

HOW I MET YOUR DAD

"Pilot"

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WRITER'S SECOND DRAFT - 1/31/14

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1 EXT. NEW YORK SKYLINE - NIGHT 1

SHOTS OF NEW YORK CITY AT NIGHT.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Kids, this is the story of how I met
your dad. The story starts in 2014,
when I was 27 years old. I know, you
guys are probably picturing a 27 year
old version of how I am now...

CUT TO:

2 INT. KITCHEN - DAY - FANTASY 2

FANTASY BORDER AROUND THE FRAME. SALLY JAVITS, 27,
SHARPLY-DRESSED, IMPECCABLY-COIFFED, EXPERTLY COOKS
AN AMAZING MEAL, WHILE SHE TALKS ON HER BLUETOOTH.
AN ASSISTANT SWOOPS IN WITH A DOCUMENT TO SIGN.
SHE SIGNS IT. ANOTHER SWOOPS IN WITH A PIE CHART
FOR HER TO APPROVE. THUMBS UP. A "WOMAN OF THE
YEAR" BACKDROP IS WHEELED IN BEHIND HER, AS DIGNIFIED
LADIES PUT A MEDAL AROUND HER NECK. FLASHBULBS.
APPLAUSE. SHE MODESTLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE HONOR,
WITHOUT SKIPPING A BEAT COOKING.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

This dynamic, hyper-competent
renaissance woman who's got it all
figured out, loved and admired by her
peers, respected even by her detractors--

FUTURE SALLY'S SON (V.O.)

Um, we get it, mom. Move it along.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

(CLEARS THROAT, EMBARRASSED). Right.
Sorry. Point is, at age 27, I wasn't
exactly...marriage material.

HARD CUT TO:

3 INT. BAR - NIGHT

3

SALLY BURSTS IN. SHE LOOKS GREAT -- POSITIVELY
CARBONATED, FULL OF LIFE AND HEART -- BUT LET'S BE
REAL: IF SHE'S NOT A HOT MESS, SHE'S AT LEAST A
VERY WARM ONE. SHE'S ALREADY A COUPLE DRINKS IN...

SALLY

Attention New York drunk people...of
New York! M'name's Sally Javits.

FREEZE-FRAME.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

That's me.

UNFREEZE.

SALLY

And this is Juliet Thorpe.

JULIET ENTERS DRESSED TO THE NINES: LOTS A BLING,
SHADES...THE WORKS. SHE RAISES HER ARMS, POINTER
FINGERS TO THE HEAVENS. JULIET IS A GOOD TIME, ALL
THE TIME. **FREEZE.**

NARRATOR (V.O.)

And that's Aunt Juliet.

UNFREEZE.

SALLY

This girl right here just secured
capital for a brand new web-site that's
gonna change the world!

THE BAR TOTALLY IGNORES THEM.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Let me try that again: Tequila shots
for everyone, on us!

THE BAR ERUPTS IN CHEERS.

MUSIC: "THAT'S NOT MY NAME" BY THE TING TINGS

QUICK SERIES OF CELLPHONE SHOTS:

--SALLY AND JULIET DO SHOTS WITH BAR PATRONS.

--JULIET SEES A HANDSOME MAN ACROSS THE ROOM...

--SALLY RIDES A MECHANICAL BULL.

--JULIET MAKES OUT WITH THE HANDSOME MAN...

--SALLY AND JULIET TRADE BREAK-DANCE MOVES AS PEOPLE
CHEER.

--JULIET AND THE HANDSOME MAN ARGUE DRAMATICALLY...

--SALLY SLICES OPEN CHAMPAGNE WITH A LARGE SWORD.

--JULIET SAYS A TEARFUL GOODBYE TO THE HANDSOME
MAN, HANDS A RING BACK TO HIM.

--SALLY AND JULIET LIGHT SHOTS ON FIRE!

--SEVERAL ANNOYED NYC FIREMEN PUT OUT A FIRE FOR A
SHEEPISH JULIET AND SALLY.

--THE FIREMEN (SOME OF THEM SHIRTLESS) DRINK AND
PARTY WITH SALLY AND JULIET.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Hard to believe, but this was just a
normal Tuesday night for us. In fact,
Aunt Juliet later called that night,
and I quote: "Boring."

CUT TO:

4 INT. GAVIN AND SALLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

4

MODEST APARTMENT IN QUEENS. SALLY STUMBLES IN,
DRUNK, TRYING TO UNDRESS AS SHE GOES.

SALLY

Must get boot off. Cannot get boot
off. (THEN) Okay boot. You can stay.

SHE COLLAPSES ONTO HER BED.

SALLY (CONT'D)

God...I love being married!

REVEAL HER HUSBAND, GAVIN (PREPPY, DRIVEN, SUCCESS-
ORIENTED), WHO GROANS. HE LOOKS AT THE CLOCK.

GAVIN

Sally, it's four in the morning.

SALLY

You're four in the morning. (GIGGLES)

GAVIN

That doesn't even make sense.

SALLY

Sorry, it was Juliet's special night!

GAVIN

Every night is Juliet's special night.

SALLY

And then it became my special night.
And then it was both our special nights.
And we met a bunch of people and then
it was all our special nights. Guess
the only person whose special night it
wasn't is Mr. Droolypillow.

SHE TICKLES HIM, TRYING TO GET HIM TO LAUGH. HE DOESN'T.

GAVIN

Sally, I've got a real job now. That I have to be at. In three hours.

SALLY

I know, I know. (BEAT) It's just nice knowing I can go out, crazy it up, and know that you'll be here waiting for me. And you always will be, for the rest of my life.

SHE SMILES, SUPER CONTENT.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Three days later, I was single again.

SMASH CUT TO:

5 MAIN TITLES 5

CUT TO:

6 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S LIVING ROOM - DAY 6

CHYRON: THREE DAYS LATER...

THE ROOM IS GORGEOUSLY APPOINTED AND PERFECT. SALLY'S BROTHER DANNY (NEAT, TYPE A, ALWAYS PERFECT, IF A BIT UPTIGHT) AND HIS HUSBAND, TODD (WARM, A HUGGER, ALWAYS SUPPORTIVE) OPEN THE DOOR TO SALLY, WHO HOLDS SUITCASES. SALLY SNIFFLES.

SALLY

Thank you guys for letting me crash. It'll only be a few nights.

DANNY

Hey. Come on. You're my sister.

TODD

And that makes you my sister, too,
princess. Stay as long as you like.

OFF DANNY, SMILING WARMLY...

CUT TO:

7 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S KITCHEN - DAY 7

OUT OF SALLY'S EARSHOT, DANNY IS NOW SUPER TENSE.

DANNY

"As long as you like?!" Todd, do you
have any idea how long "As long as you
like" is with Sally? Infinity. (DAWNING
HORROR) She's never leaving...

FREEZE-FRAME ON DANNY'S STRICKEN LOOK.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Here's a little secret about your Uncle
Danny. You might look at Uncle Danny
now and you see an old man, but once
upon a time... he was always old.

CUT TO:

8 YEARBOOK PHOTOS 8

DANNY IN A SERIES OF CLUB PHOTOS FROM HIGH SCHOOL:
"MAH JONG CLUB." "VARSITY SHUFFLEBOARD." "STUDENTS
AGAINST SKATEBOARDING."

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Even in high school. It was a problem.

PHOTO FLASH TO:

9 PHOTO

9

SALLY, JULIET, AND TODD AT A COLLEGE PARTY. TODD IS A SHIRTLESS PUNK: PLATINUM BLOND, DRUNK AND WILD.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

I thought setting Danny up with Todd,
my craziest friend from college, might
loosen him up a little. Nope.

PHOTO FLASH TO:

10 CHRISTMAS CARD PHOTO

10

DANNY AND TODD IN MATCHING SWEATERS BY A FIREPLACE.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Uncle Todd just got sucked right into
Danny's black hole of grown-up-ed-ness.

BACK TO:

11 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S KITCHEN - DAY

11

UNFREEZE. TODD RUBS DANNY'S BACK, CALMING HIM DOWN.

TODD

Sally does things differently. That's
what's so great about her. It doesn't
mean she's doing things wrong.

DANNY

Oh, Sally never does anything "wrong!"
Especially according to our parents.
Remember the wedding they threw her
for a marriage that has turned out to
last less than a year?

FLASHBACK TO:

TODD

Fine, I won't call her those things.
But give her a chance. She's grown up
a lot lately. Let's get out there and
see how Sweet Pea's doing.

TODD EXITS, DANNY JUST SHAKES HIS HEAD.

CUT TO:

16 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S LIVING ROOM - DAY 16

DANNY AND TODD ENTER. THE ROOM IS SUDDENLY A
DISASTER, SALLY'S CRAP EVERYWHERE. SHE SETS OUT A
SPREAD OF MESSY FAST FOOD DANGEROUSLY NEAR THE COUCH.

SALLY

(RE: TAKEOUT) This is a "Comfort Food
Tour" of Manhattan. Popeye's. Hunan
Balcony. Ray's Pizza... I'm gonna be
eating a lot over the next few weeks.
Part of my process.

SALLY DRIPS A LITTLE SAUCE ON THE COUCH. DANNY
STIFLES A GASP. SALLY DABS AT IT WITH A NAPKIN.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Spilling is also part of my process.
Sorry Danny, I'm kinda shaky.

DANNY

Just take a deep breath...

SALLY

(DEEP BREATH) Thanks, that helps.

TODD

He was talking to himself, sweetie.

REVEAL DANNY SCRUBBING THE STAIN, BREATHING DEEPLY.

TODD (CONT'D)

Do you wanna talk about you and Gavin?

SALLY

I feel bad. You guys don't wanna hear
all this stuff...

A HUGE GLOB OF NOODLES ESCAPES SALLY'S CHOPSTICKS.
SHE CATCHES THEM IN HER HAND. DANNY AUDIBLY GASPS.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Don't worry Danny! Caught the noodles.

(PROUD) Todd, I caught 'em!

TODD

(AMAZED) You are literally a noodle-
catching angel on this earth.

SALLY

Yeah, well tell that to Gavin. You
know what he called me?

FLASHBACK TO:

17 INT. GAVIN AND SALLY'S KITCHEN - FLASHBACK

17

GAVIN AND SALLY ARE IN A HEATED ARGUMENT.

GAVIN

You're a slob, Sally! Dishes
everywhere, dirty laundry. And you
always leave cabinet doors open! For
a while, I thought we had a poltergeist.

WIDER, WE SEE EVERY CABINET DOOR IS WIDE OPEN.

SALLY

I'm sorry if I leave a door open now
and then. I've been busy!

BACK TO:

18 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S APARTMENT - BACK TO SCENE 18

SALLY PIGS OUT. BEHIND HER, DANNY TURNS TO TODD.

DANNY

(MOUTHING SILENTLY) Busy doing what?

SALLY

And then, do you know what he had the
nerve to ask me?

FLASHBACK TO:

19 INT. GAVIN AND SALLY'S APARTMENT - FLASHBACK 19

THE FIGHT CONTINUES OUT INTO THE LIVING ROOM.

GAVIN

Busy doing what?! What happened to
you getting a job?

BACK TO:

20 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 20

AS THEY WERE.

DANNY

A job, at age 27? Gavin lives in a
fantasy world! ("CASUAL") How are ya
keepin' yourself busy nowadays?

SALLY

I didn't tell you?

FREEZE FRAME.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Oh God. This is so embarrassing.

Kids, what I said next was dead serious.

UNFREEZE.

SALLY

I'm gonna be a food personality.

Wait'll Gavin sees me on The Today

Show making my healthy fried chicken

biscuits for diabetic people: "Thank

you, Sally, for my low blood sugar!"

"Um, you're totally welcome, FUTURE

AMERICA!" Plus Todd's a chef, he's

gonna help me get my foot in the door!

DANNY SHOOTS TODD A LOOK LIKE, "WHAT?!"

TODD

Sally's so loving and so passionate,

making great food will be a no-brainer!

DANNY

That really is... a no brainer.

SALLY

Oh! Then this was the kicker--

FLASHBACK TO:

21 INT. GAVIN AND SALLY'S APARTMENT - FLASHBACK

21

THE FIGHT CONTINUES.

GAVIN

You can't go out every night, Sally.

You're not in college anymore.

SALLY

Yeah, in college I could actually touch things in my own apartment.

GAVIN

What are you talking about?

SALLY GOES OVER TO GAVIN'S BEAUTIFUL WINE FRIDGE, OPENS THE DOOR, STARTS TOUCHING VARIOUS BOTTLES.

GAVIN (CONT'D)

Don't touch that.

SALLY

(DEFIANT) Let's have some wine.

GAVIN

Sally, we don't drink those. Those are investment wines!

BACK TO:

22 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 22

SALLY CONTINUES:

SALLY

(DISBELIEF) Investment. Wines.

FLASHBACK TO:

23 INT. GAVIN AND SALLY'S KITCHEN - NIGHT - FLASHBACK 23

SALLY KEEPS TOUCHING BOTTLES. GAVIN MAKES A NOISE WITH EACH BOTTLE, LIKE SHE'S PLAYING AN INSTRUMENT.

GAVIN

Stop. In a few years, ooh, stop, the re-sale value, ah-- Uhgshgno! Sally!

FINALLY, GAVIN MOVES HER AWAY FROM THE CABINET.

GAVIN (CONT'D)

It's time to grow up. Remember we
talked about "The Cut-Off?" "The Cut-
Off" is age 27.

BACK TO:

24 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

24

AS THEY WERE.

SALLY

The Cut-off is not 27 years old!

TODD

Totally! Look at Goldie Hawn!

SALLY

She is in her 60s and she still wears...

SALLY/TODD

White leather pants!

SALLY AND TODD HIGH-FIVE.

DANNY

I mean, yeah, I made partner at the
law firm when I was 27, but everyone's
on a different schedule, right?

SALLY

Exactly! Okay, good talk, boys. Can
I dump my stuff in the guest room?

TODD

Yeah. About that...

SALLY FLINGS OPEN THE DOOR TO THE GUEST ROOM...

CUT TO:

25 INT. NURSERY - NIGHT

25

...THAT IS NOW A BABY NURSERY. A BEAT.

SALLY

(REALIZING) Oh my god...AHHHHHH!

SALLY JUMPS UP AND DOWN AND HUGS THEM.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Details! Details!

DANNY

It's a girl in Delaware...eight and a
half months pregnant. She saw our ad
on the open adoption website, we met
her a few weeks ago, and...

DANNY SHOWS SALLY A PIC OF AN ULTRASOUND.

SALLY

Oh, you're gonna be daddies! And I'm
gonna be the coolest aunt!

TODD

(LAUGHS) Yeah, you are!

SALLY

We're doing this! I love you, guys!

SALLY HUGS THEM AGAIN, THEN LOOKS AT THE ULTRASOUND
ONE MORE TIME...AND GETS A LITTLE FORLORN.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

I was so excited for Uncle Danny and
Uncle Todd. But it made me realize...

CUT TO:

26 INT. BAR - NIGHT

26

SALLY HAS A DRINK WITH JULIET.

SALLY

I'll never have kids with Gavin. That's gone. This is hard.

JULIET

(STILTED) I know, sweetie. I'm so sorry you and Gavin are no more.

JULIET'S FACE IS MAKING A STRANGE EXPRESSION. HER NOSTRILS FLARE AND HER LIPS UNDULATE.

SALLY

Juliet. What is your face doing?

JULIET

(STILTED) Oh Sally, what do you mean?

SALLY

Your face. It's doing this:

SALLY MIMICS EXACTLY WHAT JULIET'S FACE IS DOING.

SALLY (CONT'D)

You look...constipated, or about to sneeze-- wait, are you trying not to smile? I'm getting a divorce and you're trying not to smile?!

JULIET

(STILTED) No, my face is making an appropriate frown because this is a horrible situation.

SALLY

Stop it, I know you're happy. Relax
your face and crap out a smile already.

JULIET LETS LOOSE WITH A GIANT GRIN.

JULIET

BYE, Gavin! So long, mean and critical
grouchy Gavin! (ROBOT VOICE) "I'm
Gavin. I'm aerating my wine. I'm
holding a document. I'm weirdly tan
even though it's February!"

SALLY

But what am I gonna do without him?

JULIET

Sally, you weren't really in love.
Gavin made you feel trapped and small.
Plus, how many of our nights out were
ruined because, oh no, it's 3 AM, Sally
has to go home early to GAAVIN! Now
we can finally start to really go out!

SALLY

We haven't really been going out?

JULIET

Not even remotely! What am I supposed
to do with myself from 3 to 8 A.M?

SALLY

Sleep?

JULIET

(TRULY BAFFLED) What? (BEAT) Sally,
you need to do it. With a dude. Fast.

SALLY

I broke up with my husband less than
24 hours ago.

JULIET

Break-ups are like kidnappings. The
first forty eight hours are crucial.
You gotta blow up the bridge behind
you! And the only way to do it is by
doing it...with a dude. Fast.

SALLY

(EYE ROLL) I know what's coming...

JULIET

You gotta nail it and bail it.

SALLY

(ON TOP) Absolutely not gonna "nail
it and bail it."

JULIET

Here moi out. I have just the guy...

FLASHBACK TO:

27 INT. JULIET'S OFFICE - DAY - FLASHBACK

27

IN THE TRES CHIC OFFICE OF JULIET'S FASHION WEB-
SITE, SHOOZH.COM, JULIET'S WELL-MEANING, SHY I.T.
GUY, FRANK, UPDATES HER. JULIET'S WEARING A POWER
SUIT AND BIG GLASSES. SHE SIZES FRANK UP.

FRANK

...And I installed a search engine
script, so if...

JULIET FLUFFS HIS HAIR, EXAMINES HIS FACE WITH HER
FINGERS. HE'S CONFUSED. (EVERYTHING ABOUT
SHOOZH.COM AND JULIET IS CONFOUNDING TO FRANK.)

FRANK (CONT'D)

So if girls wanna search for, let's
say...Ugg Boots? The search results
will be your advertisers, please stop
poking my face.

JULIET

Hahaha. Sweet, sweet Frank. I'm the
number one fashion blogger in America
right now due to me blowing the whole
"indigo blue is the new black" thing
wide open. Also for 2014: (GESTURING
AS IF ON A MARQUEE) "JEWEL TONE
FINGERLESS GLOVES." There'll be no
Ugg Boots on Shoozh.com.

FRANK

How do you pronounce it again? Shhoo...

JULIET

Shoozh. Shoozh.com.

JULIET POINTS TO A GIANT WALL LOGO: "SHOOZH.COM"

FRANK

The way it's spelled doesn't at all
correspond with how you say it...

JULIET

Oh sweet, sweet, boring Frank.
Congratulations: you're my new project.
I'm gonna fix you.

FRANK

Sounds like I'm getting neutered.

JULIET

Oh sweetie: It's the exact opposite.

BACK TO:

28 INT. BAR - NIGHT

28

JULIET SMILES AT SALLY.

JULIET

Once I'm done with him, he's gonna be
Mark Wahlberg meets Mark Zuckerberg!
Oh, I'm gonna dress him up all pretty
for you! He used to be a Navy Seal!

SALLY

Really?

JULIET

(SHRUGS) I'm rounding up. He was in
the Navy on some lame sub. But he's
your perfect nail-and-bail!

SALLY

Okay. I'll go on this date. But it's
not gonna be a "nail and bail." It's
gonna be more like a "date and see."

JULIET

There is no such thing as a "date and see." There is only "nail and bail."

SALLY

It's a "date and see."

JULIET

(SNEEZES) "Nail and bail!"

AS THEY CONTINUE THIS BACK AND FORTH:

NARRATOR (V.O.)

This went on for about twenty more minutes, so I'm just gonna skip ahead.

CUT TO:

29 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

29

SALLY GETS READY FOR HER DATE. SHE DRINKS A SWEATY 32-OUNCE SODA SHE SETS DOWN ON THE COFFEE TABLE RIGHT NEXT TO A COASTER. DANNY GLARES AT THIS.

DANNY

It's too soon for this date. Coaster.

DANNY MOVES SALLY'S DRINK ONTO THE COASTER.

TODD

(NODS) "Nail it and bail it." That Juliet knows what she's doing.

DANNY

No, she doesn't! Why does everyone think Juliet knows what she's doing?

SALLY

Don't worry, it's not a nail and bail.

(MORE)

SALLY (CONT'D)

This situation has been downgraded to
a date and see.

TODD

Copy that, sugar.

DANNY

What are either of you talking about?

SALLY

How do I look?

TODD

Um, how about like an angel?! I'm
sorry, did I just die and go to heaven?

DANNY

You will if you keep encouraging this!
Sally, don't do this. You can still
salvage things with Gavin.

SALLY

No, I can't. I didn't tell you the
worst thing he said...

FLASHBACK TO:

30 INT. GAVIN AND SALLY'S APARTMENT - FLASHBACK

30

THE FIGHT RAGES ON. SALLY IS UPSET.

SALLY

How can you talk about ending things?
We were about to start a family...

GAVIN TAKES A DEEP BREATH, PULLS THE TRIGGER:

GAVIN

Sally, I think you'd be a bad mom.

BACK TO:

31 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S LIVING ROOM - BACK TO SCENE 31

TODD GASPS. SALLY SLAMS HER SODA DOWN (NOT ON THE COASTER). ANNOYED, DANNY PUTS IT ON THE COASTER

SALLY

Can you believe he said that?

TODD

What?! I wish you were my mom!

SALLY REALIZES DANNY IS BITING HIS TONGUE.

SALLY

Can you believe he said that? Danny?

SHE MOVES THE SODA OFF THE COASTER ONTO THE WOOD. DANNY PUTS THE DRINK ON THE COASTER. STAND-OFF.

SALLY (CONT'D)

I can feel you thinking it, so if you're gonna say it, just say it...

DANNY

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

SALLY

Say it!

DANNY

(SNAPPING) Fine, I agree with Gavin!

You'd be a bad mom!

SALLY GASPS. SHE AND DANNY STARE EACH OTHER DOWN.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

32 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

32

ON SALLY, BRUISED BUT DEFIANT. **FREEZE FRAME.**

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Hearing my brother say I'd be a bad
mom felt like taking a bullet. But
I'd be damned if I was gonna let him
see how much it hurt...

UNFREEZE. SALLY ADORABLY MELTS, FIGHTING TEARS.

SALLY

(HIGH AND SQUEAKY) Whaaaat?! How
could you say that to me? On the night
I'm about to move on with my life! I
mean, this is the first time I've put
on make-up in days...

TODD

You had on bronzer the other night.

SALLY

That was Taco Bell Border Sauce. I
didn't have a napkin so I just smeared
it around my face till it thinned out.

TODD

Oh. Well, you looked radiant, princess!

DANNY

No, stop coddling her! Sally, if you
ever want to be a mom, act your age.

SALLY

Act my age! You need to act your age!

DANNY

Excuse me?

SALLY

You live like a senior citizen! And
not a fun, feisty movie senior citizen!
A catheter/reverse mortgage commercial
senior citizen! What did you do last
Saturday night? Or should I say last
Saturday late afternoon?

FLASHBACK TO:

33 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 33

DANNY AND TODD PLAYING MAH JONG WITH TWO OTHER VERY
OLD COUPLES FROM THEIR BUILDING. ON THE TABLE IS A
CHEESE-BALL, WHICH DANNY AND TODD ENJOY.

DANNY

Janet, this cheese-ball is literally
everything in this world!

TODD

To die!

WE HEAR A LOUD CLOCK TICKING AS THEY EAT.

BACK TO:

34 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 34

THE FIGHT CONTINUES.

SALLY

You're barely thirty!

(MORE)

SALLY (CONT'D)

Why are you hanging out with the
surviving cast of "It's A Wonderful
Life!"

DANNY

They're our neighbors and they're
fascinating people!

TODD

And Janet's cheese-balls are amazing.

DANNY

Go back to Gavin! He's the only guy
who'll put up with your crap.

SALLY

The only guy?!

DANNY

I forbid you from going on this date.

SALLY

I'm sorry, did you just "forbid" me?

DANNY

Yes. I forbid you.

SALLY STORMS INTO THE GUEST BEDROOM.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Thank god. Coming to her senses.

SALLY (O.S.)

Okay, I'm not going on this date.

SHE RE-ENTERS IN A SKIMPY BANDEAU TOP, SHORT SKIRT.

SALLY (CONT'D)

(RE: OUTFIT) I'm going on this date!

DANNY

(APPALLED) You look like Jenny Ozment.

TODD

Jenny Ozment?

SALLY

Girl from high school. Did it with
the debate coach in a Nissan Sentra.

TODD

Gross. (TORN) Yet just a wee bit hot.

SALLY

I wasn't going to sleep with this guy,
but now that you say Gavin's the "only"
guy who could want me...I'm TOTALLY
gonna sleep with him!

DANNY

(WINCES) Okay, stop--

SALLY

(SMILES) And he's gonna give me the
business. Hard. Hard business.

DANNY

(CRINGES) Seriously, stop...

SALLY

It's gonna be like "50 Shades of Grey"
meets Cirque du Soleil.

(MORE)

SALLY (CONT'D)

We're gonna eat weird foods off each other, put ice on each other's... boobie... nips... yeah I'm really gonna sex it up! Sex-style!

DANNY

(COVERS EARS) Don't tell me that!

SALLY

(STORMING OUT) Too late! It's in your head! Enjoy that image next time you're snacking on Janet's dusty cheese-balls!

CUT TO:

35 INT. BAR - NIGHT

35

SALLY AND JULIET ARE AT THE BAR.

SALLY

Gavin's not the "only" guy who could put up with me! (BEAT) Is he?

JULIET

No! Grandpa Danny better back off: You are not crawling back to Gavin.

SALLY

Oh, I am not. Trust me.

JULIET

I trust you completely. (BEAT) Give me your phone.

SALLY

I'm not gonna call Gavin!

JULIET

Says the sober girl at eight P.M.

SALLY SIGHS, HANDS OVER HER PHONE.

JULIET (CONT'D)

Oh look, there he is!

FRANK ENTERS WEARING A DORKY FLEECE. JULIET SIGHS.

JULIET (CONT'D)

Oh, I told him not to wear that fleece,
it's covering up the cute outfit I put
him in. Frank! Over here!

FRANK JOINS THEM AND JULIET ZIPS OFF HIS FLEECE.
HE'S GOT ON A TIGHT, DEEP V-NECK T-SHIRT, COMPLETE
WITH PEACE SIGN CHOKER AND A LEATHER CUFF.

JULIET (CONT'D)

Frank, Sally. Sally, Frank.

FRANK

(UNCOMFORTABLE IN SHIRT) Hi...

SALLY

Hi.

JULIET

(POINTS) Jon Varvatos T with plunging
V. Subtly coiffed chest hair wisp. A
frosting of rock n' roll man
jewelry...RAWRRRR!

FRANK

I wish this part would stop.

JULIET

(TO SALLY) You know what to do. Bye.

JULIET EXITS.

CUT TO:

36 EXT. BAR / INT. GAVIN AND SALLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 36

THE SECOND SHE'S OUT OF THE BAR, SALLY'S PHONE RINGS.

JULIET

Hello?

GAVIN

Juliet? It's Gavin.

JULIET

Nope.

SHE HANGS UP. HE CALLS BACK. SHE ANSWERS.

JULIET (CONT'D)

Sally's phone, this is her better
judgment speaking...

GAVIN

Juliet, put my wife on the phone.

JULIET

Sally doesn't want to get back together
with you. She's moved on.

GAVIN

Oh really? I know for a fact she loves
me and she can't live without me.

JULIET

(SUSPICIOUS) Where'd you hear that?

FLASHBACK TO:

37 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S LIVING ROOM / GAVIN AND 37
 SALLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A MISCHIEVOUS DANNY'S ON THE PHONE WITH GAVIN, WHO,
BLUETOOTH IN HIS EAR, IS WORKING OUT ON A BOWFLEX.

DANNY

She loves you and she can't live without
you...

GAVIN

She really said that?

DANNY

Yes, she really said that!

CUT TO:

38 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 38

LATER, DANNY'S CLEANING UP. TODD'S ANNOYED.
CHYRON: FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER...

TODD

I can't believe you did that.

DANNY

It's for her own good. I'm nudging
her in the right direction.

TODD

Don't you mean kicking her out of our
apartment as quickly as possible?

DANNY

If the added bonus to saving my sister
from the worst mistake of her life is
rescuing our home from an avalanche of

(MORE)

DANNY (CONT'D)

churro powder (WIPING COUCH) and
(GRABBING SEVERAL CURLING IRONS)
Curling irons (IMMEDIATELY DROPPING
CURLING IRONS) that are blistering-hot
and not-turned off, dammit Sally!

JULIET BURSTS IN. SHE WEARS MIRRORED AVIATORS AND
A MOTORCYCLE JACKET.

JULIET

Danny, as you can see I'm wearing my
Jason Wu leather fringe moto-jacket!
(RIPS OFF GLASSES) Which means I'm
furious!

DANNY

(BEAT) Wait, did you go put on a
special outfit just to yell at me?

JULIET NODS, BAD-ASS.

TODD

(BEAT) I gotta say, I kinda love that.

CUT TO:

39 INT. BAR - NIGHT

39

FRANK SITS IN THE BOOTH, TUGGING AT HIS TIGHT SHIRT.
SALLY'S TRYING REALLY HARD TO BE SEXY. IT'S AWKWARD.

SALLY

So...you were in the military? Mmmmm...

FRANK

The Navy, yeah. I was on a submarine,
actually. For a long time.

SALLY

That's sexy. I bet you have tons of
exciting stories. (WEIRD, FLIRTY LAUGH)

FRANK

Yeah.

VERY LONG BEAT.

FRANK (CONT'D)

(REALIZING) Oh, you wanna hear one?

SALLY

(TOO MUCH) Oh my god, yes, you.

FRANK

There's a lot of 'em. (BEAT) Just
trying to think of a good one. (BEAT)
Ummmmmm...

SALLY

Oh, I'm sorry. Are you distracted by
my sexy...(THEN) This is a weird outfit
isn't it?

FRANK

Yes, that dress, it...(STUMPED) kinda
looks like you're wearing a napkin
from a fancy Indian restaurant.

THIS PAUSES SEXY SALLY.

SALLY

Ok, I'm gonna stop being sexy for a
second. Real talk: Juliet gave me
this outfit.

FRANK

(INDICATING SHIRT) Same here.

SALLY

I've never felt more uncomfortable in
my life.

FRANK

Same here.

THEY LAUGH. TENSION BROKEN.

SALLY

(DOWNS HER DRINK) So I guess Juliet
also told you what this night was about,
right? The nail and bail?

FRANK

The what and what?

SALLY

We're gonna sleep together.

FREEZE ON FRANK.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Most guys in this world would love to
find out at the beginning of a date
that they'll be getting lucky that
night. Frank was not one of them.

UNFREEZE. FRANK IS IMMEDIATELY QUEASY.

FRANK

(STRICKEN) Oh god...

SALLY

(WORRIED) What do you mean oh God?
Is that not something you want to do?

FRANK

Of course it's something I want to do!
I mean (GESTURES TO HER TOP) damn.
But when you just announce it like
that...Look at me, I'm sweating, and
my stomach... Sorry, it's just like
being on a plane about to take off,
and the stewardess comes up and says,
"Oh, by the way, fifteen minutes before
we arrive, the Captain's gonna get
sick and you're gonna have to land the
plane." I don't want to hear that at
the beginning of the flight! Let me
enjoy my meal, watch the movie, marvel
at some Skymall. Now I gotta spend
the whole flight thinking, "Can I land
this plane? How's this plane different
from other planes I've landed? Am I
gonna have to land it more than once?"

SALLY

(RE: FRANK'S HEAD) Wow, there's a lot
going on up there, isn't there?

FRANK

You have no idea.

SALLY

I'm sorry, I'm not usually so forward,
it's just-- Juliet really didn't tell
you what's going on with me?

FRANK

Just that you're really funny. And
beautiful, (SUDDENLY LOUD) WHICH YOU
ARE BOTH OF THOSE THINGS! My stomach
is making weird noises. TALKING LOUD
TO COVER IT UP! NERVOUS ABOUT SLEEPING
WITH YOU! END OF THE NIGHT! Stomach's
done now no it's not. YOU ARE
BEAUTIFUL! WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU?

SALLY

My husband and I split three days ago.

THIS PAUSES HIM.

FRANK

Husband?

CUT TO:

40 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S LIVING ROOM / INT. BAR - 40
NIGHT

JULIET AND DANNY HAVE IT OUT, TODD WATCHES NERVOUSLY.

JULIET

You can't make decisions for Sally!
(BEAT) I'm the only one qualified to
make decisions for Sally!

DANNY

This from a woman who once said she had the key to world peace, and when I asked you what, you said: "Hats."

JULIET

Can't you just take a break from being a big brother, and be on Team Sally for once? Trust me on this. Team Sally's a fun team to be on. We have the best uniforms.

A BEAT.

TODD

Hats do make people happier...

JULIET'S PHONE RINGS.

JULIET

(ANSWERING) Frank. What's up?

BEGIN INTERCUT WITH FRANK IN THE BAR.

FRANK

I just want to thank you for introducing me to Sally. We had a nice time.

JULIET

What?! It's only been like, twenty minutes! You couldn't possibly have nailed and bailed yet! (TROUBLED)
Could you?

FRANK

(COVERING) No. The truth is...

FLASHBACK TO:

41 INT. BAR - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

41

SALLY AND FRANK ARE NOW IN A HEART TO HEART.

FRANK

If you don't mind my asking...why did
you marry him in the first place?

SHE THINKS, THEN LAUGHS AT THE THOUGHT OF IT.

SALLY

He always told me what I was doing
wrong.

FRANK

That's...awful.

SALLY

No, I mean, in a good way. You know
that little voice in your head that
constantly reminds you that you're
screwing everything up?

FRANK

Yeah, it's been screaming at me with a
bullhorn since we sat down.

SALLY

Well, mine doesn't work so well. Most
people realize when they're making a
mess.

(MORE)

SALLY (CONT'D)

I don't realize until it's too late.
Everyone around me's moving forward
with their lives...and I have no idea
what I wanna do with mine yet. That's
why I needed Gavin as my little voice.
He could be critical but...I think he
was just trying to fix me. And the
truth is...maybe I needed it.

FRANK SMILES SYMPATHETICALLY.

FRANK

Maybe we don't need to be "fixed,"
though. Maybe we just need to find
that person who loves us for who we
are.

SALLY SMILES, BUT SHE'S CLEARLY GETTING QUITE SAD.

SALLY

I used to think being in love meant
staying young with someone. But maybe
that's wrong. Maybe it means growing
up with them. What if there really
was only one person in the world capable
of loving me?

FRANK

(FALLING FOR HER) Not possible.

SALLY

(BEAT) I'm sorry, I have to go...

TO FRANK'S SURPRISE, SALLY DASHES OUT.

BACK TO:

42 INT. DANNY AND TODD'S LIVING ROOM / INT. BAR - 42
NIGHT

JULIET LOOKS STRICKEN:

JULIET

She's going back to Gavin. I have to
stop her!

JULIET HANGS UP AND RUNS OUT. DANNY LOOKS STRICKEN:

DANNY

I have to stop her from stopping her!

DANNY RUNS OUT. A BEAT. TODD LOOKS STRICKEN:

TODD

I haven't made up my mind yet but I
don't want to miss this!

TODD RUNS OUT.

CUT TO:

43 EXT. GAVIN AND SALLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 43

GAVIN OPENS HIS DOOR TO FIND A REPENTANT SALLY THERE.

SALLY

Hi...

GAVIN

Hi.

THEY THROW THEIR ARMS AROUND EACH OTHER.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

44 EXT. GAVIN AND SALLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

44

SALLY AND GAVIN ARE COMING OUT THE DOOR. A CAB
PULLS UP. JULIET, DANNY AND TODD ALL HOP OUT.
THEY RUN UP AND BOTH START TALKING SIMULTANEOUSLY.

JULIET

Being single is awesome!
You can have sex with
whoever you want, watch
whatever you want on
TV, and you'll always
have me!

DANNY

Marriage is beautiful,
growing together,
challenging each other,
sharing a life, plus you're
destroying my apartment--

SALLY

Todd?

SALLY IS LOOKING PAST THEM AT TODD WHO STARES AT
HIS PHONE IN TOTAL SHOCK.

TODD

She had the baby. The girl in Delaware.

It's a boy. (BEAT) She's keeping him.

A BEAT AS EVERYONE PROCESSES. DANNY SITS DOWN ON
THE STEPS, DEVASTATED.

DANNY

Damn it.

TODD SITS DOWN NEXT TO HIM. THEY'RE SHAKING. SALLY
SNAPS INTO ACTION.

SALLY

Gavin, go inside, make one tea,
chamomile, slice of lemon, one hot

(MORE)

SALLY (CONT'D)

chocolate, marshmallows, huge shots of
whiskey in both! Go!

DISSOLVE TO:

45 INT. GAVIN AND SALLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

45

FEW MINUTES LATER. DANNY AND TODD SIP FROM MUGS.

SALLY

This is just a setback. That girl
kept that baby because she looked at
it and knew it was her baby. And thank
God she did, because your baby? Your
baby's still out there waiting to be
born. And that's gonna be the luckiest
kid in the whole world.

TODD PUTS HIS HEAD ON SALLY'S SHOULDER. SHE SMOOTHES
HIS HAIR. DANNY LOOKS AT HER, REALIZING SOMETHING:

DANNY

Holy crap, Sally. You're gonna be a
great mom.

SALLY IS TOUCHED. A BEAT. DANNY TURNS TO GAVIN.

DANNY (CONT'D)

(TRYING TO BE TOUGH) Hey. Numbnuts.
You think you can do better than Sally
Javits? Is that what you think, guy?

TODD

(LEANS IN TO GAVIN) Be a peach and
pretend this is even remotely scary.

SALLY

Danny--

JULIET

Shh! I wanna see where Danny's going
with this...

DANNY

Sally, I've had it up to here with
this buttface not appreciating the
fact that you are a princess angel
muffin! I forbid you from getting
back together with him!

SALLY POSITIVELY GLOWS.

SALLY

Wow! This is so awesome!

SHE KISSES HER BROTHER.

SALLY (CONT'D)

And totally unnecessary.

DANNY

Huh?

FLASHBACK TO:

46 INT. GAVIN AND SALLY'S KITCHEN - NIGHT - FLASHBACK 46

GAVIN AND SALLY HUG, AS SEEN EARLIER.

SALLY

Let's celebrate! Open some champagne!

SHE GOES TO THE WINE FRIDGE, REACHES FOR A BOTTLE.

GAVIN

Ooh, yeah, that's an '82 Pol Roger.
Kinda want to hold onto that one. For
re-sale. Or a special occasion.

SALLY

You just reunited with your wife, that's
not a "special occasion?" We deserve
something classy! Here, I'll go grab
my champagne-opening sword!

GAVIN

Sally. Come on.

SALLY STOPS, THINKS FOR A BEAT.

SALLY

This...isn't gonna work, is it?

OFF GAVIN, UNABLE TO DISAGREE...

BACK TO:

47 INT. GAVIN AND SALLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

47

THE OTHERS TAKE THIS IN...

SALLY

We've decided we're gonna call it a
day on the whole being married thing.

JULIET STARTS TRYING NOT TO SMILE AGAIN.

JULIET

(STILTED) Oh no! That's terrible are
you sure this is what you want?

SALLY

Juliet, please, you're gonna blow a
face muscle, just smile already.

JULIET GIVES IN TO A GIANT GRIN. THEY HUG.

DANNY

You know what? Let's go to the bar.

SALLY

On a school night? What about acting
your age?

DANNY

(SHRUGS) I'm barely thirty.

JULIET, DANNY AND TODD EXIT. SALLY TURNS TO GAVIN.

GAVIN

You're sure you're okay with this?

SALLY

I am. You?

HE NODS. THEY HUG. SALLY EXITS.

CUT TO:

48 INT. GAVIN AND SALLY'S KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER 48

GAVIN ENTERS, HE NOTICES THE WINE FRIDGE IS SLIGHTLY
OPEN. HE INVESTIGATES, DISCOVERING THE '82 POL
ROGER IS GONE.

GAVIN

Dammit, Sally!

CUT TO:

49 INT. BAR - NIGHT - A LITTLE LATER 49

USING A LARGE SWORD, SALLY SLICES OPEN THE '82 POL
ROGER. POP! EVERYONE CHEERS.

SALLY

To new beginnings!

ALL

Hear hear!

SALLY RUNS OVER TO THE BAR.

SALLY

Five champagne glasses, please!

FRANK APPEARS NEXT TO SALLY.

FRANK

Hey Sally.

SALLY

Oh! Hey Frank.

FRANK

So I thought of a good submarine story.

No spoilers, but it involves a giant
exploding whale carcass full of rotting
cod. Can I tell you about it over
dinner? Anything but seafood?

SALLY

Frank, listen. You seem so sweet,
but... is it okay if it's just
friendship for you and me?

FRANK SMILES.

FRANK

Friends it is. Lemme help with those.

HE TAKES THE GLASSES. SALLY WATCHES HIM GO.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

And that, kids, is the story of how I
met your Uncle Frank.

AS SALLY REJOINS FRANK AND THE GANG AT THE BOOTH...

FADE TO BLACK.