

HITCHED

("PILOT")

by

Josh Schwartz & Matt Miller

January 14, 2010

COLD OPEN

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

CLOSE ON -- TWO WEDDING RINGS, INTERTWINED. PULL BACK TO REVEAL -- THEY BELONG TO RACHEL AND BRETT, BOTH 26 AND VERY MUCH IN LOVE. ON THEIR WAY BACK FROM THEIR HONEYMOON. THEY HOLD HANDS, EACH WITH A GLASS OF CHAMPAGNE.

RACHEL

(RAISES HER GLASS) To us.

BRETT

(RAISES HIS GLASS) Mr. and Mrs.

Applebaum. (THEY CLINK) I'm aware, by the way, you downgraded in the last name department.

RACHEL

Small price to pay for a lifetime with you.

HE BEAMS. THEY KISS. SETTLE IN TO THEIR SEATS. STARE STRAIGHT AHEAD FOR A BEAT. THEN --

BRETT

Drachma for your thoughts? Forgot to exchange them back into dollars...

RACHEL

Nothing really. Just was thinking how I married a great guy and how much I'd love to have four kids - two naturally, and adopt two. That way no one feels left out.

BRETT

Wow. You thought all that in the four seconds we weren't speaking?

RACHEL

I move fast. What about you?

BRETT

Very similar. Definitely as far as procreation goes. With a little more emphasis on the thing we didn't... you know... do on our honeymoon.

RACHEL

(RELIEVED) That's actually exactly what I was thinking.

BRETT

It was no one's fault.

RACHEL

I know. Believe me.

BRETT

There were Acts of God involved.

RACHEL

Totally. It's just... is it weird? An omen of some kind?

BRETT

Not at all. Do you know how many couples go away on their honeymoon and just plow -

RACHEL

Don't say plow.

BRETT

Excuse me. Make love. And how many
of those marriages end in divorce?
We're doing this thing totally
differently. We zig when others zag.

RACHEL

It's a marathon. We've only been
together nine months. We're pacing
ourselves.

BRETT

Exactly.

THEY KISS AGAIN. SIT BACK AGAINST THE SEATS. BEAT. THEN -

BRETT (CONT'D)

(FLOATING IT) Honeymoon's not over
yet...

RACHEL

(IMMEDIATELY) Meet me in the bathroom.

BRETT

Really? Great. Ok. You head off.
I'm gonna grab a little something out
of my bag -- not that I don't love the
kid plan but --

RACHEL

Marathon.

BRETT

Exactly.

RACHEL GOES TO GET UP - STOPS, THINKS --

RACHEL

(HUSHED WHISPER) Wait. Is this
illegal?

BRETT

(EYES STEWARDESS) Depending on what
country we're flying over right now,
it could be viewed as an act of
terror. Is that a problem?

RACHEL

Actually it kinda turns me on.

THEY KISS AGAIN. RACHEL HEADS OFF TO THE BATHROOM. BRETT
EYES THE CABIN. A STEWARDESS REFILLS A DRINK, SHE LOOKS UP
AND SMILES AT BRETT. HE LOOKS AWAY, EYES TO THE FLOOR.

BRETT

Crap. She's onto to us. Be cool...

BRETT OPENS THE OVERHEARD BIN. FUMBLES AROUND IN HIS BAG. A
YOUNG BOY (11) GLARES UP AT HIM.

YOUNG BOY

What are you doing?

BRETT

Nothing. Play your video game. Kill
something.

THE MOTHER STARES DAGGERS AT BRETT.

BRETT (CONT'D)

... Adorable kid. Thinking of having
four ourselves.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

RACHEL FIXES HERSELF UP IN THE MIRROR.

RACHEL

I wish there was a way to dim the
lights. Should we do it on the
counter? Uck. So many germs.

SHE WIPES DOWN THE COUNTER WITH PURELL.

INT. AIRPLANE - CONTINUOUS

THE PLANE LURCHES AND... WHACK! HIS BAG FALLS OUT. CONDOMS
FALL OUT ONTO THE BOY'S LAP.

BRETT

(TO MOTHER) We're not ready to start
the family just yet.

OFF CAMERA -- RACHEL SCREAMS! ALL HEADS TURN TO SEE RACHEL
RACING OUT OF THE BATHROOM. FOLLOWED BY A FAT MAN.

BRETT (CONT'D)

You okay, what happened?

RACHEL

Someone came in. Where were you?

YOUNG BOY

(HOLDS UP CONDOMS) He was looking for
these.

THE FAT MAN SHYLY HANDS RACHEL HER PANTIES.

FAT GUY

Miss, you left these in there.

RACHEL

(HUMILIATED) Thank you. (COVERING)
Was just feeling a little warm...

THE PASSENGERS AREN'T BUYING IT.

BRETT

(TO PLANE; CONFESSES) We're newlyweds,
okay?!

RACHEL

We're still figuring it out!

RACHEL REALIZES SHE'S STILL HOLDING HER UNDERWEAR. POCKETS
IT QUICKLY. THE PASSENGERS ALL NOD. RETURN TO THEIR
MAGAZINES; LAPTOPS. BRETT AND RACHEL TAKE THEIR SEATS. A
BEAT. THEN:

BRETT

(DOWNPLAYING) Every couple has sex on
an airplane after their honeymoon.
We're doing this thing totally
differently.

RACHEL

You're right. I love you.

BRETT

Love you.

HE TAKES HER HAND. PUSH IN ON -- THEIR RINGS, INTERTWINED.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. BRETT AND RACHEL'S APARTMENT - EVENING

WE OPEN ON BRETT AND RACHEL'S STARTER APARTMENT. SMALL BUT CHARMING. SUDDENLY THE FRONT DOOR IS KICKED OPEN. BRETT IS CARRYING RACHEL IN HIS ARMS.

BRETT

(STRUGGLES TO HOLD HER) Welcome home,
baby.

HE STAGGERS IN, TRYING TO WALK AND CARRY HER. RACHEL WITH A FREE HAND IS ALSO ATTEMPTING TO WHEEL HER SUITCASE BEHIND THEM. IT GETS JAMMED IN THE DOOR, JERKING THEM BACKWARDS.

BRETT (CONT'D)

Leave the bag, ok? I promise I'll get
it in a second. Until the clock
strikes twelve... we're still on our
honeymoon.

RACHEL

But my toiletries are in the suitcase.
After thirty six hours of travel I
smell like something you'd stuff in a
tortilla.

BRETT

(SNIFFS) Now I'm horny and hungry.

BRETT LOWERS ONTO THE SOFA. BEGINS TO PLAYFULLY CLIMB AFTER HER. SHE HOLDS HIM OFF, LAUGHING.

RACHEL

Counter proposal. Marriage is about
compromise.

BRETT

I'm listening.

RACHEL

I believe the bathtub is big enough for two... We could get clean and dirty at the same time. (OFF BRETT - EYES WIDE) Hope you can hold your breath underwater...

BRETT

Are you kidding? I had the record for it at Camp Takajo.

RACHEL

(PLAYFUL) Wow. So many things about you I've yet to learn.

BRETT

I'm serious. My fellow campers believed I was part fish. You should know this in case our children turn out quarter fish.

SHE LAUGHS, CLOSES THE BATHROOM DOOR. HE WHEELS THE SUITCASE TO THE BEDROOM. CLOSES HIS DOOR. A BEAT.

THEN THE FRONT DOOR OPENS. INTO THE SEEMINGLY EMPTY APARTMENT ENTERS THE GREAT JERRY APPLEBAUM, 50S. BRETT'S DAD. HE HOLDS THE KEY AND THEIR CAT (HECTOR).

JERRY

(LOOKING AROUND) Sorry Hector. Looks like your mom and dad aren't back yet.

(THEN HEARS SOMETHING, REALIZES) Uh-oh. Did I leave the tub running?

THE BATHROOM DOOR OPENS. RACHEL EXITS, WRAPPING A TOWEL AROUND HERSELF.

RACHEL

(SEXY) Brett, do you have my loofa--

(SEES JERRY) -- AHFFF!!

BRETT (O.S.)

What's the matter?! Is everything --

SUDDENLY BRETT RACES OUT OF THE BEDROOM. HE IS WEARING NOTHING BUT HIS BOXERS, ONE SOCK, AND A SNORKEL AND MASK.

BRETT (CONT'D)

(SEES JERRY) AHFF!

JERRY

Keeping the honeymoon alive. Like it.

BRETT

What are you doing here, Dad?

JERRY

Your cat. Your keys. You're welcome.

HECTOR LEAPS FROM JERRY'S ARMS AND RUNS TO RACHEL.

RACHEL

Hector! You look so healthy. Well fed. Almost younger. I'm surprised.

JERRY

Animals find me soothing. Good call on the tub. Comfortably fits two.

BRETT AND RACHEL LOOK UP APPALLED.

BRETT

How do you even know that?

JERRY

Took it for a test run last night.
I was in the neighborhood. Well..
her's. It was your landlady.

BRETT

You plowed Mrs. Heditsian?

RACHEL

Honey - don't say plow.

JERRY

I was trying to get you rent control.
(BEAT) Expect to see an increase in
utilities.

BRETT

Okay, Dad. Thanks for coming,
sharing. Violating our home.

RACHEL

And our landlady.

AS BRETT GOES TO USHER JERRY OUT, THE PHONE RINGS.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

I'll get this. (ANSWERS) Hello?

INT. MERCEDES (MOVING) - INTERCUT

RACHEL'S PARENTS, WALLY AND JUDY REYNOLDS, CALL FROM THEIR
CAR. THE EPITOME OF LOVING AND SOLID. AND NOSY.

JUDY

Sweetie, you're alive. I wasn't sure
since you never called.

WALLY

Told her you were fine. Used the flight tracker app on my i-Phone. Saw you touched down fifteen minutes early, little turbulence over the Indian Ocean. Everything okay?

RACHEL

Yeah, Dad. Just a little tired. I'll call you guys tomorrow --

JERRY AT THE DOOR, WITH BRETT, OVERHEARS:

JERRY

That your parents? Tell your mother I said hello. (ASIDE TO BRETT) That's a nicely put together woman. Bodes well.

BACK TO THE CAR -- INTERCUT

WALLY

Who's that? (WITH DISDAIN) Is Jerry there?

JUDY

We didn't know you were having guests.

WALLY

We'll be right over. I wanna see the wedding video!

RACHEL

(COVERS PHONE) They want to come over.

BRETT

(WHISPERS) No! No way.

JERRY

(LOUNGING ON THE COUCH) Why would they want to come over? It's your first night back. That's uncomfortable.

BRETT

Dad, no one should be over. Including you.

BACK TO THE CAR - INTERCUT

WALLY AND JUDY HAVE OVERHEARD THIS.

WALLY

Why doesn't Brett want us over? Jerry gets preferential treatment?

RACHEL

No Dad. We just have plans...

JERRY

With who?

WALLY AND JUDY

With who?

RACHEL

BRETT

My friends, Shari and Robert. My friend, Zarnow.

THEY BOTH LOOK AT EACH OTHER. UH OH. NEED TO COVER. FAST.

RACHEL

All our friends wanted to see us. We're already booked. How about brunch tomorrow?

JERRY

Where you going?

BRETT

(TO HIS DAD, ASIDE) Actually Dad,
we're --

RACHEL

(CUTS HIM OFF, INTO THE PHONE) --
going to a club.

JERRY

Where? The Green Door?

RACHEL

(SURE) Exactly!

JERRY

(SCOFFS) That place is over. Was
there last week. But it's on my way
home. Get dressed, I'll drop ya -

BRETT LOOKS AT RACHEL -- WHAT NOW? RACHEL WAVES HIM ON.

BRETT

Perfect. Thanks, Dad.

RACHEL

(INTO THE PHONE) Gotta go guys. We're
on our way out!

BRETT AND RACHEL SHARE A LOOK -- GUESS THEY'RE GOING...

CUT TO:

INT. THE GREEN DOOR CLUB -- NIGHT

BRETT IS AT THE BAR WITH HIS BEST FRIEND, ZARNOW. ZARNOW'S
IN HIS USUAL UNIFORM - A VINTAGE T-SHIRT (THIS ONE'S FOR **TEEN**
WOLF) A VEST, AND A FEDORA. NEEDLESS TO SAY HE IS SINGLE.

ZARNOW

Can't believe you guys called. Of course I was available, but you look exhausted. Must be physically spent from all that honeymoon sex.

BRETT

Uh-huh. Also, don't discount jet lag.

CUT TO:

INT. GREEN DOOR CLUB - INTERCUT

AT A TABLE NEAR THE BAR, SITS RACHEL WITH HER BEST FRIEND SHARI RATNER AND HER HUSBAND RICHARD. SHARI AND RICHARD HAVE BEEN MARRIED SINCE THEY WERE ZYGOTES. SHARI IS A BALL BUSTER. THE BALLS ARE (OR WERE) RICHARD'S. HE NEVER SPEAKS.

SHARI

So glad you called us. I want to hear everything about your honeymoon. And don't spare any of the tawdry details. We've done it all. Richard is an animal.

RICHARD MEEKLY SIPS HIS DRINK.

RACHEL

Ick. (THEN) Now that we're married it doesn't feel right to kiss and tell...

BACK TO:

THE BAR

ZARNOW GAZES OUT AT THE SCENE AROUND THEM.

ZARNOW

You have any idea how lucky you are to be married?

(MORE)

ZARNOW (CONT'D)

You know how brutal it is for us single guys? Especially those as breathtakingly mediocre as myself.

BRETT

Look, if it makes you any feel better the honeymoon wasn't 100% perfect.

ZARNOW

(SKEPTICAL) What happened... Not enough shrimp at the omelette bar?

BRETT

Let's just say things didn't exactly go as planned...

BACK TO:

THE TABLE

RACHEL

The wedding night I may have had one too many cocktails...

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

RACHEL, STILL WITH VEIL ON, IS ON HER KNEES, OVER THE TOILET. BRETT WATCHES HELPLESSLY. RACHEL LIFTS HER HEAD, SHITFACED.

RACHEL

Do I look pretty?

SUDDENLY SHE LEANS BACK OVER THE BOWL, ABOUT TO BE SICK AS WE-

CUT TO:

INT. SMALL AIRPORT - DAY

BRETT (V.O.)

After thirty six hours of flying three planes, four layovers and five time zones, the airline lost our luggage.

BRETT AND RACHEL SIT SIDE BY SIDE, EXHAUSTED. THEY WATCH THE EMPTY LUGGAGE CAROUSEL SPIN. SHE PUTS HER HEAD ON HIS SHOULDER.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH - DAY

BRETT AND RACHEL LAY SIDE BY SIDE ON CHAISE LOUNGES BY THE BEACH. THEY'RE NAKED.

RACHEL (V.O.)

Luckily we were in Greece where clothing is discouraged.

BRETT IS APPLYING SUNBLOCK.

RACHEL

Make sure you put sun screen... (SHE GESTURES TO HIS PRIVATE AREA)

BRETT

Honey, if there's one thing I know how to do, it's put lotion down there.

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

Unfortunately I didn't take into account the strength of the Grecian sun.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL ROOM - LATER THAT DAY

BRETT IS SPREAD EAGLE ON THE BED. WRITHING IN PAIN. RACHEL APPLIES ALOE.

BRETT

It never occurred to me *they* could get burned.

RACHEL

(LAUGHING) Shush. Just relax...

BRETT

I don't think you can put aloe--
AGHHH!!!

BACK TO:

INT. GREEN DOOR CLUB -- NIGHT

EVERYONE IS NOW SITTING TOGETHER AS THEY HEAR THIS. ZARNOW WINCES. SHARI AND RICHARD REACT AS WELL. RICHARD CROSSES HIS LEGS.

SHARI

So you're saying you haven't done it as husband and wife?

RACHEL

BRETT

Nope.

Not technically.

ZARNOW

What the hell are you doing here? As happy as I am to see you, you should be home plowing --

BRETT

(OFF RACHEL'S LOOK) Dude. Please. A little respect.

SHARI

For once, I agree with Zarnow. You both should be exploring parts of each other usually only seen in an autopsy. Brett, go home and have your wife.

BRETT AND RACHEL SHARE A LOOK -- THEY'RE RIGHT.

CUT TO:

INT. BRETT AND RACHEL'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

BRETT AND RACHEL FALL BACK ONTO THE BED. SWEATY AND POST COITAL. THEY'VE DONE IT! AS THEY LAY SIDE BY SIDE --

RACHEL

That. Was. Worth. It.

BRETT

You liked it? New move I picked up special for my wife.

RACHEL

(OFF HAND) That wasn't new. You've done that before.

BRETT

Um. No... impossible. Since I just read about it in a Portuguese GQ on our second layover home...

RACHEL

(COVERING) Oh, you're right. My bad. It was totally new.

BRETT

(SITS UP, CALMLY) Okay, so you've experienced the move. I guess you've been to Portugal before. That's fine.

RACHEL

(STILL COVERING) No - it was a similar move - but not nearly as exciting. That was the best ever.

BRETT

No doubt. Nailed it on the first try. (THEN) But out of curiosity, who performed the less impressive version?

RACHEL

You don't want to go down this road.

BRETT

Look, we're newlyweds. There's still a lot we don't know about each other.

RACHEL

Fine. Billy Gordon.

BRETT

Good. See, that wasn't so hard.

HARD CUT TO:

INT. BRETT AND RACHEL'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

RACHEL PUTS ON SOME NIGHT CREAMS. BRETT IS BRUSHING HIS TEETH WITH AN ELECTRIC TOOTHBRUSH. HE'S THINKING. HE SPITS.

BRETT

Wasn't there a... William Gordon at our wedding?

RACHEL

(CASUAL) Uh-huh.

BRETT

Gotcha. I believe I hugged him.

RACHEL

You're a welcoming host.

BRETT

I just wasn't aware you had an ex at our wedding.

RACHEL

I keep in touch with them.

BRETT

Them. So there's... others? How many of your exes were at our wedding - enjoying a salmon and puffed pastry.

RACHEL

Table 12.

BRETT

Oh. Huh. Good to know....

HARD CUT TO:

INT. BRETT AND RACHEL'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN

BRETT CLOSES THE REFRIGERATOR DOOR. HANDING RACHEL JARS OF PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY. THEY'RE MAKING SANDWICHES.

BRETT

You had an entire table of exes at our wedding?!

RACHEL

Yes. And their girlfriends and wives.
What is this - an interrogation?

BRETT

(CALMING HIMSELF) No. We're sharing.
What do you want to ask me? Fire
away. Anything. I've got secrets.

RACHEL

(POINTEDLY) Oh I know you do.

BRETT

What is that supposed to mean?

RACHEL

Last week I called you from work. You
answered out of breath. Why?

BRETT

Elevator was out. Had to take the
stairs.

RACHEL

So you said at the time. But when I
asked Mrs. Heditsian she said thirty
four years, elevator's never had a
problem. (BEAT) You were masturbating.

SHE BITES INTO HER SANDWICH. BRETT ALMOST CHOKES ON HIS.

BRETT

Whoa. (BEAT) You know what - let's
not - we don't need to do this. Tell
each other our dirty little secrets.

RACHEL

It's cool. I'm fine with it if you were.

BRETT

(SURPRISED, TAKES A DEEP BREATH) Fine. Yes. I was partaking of the... pleasures of the flesh. My own.

RACHEL

Great. Follow up question: were you thinking about me.

BRETT FREEZES. RACHEL SMILES.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

What's the matter, Applebaum? Water too deep? Thought you were part fish.

BRETT

I don't like this side of you at all...

RACHEL

Sweetie, it's fine. I have secrets. You have secrets. Yours are much more humiliating. I love you no matter what. C'mon Hector.

RACHEL TAKES HER SANDWICH AND A GLASS OF MILK AND HEADS TO THE LIVING ROOM.

BRETT

No matter what, huh? (OFF RACHEL, NODS) Ok. Well, might as well come clean.

BRETT (CONT'D)

Not all of my secrets involve
pleasuring myself...(CONSIDERING)
Though most do. (OFF HER LOOK)
Actually been looking to get this one
off my chest for a while. But now
that we're married, safe room -- the
timing's perfect.

RACHEL

Okay, you've definitely got my
interest. And Hector's.

BRETT

Funny you mention Hector. Or as he
used to be known... Sprout.

RACHEL

What are you talking about? We met
Hector on the same day. In fact, it
was the day we met.

CUT TO:

EXT. ANIMAL SHELTER - CHICAGO STREET - FLASHBACK

NINE MONTHS EARLIER. RACHEL WALKS DOWN THE STREET.

RACHEL (O.S.)

I had just finished Law School finals
and wanted to see if they needed
volunteers at the animal shelter...

RACHEL TRIES THE DOOR OF THE SHELTER. IT'S LOCKED. SUDDENLY
SHE SEES A CARDBOARD BOX. SHE LOOKS INSIDE, EYES WIDE.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Did someone actually abandon this cat
in a box?

RACHEL PULLS HECTOR FROM THE BOX. AS SHE DOES SHE HEARS
VOICE:

BRETT (O.C.)

My God. The humanity.

RACHEL TURNS TO SEE BRETT FOR THE FIRST TIME. HE'S CUTE. BUT
THERE'S STILL THE CAT TO DEAL WITH.

RACHEL

They didn't leave any water.

BRETT

Allow me.

BRETT HEROICALLY PULLS A WATER BOTTLE FROM HIS JACKET. TAKES
THE CAT, SQUIRTING WATER INTO IT'S MOUTH.

RACHEL WATCHES BRETT CRADLING THIS CAT. HE WATCHES HER,
WATCHING HIM. SMILES.

RACHEL

I'm Rachel.

BRETT

Brett.

THEY SHAKE, EYES MEETING. LOVE AT FIRST CAT.

RACHEL (V.O.)

Where in that story does Hector's name
become Sprout?

BACK TO:

INT. BRETT AND RACHEL'S APARTMENT - BACK TO PRESENT DAY

RACHEL IS INCHES FROM BRETT, HOLDING THE CAT BEFORE HIM.

BRETT

Allow me to go back 12 hours earlier
on that fateful day...

CUT TO:

HECTOR BEING OFFERED NOW BY A DIFFERENT GIRL (ANGIE, 20S)

ANGIE

This is Sprout.

INT. BRETT'S OLD APARTMENT - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

REVEAL WE'RE IN BRETT'S OLD APARTMENT. HE STANDS OPPOSITE
HIS GIRLFRIEND, ANGIE. HE IS CONFUSED.

BRETT

Wait. You're breaking up with me and
giving me a cat? Angie --

ANGIE

You're going to need something to take
care of now that I'm --

BRETT

Dumping me?

ANGIE

No! (THEN) Ok, yes. You're a great
guy, Brett. The kind of guy you
marry. And one day some lucky girl
will.

BACK TO:

INT. BRETT AND RACHEL'S APARTMENT -- PRESENT DAY

BRETT

And the next day who do I meet? You!
Pretty good secret, huh?

RACHEL

(NOT AMUSED) I don't even know where to begin. When we first met you told me you were recently out of a relationship.

BRETT

You wouldn't classify twelve hours as recent?

RACHEL

Then you put a cat in a box and left him there?! Just walked away?

BRETT

(COVERS) No, no. Momentarily. Until I was wracked with guilt.

CUT TO:

EXT. ANIMAL SHELTER - CHICAGO STREET - FLASHBACK

BRETT WALKS AWAY FROM THE CAT. THEN STOPS - PATS HIS CHEST.

BRETT

Did I leave my pen in the box?

BRETT TURNS. AND THAT'S WHEN HE SEES... RACHEL. STANDING OVER THE CAT. LOVE NOW IN BRETT'S EYES...

BACK TO:

INT. BRETT AND RACHEL'S APARTMENT -- BACK TO PRESENT

RACHEL

But worst of all... our entire meeting is based on a lie. That's our origin story.

BRETT REALIZES HE'S NOW IN DEEP SHIT...

BRETT

I'm sorry, I thought we were sharing.

RACHEL

You know what we're not sharing -- ?

RACHEL GOES INTO THE BEDROOM. SLAMS THE DOOR. A BEAT.

BRETT

The bed...?

BRETT LOOKS AT HECTOR.

BRETT (CONT'D)

I was in a vulnerable place, buddy.

You knew I was coming back for you.

RACHEL CRACKS OPEN THE DOOR. HECTOR/SPROUT RACES OFF TO BE WITH HER. DOOR SWINGS CLOSED. LEAVING BRETT ALL ALONE.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

FADE IN:

INT. DELI - MORNING

JERRY APPLEBAUM SCANS THE ROWS OF SMOKED FISH AND OTHER SUNDRIES AT THE DELI COUNTER. JERRY WEARS A TRACK SUIT. BRETT WAITS BESIDE HIS FATHER HOLDING A BASKET.

JERRY

So, how's it feel to be married?

BRETT

Well, Dad, tell you the truth--

JERRY

(FLASHES ONE MINUTE SIGN) Hold. (TO DELI MAN) I'd like two pounds of Muenster. Wait. I want them paper thin. Wait. I want to be able to see the hair on my knuckles through it. Commence slicing. (TO BRETT) You were saying?

BRETT

Everything is fine. We're just... I slept on the couch.

JERRY

Already?

BRETT

Its okay. Having some minor growing pains. I was trying to be honest with her about something --

JERRY

Honest? Oh, boy. This is what happens when you get married too young.

BRETT

Too young? I thought you were excited I was getting married. You walked me down the aisle. Gave a beautiful toast.

JERRY

I also went to your little league games even though you couldn't hit worth a crap. It's important to be supportive of your kids.

BRETT

Wait a second, where is this coming from? I thought you loved Rachel.

JERRY

I do. She's a great girl. Problem is she's only one girl. How many women have you been with?

BRETT

Sexually? Dad, this is not the issue.

JERRY

It's the only issue. It means you're too grateful for the sex you are having.

(MORE)

JERRY (CONT'D)

You're powerless to defend yourself. If you want to survive a marriage you have to be a black belt in the ways of women. Prepared for any move they can throw at you. Rachel throws one judo chop, you're on your ass. Which is to be expected considering you've only been with six women.

BRETT

Thanks for the advice Sensei, but we need to get back for brunch and -
(REALIZING) Six women? Hearing it out loud that does seem low.

JERRY

And that's being generous. I never believed the one from camp. (OFF BRETT) Good news is you're lucky to have someone so experienced to train you. Dojo is now open. Lesson one: Ever feel the need to say something honest again? Say it to me.

BRETT

(CONSIDERS; RELENTS) It's five. I never had sex at camp. I lied cause I was embarrassed.

JERRY

You don't have to be embarrassed. I'm your father. That's my job. (TO DELI MAN) Sir, I'd like to smell your cream cheese.

INT. BRETT AND RACHEL'S APARTMENT - DAY

RACHEL AND SHARI ARE PREPPING FOR THE BRUNCH; MAKING COFFEE, SLICING TOMATOES. POOR RICHARD SITS READING THE NEWSPAPER. AS ALWAYS, SILENT. WALLY SCROLLS TROUGH HONEYMOON PHOTOS ON THEIR LAPTOP. JUDY SETS THE TABLE.

RACHEL

(ASIDE TO SHARI)... Why would he lie?
It's how we met. Our origin story.

SHARI

Origin story? What are you the X Men?
(OFF RACHEL) Look, you're just having your first fight. Welcome to married life. At least now you get the make up sex. (LEANS IN) That's where Richard really excels.

RICHARD SLURPS THE END OF A FRAPPACHINO. THEN CHOKES ON IT.

RACHEL

Ick. Ok. Let's not discuss this in front of them.

RACHEL MOTIONS TO HER PARENTS. AS JUDY ENTERS:

JUDY

Honey, where is the good china?

RACHEL

That is the good china, mom.

JUDY

Right. Of course. You went with
this... pattern. Very fun.

WALLY

How much longer are they going to be?
I want to watch the wedding video.

RACHEL

They'll be back soon, Dad. (ASIDE TO
SHARI) Crack open the champagne, I
need to get through this brunch.

WALLY

How come we have to wait? They were
there. They know what happened. They
didn't pay for it.

RACHEL

(TO SHARI, RE: THE CHAMPAGNE) We're
going to need something a little
stronger.

SHARI

You were the Jell-o shot champion of
our Sorority two years running.

JUDY, CLEANING UP, PATS DOWN THE COUCH.

JUDY

Honey, why is there a sheet sticking
out of the couch? Did someone sleep
here last night?

EVERYTHING SCREECHES TO A HALT. ALL EYES ON RACHEL. A BEAT.

SHARI

They had their first fight. (OFF
RACHEL) It's fine. They're married.
They get it.

WALLY IS ON HIS FEET.

WALLY

First fight? You better win. Sets
the tone for the marriage.

JUDY

Tell us everything.

RACHEL

Richard? Could you go to the store?
We're gonna need some Jell-o.

INT. EL TRAIN (MOVING) - DAY

BRETT AND JERRY ARE ON THE TRAIN, NOW JOINED BY ZARNOW.

JERRY

The thing about fighting with women is
- if you win, you lose. And if you
lose, you lose. It's a fixed fight.
So you just have to decide what kind
of loser are you gonna be? A
groveller? A crier? Zarnow?

BRETT

Ok, Dad. Enough. As much as I
appreciate the wisdom your four
marriages have brought you, Rachel and
I are going to do this differently.

JERRY

I hope you enjoy sleeping on the couch.

ZARNOW

You spent the night on the couch?
Does that mean you guys haven't slept together yet?

JERRY

What?! You haven't slept with your wife? So the actual number is four girls?

BEFORE BRETT CAN RESPOND, ZARNOW JUMPS IN:

ZARNOW

You only slept with four girls? And I thought I was pathetic. (POINTS TO HIMSELF) Fourteen...

BRETT

Fourteen?!

ZARNOW

Actually, it was fifteen. I never told you but that girl you slept with at camp? I slept with her too.

BRETT

Could we just get through this brunch, please?

INT. BRETT AND RACHEL'S APARTMENT -- DAY

RACHEL IS NOW SURROUNDED BY HER PARENTS AND SHARI. RICHARD'S IN THE BACKGROUND STIRRING JELL-O.

WALLY

Cat is not the issue. I'm playing past that. Issue is, what else has this kid lied about?

JUDY

Your father is right. Honesty is the most important ingredient for a successful marriage. Your father and I know everything about each other.

SHARI

Richard is an open book. A very sensual romance novel.

RICHARD SMILES. NODS. NOTHING MORE.

RACHEL

Well, we know everything too. Just this one little omission.... I think.

WALLY

How can you be sure? Sweetie, look at the father. Does not bode well -

CUT TO:

EXT. BRETT AND RACHEL'S APARTMENT - DAY

BRETT, JERRY, AND ZARNOW PREPARE TO ENTER THE BUILDING.

JERRY

Ok, when we get in there, let me handle this. You need a professional to smooth things over.

BRETT

Dad - you haven't gotten me a wedding gift yet. How about you give it to me right now: A vow of silence. Until the last bagel is eaten.

JERRY

Nah. I'm still looking. I've got a year.

BRETT HEADS INSIDE. ZARNOW SLOWS JERRY.

ZARNOW

So, Jerry if you're ever going out and need a wing man... I'm available. Maybe I could learn a few things.

JERRY

(EYES HIM UP AND DOWN) I can't put in what God left out. (DEEP BREATH) Let's save this marriage.

CUT TO:

INT. BRETT AND RACHEL'S APARTMENT -- DAY

RACHEL IS STILL SURROUNDED BY HER PARENTS.

RACHEL

Everyone stop! We're just having our first fight. But it's ours. Not yours. So not a word. Quiet. Zip it.

SUDDENLY THE FRONT DOOR OPENS. BRETT, JERRY AND ZARNOW ENTER. RACHEL, SHARI, WALLY, JUDY AND RICHARD LOOK OVER. A BEAT OF ANTICIPATION. AND THEN:

WALLY

(COULDN'T BE FRIENDLIER)
Hello Son-in-law! So good to
see ya!

JUDY

(NICE AS PIE) We're so
excited to be here!

BRETT

(ALL SMILES) Bagels anyone?

RACHEL

(ALL SMILES TOO) Hi, sweetie!

JERRY

Judy, you look sublime. (RE: WALT'S
LOAFERS) Wally, love the tassles.
(TO BRETT) This man - I love this man -
he is single handedly keeping the
loafer alive.

BRETT

(THROUGH CLENCHED SMILE) Ease up, Dad.
(LOOKS AT RACHEL) Hey, I was gonna
make some coffee. Could you help
me... find the filters?

RACHEL

(GETS IT) Yes. That's exactly what we
need...(EYEING HER DAD) More
filtering...

BRETT AND RACHEL MOVE TO THE KITCHEN. A PRIVATE MOMENT AS HE
MAKES COFFEE. THEY ARE QUIET.

BRETT

Listen. I want to talk to you about
last night... the cat, and the lie
slash omission of truth... But not in
front of them.

RACHEL

Agreed. They should know nothing.

BRETT

It's our fight.

RACHEL

Right. And it sets the tone for the entire marriage.

BRETT

Good. I don't want to give your father anymore ammunition not to like me.

RACHEL

He likes you.

BRETT

Aha. You didn't say love.

WALLY

(FROM THE TABLE) Everything okay over there?

RACHEL AND BRETT FORCE SMILES, NOD. THEY HEAD TO THE TABLE, WHERE EVERYONE IS GATHERED.

ZARNOW

Now this is what I call a spread. We should do this every Sunday. As a ritual. We're all family now.

BRETT

Yeah. Great idea. Though technically you're not.

SHARI

Mr. Applebaum, thank you so much for getting all this food. It looks delicious.

JERRY

No problem-o. Gave me and my son an opportunity to catch up on how married life is going.

CLANG! BRETT DROPS HIS KNIFE.

WALLY

And how is married life going?

BRETT

Great! Can I help you with your bagel, Judy?

JUDY

You know, I've never tried any of that type of... breakfast fish before. Almost ashamed to admit it.

WALLY

Why, honey? We're family now. There should be no secrets between us... Honesty is the best policy.

RACHEL

(WARNING) Dad. Ready for some coffee?

BRETT

(ASIDE TO RACHEL) Your Dad's acting strange.

RACHEL

(COVERING) No more than usual.

JERRY

With all due respect, Walter, I believe honesty is over-rated.

BRETT

(WARNING) Save it, Sensei.

WALLY

What a novel approach to marriage. No doubt the result of years of experience. (BIG SMILE) Oh, look who it is! The cat. (POINTEDLY) Hello, Hector.

JUDY

Walter... He loves animals.

BRETT

Since when?

JERRY SCOOPS UP THE CAT.

JERRY

There's my guy. My favorite cat in the world. Wonderful companion.

WALLY

Really...? Cause I find he doesn't always listen so well.

(MORE)

WALLY (CONT'D)

(BEAT, THEN) Almost like he doesn't
know his own name.

CLANG (AGAIN)! BRETT AND RACHEL BOTH DROP THEIR FORKS.
BRETT OPENS HIS MOUTH. BEFORE HE CAN SPEAK--

JERRY

Fine! Enough. You figured it out. I
admit it. I lost the cat! I'm sorry,
okay?

BRETT

RACHEL

What?

Hector?

JERRY (CONT'D)

I was reclining in your tub, and
without getting into specifics, things
were getting steamy, so I opened the
window, and (SNAPS!) like that he was
gone in a flash.

RACHEL

Wait! You lost Hector?

WALLY

(AT BRETT) Don't you mean Sprout?

JERRY

Actually his name is Gustav. Found
him at the pound. Fine Calico stock.
Very grateful for a second chance.
Spittin' image, don't you think?

WALLY

Okay, I've heard enough. What is the deal with this family and cats?!

RACHEL

Dad! This is between me and Brett.

BRETT

Dad! You lost our cat? He's the whole reason we met!

SHARI

Suddenly that's important to you? I'm sorry Brett, but good marriages are about trust and communication.

ZARNOW

Spoken by a woman whose husband doesn't speak.

SHARI

Richard, he's insulted you. Act.

RICHARD SIGHS, STANDS AND HEADS OVER TO THE COUCH. TURNS ON THE TV.

JUDY

(MAKING PEACE) What does everyone think of the china? Isn't it... fun?

RACHEL

Ok, Mom, I get it. You hate my china!

WALLY

After what I've heard today -- maybe it should go back!

BRETT

Nothing is leaving this apartment!

RACHEL

Except all of you.

BRETT

Exactly! We're married. We're entitled to fight as husband and wife, in the privacy of our own home!

ZARNOW

Will someone please tell me what everyone is fighting about?

BRETT AND RACHEL STARE AT ONE ANOTHER. UNSURE.

"DUM DUM DA-DUM!" ALL EYES TURN TO THE TV WHERE RICHARD HAS TURNED ON THE WEDDING VIDEO.

ON SCREEN. BRETT AND RACHEL AT THE ALTAR. A LOVELY OUTDOOR WEDDING. THEY GAZE INTO EACH OTHER'S EYES.

BACK TO OUR GROUP. MOVING TO THE TV TO GET A BETTER LOOK.

JUDY

Oh, sweetie. You look so beautiful.

JERRY

Kid looks handsome too.

SHARI

Richard. Turn this off. It's not appropriate --

SHARI REACHES FOR THE REMOTE. ACCIDENTALLY SKIPS A CHAPTER ON THE DVD.

ON SCREEN. INSIDE THE TENT, PARTY UNDER WAY. JERRY FROM HIS TABLE, ADDRESSES THE CAMERA.

ON CAMERA JERRY

Is the camera on?

BACK TO SCENE -

JERRY

Whoa. Wait. Don't touch that remote.

ON SCREEN - RESUME:

JERRY (CONT'D)

*To my son Brett, and his beautiful
bride Rachel -- I wish you nothing but
luck. I mean I failed four times but
I'm sure you'll last forever. (HE
DRINKS) True love. Rare swallow.
Speaking of exotic fowl... Who's the
Asian bird in the bridal party? I'm
sensing a chemistry.*

BACK TO SCENE -

WALLY

Okay. I think I've seen enough.

AS WALLY REACHES FOR THE REMOTE WE SEE --

ON SCREEN. SOMEWHERE PRIVATE. BRETT FACES THE CAMERA.

BRETT

Rachel's not around. Ok. Cool.

Let's do this -

BACK TO SCENE -

RACHEL

Dad. Put down the remote.

WALLY

But honey -

RACHEL

I'm not asking.

ON SCREEN. BACK WITH BRETT.

BRETT

Alright. I know we said no vows but I kinda wrote these anyway. Hope you're not mad. (PULLS A PAPER FROM HIS JACKET. TRIES TO READ) Unfortunately, Zarnow was a little emotional about the wedding thing and wept on them, so I can no longer read this. I guess I'll have to wing it. (DEEP BREATH) I just want to say I love you, couldn't be more excited we're getting married... And I know we've only been together nine months. But the truth is -- I would've married you after the first day. In fact, two minutes after meeting you I called Zarnow and told him, "I just met the girl I'm gonna marry."

BACK TO SCENE:

ZARNOW

It's true what he said. I was the first call.

ON SCREEN: BRETT CONTINUES HIS VOWS

BRETT

And sure, okay, there's still so much we don't know about each other. But that's what excites me the most. Having the rest of my life to get to know you. The girl I love. Now I better get back to the dance floor. My Dad is trying to goose your mom.

BACK TO SCENE:

JERRY

What? It's how I dance. My father was a quarter Latin.

WALLY

Brett, I have to admit. That was a very charming speech. I may have been wrong --

WALLY TURNS TO BRETT AND RACHEL. BUT THEY'RE GONE.

WALLY (CONT'D)

Where'd they go?

INT. BRETT AND RACHEL'S BATHROOM - DAY

BRETT LOCKS THE DOOR. TURNS TO RACHEL.

BRETT

Ok. Let's do this. Put it all on the table.

RACHEL

No holds barred. What've you got?

A BEAT. THEN, THE TRUTH:

BRETT

What are we fighting about again?

RACHEL

I have no idea. (BEAT) But I win.

SHE KISSES HIM. THEN PULLS BACK:

BRETT

(RE: RACHEL IN HIS ARMS) From where
I'm standing, I'd say I won.

RACHEL

Smooth. Very smooth.

SUDDENLY THERE IS A MEOWING.

BRETT

Gustav, quiet.

RACHEL

That's not Gustav. He's right here.

THEY BOTH TURN TO THE WINDOW WHERE A CAT SITS, WATCHING.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

I think it's Hector!

BRETT OPENS THE WINDOW. BRINGS HIM IN. RACHEL SCOOPS UP
GUSTAV.

BRETT

He came back! I knew he'd forgive me.

RACHEL

So what do we do... keep both of them?

BRETT

I guess. Maybe we let Hector go back
to Gustav and Sprout can stay Hector.

RACHEL

Works for me. (TO THE CATS) Hector -
meet your brother. (TURNS TO BRETT)
Look at this. It's our family.

BRETT

An entirely different one from the
lunatics on the other side of that
door.

SUDDENLY THERE'S A KNOCKING ON THE DOOR. VARIOUS VOICES:

WALLY (O.S.)

Helllooo? Honey? You in there?
(REALLY LOUD) If you can hear me,
we're gonna leave. Give you two some
alone time.

SHARI (O.S.)

Bye Rach. Call me later.

BRETT WAVES RACHEL BACK - AWAY FROM THE DOOR. WAVING HER
TOWARDS THE TUB. AS THEY BOTH CLIMB IN --

ZARNOW (O.S.)

See ya, man. Me and your Dad are
gonna go grab a drink -

JERRY (O.S.)

No. We're not. I have a reputation.

JUDY (O.S.)

I don't understand what they're doing
in there.

JERRY (O.S.)

I've got a pretty good idea...

BRETT PULLS THE CURTAIN BACK IN THE TUB. A BEAT. AND THEN WE HEAR, FROM BEHIND THE SHOWER CURTAIN:

RACHEL (O.S.)

Your dad was right, the tub does fit two.

BRETT (O.S.)

I have to confess, I've never had sex in a bathtub.

RACHEL (O.S.)

Yes, we have in Cabo...

BRETT (O.S.)

Um, no. I've never been to Mexico...

RACHEL (O.S.)

Gotcha. Kidding. See? There's still so much about each other we have to learn.

BRETT (O.S.)

We have the rest of our lives.

Marathon, babe. Lets pace ourselves.

AS THE TWO CATS POP OUT FROM THE TUB, LEAVING BRETT AND RACHEL ALL ALONE.

END OF PILOT