thanks for stopping.

ELAINE  
What are you doing? Put that down.

BIKER  
Shut up. I'm taking your car.

JOHN  
How can you do this? I thought you were hurt. I stopped to help you.

BIKER  
That was kind of the plan. Keep your hands where I can see them.

ELAINE  
You had to stop. Mr. Nice Guy.

JOHN  
I was doing the right thing.

ELAINE  
And see where it got you. People are bad. They do bad things.

BIKER  
Give me your wallets and cell phones.

JOHN  
You don't have to do this. We can figure something out.

BIKER  
No, we can't.  
(angry)  
Give them to me now!

John and Elaine hand over their wallets and cells.



BIKER (CONT'D)

The lady's right. Being nice is a sucker's game.

ELAINE

But the suckers never learn.

BIKER

Makes my life a whole lot easier.

JOHN

You realize that you and the criminal with the gun here have an almost identical world view.

ELAINE

Which is why I'm not going to ask him if we can get Zoe out of the back seat, I'm going to tell him that he can have the car no problem, but that if he wants to take it with our daughter still in it, he's going to have to kill us both first.

EXT. EMPTY ROAD - A MINUTE LATER

John and Elaine stand by the side of the road. John holds the sleeping Zoe in his arms. The biker is behind the wheel of the Mercedes.

JOHN

At least leave us a few bucks.

BIKER

(to Elaine)

Like you said, they never learn.

JOHN

Well you may have our car, but we have your motorcycle.

BIKER

Yeah? Well, I stole that, too...

(re: Zoe)

Oh, and congratulations.

The biker peels out, leaving John, Elaine, and Zoe by the side of the road.

JOHN

Well, can't say I saw this snafu in our little plan coming.

ELAINE  
(screaming)  
OH! MY! GOD!!!!

JOHN  
Getting lost, perhaps. Maybe a  
high speed chase with a state  
trooper.

ZOE  
(slightly less spacey)  
Cyrus, are you carrying me over the  
threshold?

JOHN  
(looking up)  
Dear God, please no dirty talk.

ELAINE  
So, what do we do now?

EXT. ROAD - MOMENTS LATER

The three of them on the Harley. Elaine's in front trying to start it. Zoe teeters in the middle. John is propping up Zoe and trying to keep the bike balanced at the same time.

ELAINE  
Can you keep it balanced, please?

JOHN  
It's not that easy. Do you have  
any idea what you're doing?

ELAINE  
No. Isn't there a clutch I'm  
supposed to pop somewhere?

EXT. ROAD - MOMENTS LATER

John is now trying to start it as Elaine balances Zoe and the bike. John cranks down hard on the kickstarter causing the entire bike to fall over.

EXT. ROAD - MOMENTS LATER

Elaine is now trying again as John holds Zoe off to the side in his arms. Elaine gets the bike started.

ELAINE  
Okay, put her on.



John tries to place Zoe on.

JOHN  
Move up just a tad.

Elaine hits the throttle and the engine revs like crazy but it doesn't go anywhere.

ELAINE  
(yelling)  
Nothing's happening!

JOHN  
(pointing down)  
Try stepping on that.

Elaine steps down on a lever by her left foot. The engine slams into gear causing the bike to lunge forward into a ditch.

EXT. ROAD - MOMENTS LATER

Elaine and John are trying to push the motorcycle out of the ditch, but the handlebars are bent, so it's making it difficult.

ELAINE  
You need to turn it more towards me.

JOHN  
I am.

Elaine loses her footing, letting go of the bike. John takes the weight and bike flops down again. John starts walking.

ELAINE  
Where are you going?

JOHN  
I think I remember seeing a gas station about a mile back. Maybe they know where we can get a ride. You stay with Zoe.

EXT. ROAD - A LITTLE LATER

Zoe leans her head on the tire of the tipped-over motorcycle, as Elaine paces impatiently. She looks down the road. No sign of John.

ELAINE

Dammit.

(leaning over Zoe)

Zoe, I'll be right back. Mommy has  
to pee.

Zoe stirs. Elaine walks into the brush. As she disappears  
from sight, Zoe sits up.

ZOE

Cyrus?... Where--

(awake)

Where the hell am I?

Zoe stands up woozily and looks around.

ZOE (CONT'D)

Hello?... Hello!

Elaine, now squatting sees Zoe starting to walk down the  
road.

ELAINE

Zoe, wait.

Elaine tries to move, but she's still peeing. She tries to  
squat-walk, but her pantyhose are around her ankles and she  
falls on her face.

EXT. ROAD - A FEW MINUTES LATER

John reaches the GAS STATION which is boarded up and closed.  
There's nothing else nearby. Dejected, he sits down and  
takes a rock out of his shoe. As he does he suddenly sees  
Zoe run by him in her wedding dress. A hundred yards behind  
her is Elaine.

ELAINE

The drugs wore off!! Zoe stop!!

ZOE

Get away from me!

John quickly puts his shoe back on and runs after them.

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Zoe sees a SMALL HIKING TRAIL and turns off the road. John  
and Elaine are falling farther behind and turn onto the trail.



INT. WOODS - MOMENTS LATER

A bunch of GIRL SCOUTS are camping out. One adds a log to a campfire and then joins the other three who are working on a model of a traditional IROQUOIS LONGHOUSE.

GIRL SCOUT #1  
That is so not true.

GIRL SCOUT #2  
It totally is.

GIRL SCOUT #1  
The Cropsy monster is not a crazy, old, witch-woman who roams the woods with eyes in her mouth.

GIRL SCOUT #2  
And she shrieks so loud that it causes your brains to explode.

GIRL SCOUT #3  
No way.

GIRL SCOUT #2  
How do you think Mandy Richlin's sister became retarded?

GIRL SCOUT #4  
She was born with cerebral palsy.

GIRL SCOUT #2  
That's what they want you to think.

The girls go back to work on their longhouse. Suddenly, Zoe comes running through the woods, screaming...

ZOE  
Help me!!!

The girls all scream.

GIRL SCOUT #2  
Cover your ears!

GIRL SCOUT #1  
Please, Cropsy witch, don't make me a 'tard!

ZOE  
Do any of you have a phone I can use?

GIRL SCOUT #3

I do.

She is about to hand it to Zoe, then stops.

GIRL SCOUT #3 (CONT'D)

My Mom said it was only for emergencies.

ZOE

I'm a lawyer in a wedding dress in the middle of the woods asking desperately to use your phone. Unless R. Kelly shows up here tonight with a bottle of wine, I'm guessing this is going to be your biggest emergency of the day.

GIRL SCOUT #3

Good point.

EXT. CYRUS' ICE CREAM TRUCK - MOMENTS LATER

Cyrus leans on his truck, sulking outside of Elaine's house, watching Hardesty being interviewed by a local reporter. Cyrus' phone rings. He answers it.

CYRUS

Hello.

Intercut Phone Conversation:

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

ZOE

Cyrus!

CYRUS

Zoe?

ZOE

Oh, my God, Cyrus, I'm so sorry. My parents are trying to keep us apart. They locked me in a closet and drugged me and ruined our wedding day. And I'll hate them forever for keeping me from you. You have to believe me, I had nothing to do with this!

CYRUS

It's okay, I know that. Deep breath.



Zoe takes a deep breath.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

One more. In with the good air,  
out with the bad.

Zoe takes another one.

ZOE

(exhaling)

Ohhkay.

CYRUS

You sounded like you were from  
Wisconsin just then.

(doing Wisconsin accent)

Ohhkay, ya know.

ZOE

Oh, ya?

CYRUS

(Wisconsin accent)

Oh, ya. You want ta go ice-fishin up  
in Menomonee for Muskie. Maybe bring  
some fried cheese curds, ya know.

Zoe laughs.

ZOE

How do you do that?

CYRUS

What?

ZOE

Make me laugh at such a horrible  
time.

CYRUS

(Wisconsin accent)

It's a curse, ya know.

ZOE

I love you.

All the Girl Scouts are watching, touched.

CYRUS

(still with accent)

I know.

(then)

Let's just get you home safe.  
Where are you?

ZOE  
 (to Girl Scouts)  
 Where am I?

GIRL SCOUT #4  
 Off the Winauk Falls Trail in the  
 Danberg State Forest.

ZOE (INTO PHONE)  
 I'm off the --

Suddenly the phone is grabbed by John and thrown away.

ZOE (CONT'D)  
 Dad!!

EXT. CYRUS' ICE CREAM TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

CYRUS  
 Zoe, hello? Hello?

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

GIRL SCOUT #3  
 Hey, that's my phone. If one  
 rhinestone came off, I'm gonna be  
 soooo pissed.

ELAINE  
 Zoe, come with us.

ZOE  
 You can't possibly think I'd go  
 anywhere with you after what you've  
 done.

JOHN  
 Zoe, please, let us explain.

ZOE  
 Don't you come near me, Dr.  
 Feelgood.

GIRL SCOUT #1  
 You heard her. She's not going.

The Girl Scouts line up in front of Zoe.

ELAINE  
 This doesn't concern you, girls.

John steps to Zoe. Girl Scout #1 pushes John.



GIRL SCOUT #1  
Back it up, buddy.

JOHN  
Now listen, young lady --

The Girl Scout roundhouse kicks John.

JOHN (CONT'D)  
Oooof!

GIRL SCOUT #1  
(pointing to merit badge)  
Taekwondo. How do you like me now?

John recovers and the Girl Scout punches him in the chest.  
John stumbles. The other Girl Scouts cheer her on.

JOHN  
Zoe.

ZOE  
(uncomfortable)  
Uh, girls, thanks, but I think he's  
learned his lesson.

John tries to tackle the girl but she combo punches and kicks  
him. Elaine grabs a BRANCH and lights it in the CAMPFIRE  
then wheels around and holds the flame over the girls'  
Iroquois Longhouse model.

ELAINE  
Hey!

The girls look over at Elaine.

ELAINE (CONT'D)  
Give us our daughter or I'll burn  
this longhouse to the ground and you  
won't get your merit badges for it.

GIRL SCOUT #2  
You're bluffing.

ELAINE  
Try me.

The Girl Scouts look at Elaine for a beat, then step aside.

ZOE  
Wait, guys, what are you doing?

GIRL SCOUT #3

It took us like five hours to build that thing.

ZOE

I was a Girl Scout, I'll help you build a new one.

GIRL SCOUT #1

But that's cheating. We have to do it ourselves or we don't get our badge. Sorry.

(trying)

Pretty dress.

Elaine grabs Zoe.

ELAINE

You, Taekwondo, grab that piece of rope. Now, let's see how good your knot-tying skills are.

EXT. EMPTY ROAD - A MINUTE LATER

Elaine and Zoe are walking next to each other. We now see they are tied together at the wrists by an intricate set of knots. John looking down the road in both directions, hoping for a passing car.

EXT. WOODS - CONTINUOUS

The Girl Scouts are all sitting there, totally freaked out. Suddenly, the cell phone rings. Girl Scout #3 answers it.

GIRL SCOUT #3

Hello?

INT. CYRUS' ICE CREAM TRUCK - A MINUTE LATER

He hangs up his cell phone as Bert stands nearby.

CYRUS

I know where they are... or at least were. But the question is, where are they going?

Cyrus goes to his GPS and inputs "Danberg State Forest." It comes up on the screen.



CYRUS (CONT'D)

What the hell are they doing all  
the way over there?

He pulls back to get a wider and wider view. Suddenly,  
"Mohican Lake" enters the frame. Cyrus stares at it for a  
second and then jumps out of the truck and heads for Elaine's  
front door.

INT. ELAINE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - A MINUTE LATER

Cyrus goes over and grabs the PICTURE off the MANTEL of  
Elaine, John, and Zoe at Mohican Lake.

CYRUS

That's where they're going.

BERT

Where?

CYRUS

Zoe told me that when she was a kid  
they used to spend summers at this  
cabin at Mohican Lake.

BERT

(confused)

So... they're taking her back in  
time?

CYRUS

What? No. They're taking her to  
the cabin.

BERT

Oh... 'cause it would be pretty  
hard to catch up with them if they  
did go back in time.

A COP walks into the room.

COP

You guys supposed to be in here?

BERT

We know where --

CYRUS

(cutting Bert off)

We just needed to use the bathroom.

Cyrus looks at Bert to play along.

BERT  
I had some diarrhea.

COP  
Oh --

BERT  
But not as bad as the time I ate a citronella candle. That was some really wicked squirts.

CYRUS  
He gets the idea, Bert.

EXT. ELAINE'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Cyrus and Bert are heading over to his truck.

CYRUS  
Screw the cops. We're going to go find Zoe and then we'll tell that prick, Hardesty. Let him see he's not dealing with a wannabe, he's dealing with an is.

BERT  
Yeah!!

They jump into the ice cream truck and tear out as the theme from "Barnaby Jones" blares out of the truck.

EXT. EMPTY ROAD - LATER

John is still looking for a passing car.

ZOE  
You're crazy, you know? Whatever you think of Cyrus, he'd never do something this crazy.

ELAINE  
I can name sixteen other things that qualify him as crazy.

ZOE  
You're just judging him by who you think he should be, not on who he is. You're always judging!

ELAINE  
So I must be pretty good at it by now.



They walk in silence for a beat.

ZOE

Could I put in a request to get some food? I haven't eaten since Tuesday.

ELAINE

But your figure looks great. So cute.

Zoe shoots her a look.

JOHN

Truck!

We see a truck coming up the road. Elaine takes her shawl and drapes it over the rope to hide it. John sticks out his thumb. The truck slows down and stops. The passenger door opens and we see a little Vietnamese dude, TAM, 30, sitting behind the huge steering wheel.

TAM

(thick Vietnamese accent)  
Where you headed?

INT. TRUCK CAB - CONTINUOUS

John helps the bound-together Elaine and Zoe into the cab, and then climbs in. Tam takes in the formally-clad trio.

TAM

I feel under-dressed.

He laughs at his joke.

JOHN

Our car got stolen. We just need a ride to Mohican Lake.

ZOE

Don't do it. I'm being kidnapped. You can't help these people. You have to call the police.

ELAINE

(explaining)  
She was going to marry the wrong guy. We had no choice.

ZOE

He's a wonderful man.

ELAINE  
He's a train wreck.

TAM  
You should respect your parents.  
They know what's best for you. I  
take you to Mohican Lake... Make  
it part of my route.

Zoe can't believe it. Tam puts the truck in gear.

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - EVENING

Trudy comes in the front door carrying her rolling suitcase to see the house is being tossed by some local POLICE. Two of them approach her.

POLICE OFFICER  
Ms. Newlins, we'd like to ask you a  
few questions about the possible  
whereabouts of your boyfriend.

TRUDY  
(nervous)  
I don't know where he is or when  
he's supposed to be here.

The officers look at one another. One of the other over-zealous cops, while tossing a couch cushion, tosses a CAT.

TRUDY (CONT'D)  
(horrified)  
Rainbow!

INT. TRUCK CAB - MOMENTS LATER

Tam turns up the radio. "I'm The Only Hell (Mama Ever Raised)" plays.

TAM  
You like Johnny Paycheck? The best  
driving music.

ZOE  
(annoyed, to Elaine)  
Cyrus is not the "train wreck" you  
want him to be. He's the furthest  
thing from it. You know, I dated  
the "perfect guy." Lots of  
"perfect guys" and not one of them  
was actually perfect... at least  
for me.

(MORE)



ZOE (CONT'D)

It would have all looked great from the outside, but I'd have been miserable.

ELAINE

That doesn't mean there isn't another guy out there for you.

JOHN

Maybe someone more suited to you.

TAM

Plenty of dogs in the pound.

ZOE

I've found my dog. Do you and Dad even see the incredible irony of two people who were in a lousy marriage and an even worse divorce giving anyone relationship advice?

JOHN

Hey, hey, hold on. It wasn't a lousy marriage.

ELAINE

Not at all.

JOHN

Sure there was a lot of yelling and emasculating and belittling, and denigrating, but there were good times, too.

ELAINE

Lots of them. Our first apartment. The trip to New Orleans.

JOHN

All those long dinners out with Steve and Debbie.

ELAINE

The crazy late nights when you'd get home from your shift at the hospital and help me study for the bar.

JOHN

The winter we rented a ski house with Steve and Debbie.

ELAINE

Trying to get pregnant and walking around with that ridiculous thermometer all the time.

JOHN

The year we had those Mets season tickets and they won the World Series. Remember? We split the tickets with Steve and Debbie.

ELAINE

Okay, I get it, you liked Steve and Debbie. They chose you when we split up. Move on.

JOHN

I should call them.

(to Zoe)

However it ended, I'm proud of the eighteen years I spent with your mother. But you were right about one thing, the divorce was terrible. Still is. I'm sure it would have been a lot easier if we hadn't loved each other so much.

He doesn't look at Elaine. She doesn't look at him.

ELAINE

Zoe, don't think you know enough about this guy. How can you trust him with the rest of your life?

ZOE

I trust him more than anyone I've ever met. He swore to me that he'd always be truthful, and I know he will be.

Elaine turns to John.

ELAINE

You've got to tell her...

ZOE

Tell me what?

JOHN

It's about the bachelor party...

The truck suddenly comes to a halt. We now see that we're in front of a modest house.



TAM

We've got to make a stop.

JOHN

You're not going to call the cops,  
are you?

TAM

I'm not even legal. My driver's  
license says I'm Larry McNamara.  
Six-three, two-hundred-fifty  
pounds. You think I'm calling  
anyone?

Tam honks his horn. The front door of the house opens  
revealing a small, elderly Vietnamese woman, BIC.

TAM (CONT'D)

(in Vietnamese)

Hi, Mama!

BIC

Tam!

She sees John, Elaine, and Zoe in their wedding wear.

TAM

(in Vietnamese)

Mama, this is my new wife.

His mother is stunned and overjoyed. She comes and hugs Zoe.  
Zoe has no idea what is going on.

TAM (CONT'D)

(in Vietnamese)

This is the girl I've been telling  
you about. The one from far  
away... which is why you've never  
seen her before.

BIC

(in Vietnamese)

She is so beautiful.

TAM

My mother said Zoe is very  
beautiful.

ELAINE

Your mother? Oh, well it's nice to  
meet you.

JOHN  
 (to Bic, slowly with big  
 gestures)  
 Would you believe our car was  
 stolen...

TAM  
 (in Vietnamese)  
 He says how honored he is to give  
 his daughter to such a deserving  
 man.

JOHN  
 And your son was nice enough to  
 give us a ride.

TAM  
 (in Vietnamese)  
 It's like she married the  
 Vietnamese Brad Pitt.

BIC  
 (broken English)  
 So happy my son find wife.

Bic runs back in the house.

ZOE  
 Your wife?

TAM  
 Please, my mom thinks I'm gay.

ZOE  
 Are you?

TAM  
 No. I swear. The men I have sex  
 with are, but I'm not.

Bic returns with fifteen RELATIVES.

BIC  
 (in Vietnamese)  
 Look everyone, meet Tam's bride!

ZOE  
 Dad...

JOHN  
 Sir, I don't think this is fair --

TAM  
 You want to get to Mohican Lake?



John hugs Tam.

JOHN  
Welcome to the family.

The relatives cheer and hug John, Elaine and Zoe.

INT. MODEST HOUSE - LATER

The house is now packed. Vietnamese folks are everywhere celebrating. People continue to arrive at the door with food. Elaine and John are constantly toasting glasses with strangers and drinking. Zoe eats voraciously.

JOHN  
These are wonderful people.

ELAINE  
Do you see how Tam treats his mother? How far he's willing to go to make her happy?

ZOE  
And what about his happiness? You can spend your life doing everything your parents say is best for you and still end up miserable.

ELAINE  
Or maybe your parents actually know something and where you've ended up is a whole lot better than where you could have been.

ZOE  
You mean with a man who loves me?

ELAINE  
Why don't you look at it like a compliment? We think you're so special that we just know you can do better.

ZOE  
You're such a snob.

ELAINE  
You think I'm a snob, but I'd be thrilled if you married into a good, stable family like Tam's. These are good people... and they sure know their finger food.

ZOE

As opposed to Tangie and Lee who have been happily married for over thirty years.

JOHN

Space Shuttle astronauts' wives are very devoted.

ZOE

And you want to know how far Cyrus is willing to go to make his mother happy?...

INT. LEE AND TANGIE'S HOUSE - DAY

ZOE (V.O.)

Last year Tangie's pet parrot, a pet she had since she was a little girl, escaped.

Tangie in hysterics, looks at an empty bird cage.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

ZOE

Cyrus searched for the bird every day for weeks. He put up fliers, set up a website.

Cyrus' drives his truck slowly down the street. Bird calls blare from his speakers.

INT. CYRUS' APARTMENT - DAY

ZOE (V.O.)

And when they finally realized the bird was gone. Cyrus went out, got another one and taught it to say all the things that the old parrot used to.

Cyrus is talking to a PARROT in a cage.

CYRUS

Canteloupe. Say it. Cant-e-loupe.



INT. MODEST HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

ZOE

And he did that all for Tangie.  
What does that tell you?

ELAINE

That if he had a regular job he  
wouldn't have been able to devote  
the time.

ZOE

You just refuse to see him in any  
other light.

Elaine refuses to budge but John seems to be taking in what  
Zoe has said.

Angle on: Tam talking to his relatives.

VIETNAMESE RELATIVE #2

(re: Zoe and Elaine, in  
Vietnamese)

Why are they tied together?

TAM

(in Vietnamese)

Tradition. She's a virgin and so  
she must be tied to her mother  
until the wedding night when she is  
cut loose.

VIETNAMESE RELATIVE #1

(in Vietnamese)

White people are weird.

BIC

(in Vietnamese)

Tell me about it.

A relative approaches with a glass.

VIETNAMESE RELATIVE #1

(in Vietnamese)

Look what Nhat saved for the mother  
of the groom. The still-beating  
heart of the cobra appetizer.

BIC

(in Vietnamese)

That is so sweet.

She drinks it down. We see an effeminate man, DUC, enter the  
celebration and search the room.

EXT. HIGHWAY - CONTINUOUS

We see Cyrus and Bert flying down the highway as the GPS in the dash inches toward their destination. Bert is eating a Fudgsicle.

CYRUS  
Why do you think Zoe's parents hate me so much?

BERT  
I don't know. Maybe you remind them of something that makes them sad.

CYRUS  
What does that mean?

BERT  
I don't know. Like that drummer in Def Leopard with the one arm. I bet he's not friends with a lot of two armed drummers because he looks at them and thinks, "Oh, I'm sad I don't have two arms." You know what I mean?

CYRUS  
(no idea what he means)  
Sure.

INT. MODEST HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

The relatives stand around Tam, Zoe, John and Elaine for a group photo. A relative sets up the timer on the camera. Effeminate Duc is next to Tam.

DUC  
(hurt, whisper)  
Why are you doing this?

TAM  
(whisper)  
Not here. Not now.

DUC  
(louder whisper)  
Why not now? Do you know what a slap in the face this is to me? After all the time I've devoted to you. The videos of me dancing that I send to your phone.  
(MORE)



DUC (CONT'D)

The paychecks I've saved up so I  
can have the surgery to look more  
like Antonio Banderas.

TAM

Duc, this is just for my mother.  
You have to know that. I love you.

The relative runs into the picture and the flash goes off. A  
woman starts chanting...

VIETNAMESE WOMAN

Hon vi hon the! Hon vi hon the!

Others join in. John and Elaine, having no idea what they  
are saying, chant as well. A group of men push Tam towards  
Zoe.

ZOE

What are they saying?

TAM

They want me to give my bride a  
kiss.

ZOE

What?

Zoe tries to resist.

ELAINE

Don't offend the nice people. They  
fed you.

She forces Zoe closer to Tam who gives her a pained kiss.  
The guests cheer. Tam forces a smile. Duc storms out.

EXT. ROAD - EVENING

The truck approaches a sign that reads "MOHICAN LAKE." It  
turns down a gravel road.

EXT. LAKE CABINS - MOMENTS LATER

Several cabins, closed down for the season, line the lake.  
Elaine, John and Zoe get out of the truck and approach one of  
them.

TAM

You folks take care.

ZOE

Hope you and Duc work it out.

TAM

I'm sure we will. You know what they say... "Make up sex better than break up sex."

ZOE

(not sure what to say)  
All right, then.

The truck pulls away.

INT. LAKE CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

John, Elaine and Zoe step inside.

JOHN

You remember this place?

ELAINE

Hasn't changed at all. It even smells the same.

ZOE

That's not a plus. You think they put that in the brochure? "Lake view, good place to take a hostage, smells like crap."

ELAINE

You know you're very negative. What does it hurt to reminisce a little?

JOHN

And look...

John points out a very ugly painting of a clown.

ELAINE

The scary clown. Remember every night, Zoe, we had to lock the painting in the closet so you could sleep

ZOE

So, is this your big plan?

JOHN

What?



ZOE

Get me up here and pretend like it's 1988. You really think that's going to keep me from marrying Cyrus.

JOHN

We just wanted to get you into a different environment so we could talk about this.

ZOE

You're acting like I'm in a cult and need to be deprogrammed.

(to Elaine)

You know, you've never trusted me to make my own decisions. The high school I went to --

ELAINE

The public one had drug dealers and a convicted pedophile teaching Health.

ZOE

The fact that I wanted to go to theater camp and you convinced me taking college prep courses was better --

ELAINE

And those courses got you into Cornell. And did I stop you from doing theater in college?

ZOE

No, but you wouldn't let me get a masters in it. You pushed and pushed for me to go to law school. Now I'm a lawyer and I work sixty-hours-a-week on stuff I hate, for people I hate, in an office I hate.

ELAINE

I wanted you to have options.

ZOE

Which is ironic because I didn't have any options along the way and according to you I don't have any now.

ELAINE

And if I'd allowed you to go into theater you'd be waiting tables and forcing us to come see you in some crap community theater production of Godspell.

ZOE

So? At least it would have been my mistake to make. And finally -- finally -- I make one decision for myself... I fall in love with a guy you don't like, and you can't accept that... no, you'd rather drug me--

JOHN

For the last time, that was an accident.

ZOE

... kidnap me, and hustle me across state lines than allow me even that one choice of my own. Do you realize how insane that is?

ELAINE

And I think you're not being grateful for all I've done for you. You think I pushed you into those decisions, while I prefer to think of it as saving you from bad ones.

ZOE

That's just self-serving, twisted lawyer-speak.

ELAINE

Something you would not have been able to recognize if you hadn't listened to me and gone to law school.

EXT. LAKE CABINS - CONTINUOUS

The Ice Cream Truck rolls up.

INT. CYRUS' ICE CREAM TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

BERT

So, which one is it?



Cyrus holds up the picture of Zoe, Elaine and John he saw at Elaine's house.

CYRUS  
I don't know.

EXT. LAKE CABIN - MOMENTS LATER

Cyrus and Bert are at one of the doors with baseball bats.

CYRUS  
On three... one, two... Hold up --

But Bert doesn't and rams into the door. It doesn't budge.

BERT  
Ow, shit!

CYRUS  
I said hold up. Look, there's a padlock on this one.

BERT  
So, they could still be in there.

CYRUS  
How?

BERT  
I don't know. Maybe they came in the cabin and used magic to put the lock on to make it look like they're not there. Maybe that lock is a hologram.

Bert punches the lock and hurts his hand.

BERT (CONT'D)  
No, it's real.

CYRUS  
Let's try the next one.

They move on.

INT. LAKE CABIN - CONTINUOUS

JOHN  
Look, Zoe, what I hope your mother is trying to say is that we had your best interests at heart. We just don't want you to get hurt.

ZOE

You don't want me to get hurt?!  
And yet, there is a kind, loving  
person who makes me happier than  
anything on earth and you take me  
away from him. How is that not  
going to hurt me?

ELAINE

John, tell her about the bachelor  
party.

ZOE

I know about the wrestling. I know  
his ex-girlfriend was there. Cyrus  
tells me everything.

ELAINE

Did you know that at the end of the  
evening he got in a car and left  
with her?

JOHN

I saw it, Zoe.

ZOE

And you think what? That he went  
home and slept with her?

ELAINE

What else could it be?

JOHN

Look, I saw this girl and...  
well... it's kind of what she was  
built for. I don't really know how  
to explain it... she... well... she  
was very interesting-looking...

ELAINE

She had two weather balloons in her  
shirt.

ZOE

That's not who Cyrus is. I trust  
him. He's not the Neanderthal you  
keep wanting him to be.

Suddenly, the door crashes open and Cyrus and Bert come  
bursting in. Cyrus let's out a wail like a... well, like a  
Neanderthal.

ZOE (CONT'D)

Cyrus!



Zoe lunges over to him, pulling Elaine. Zoe and Cyrus embrace and kiss.

JOHN

How did you find us?

CYRUS

It's only a matter of time before a great investigator finds his investigatee.

JOHN

You called the Girl Scout back?

CYRUS

Yeah, okay, but she didn't give it up easy.

Elaine pulls Zoe away.

ELAINE

You stay away from her.

CYRUS

Judge Fischer, let's be reasonable.

ELAINE

I'm warning you -- John, do something.

JOHN

Elaine, I've seen first-hand what these boys are capable of doing. I don't think we should try and fight.

CYRUS

(takes out cellphone)

Your little game is over. You thought you could keep us apart, well you know what, tell it to the cops!...

(looking at cell phone)

There's no signal... could I use your phone?

ELAINE

We don't have one.

ZOE

We were carjacked and they took everything.

CYRUS

Seriously? Bert, take my phone and try to find a signal. Then call detective Hardesty and let him know we found Zoe and her parents and we're holding them until he arrives. Oh, also tell him to suck on it, bitch.

Cyrus tosses Bert the phone. Bert exits.

EXT. LAKE CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Bert holds up the phone and starts walking down the gravel road looking for a signal.

BERT

No...

(takes two steps)

No...

(takes a two steps)

No... Yes?... No...

INT. LAKE CABIN - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Cyrus opens a kitchen drawer and finds a knife and tries to cut through the rope. Elaine tries to keep her arm away. Cyrus and Zoe struggle to keep it in place.

CYRUS

This knife is dull and rusty, and it's got tetanus written all over it. I don't think you want me to slip.

Elaine gives up. Cyrus starts cutting.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Man, these are some impressive knots... I know you think I'm not good enough for your Zoe --

ELAINE

No, you're not.

CYRUS

If you gave me more of a chance, I could have tried to gain your acceptance. Would that have been so much to ask?



ELAINE

Okay, fine. Then explain to our daughter why you got in the car with your ex-girlfriend after your bachelor party.

CYRUS

How did you --

JOHN

I saw you.

ZOE

You don't have to explain anything to them.

Cyrus looks at John and Elaine and then at Zoe.

ZOE (CONT'D)

Cyrus?

CYRUS

I'm not going to lie. I did leave with Angela. I went back to her house. But not for what you think.

ZOE

Then what for?

CYRUS

I... I went there...

(gives in)

I went there because I lost your wedding ring.

ZOE

You lost the ring?

ELAINE

My mother's ring?

CYRUS

Yes, and Angela is a jewelry designer and I had her make up a new one. A copy.

ZOE

Wait, so you had your ex-girlfriend make a fake of a treasured family heirloom that you were then planning to put on my finger the next day in our wedding ceremony. And when exactly were you planning on telling me?

CYRUS

I didn't want to upset you. I knew how much that ring meant to you.

ELAINE

And me.

ZOE

Mom.

CYRUS

I didn't want to disappoint you and I didn't want your parents to think I was a screw-up.

ZOE

So, you were going to put this ring on my finger and our married life would be consecrated and begun with a huge lie? And the only person you'd trust with this incredibly intimate secret was your double D ex-girlfriend.

CYRUS

Zoe, it's just a ring.

ZOE

No, it's not just a ring, Cyrus. It's a symbol of our love and trust. You promised you'd always be honest with me. You looked me in the eye and swore you'd never betray my trust ever again.

CYRUS

I'm sorry. I screwed up.

ZOE

Why couldn't you have been honest with me? I would have understood. I trusted you... even when my dad told me what he saw, I never lost faith in you, not for a second. Why couldn't you have trusted me?

ELAINE

And what's a relationship without trust?

JOHN

Elaine.



CYRUS

Let me take you home.  
 (Wisconsin accent)  
 Okay, oh ya?

Zoe doesn't laugh.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

What can I do?

ZOE

I don't know...

CYRUS

You don't know?...

ZOE

I don't know if I can leave with  
 you. I don't know how I feel right  
 now. I don't know if I can marry  
 you. Maybe my parents are right.  
 Maybe I'm rushing into this.

CYRUS

Zoe, please --

ZOE

I think you should just go, Cyrus.

CYRUS

You don't mean that.

ZOE

Yeah, I do.

Cyrus stands there stunned for a second and then he turns and  
 walks out the door.

ZOE (CONT'D)

(crying, to John and  
 Elaine)

Well, you got what you wanted.

Zoe goes into a bedroom and collapses on the bed.

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Bert is still trying to get a signal.

BERT

No... no... no... wait... no... got  
 one!

Bert dials the phone.

BERT (CONT'D)  
 Hi, information, could I have the  
 number for 911... Thank you.  
 (disconnects and redials)  
 Hi, 911, could you get the  
 Westchester County Police...  
 Detective Hardesty please... We  
 found the kidnapped lady!

We pull back to see Bert is standing in front of a local  
 POLICE STATION.

INT. CYRUS' ICE CREAM TRUCK - MOMENTS LATER

Cyrus is driving down the road. He sees Bert walking back  
 toward the cabins. He stops and picks Bert up. They head  
 off, slowly up the road. The ice cream truck version of  
 "Owner of a Lonely Heart" plays over the truck's speaker.

EXT. WESTCHESTER COUNTY POLICE HEADQUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

We see a bunch of police cars come tearing out of the  
 station.

INT. ELAINE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Hardesty grabs a few of his guys.

HARDESTY  
 We've got the chopper.

DETECTIVE  
 Seriously? They're letting us use  
 it?

The guys all high-five and celebrate. Suddenly, the sound of  
 rotor blades can be heard and a helicopter lands in front of  
 the house. A TV news crew pull up.

HARDESTY  
 Just in time.

Hardesty waits for them to get out of the van with their  
 camera, then he makes a big deal about getting onto the  
 helicopter, ducking down his head way before he's even close  
 to the blades.



INT. LAKE CABIN - CONTINUOUS

John brings Elaine a cup of tea.

JOHN

We did this for her own good.

ELAINE

She's heartbroken.

JOHN

Imagine how much worse it would be  
down the road.

ELAINE

I'm just not sure it was worth  
it... Do you?

JOHN

I don't know.

Zoe comes out of the bedroom and goes into the bathroom where  
she takes some toilet paper and blows her nose.

ELAINE

You okay, honey?

ZOE

No.

JOHN

I made some tea --

Zoe shoots him a look.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Never mind.

Elaine gingerly approaches Zoe.

ELAINE

I can only imagine how hard this  
must be for you. But, you'll  
bounce back.

JOHN

You always do.

ELAINE

You'll go back to your life, to  
your job, things will go back to  
normal for you...

ZOE  
No, they won't.

ELAINE  
Sure they will.

ZOE  
I don't want that life back.

ELAINE  
You're saying that because you're hurt.

ZOE  
No, Mom, if you would stop trying to twist my words to mean what you want them to and just listen, you would know that I'm not happy. Maybe you were right about Cyrus but at least he gave me the courage to try to be who I really am.

ELAINE  
And who is that?

ZOE  
I don't know. It's not a lawyer. It's not anything right now.

Zoe starts exiting back to the bedroom

ELAINE  
It takes time. I didn't love the law at first either. But then they started letting me lock people up, and it became a lot more fun.

JOHN  
Elaine... let it go.

EXT. HIGHWAY - LATER

A line of police cars and police Suburbans are racing down the road, lights blazing, sirens screaming. Above them, the police chopper keeps pace.

EXT. ROAD - LATER

Cyrus's ice cream truck. Cyrus is miserable.



CYRUS

I'm an idiot. I should have told her about the ring. I should have been honest. I promised her I would be. On top of it all, I sicced the cops on her folks and just made it worse. Now she's going to lose me and them both in the same night... we're all going to be miserable and the only happy person in this whole thing is going to be that dick cop... nice going, Cyrus.

BERT

Pull over. Pull over!

CYRUS

(stopping)

Okay, okay.

BERT

Okay, now listen to me...

(he gets distracted)

Hey, look a raccoon.

(making owl sounds)

Hooo. Hooo.

CYRUS

Uh, Bert...

BERT

Oh, yeah. Okay, there's a couple things I know. One, when it comes to partying, weed is so much better than booze. And two, you are so not an idiot.

Bert rolls up Cyrus' sleeve and points to his Barnaby Jones tatoo.

BERT (CONT'D)

Why did you get that tattoo?

CYRUS

I was drunk.

BERT

No, I'll tell you why. It's not because you love the show. It's not just your admiration for a fine lesbian.

CYRUS

You mean thespian, but keep going.

BERT

But I think it's because you admire not only his talent but his brains. Well, I'd like to share something with you. A person whose brain I admire.

Bert rolls up his sleeve and reveals a crude pen drawing.

CYRUS

What is that?... A lizard?

BERT

No, it's you, man. I did it myself. Cool, huh?

CYRUS

It looks like it might be infected.

BERT

Actually, it really hurts. But I did it because I admire how smart you are. I believe there's nothing you can't do.

CYRUS

Thanks, Bert.

INT. LAKE CABIN - CONTINUOUS

John and Elaine look spent as they sit alone, talking.

ELAINE

What Zoe said, about me having been overbearing and domineering when she was growing up... At the time you think you're doing the right thing for your child...

JOHN

You were a great mother.

ELAINE

But *was* I controlling?

JOHN

When she wanted to paint her room purple, who's the mom who not only let her, but helped?

(MORE)



JOHN (CONT'D)

Remember that awful grape color she wanted so badly? You're the mom who said yes to it.

ELAINE

But, by the time we left the hardware store I was carrying three cans of a lovely lilac that she hated.

JOHN

You know how I know you wanted the best for Zoe? Look how far you've been willing to go to stop her from making a terrible mistake.

ELAINE

We have gone far, haven't we?

They both kind of laugh at the absurdity of the situation.

ELAINE (CONT'D)

Two days ago we were planning to go to our daughter's wedding and today we're two fugitives from the law on our way to jail.

JOHN

Jail? We're not going to jail.

ELAINE

Of course we are.

JOHN

(stunned)

I thought they'd give us a ticket, or something.

ELAINE

A ticket? For kidnapping, unlawful imprisonment, evading capture, unlawful transport of a prisoner across state lines...

JOHN

No, no, no... I'm sure they'll just make us pick up trash by the side of the turnpike...

ELAINE

... breaking and entering, illegal use of prescription drugs, and I'm sure there are at least a few juvenile statutes covering your fight with that Girl Scout.

JOHN

Hold on. She threw the first punch! I cannot go to prison!

ELAINE

It's okay. We'll surrender peacefully and I'll find us the best lawyers in the world. We'll fight this tooth and nail. You'll see, it won't be that bad.

JOHN

So, you think we'll get off?

ELAINE

Oh, no, we're going to prison... but a good defense could easily take five years off our sentences.

EXT. ROAD - A LITTLE LATER

Cyrus is still trying to think.

CYRUS

Nothing's coming. Dammit.

BERT

Maybe we need to go somewhere like the ocean to clear your mind.

CYRUS

We don't have time. They're going to be arrested any minute now.

BERT

From a big house to the big house.

CYRUS

Bert.

BERT

From a business suit to a prison jump suit.



CYRUS

Seriously, Bert. I'm trying to think.

BERT

From a Mercedes to a group shower with the ladies.

CYRUS

Would you please just shut up--  
(realizing)

Wait, that's it. Bert, that's it.

Cyrus jams the truck in gear, mashes the accelerator, pulls a wild u-turn, and hauls ass back up the road.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

(pulls out cell and dials)

Operator, I need the number for Mercedes TeleAid!

EXT. HIGHWAY - A FEW MINUTES LATER

We see the convoy of police cars turning off the highway and onto a side road.

INT. LAKE CABIN - A FEW MINUTES LATER

The inside of the cabin is dark. Elaine and John have nodded off. Suddenly, the door bursts open. Elaine and John sit up only to see bright flashlights in their faces and the silhouettes of menacing figures.

EXT. LAKE CABIN - A FEW MINUTES LATER

We now see that it was Bert and Cyrus who burst into the cabin. They have John, Elaine, and Zoe with their hands and feet bound with duct tape and rope.

CYRUS

(to Bert)

Let's get them in the truck.

ZOE

Cyrus please, I know you're upset, but this is no way to behave...

CYRUS

Just trust me. I know what I have to do.

ELAINE

I think we discovered earlier that we don't trust you.

JOHN

You think you could loosen the rope. It's cutting off the circulation in my feet. They're starting to tingle.

ZOE

See, getting kidnapped isn't a whole lot of fun, is it?

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

The police convoy roars toward the lake.

INT. CYRUS' ICE CREAM TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Cyrus and Bert have loaded the bound threesome into the back of the ice cream truck. Cyrus climbs in the driver's seat and sets the GPS.

ZOE

Cyrus, I'll do what you want. I'll go back and marry you, just let my parents go. Please.

CYRUS

That won't make it right.

ELAINE

I knew he was dangerous the second I met him. First impressions never lie.

CYRUS

I'm not dangerous. You're just going to have to trust --

ZOE

Do not say it. You are banned from using that word!

CYRUS

Fine, then you just have to...  
(to Bert)  
What's another word for trust?

Bert shrugs.



CYRUS (CONT'D)

You're just going to have to  
something me that means the same as  
the word I can't say and rhymes  
with "flust."

JOHN

I always saw myself dying on a bed  
surrounded by loved ones. Not in  
the back of a psychopath's ice  
cream truck waiting to be chopped  
up into a million pieces.

CYRUS

We're not going to chop you up!

BERT

No, we're going to pour acid all  
over you!!

Elaine, John and Zoe scream. Cyrus punches Bert.

BERT (CONT'D)

What? It was a joke to lighten the  
mood.

Cyrus starts the truck and revs the engine. He waits. In the  
distance we can hear the police sirens now getting closer.

CYRUS

Just a few more seconds.

Suddenly, all the police cars come tearing up to the cabin  
with the chopper overhead. At that moment, Cyrus turns on  
his lights, drops the truck into gear, turns on Rush's "Tom  
Sawyer" on the PA, and tears out through the oncoming line of  
police cars. The cops are surprised, as Cyrus blasts past  
them and into the dark night.

INT. HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

We see Hardesty and the other detectives wearing headsets and  
watching.

HARDESTY

What the hell?

(into headset)

Units eight, twenty-seven, and  
thirteen, stay with the truck.  
Units six, seven, and nineteen,  
check out the cabin.

It's chaos on the ground as everyone tries to follow Hardesty's orders.

INT. CYRUS' ICE CREAM TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Cyrus is blasting down the dark road... one eye out the windshield, one eye on the GPS that is guiding him.

CYRUS  
How we doing, Bert?

BERT  
(looking out the back)  
We got a bunch of cop cars about  
half a mile back or so.

Cyrus takes a tight turn and Zoe, Elaine and John roll across the floor of the truck.

ZOE  
Mom, Dad, I'm so sorry for bringing  
this into our lives.

JOHN  
It's okay, sweetheart. We still  
love you.

Cyrus takes a sharp turn. John, Elaine and Zoe knock into one another.

INT. HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

Hovering over the cabin.

VOICE ON RADIO (O.S.)  
No one's in the cabin. We swept it  
and it's empty.

HARDESTY  
(into headset)  
All units join the pursuit of the  
truck.

The helicopter takes off after the truck.

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

The ice cream truck roars down the road.

The police cars continue to follow.



The ice cream truck takes a bump and goes airborne for a brief second.

INT. CYRUS' ICE CREAM TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

John, Elaine, and Zoe get thrown around by the bump. Elaine lands with her head in John's lap.

JOHN

Elaine if this is the end, if we don't make it, I need to tell you something. I know I told you I wanted my life calm and uncomplicated...

ELAINE

John, I think this can wait...

JOHN

And that I left New York to get away from you. Well, you were right, I got boring. Without you, I got really boring. I was boring and I was bored. You were the spark in my life. The fire. You were the thrill ride that made it all exciting and intense and worth doing.

ELAINE

Is this exciting enough for you?

JOHN

I know now that I still love you. I couldn't die without saying that.

ELAINE

I love you, too. You're the soothing voice that makes it all okay. The calm in my storm. Without you I have no anchor, no perspective. You give reason to my rhyme.

ZOE

(moved)

Oh, my God, you guys.

John tries to raise Elaine's head up to kiss her. But the truck hits another bump, causing John and Elaine to knock their foreheads together.



Ow!

JOHN

Ow!

ELAINE

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

The cops on the ground are trying to catch up to Cyrus. The chopper is shining a large spotlight, but the trees below lining the roads are making it difficult to keep the truck in view. The truck makes another turn onto another road. Twenty seconds later, the first wave of police cars makes the same turn.

INT. CYRUS' ICE CREAM TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Cyrus is blasting down the road.

GPS VOICE (O.S.)  
You are one quarter mile from your destination.

CYRUS  
Here we go, Bert.

Cyrus cuts the music and all the lights. The road is barely visible.

GPS VOICE  
Right turn ahead to 247 River Gap Road.

Cyrus sees the wheel to the right, cuts the engine and quietly rolls up to an isolated and dilapidated house.

EXT. DILAPIDATED HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

As Cyrus comes to a stop, we see a nearby garage where a bunch of guys, including the BIKER who carjacked John and Elaine, are noisily tearing apart ELAINE'S MERCEDES. Some use blow torches, other use rotating steel saws and pneumatic drills to dismantle the car. With the din, they seem unaware of Cyrus' approach.

INT. CYRUS' ICE CREAM TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Cyrus and Bert run to the back of the truck. Cyrus grabs Zoe. Bert grabs Elaine. They carry the two, bound women, to the front door of the house.

ELAINE  
Hey, that's my car! How did you --



CYRUS

I had Mercedes locate it.

Cyrus kicks the door in. They carry the women inside. They then run out and grab John and begin to carry him inside the house. We can now hear the sirens getting closer, and the lights starting to flicker through the trees.

INT. HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

The helicopter moves in, its light searching, trying to cut through the canopy of trees to find the truck.

EXT. DILAPIDATED HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Cyrus and Bert have dropped John inside the house, and come running out.

CYRUS

Bert, go hide in the woods while I get rid of the truck.

BERT

You can't get rid of the truckster! It's the number one most important thing on your most important thing list. I won't let you do it.

CYRUS

I have to. They can't know it's mine.

Cyrus looks around for a solution. The police cars are now within a few hundred yards. Bert heads for a hiding place in the woods as Cyrus spots a small pond. He jumps into his truck, guns the engine, steering his beloved truck toward the pond. He drives straight up the dock. He takes a deep breath and braces himself as the truck launches off the dock, hits the water, and begins to sink out of sight, just as the cops turn up the driveway.

The guys chopping up the Mercedes see the lights and curious, start to turn off their saws, drills and torches. They now hear the sirens... but it's too late. The cops are already skidding to a stop and have the guys trapped inside the shed.

BIKER

What the shit?!

Some other cops jump out of their cars and race to the house. They bust in.

## INT. DILAPIDATED HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The cops swarm in to find Zoe, Elaine and John bound on the floor.

## EXT. DILAPIDATED HOUSE - POND

Cyrus pulls himself out of the pond in the dark and, soaked, sidles up to Bert in his hiding place.

## EXT. DILAPIDATED HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

The helicopter comes down and Hardesty steps out. He smugly walks up to Elaine.

HARDESTY

I guess I never have to worry about showing up in your court room again.

ELAINE

Why is that, detective? Are you moving to a new city?

HARDESTY

Uh, no, you are, for a long, long time.

ELAINE

You mean jail? Correct me if I'm wrong detective, but isn't it usually the kidnappers who go to jail?

HARDESTY

Yes --

Hardesty looks over to see the Biker and the other tough guys being cuffed and thrown in the backs of squad cars.

HARDESTY (CONT'D)

Whoa. Whoa. Whoa.

(to other cop)

What the hell is going on here?

COP

We found these three bound up in this house and her car getting chopped in the garage next door.



HARDESTY

(re: John and Elaine)  
But it's the Judge and her ex who  
took their daughter.

ZOE

No, they didn't.

HARDESTY

So why did your fiancée call us and  
say you were kidnapped?

ZOE

Because I was.  
(pointing to Biker)  
He's a former boyfriend.  
(to Biker)  
I hate you, Spike.

BIKER

(from inside squad car)  
Who?

JOHN

Zoe is telling the truth. We were  
on the way to the church. Zoe,  
Elaine and I. It was nice to be  
together as a family again. The  
first time since the divorce. I  
live in Massachusetts. I'm a  
pediatrician. It's an irony that I  
can take care of children but not  
know what's best for my own  
daughter sometimes --

ELAINE

John, the point.

JOHN

Turns out her old boyfriend wasn't  
going to let her go and he kidnapped  
all of us, made me go to the church  
and call off the wedding, then took  
us up here. The end.

HARDESTY

You expect me to believe that that  
guy is a former boyfriend?

ELAINE

Absolutely. None of us ever liked  
him.

HARDESTY

Well, he can't be much worse than the loser she was going marry.

Elaine walks over to Hardesty and knees him in the groin. Hardesty hits the ground hard. Some of the other officers smirk. Elaine stands over him.

ELAINE

Don't talk about Cyrus like that. He's a good man, and a whole lot smarter than you. You don't know him, so don't judge him until you do.

Elaine and John lead Zoe away.

INT. POLICE CAR - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Zoe is in back with John and Elaine. Up ahead we see two figures walking down the road. It's Bert and Cyrus. They're soaked. The car passes them.

ZOE

Did you really mean what you said about Cyrus?

ELAINE

Who would have thought after all we did to him, he still risked himself to save us from prison?

JOHN

Your mom's right. Love is a mystery. Who's to say why two people should be together? Only those two people know and it doesn't have to make sense to anyone else but them.

John and Elaine kiss. Zoe looks torn.

ZOE

I'm really confused.

ELAINE

Well, don't look at me. Just cause I like the guy, doesn't mean you have to. I'm through telling you what to do.



EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

The red tail lights on the police car glow brightly as the car stops. The rear door opens and Zoe jumps out. She runs over to Cyrus and throws herself into his arms. They kiss.

CYRUS

I love you.

ZOE

I love you, too.

They kiss again. John and Elaine in the back of the police car smile. Cyrus picks up Zoe and carries her toward the police car.

BERT

(applauding)

Way to go, Cyrus!

Cyrus and Zoe get into the police car and it takes off down the road... leaving Bert. A few seconds later, the police car backs up.

CYRUS

You want to get in?

BERT

Oh, okay.

Bert squeezes in.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MOHICAN LAKE - AFTERNOON

A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE speaks.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

We are gathered here by this beautiful lake, to join these two people in the sacred bond of marriage.

Zoe smiles and tears up. Cyrus hands her a handkerchief. We reveal that they are guests, and it's actually John and Elaine getting remarried. From behind them we hear...

TAM

So, when are we gonna see you two up there?

ZOE

We're taking our time and making  
sure we're ready.

CYRUS

I promised Zoe we'd wait until I  
graduate from college next year.

TAM

Duc and I are so happy you two  
worked it out.

DUC

Tam, I told you, call me Antonio.

We see Duc now looks a little bit like Antonio Banderas.

As John and Elaine kiss, we pull back and...

FADE OUT: