

FRASIER

"An Affair to Forget"

#40570-044

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FINAL DRAFT

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FRASIER

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CAST

FRASIER CRANE.....KELSEY GRAMMER
MARTIN CRANE.....JOHN MAHONEY
DAPHNE MOON.....JANE LEEVES
NILES CRANE.....DAVID HYDE PIERCE
ROZ DOYLE.....PERI GILPIN
GRETCHEN (V.O.).....GLENNE HEADLEY
MARTA.....IRENE OLGA LOPEZ
GUNNAR.....BRIAN COUSINS
EDDIE.....MOOSE

SETS

INT. RADIO STUDIO

INT. FRASIER'S LIVING ROOM

INT. NILES' SPA

INT. NILES' CONSERVATORY

FRASIER - "An Affair to Forget #40570-044

ACT ONE

Scene A (1)
INT. RADIO STUDIO - DAY DAY/1
(Frasier, Roz, Gretchen (V.O.))

Scene B (6)
INT. FRASIER'S LIVING ROOM - DAY/1
LATE AFTERNOON
(Niles, Martin, Daphne,
Frasier, Eddie)

Scene C (16)
INT. RADIO STUDIO - NEXT DAY DAY/2
(Frasier, Roz, Gretchen (V.O.))

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

Scene D (21)
INT. RADIO STUDIO - MOMENTS LATER DAY/2
(Frasier, Roz, Gretchen (V.O.))

Scene E (26)
INT. NILES' SPA - LATER THAT DAY DAY/2
(Frasier, Marta, Niles)

Scene H (29)
INT. FRASIER'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT/2
LATER
(Frasier, Martin, Niles, Daphne,
Eddie)

Scene J (39)
INT. NILES' CONSERVATORY - NIGHT/2
NIGHT
(Niles, Gunnar, Frasier, Marta)

END OF ACT TWO

FRASIER
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ACT ONE

A

FADE IN:

INT. RADIO STUDIO - DAY - DAY/1
(Frasier, Roz, Gretchen (V.O.))

FRASIER IS ON THE AIR. ROZ IS IN HER BOOTH.

FRASIER

You're on KACL with Dr. Frasier
Crane. We have time for one last
call. Go ahead, Gretchen, I'm
listening.

GRETCHEN (V.O.)

(GERMAN ACCENT) Well you see, Dr.
Crane, my husband is a fencing
instructor, and lately he spends all
his time with his wealthy new

(MORE)

GRETCHEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

student. He's with her day and
night. I'm afraid there's some...
bumsen going on.

FRASIER

Is this merely a suspicion or do you
have any evidence?

GRETCHEN (V.O.)

No, it's just a feeling.

FRASIER

Well, unfortunately in these matters,
there's no simple way to know for
sure.

ROZ

Oh yes, there is.

FRASIER

Well this is your lucky day,
Gretchen. Sitting in with us today,
we have one of the world's five
leading "bumsen" experts.

ROZ

If you want to know if a man's
cheating, you offer him two choices
for dinner: One that's really rich
and fattening and one that's light

(MORE)

ROZ (CONT'D)

and sensible. If he picks the one that's calorie packed, he doesn't mind turning into a bloated pig, which means he's happily married and you're in the clear.

FRASIER

You know Roz, when I hear advice like that, I think there ought to be a law against two or more women gathering at a water cooler. Now Gretchen...

GRETCHEN (V.O.)

Does it really work, Roz?

ROZ

Trust me. If he chooses the diet plate, it means he's staying in shape for his new squeeze, and you should get yourself a lawyer who can sue the sweat off a racehorse.

GRETCHEN (V.O.)

I'm going to do it. Thank you for your help, Roz. You too, Dr. Crane.

FRASIER

Don't mention it.

SHE HANGS UP.

FRASIER (CONT'D)

"Dr. Crane and Friends" will be back tomorrow with more advice and (POINTEDLY TO ROZ) fewer recipes. Thanks for listening, Seattle.

THEY SIGN OFF. ROZ ENTERS FRASIER'S BOOTH.

ROZ

I know you hate it when I butt into your show.

FRASIER

(BUT YOU STILL DO) And yet...

ROZ

You'll forgive me when you find out the wonderful thing I'm doing for you. You see there's this great woman who lives in my building. She's bright and funny and...

FRASIER

Stop right there. I do not go on blind dates. They're a hideous waste of time. No, thank you, no.

ROZ

She's not for you, she's for your father.

FRASIER

What time should he pick her up?

ROZ

Oh this is great. She'll be so excited. (THEN) Wait a minute. So blind dates are okay for him, but not for you?

FRASIER

Yes. That also goes for games with balls, domestic beer, and giant trucks that roll over smaller ones.

AS THEY HEAD OUT THE DOOR, WE:

FADE OUT.

B

FADE IN:

INT. FRASIER'S LIVING ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON - DAY/1
(Niles, Martin, Daphne, Frasier, Eddie)

NILES, MARTIN AND EDDIE ARE SITTING AT THE TABLE. THEY HAVE A
MODEL SHIP KIT. NILES READS THE INSTRUCTIONS.

NILES

(READING) "So you want to build a
three-masted schooner... Step One --
take inventory of all parts."

MARTIN

We don't need to read all the
instructions.

NILES

Yes, we do. It says right here in
bold face, "Read all instructions."

MARTIN

Just hand me the right side of the
hull.

NILES

You'll get your hands on that piece
at step sixteen and not a moment
sooner.

MARTIN

Can we just get started here?

NILES

Okay, Dad. (READING INSTRUCTIONS)
"So you want to build a three-masted
schooner..."

MARTIN ROLLS HIS EYES. DAPHNE ENTERS FROM THE KITCHEN. AS
SHE CROSSES BY, SHE LOOKS AT THE PICTURE ON THE BOX.

DAPHNE

Oh, look at that. What a beautiful
ship. I bet you'll have fun building
that.

MARTIN

Not half as much fun as we're having
reading about it.

DAPHNE

Did I ever mention one of my
ancestors was a mutineer on the HMS
Bounty?

MARTIN

No kidding.

DAPHNE

From what we could gather he made it safely to Pitcairn Island where he was quite fruitful and multiplied. For all I know there's a girl who looks exactly like me running around the South Seas, frolicking in the surf, all brown skinned and bare breasted.

NILES SNAPS A MAST WHICH HE'S BEEN HOLDING IN HIS HAND.
MARTIN AND DAPHNE BOTH LOOK AT HIM.

NILES

(READING INSTRUCTIONS) "So you want to build a two-masted schooner..."

DAPHNE

Schooner? I thought it was a frigate.

NILES

No, a frigate has a fore and aft main sail.

DAPHNE

No, that's a brigantine.

NILES

Oh yes, you're right. Then what's a frigate?

MARTIN

That's when you just don't give a damn anymore.

MARTIN EXITS TO THE KITCHEN FOR A BEER. FRASIER ENTERS FROM OUTSIDE, COMING HOME FROM WORK.

FRASIER

Hello all.

DAPHNE AND NILES AD-LIB HELLO'S.

FRASIER (CONT'D)

So, Niles, will you be spending the evening with us?

NILES

Yes. As much as my Maris misses me, she feels that family comes first. She insisted I come over and spend quality time with Dad.

FRASIER

She wanted you out of the house, huh?

NILES

Like a Jehovah's Witness.

MARTIN RE-ENTERS FROM THE KITCHEN, BEER IN HAND, AND CROSSES BACK TO THE DINING ROOM TABLE.

FRASIER

Dad, I have a proposal for you. There's a woman in Roz's building who's very interested in going out with you. Roz says she has a terrific personality.

MARTIN

So I guess that makes me the pretty one.

FRASIER

Just hear me out. She likes sports,
she likes beer...

MARTIN

Yeah, so does Duke.

FRASIER

But Duke won't kiss you goodnight at
the end of the evening.

MARTIN

He will if he's had a few. Tell Roz
thanks, but no thanks.

DAPHNE

Well, I think you're making a
mistake. Trying new things is what
keeps us all young and vibrant.

NILES

You're right, Daphne. For weeks all
Maris did for excitement was float in
her sensory deprivation tank, now
she's taken up fencing. I've never
seen her more vital. She practices
with her instructor late into the
evening.

FRASIER

Maris has a fencing instructor?

NILES

Yes. Gunnar was the Bavarian
champion three years running.

FRASIER

He's Bavarian?

NILES

You're full of questions I've already
given the answers to.

FRASIER

Oh, am I?

NILES

So recapping, he's Bavarian and he
doesn't speak a word of English so
Maris gets to brush up on her German
while she parries and thrusts.

MARTIN

So Maris is learning German...

(ASIDE TO FRASIER) Just when you
thought she couldn't get any
cuddlier.

NILES PICKS UP A MODEL PIECE. HE REACTS, THEN OPENS HIS HAND.
A PIECE OF THE BOAT IS STUCK TO IT.

NILES

Dad, did you touch the spanking aft?

MARTIN

Yeah, I pre-glued it for you.

NILES

Well you might have said something.
The instructions on the glue
specifically say, "Avoid contact with
skin." Though of course you wouldn't
know that.

DAPHNE

Not to worry. This type of thing
used to happen to my brothers all the
time. I can get that off with some
nail polish remover. Come with me.

NILES AND DAPHNE CROSS THROUGH THE LIVING ROOM TOWARD THE
POWDER ROOM.

NILES

So your brothers used to build a lot
of models?

DAPHNE

Actually, I suspect they just sniffed
a lot of glue.

NILES

That can cause brain damage, you
know.

DAPHNE

Well, that confirms it.

THEY EXIT INTO THE POWDER ROOM.

FRASIER

Dad, we need to talk. It's about
Niles.

MARTIN

Boy, I can't tell you how many times
I heard that from your mother.

FRASIER

I took a call today from a German
woman who suspects her husband -- a
fencing instructor -- is having an
affair with his wealthy new client.

MARTIN

And...

FRASIER

(DETERMINED) German fencing
instructor... Wealthy new client...

MARTIN

(EQUALLY DETERMINED) And...

FRASIER

Well, don't you find that incriminating?

MARTIN

No. I find that a coincidence.
Seattle's a big city. There must be
a bunch of German fencing
instructors, each one of them with
dozens of students.

FRASIER

Yes, but are they wealthy students?

MARTIN

No, most of them are inner-city kids who are trying to work their way out of the ghetto with nothing but a foil and a dream.

FRASIER

Yes, well, somewhere in that slag heap of sarcasm there may be a kernel of truth. Maybe I am letting my imagination get the best of me.

MARTIN

Just trust me. Forget it.

MARTIN GOES BACK TO MAKING THE MODEL.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

C'mon. Help me put this model together.

FRASIER CROSSES TO THE TABLE.

FRASIER

Boy, Niles has always loved these models. Remember that Christmas when Mom gave him "The Visible Man and Woman," and he had to glue all the internal organs in place?

MARTIN

All I remember is you two fighting over it.

DAPHNE RE-ENTERS FROM THE POWDER ROOM.

FRASIER

Niles was getting on my nerves so I
snuck into his bedroom and stole his
ovaries.

DAPHNE

There's a story I'm glad I missed the
beginning of.

DAPHNE CONTINUES ON INTO THE KITCHEN, AS WE:

FADE OUT.

C

A BLACK SCREEN. IN WHITE LETTERS APPEARS, "BAVARIANS AT THE GATE."

FADE IN:

INT. RADIO STUDIO - NEXT DAY - DAY/2
(Frasier, Roz, Gretchen (V.O.))

ROZ IS IN FRASIER'S BOOTH SETTING UP FOR THE SHOW. FRASIER
ENTERS.

FRASIER

Sorry I'm late, Roz.

ROZ

Hey, Frasier. Did you have a chance
to ask your dad about the date?

FRASIER

Yes, he said he'd love to go, if not
for the problem with the horses.

ROZ

What horses?

FRASIER

The wild horses that aren't strong enough to drag him out of the apartment.

ROZ

Darn it. I already got her hopes up. I don't suppose you'd consider going out with her?

FRASIER

Sorry. I've been on my share of pity dates.

ROZ

Yes, but this time you wouldn't be the one being pitied. (OFF HIS LOOK) Listen, we've got some great callers today. Get this. Line three is a guy who just found out his girlfriend is his long-lost sister.

ROZ STARTS OUT, THEN TURNS BACK:

ROZ (CONT'D)

Oh yeah, and that German woman is calling back about her husband's affair.

FRASIER

Gretchen?!

ROZ

Yeah.

ROZ EXITS INTO HER BOOTH.

FRASIER

I want her first!

ROZ

Are you kidding? What am I supposed
to tell the guy dating his sister?

FRASIER

Tell him to hang on and relax, we've
all been there.

ROZ CUES HIM.

FRASIER (CONT'D)

Hello Seattle. You're listening to
Dr. Frasier Crane on KACL 780. Let's
get right to the phones. Roz?

ROZ

We have Gretchen calling back about
her husband's affair. She thinks she
has more evidence.

FRASIER QUICKLY PUNCHES THE BUTTON.

FRASIER

Hello, Gretchen, I'm listening.

GRETCHEN (V.O.)

(CRYING) Oh, Dr. Crane, Gunnar
picked the diet plate!

ROZ LOOKS KNOWINGLY AT FRASIER.

FRASIER

Gunnar...? Still that's no proof.
Proof is phone bills, credit card
receipts, lipstick on the collar...

GRETCHEN (V.O.)

I found a love letter he wrote to
her.

FRASIER

Well, how long were you going to keep
that a secret? Work with me here,
Gretchen. What does it say?

GRETCHEN (V.O.)

"Mein kleine leberknodel..."

FRASIER

I'm sorry, I don't speak German.

GRETCHEN (V.O.)

It means "my little liver dumpling."

FRASIER

(HOPEFUL) Maybe he's writing to you.

GRETCHEN (V.O.)

It can't be me. He says he loves her
beautiful little body, as thin as his
sword, and her skin as white as
bratwurst, and that she's his
Nichteinmenschlichfrau.

FRASIER

What is that?

GRETCHEN (V.O.)

I don't know if there's a word in
English. The closest translation is
"not quite human woman."

FRASIER

Oh dear God, it is her!

GRETCHEN (V.O.)

What?

FRASIER

I mean, it's not you.

GRETCHEN (V.O.)

What should I do?

FRASIER

I don't know! I need time to think.

Let's go to commercial.

AND ON FRASIER'S DESPERATION, WE GO TO COMMERCIAL.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

D

FADE IN:

A BLACK SCREEN. IN WHITE LETTERS APPEARS, "AN AFFAIR TO FORGET."

INT. RADIO STUDIO - MOMENTS LATER - DAY/2
(Frasier, Roz, Gretchen (V.O.))

ROZ CUES FRASIER THAT THEY'RE OUT OF COMMERCIAL.

FRASIER

We're back. Gretchen I've considered your problem and I think the only course of action is for you to immediately confront your husband and insist he end this affair.

GRETCHEN (V.O.)

But what if he won't?

FRASIER

He has to! Innocent people are being hurt. Remind him of how much he means to you, remind him of all your years together. Are there children?

GRETCHEN (V.O.)

No.

FRASIER

Damn. Still, it's got to be a clean break. He must never see this woman again, even accidentally.

GRETCHEN (V.O.)

We never had these problems back home.

FRASIER

Then maybe that's where you should return, to the stable influence of Bavaria.

GRETCHEN (V.O.)

How did you know we were from Bavaria?

FRASIER

Well... I'm a master of dialects and I noticed there was a glottal quality to the occlusion of your diphthongs. Your pronunciation screams Bavarian.

GRETCHEN (V.O.)

I'm originally from Austria.

FRASIER

Do you want to split hairs or do you want your husband back? I'm sorry Gretchen, it's time for another commercial.

ROZ

Another commercial?

FRASIER

(FIRMLY) Yes, Roz, another commercial!

ROZ PLUGS IN A CART AND THEY GO OFF THE AIR. SHE RUNS INTO FRASIER'S BOOTH.

ROZ

What is going on?

FRASIER

What makes you think something's going on?

ROZ

Well, when the person giving advice sounds crazier than the person calling in, I've got to think something's going on.

FRASIER

Nothing's going on.

ROZ

Wait a minute. You know who it is,
don't you?

FRASIER

(CAUGHT) Who?

ROZ

The leberknodel.

FRASIER

All right. Yes, I do know. But the
husband's a close friend of mine. No
one you know. How can I tell him?
He'll be crushed.

ROZ

Don't they teach you anything at
Harvard? You never tell the person
who's being cheated on. You confront
the person who's doing the cheating.

FRASIER

Oh no, that's out of the question.

ROZ

It's easy. Just tell her you know
she's been mattress surfing with
another guy and if she doesn't knock
it off you'll tell her husband.

FRASIER

You don't understand. This isn't an easy woman to talk to. She doesn't deal well with confrontation. I once questioned the political correctness of her serving veal. An hour later we found her locked in the garage with the engine running on her golf cart.

ROZ

Whoa, it's Maris.

AND WE:

FADE OUT.

E

A BLACK SCREEN. IN WHITE LETTERS APPEARS, "IT'S A SENSORY DEPRIVATION TANK."

INT. NILES' SPA - LATER THAT DAY - DAY/2
(Frasier, Marta, Niles)

WE'RE IN A CORNER OF A ROOM IN WHICH A SENSORY DEPRIVATION TANK SITS PROMINENTLY. OTHER DOORS SUGGEST A STEAM ROOM OR SAUNA, ETC. PEGS ON THE WALL HOLD WHITE TERRY CLOTH ROBES.

FRASIER IS ESCORTED INTO THE ROOM BY MARTA, A 78-YEAR-OLD GUATEMALAN MAID. SHE POINTS AT THE SENSORY DEPRIVATION TANK.

MARTA

Missy Crane esta en la caja.

FRASIER

Mrs. Crane is in the box?

MARTA

En la caja.

MARTA EXITS. FRASIER KNOCKS ON THE TANK.

FRASIER

Maris? This is Frasier. We've got to talk about Niles.

THERE'S NO ANSWER.

FRASIER (CONT'D)

Look I know you've been deceiving
him. We have to talk about this, so
will you please come out of there?

A BEAT.

FRASIER (CONT'D)

You are in there, aren't you?

THERE IS A KNOCK FROM INSIDE THE TANK.

FRASIER (CONT'D)

Look, you can't hide in this
ridiculous deprivation tank forever.
(SOFTENING) I know you're having an
affair. I care about you and Niles
and I want to help you do what's best
for your marriage.

THE DOOR TO THE TANK SLOWLY OPENS...AND A SOPPING WET AND
MISERABLE NILES EMERGES. FRASIER IS AGHAST. MARTA RE-ENTERS
AND PUTS TOWELS ON THE TANK.

FRASIER (CONT'D)

Oh God, Niles, I'm so sorry. (TURNS
TO MARTA) Marta, you said Mrs. Crane
was in the box.

MARTA

(RE: NILES) Si, Missy Crane.

FRASIER

(INDICATES NILES) No, that's Mister
Crane!

MARTA

(REALIZES HER MISTAKE) Oh, Mister

Crane!

SHE SHRUGS AND EXITS, PRACTICING SAYING "MISTER," "MISTER," AS SHE GOES. FRASIER SEARCHES FOR SOMETHING TO SAY TO NILES, THEN:

FRASIER

Towel?

HE OFFERS NILES A TOWEL, AND WE:

FADE OUT.

H

A BLACK SCREEN. IN WHITE LETTERS APPEARS, "TO THE VICTOR GOES THE SPOILED."

FADE IN:

INT. FRASIER'S LIVING ROOM - LATER - NIGHT/2
(Frasier, Martin, Niles, Daphne, Eddie)

FRASIER AND MARTIN ARE NERVOUSLY WAITING FOR NILES TO ARRIVE.

MARTIN

So, he didn't say anything about what happened with Maris?

FRASIER

Dad, he was on a car phone. He was breaking up -- in both senses.

MARTIN

I'm worried about him. He's always been such a sensitive kid.

FRASIER

Yes, but when he gets here, it's important not to let him know how worried we are. We'll only fuel his anxieties.

MARTIN

You're right. If we coddle him, he'll think this is the end of the world.

SFX: THE DOORBELL RINGS

FRASIER AND MARTIN EXCHANGE A LOOK, THEN GO TO THE DOOR AND OPEN IT. NILES IS THERE.

FRASIER

Hello, Niles.

MARTIN

Hello, son.

THERE'S A BEAT, THEN NILES HOLDS OUT HIS ARMS IN A NEEDY GESTURE AND THE TWO OF THEM STEP FORWARD AND ENVELOPE HIM IN THEIR ARMS. THEY MOVE HIM TO THE COUCH WHILE AD-LIBBING CODDLING WORDS SUCH AS, "IT'S OKAY," "IT HAPPENS, IT HAPPENS..." "IT'S NOT OVER YET," "DON'T WORRY ABOUT THIS, IT'S GONNA BE FINE."

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Sit down, son.

NILES SITS ON THE COUCH. EDDIE JUMPS UP NEXT TO HIM AND LICKS HIS FACE.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Frasier, pour him a brandy.

FRASIER

Actually, I'm out of brandy, but I do have an excellent sherry, two types of port, oh, and a new twelve-year-old single-malt scotch. It's a little on the peaty side.

MARTIN

Just pour him a drink!

FRASIER POURS HIM A SCOTCH.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

What happened?

NILES

Nothing.

FRASIER

But when I left you were storming up to Maris's room to have it out with her.

NILES

Yes, and with each step I thought of another question to hurl at her, but when I reached the door, I froze.

MARTIN

That's okay, son. There's nothing wrong with taking your time figuring out the best way to handle this.

NILES

I turned around, walked out of the house, got in the car and started driving.

FRASIER

Well I'm glad you ended up here.

FRASIER PUTS A DRINK DOWN IN FRONT OF HIM.

NILES

Actually I ended up at the Oregon border check, but I had some fruit in the car so I had to turn back. What am I going to do? She's my whole life.

FRASIER

Look, I'm sure whatever Maris is feeling for Gunnar, it's just infatuation. (HINTING) You know how you can be in love with one person and still be infatuated with someone else?

NILES

No.

FRASIER

Boy, you are upset.

NILES

Of course I'm upset. I've been vanquished by a dashing, young, "Uber-mann." First Poland and France, now me.

FRASIER

Look, she may have succumbed to his Teutonic charms temporarily, but in the long run she's going to choose the man who's also smart and sensitive.

NILES

Oh Frasier, that's just something we used to tell ourselves in chess club. The truth is women don't want men like us. Men of intellect. They want men of action. Men like Gunnar.

FRASIER

Well, the first course of action you should take is to talk to Maris.

NILES

But I'm not sure I should talk to her. Maybe if I just sit tight, this whole thing will blow over. Why open that wound?

FRASIER

That wound has already been opened,
and you're the one who's been hurt.
Talk to her. Someone once told me:
"To understand all is to forgive
all."

NILES

That's the biggest load of drivel
I've ever heard in my life. What
simpleton's almanac did that come
from?

FRASIER

It came from a letter you wrote me
when I was having my problems with
Lilith. You urged me to reach out to
her and find out why she did what she
did.

NILES

(TRYING TO GET IT) "To understand
all is to --"

FRASIER

All right, that part was hackneyed
but there was some good stuff in the
letter. I still have it. Let me get
it.

FRASIER EXITS.

NILES

Frasier's right, isn't he, Dad?

MARTIN

Eh...

NILES

You sound dubious.

MARTIN

Well, you know, something like this happened between your mother and me, too.

NILES

And you handled things differently?

MARTIN

Yeah. First, I took it up with the other man. I told him if he went near your mother again, he'd be the other woman. (BEAT) It took a whole lot more than that to keep our marriage together, but at least it showed her how much I cared.

NILES

So what would you have me do? Go grab the guy by the scruff of the neck and escort him out of my house?

MARTIN

Could ya do that?

NILES

Well, I have fantasized about it, and it does sound like a way to go, but I'm so confused. A minute ago what Frasier was saying sounded good, too.

MARTIN

Hey, suit yourself. Frasier's very smart, very sincere and very divorced.

NILES

Well, I do have to talk to Maris eventually. At least your way I'll be going at it from a position of strength. I'm going to do it, Dad. I'm going to stand up to him. Maris has fencing practice tonight but it's Gunnar who's going to be taught a lesson!

MARTIN

That's my boy. Are you gonna do it right now?

NILES

Yes, Dad.

HE THROWS BACK HIS SCOTCH.

NILES (CONT'D)

I'm pumped, I'm psyched... and I'm
fairly sure I just swallowed an
entire twist of lemon.

NILES EXITS AS FRASIER ENTERS FROM THE HALLWAY WITH A LETTER.

FRASIER

Where's Niles?

MARTIN

He just left.

FRASIER

What? Has he gone to talk things
through with Maris?

MARTIN

No, he's gone to have it out with
this guy and set him straight.

FRASIER

And you let him go? What if this guy
doesn't want to talk? What if he
wants to fight?

MARTIN

It's okay. He's still better off.
He'll have found his manhood.

DAPHNE ENTERS.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

I tell ya, I'd be proud if Niles
traded a couple a teeth for his
cajones.

DAPHNE

I've got to stop walking in on the
middle of conversations.

SHE CROSSES INTO THE KITCHEN, AND WE:

FADE OUT.

J

A BLACK SCREEN. IN WHITE LETTERS APPEARS, "GET OUT YOUR DICTIONARIES."

FADE IN:

INT. NILES' CONSERVATORY - LATER - NIGHT/2
(Niles, Frasier, Gunnar, Marta)

GUNNAR IS SEATED ON THE COUCH, WITH HIS FENCING EQUIPMENT, WAITING FOR MARIS. NILES ARRIVES AND STEPS INTO THE ROOM.

NILES

There you are. (GUNNAR LOOKS UP)

Yes, I'm talking to you, strudel boy.

No one seduces my wife and gets away
with it!

FRASIER STEPS IN, WITH MARTA.

NILES (CONT'D)

(TO GUNNAR) You probably thought
because of my refined bearing and
swimmer's build I wouldn't put up a

(MORE)

NILES (CONT'D)

fight for the woman I love, but
you're dead wrong, because real men
have a thing called honor. But you
wouldn't know that, would you?

FRASIER

Niles...

NILES

You wouldn't know how decent people
behave.

FRASIER

Niles...

NILES

You wouldn't know the meaning of the
word "rectitude."

FRASIER

Niles! He wouldn't know the meaning
of anything you're saying. He
doesn't speak English, remember?

A BEAT.

NILES

Damn.

GUNNAR

(TO MARTA) Worüber ist er so böse?

MARTA

(SHRUGS) Ich weiss nicht.

NILES

Marta, you speak German?

MARTA

Que?

FRASIER

Uh...¿Habla alemán?

MARTA

Sí. Trabajé para una familia alemana en Guatemala quien lleguen despues de la guerra.

FRASIER

(TO NILES) She worked for a German family who turned up in Guatemala right after the war.

NILES

Good, then she can translate for me.
Tell her to tell him --

FRASIER

Wait Niles.

NILES

Why?

FRASIER

Look at him. If he knew you were calling him "strudel boy" he'd be wiping his feet on your face.

NILES

Oh hang that, Frasier. If there are going to be scuffs, they're going to be scuffs of honor. (TO GUNNAR) How dare you steal my wife! (TO FRASIER) Translate!

FRASIER

Oh all right. (TO MARTA) Señor Crane quiere que preguntas a Gunnar, "Como se atrevez a robar mis zapatos?"

MARTA

(TO GUNNAR) Was fällt Dir ein meine Schuhe zu stehlen?

FINALLY UNDERSTANDING, GUNNAR DRAWS HIS SWORD ON NILES.

GUNNAR

Schweinehund!

NILES GRABS ONE OF GUNNAR'S OTHER FENCING SWORDS.

NILES

Fine. You challenge me. En garde.

FRASIER

Oh, yes, that's just what we need, a fourth language. Niles, you can't fight him.

NILES

Are you forgetting I've been fencing since prep school?

FRASIER

So what? The man was born with a sword in his hand. He probably performed his own Caesarean!

GUNNAR HAS BEGUN TO PARRY AND THRUST. NILES SCRAMBLES TO DEFEND HIMSELF.

NILES

Oh my God, he's gonna kill me.

FRASIER AD LIBS, "DUCK! PARRY! THRUST! ETC." AS THE FIGHT QUICKLY TURNS INTO AN AMUSING, BRILLIANTLY CHOREOGRAPHED ROUT, ENDING WITH NILES FLAT ON THE FLOOR. GUNNAR STANDS OVER HIM, THE POINT OF HIS SWORD AGAINST THE SOFT FLESH OF NILES' NECK.

GUNNAR

Entschuldige Dich sofort! Ich habe nicht Deine Schuhe gestohlen!

NILES

(STRAINED VOICE, TO FRASIER) Is he giving up?

MARTA

(TO FRASIER) ¡Pideme perdon! ¡No robo sus zapatos!

FRASIER

(TO NILES) He says he wants you to apologize. He did not steal your shoes.

NILES

Shoes?? What does he mean he didn't steal my shoes?

FRASIER

Oops, sorry. I guess I mistranslated.

NILES

How could you confuse "wife" with
"shoes"?

THEY GO INTO ONE OF THEIR AD LIB BICKERINGS, WITH FRASIER SAYING, "IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE HIGH SCHOOL. YOU'RE IN NO POSITION TO COMPLAIN" AND NILES SAYING, "YOU SHOULD HAVE STUDIED HARDER. MARIS IS NOT FOOTWEAR" ETC.

GUNNAR PRESSES HIS SWORD HARDER AGAINST NILES' NECK. NILES YELPS.

FRASIER

(TO MARTA) Not shoes, wife! I mean,
no zapatos, esposa!

MARTA

(GIGGLES) Ohhh! (TO GUNNAR) Nicht
Schuhe, Frau!

GUNNAR

Frau?

SADLY HE TAKES THE SWORD FROM NILES' NECK AND CASTS IT ASIDE.

GUNNAR (CONT'D)

Ja, ich probat. Maris ist
unwiderstehlich.

MARTA

(TO FRASIER) Si, yo probado. Maris
es irresistible.

FRASIER

(TO NILES) He tried. Maris is
irresistible. (THEN, TO MARTA, IN
SPANISH) Irresistible?

MARTA

(SHRUGS, THEN TO GUNNAR)
Unwiderstehlich?

GUNNAR

Ja.

MARTA

Si.

FRASIER

O-kayy.

GUNNAR

Aber sie hat mich abgewiesen.

MARTA

Pero me desecha.

FRASIER

But she refused him.

NILES

Really?

FRASIER

¿Verdad?

MARTA

Wirklich?

GUNNAR NODS. MARTA NODS. FRASIER NODS.

NILES

What did Maris say?

FRASIER

Que decía?

MARTA

Was hat sie gesagt?

GUNNAR

Ich liebe Niles.

MARTA

Me amo a Niles.

FRASIER

I love Niles.

NILES

She loves me! She loves me! My
marriage is whole again.

NILES HUGS FRASIER, THEN MARTA.

NILES (CONT'D)

Maris!

NILES EXITS UP THE STAIRS.

FRASIER

Now if I can just do the same for
Gunnar and Gretchen.

GUNNAR

Gretchen?

FRASIER

(TO MARTA) Tell Gunnar his wife
loves him very much. I mean -- Diga
a Gunnar que su esposa le ama mucho.

MARTA

(TO GUNNAR, POINTING AT FRASIER)
Deine Frau liebt ihn sehr.

GUNNAR REACTS, DRAWS HIS SWORD ON FRASIER.

GUNNAR

Schweinehund!

FRASIER

(TO MARTA) Not me, she loves him!
Marta, damn your pronoun problems!

FRASIER GRABS NILES' SWORD AND TRIES TO FEND OFF GUNNAR'S
ADVANCES, AS WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO