

FRASIER

"Ain't Nobody's Business If 'I Do'"

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REVISED FINAL DRAFT

December 15, 1997

[REDACTED]

FRASIER

"Ain't Nobody's Business If 'I Do'"

#40570-110

ACT ONE

A

FADE IN:

INT. CAFE NERVOSA - DAY - DAY/1
(Roz, Niles, Frasier, Pauly, Daphne)

FRASIER AND NILES SIT, SIPPING COFFEE AND READING THE PAPER. ROZ ENTERS AND RUSHES TO FRASIER'S TABLE, BUMPING INTO PEOPLE ALONG THE WAY.

ROZ

Excuse me. Sorry.

NILES

Is there anything in nature's
universe as graceful as a woman with
child?

FRASIER - "Ain't Nobody's Business If 'I Do'"
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ACT ONE

Scene A (1)
INT. CAFÉ NERVOSA - DAY DAY/1
(Roz, Niles, Frasier, Pauly,
Daphne)

Scene B (9)
INT. FRASIER'S LIVING ROOM - AN NIGHT/2
EVENING SEVERAL DAYS LATER
(Sherry, Martin, Frasier, Niles)

Scene C (17)
INT. CAFÉ NERVOSA - DAY DAY/3
(Roz, Frasier, Diane, Niles,
Mr. Ebersol, Woman)

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

Scene D (25)
INT. FRASIER'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT/3
EVENING, HOURS LATER
(Daphne, Niles, Martin, Frasier)

Scene E (35)
INT. MCGINTY'S - THAT NIGHT NIGHT/3
(Sherry, Martin, Frasier, Woman #2)

Scene H (41)
INT. MCGINTY'S - LATER THAT NIGHT NIGHT/3
(Martin, Sherry, Frasier)

END OF ACT TWO

FRASIER

"Ain't Nobody's Business If 'I Do'"

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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
SHERRY.....MARSHA MASON
PAULY.....MONTÉ RUSSELL
MR. EBERSOL.....TUCKER SMALLWOOD
DIANE.....LINDA KERNS
WOMAN.....HOPE LEVY
WOMAN #2.....IRENE MUZZY

SETS

INT. CAFÉ NERVOSA

INT. FRASIER'S LIVING ROOM

INT. MCGINTY'S

FOR EDUCATIONAL
PURPOSES ONLY

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THE ORIGINAL COPY

ROZ

Shut your trap. Look, I'm avoiding someone -- I want it to look like I've been here for a while. Just talk to me. Tell me a joke or something.

ROZ TAKES HER JACKET OFF AND TOSSES IT UNDER THE TABLE. SHE GRABS FRASIER'S COFFEE AND RECLINES WITH IT, ASSUMING THE STANCE OF SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN AT THE TABLE FOR A WHILE.

FRASIER

All right. I did hear one about Hegel, Descartes, and Kierkegaard on a bus --

ROZ GIVES A FORCED LAUGH AS A POLICEMAN ENTERS AND LOOKS THE ROOM OVER.

FRASIER (CONT'D)

That's not the whole joke, although the anachronism of Hegel riding a bus is certainly comic.

THE POLICEMAN, PAULY, SPOTS ROZ AND WALKS OVER, TAKING OUT HIS TICKET BOOK.

PAULY

Excuse me, ma'am, but I noticed you jaywalked back there.

ROZ

I did?

PAULY

Yes. I'm afraid I'm going to have to write you a citation.

ROZ

Well, okay, I guess I deserve it.
It's just that this bus was pouring
out fumes. I was worried that if I
didn't get off that street corner,
(REVEALING HER PREGNANT STOMACH) I
might be putting the most precious
thing in the world at risk.

THE COP PUTS HIS TICKET BOOK AWAY.

PAULY

Well, I guess I can let you slide
this time. Be more careful, okay?

ROZ

I will, officer. Thank you.

THE POLICEMAN EXITS.

FRASIER

I hope you're proud of yourself.

NILES

She should be. She got out of a
ticket and avoided hearing that Hegel
joke.

FRASIER

Is that something you do often?

ROZ

Hey, it works. You got a problem
with it?

FRASIER

No. If your conscience isn't bothered by lying to a policeman, flouting the law, and tearing at the very fabric of society as we know it, so be it.

ROZ

(RISING) Well, I'm sorry if we can't all adhere to your high civic standards. By the way, the station lawyer called. He got you out of jury duty again.

FRASIER

That's entirely different. He did that because I provide a vital daily service to the station and to the people of Seattle.

ROZ

You still want me to send him those Cuban cigars?

FRASIER

(GESTURING) Go, go, go.

ROZ EXITS.

NILES

Oh, I got your message about the wine club Friday night and yes, I'll be there.

FRASIER

Oh, good. Dad's kicking me out that night so he and Sherry can have a little party. You know, life is truly a circle. I'm letting Dad use my house for his friends to get together, and just a few years ago it was Dad who'd have to leave his house for my parties.

NILES

Yes. If you'd had any parties when we were young that would be filled with irony.

DAPHNE ENTERS, SPOTS FRASIER AND NILES, AND WALKS OVER, EXCITEDLY.

DAPHNE

Oh, thank goodness you're here. I've just got some rather shocking news.

NILES

Daphne, what is it?

DAPHNE

Well, I found a ring in your father's underwear drawer.

FRASIER

What on earth would leave a ring around his underwear drawer?

DAPHNE

*

Not around. In -- an engagement ring
in a jewelry box.

NILES

An engagement ring? Dad must be
about to ask Sherry to marry him. Do
you know what that means?

FRASIER

Yes, we're going to hear what
Mendelssohn's Wedding March sounds
like on the banjo.

NILES

*

It means she's going to be our
mother. What are we going to do?

FRASIER

*

There's nothing we can do. This is
what Dad wants.

NILES

*

What will we even call her?

FRASIER

*

She'll probably want us to call her
Mother. No, too formal. She'll want
Mama. Or Ma.

NILES

Better still. (TRYING IT OUT) Don't
you look nice... Ma.

(MORE)

NILES (CONT'D)

Yes, I'd love another corn dog, Ma.
Off to the roller derby, Ma?

DAPHNE

How typical of you two. Your
father's about to get married, and
all you can think about is how it
will affect you. What about me?

FRASIER

What about you?

DAPHNE

Sherry's never exactly liked me. You
don't think she'll try to make your
father get rid of me, do you?

FRASIER

Of course not. He'd be lost without
you.

DAPHNE

You think so?

NILES

Absolutely. Dad adores you.

DAPHNE REACHES OUT AND SQUEEZES NILES' HAND.

DAPHNE

Oh, thank you.

NILES

He'd never let you go. You're like
the daughter he never had.

(MORE)

NILES (CONT'D)

(IN A REVERIE) Never, ever had. Sad,
isn't it -- never, ever, having
someone?

FRASIER

(ADDING HIS HAND ON TOP OF THEIRS)
But we don't have to worry about
that, Daphne. It's never going to
happen.

ON NILES' REACTION, WE:

FADE OUT.

B

FADE IN:

INT. FRASIER'S LIVING ROOM - AN EVENING SEVERAL DAYS LATER - NIGHT/2

(Sherry, Martin, Frasier, Niles)

SHERRY PREPARES FOR THE PARTY. SHE PUTS DOWN SOME NUTS, THEN INSPECTS A BOWL OF DIP. FRASIER AND NILES PERUSE HER HANDIWORK.

SHERRY

(CALLING TO KITCHEN) Marty, you need to stir the dip more -- it's got whole lumps of soup mix in it.

MARTIN (O.C.)

Sorry.

MARTIN ENTERS FROM THE KITCHEN WITH A SPOON. DURING THE FOLLOWING, HE STIRS THE DIP.

FRASIER

My, my, my. I see we have the cheese logs, erotic fortune cookies and for after dinner, a blooper tape -- "Too Hot For 'Hee-Haw'".

NILES

I see that Martha Stewart Party Book
I gave you really paid off.

SHERRY

Oh this crowd won't go for all that
frou-frou stuff. Get 'em liquored
up, put out some Corn Nuts and they
can go all night.

FRASIER

When you say all night --

MARTIN

(FINISHING STIRRING) Here you go.
Smooth as silk.

SHERRY

Thank you.

NILES

And who will be attending this
shindig?

SHERRY

Just some old friends I've been dying
for Marty to meet. Let's see -- Ray
and Lola Sherwood. I worked with
them in Atlantic City when they had a
knife-throwing act. Oh Marty, try
not to stare at her eye. It makes
her self-conscious. Oh, and Edie's
coming with her new fiancé.

MARTIN

So she finally met him, huh?

SHERRY

Yeah, just this weekend.

NILES

They're engaged and they just met
this weekend?

SHERRY

Well, up until now it was kind of a
pen-pal relationship. See, he's
been... detained the last few years.

FRASIER

Well, you're going to need room for
your Corn Nuts. So why don't I get
this pesky, priceless sculpture out
of here.

FRASIER GRABS THE CHIHULY SCULPTURE AND EXITS TO HIS ROOM.

SHERRY

You know, I never heard back from Vic
and Linda. Marty, did you get a
message?

MARTIN

Nope.

SHERRY

Huh. (PICKING UP PHONE) Maybe they
left word on my machine.

SHERRY DIALS.

MARTIN

(TO NILES) So, what are you two guys
up to tonight?

NILES

Oh, our wine club is having a
vertical tasting of the Opus One.

MARTIN

Well, don't drink too much.

NILES

It's not like that, Dad. You don't
actually drink the wine. You swish
it around and then spit it out.

MARTIN

We all did that at Duke's New Year's
Eve party. 'Course it wasn't wine,
it was egg salad.

FRASIER RE-ENTERS AS SHERRY HANGS UP THE PHONE.

SHERRY

Well, that's weird. I just got a
call from my manager down at
McGinty's. Some guy came in asking
questions about me.

MARTIN

What kind of questions?

SHERRY

Where I used to work, people I used
to date...

(MORE)

SHERRY (CONT'D)

The weirdest part is that my neighbor said that someone's been asking her about me, too.

MARTIN

Sounds like somebody's checking up on you.

SHERRY

You mean like a detective?

MARTIN

No, it's probably just a credit card company or something. I wouldn't worry about it.

SHERRY

Still, it's a little scary. I wish I knew who was doing it.

MARTIN

Forget it, honey. I've been through this before. These private investigators never leave a trail -- it could be anybody.

SHERRY

If you say so.

SHERRY EXITS TO THE KITCHEN.

MARTIN

Which one of you hired him?

FRASIER

That's crazy.

MARTIN

Oh, come on, who else could afford something like that?

FRASIER

I have no idea. But we had nothing to do with this. Dad, do you really think we'd hire someone to spy on Sherry? I'm insulted.

NILES

As am I.

MARTIN

All right. I guess I jumped to the wrong conclusion.

FRASIER

You certainly did.

MARTIN

I'm sorry, boys.

MARTIN TURNS AND STARTS TO HEAD INTO THE KITCHEN.

NILES/FRASIER

It's all right, Dad. / Don't worry about it.

*

MARTIN EXITS INTO THE KITCHEN.

FRASIER

You hired a private detective? How could you?

NILES

I have never been so insulted --

FRASIER

Niles!

NILES

Okay, I'm sorry. I was just looking out for Dad here. I mean, what do we really know about this woman?

FRASIER

We know she makes Dad happy. That's all that matters.

NILES

Is it? Sometimes people do get married before knowing all they should. Remember Cousin Donald? He was married two years before he found out his wife used to be a man.

FRASIER

Well that's a very rare case. First, most people don't have a hidden past. Second, most people have a better eye for detail than cousin Donald. For God's sakes, the woman could pick up a watermelon with one hand.

NILES

I was simply trying to get a little background information.

FRASIER

*

Well, stop it. It's an
unconscionable intrusion. Did you
see how hurt Dad was?

NILES

He did seem pretty upset.

FRASIER

Just call it off, Niles.

NILES

All right. Consider it done. (CHECKS
WATCH) Well, we'd better run.

FRASIER

Yes. (YELLING TO KITCHEN) Goodbye.

MARTIN (O.C.)

Goodbye.

SHERRY (O.C.)

Have a good time, you two. We'll
save you some cake.

FRASIER

Thank you. (THEN SOTTO, TO NILES)
Just listen to that -- how sweet she
is. And to think you're actually
investigating that woman. How about
having a little trust in people?

AS FRASIER AND NILES HEAD FOR THE DOOR, FRASIER SPIES A
SMALL, VALUABLE ORNAMENT ON THE TABLE, THINKS WHAT TO DO
FOR A MOMENT, THEN SLIPS IT IN HIS POCKET.

FADE OUT.

C

FADE IN:

INT. CAFE NERVOSA - DAY - DAY/3

(Roz, Frasier, Diane, Niles, Mr. Ebersol, Woman)

NILES SITS AT A BOOTH WITH A MIDDLE-AGED MAN, MR. EBERSOL.
FRASIER ENTERS AND SPOTS NILES, BUT BEFORE HE CAN MAKE HIS
WAY OVER TO HIM ROZ ENTERS.

ROZ

Quick, is there someone following me?

FRASIER

Not this again.

ROZ

Just look!

FRASIER NOTICES A POLICEWOMAN, DIANE, ENTER.

FRASIER

Why yes, there's Lady Law now.

ROZ

All right, just play ball.

FRASIER

*

Okay, but I'm warning you, if she puts the screws to me, I'll sing like a canary.

ROZ

*

Just let me handle this.

DIANE CROSSES OVER.

DIANE

*

Excuse me ma'am, but I saw you cross against the light. I'm going to have to write you a ticket.

ROZ

I'm sorry about that. It's just so cold out and with all that pollution, (REVEALING PREGNANT STOMACH) I didn't want to expose my unborn child to the elements any longer than I needed to.

DIANE

You're pregnant. I know a little bit about that myself.

DIANE'S JACKET OPENS TO REVEAL HER OWN PREGNANT-LOOKING STOMACH.

ROZ

*

Oh, then you know just what I'm talking about. Society doesn't make it easy for pregnant women, does it?

(MORE)

ROZ (CONT'D)

(PATTING DIANE'S STOMACH) So, when
are you due?

DIANE

I'm not pregnant.

ROZ STARES AT HER HAND RESTING ON DIANE'S STOMACH.

ROZ

That's Roz Doyle. R - O - Z...

DIANE

Why don't we step over here.

DIANE STARTS TO FILL OUT THE TICKET. FRASIER CROSSES
TOWARD NILES.

FRASIER

Niles.

NILES

Hello, Frasier. Can I borrow your
pen?

FRASIER

Certainly.

FRASIER HANDS NILES A PEN. NILES TAKES OUT HIS CHECKBOOK
AND STARTS WRITING A CHECK.

NILES

(TO EBERSOL) I appreciate all your
hard work and am sorry I had to cut
off the investigation in the middle.

MR. EBERSOL

That's all right. People change
their minds all the time.

NILES *

(HANDS HIM CHECK) There you are.

MR. EBERSOL *

Thanks. Goodbye.

MR. EBERSOL EXITS. FRASIER TAKES A SEAT.

FRASIER *

Well then, don't you feel better now?

NILES

Yes, I suppose.

FRASIER *

Oh, just admit it -- I was right on this one. There was no justification for giving in to your baser instincts and prying into Sherry's past.

MR. EBERSOL RE-ENTERS.

MR. EBERSOL

I almost forgot.

MR. EBERSOL HANDS NILES A SEALED ENVELOPE.

MR. EBERSOL (CONT'D)

I wrote up a little report on what I found out so far. That's one interesting lady.

MR. EBERSOL EXITS. NILES PLACES THE ENVELOPE ON THE TABLE IN FRASIER'S VIEW.

NILES

I should have just asked him to drop it in the trash.

(MORE)

NILES (CONT'D)

After all, it's only Dad's happiness
we're concerned with. Sometimes,
Frasier, you're like a beacon,
piercing the fog of my baser
instincts.

A WAITRESS PASSES BY THE TABLE. NILES FLAGS HER DOWN.

NILES (CONT'D)

Oh miss, would you be kind enough to
toss this in the nearest --

NILES OFFERS HER THE ENVELOPE. FRASIER SNATCHES IT BACK.

FRASIER

Give me that! (TO NILES) You've made
your point. (TO WAITRESS) Don't just
stand there. Bring us some cookies
and turn up the lights.

THE WAITRESS CROSSES OFF. FRASIER RIPS OPEN THE ENVELOPE.

FRASIER (CONT'D)

You know I hate myself for doing
this.

NILES

Oh, Frasier, it's for Dad's own good.
Besides, for all we know it could be
nothing but good news and all our
fears will be put to rest.

FRASIER

Yes, I suppose. (SCANNING THE REPORT)
So far, so good.

(MORE)

FRASIER (CONT'D)

High school graduate, almost paid off her Subaru, and, oh -- did you know she's been married before?

NILES

Yes, she mentioned that. To Johnny Dempsey.

FRASIER

There are two others: Steve Higgins and Marc Wallace.

NILES

That's a bit troubling. Three previous marriages.

FRASIER, STILL READING, TURNS A PAGE.

FRASIER

Vincent Mayhew, Milton Mandell, Walt Stewart...

NILES

Just give me the total!

FRASIER

Six. That we know of. You had to go and fire the man before he could finish investigating.

NILES

Six husbands...

FRASIER

She's obviously incapable of staying in a relationship. That certainly doesn't bode well for the marriage.

NILES

On the up-side, it does bode well for Dad getting a "yes" when he proposes. He has a right to know about this.

FRASIER

But we swore to him we had nothing to do with that investigation. We can't tell him now we were lying.

NILES

Well, maybe there's a way to impart this information without explaining how we came by it. You know, just casually drop it into conversation.

FRASIER

And how would that go? "Oh, Dad, are you going to the Sherry ex-husband convention this year?" Besides which, for all we know, Dad could be aware of everything already.

NILES

Well, I think we need to find out.
How would we feel if we let Dad marry
this woman and in a year's time he
was tossed aside like Danny Mitchell?

FRASIER

Who's that?

NILES

Page five. Engaged but never
married.

FRASIER

Right. Well, we just need to find a
subtle way to determine exactly what
Dad knows. That shouldn't be so hard
for two keenly perceptive mental
health professionals, should it? (TO
PASSING WOMAN) Check please.

WOMAN

I don't work here.

FRASIER

(QUICKLY) Of course you don't.

(CALLING OUT) Waitress?

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

D

FADE IN:

INT. FRASIER'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING, HOURS LATER -
NIGHT/3

(Daphne, Niles, Martin, Frasier)

FRASIER RETURNS THE CHIHULY SCULPTURE TO ITS PERCH. NILES
IS SITTING AT THE TABLE WITH DAPHNE.

DAPHNE

Well, here's the damage report from
the party last night. Four food
stains, three broken glasses and
someone stole the dishwashing liquid.

NILES

What kind of animal steals
dishwashing liquid?

MARTIN ENTERS WEARING A JACKET AND TIE.

MARTIN

Hey, boys.

NILES/FRASIER

Oh hi, Dad.

MARTIN

Daph, what do you think about this jacket? Something about it doesn't feel right.

DAPHNE

I think it's nice.

MARTIN STARTS TO TAKE HIS JACKET OFF.

FRASIER

(FOR MARTIN'S BENEFIT) The strangest thing happened to me today. I was speaking with a woman in the cafe, and I mentioned that I'd been married twice before. Her face clouded over as if I'd confessed to some unspeakable sin.

NILES

Makes you wonder what people must go through who've had even more marriages than that. Quite a taboo they face.

DAPHNE

I don't know. It's so common these days --

FRASIER

Shh! (CONTINUING) I suppose it all
hearkens back to the puritanical
streak that still runs through this
country. What do you think, Dad?

MARTIN

I think there's a yakkity-yak streak
that runs through this family.

(THEN) Maybe it's the shirt. You
like this shirt?

DAPHNE

Yes, it's nice.

FRASIER

That might make an interesting
subject for one of my shows, Niles --
the hurdles faced by people who've
had multiple marriages.

NILES

Of course, the hard part would be
rounding up enough people who've been
married a significant number of
times. Do you know anyone?

FRASIER

No, I don't.

DAPHNE

You know, Mrs. Krantz upstairs --

*

FRASIER

Shh! How about you, Dad?

MARTIN

Sure, I know people.

FRASIER

(RELIEVED) Really, you do.

MARTIN

I think I do.

NILES

You think?

MARTIN

Well, maybe I do, maybe I don't. Who
cares? (THEN) Ah, I hate this shirt.
I've gotta go change.

MARTIN EXITS TO HIS BEDROOM.

FRASIER

Well, that was fruitless.

DAPHNE

I'll tell you one thing I'm sure of.

FRASIER

Yes?

THERE'S A BEAT.

DAPHNE

Oh, I'm allowed to talk now, am I?
(THEN) I've never seen your father so
nervous.

(MORE)

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

He's meeting Sherry at McGinty's and I bet he's planning to pop the question.

NILES

Well, that does it, Frasier. We have to just tell him what we found out.

FRASIER

We don't know for sure what he knows.

NILES

For heaven's sake. If she mentioned to him she'd been married six times, don't you think he'd remember?

DAPHNE

Who, Sherry?

MARTIN COMES BACK CARRYING TWO DIFFERENT JACKETS.

MARTIN

I think this shirt'll be okay. Does it look better with this new jacket?

DAPHNE

Yes, it looks nice. Sherry's been married six times?

MARTIN

Who told you that?

DAPHNE

They did.

MARTIN

(TO FRASIER AND NILES) What's this
all about?

FRASIER

Nothing, Dad. You know, I'd love to
see that first shirt with the second
jacket.

MARTIN

Oh, drop it! This all came from that
investigator. You did hire him,
didn't you?

FRASIER

I suppose there's no point in denying
it. Yes, Dad, we did, although the
word "we" is not entirely accurate.

NILES

Frasier, I am shocked that you would
hire --

FRASIER

Shut up, Niles. (TO MARTIN) We were
concerned about you. You see, we
know about the engagement ring.

MARTIN

The ring? Which one of you went
through my drawers?

FRASIER

Well now, pointing fingers won't get us anywhere.

MARTIN

What the hell is wrong with you two?

FRASIER

(POINTING AT DAPHNE) She did it.

MARTIN

It's nice to know I can't trust a single person in this house. Sherry told me about her marriages the first week I was dating her. I didn't think it was any of your business -- just like it's none of your business who I marry or who I don't. Oh, I don't even know why I'm wasting my time talking to you.

FURIOUS, MARTIN GRABS A JACKET AND WALKS OUT.

DAPHNE

See what I get for confiding in you two blabbermouths. The next time I find something interesting in your father's underwear drawer I'm just going to sit on it.

*

NILES

Well, obviously this entire night was a disaster -- and I'm already late for dinner with Maris. (CROSSING TOWARD DOOR) I just can't believe this happened.

FRASIER

Yes. Who would've guessed that something as innocent as spying on a man's girlfriend and rifling his underwear drawer could turn so ugly?

NILES

Well, we can take solace in one thing -- we were able to tell the truth and bear Dad's anger. That's the nice thing about our relationship. We're all adults -- we're able to talk things through, we're not afraid of confrontation --

FRASIER

Stop stalling, Niles. Dad must be on the elevator by now.

NILES STICKS HIS HEAD OUT OF THE DOOR.

NILES

So he is.

NILES EXITS. DAPHNE STARTS TO HANG UP THE COAT THAT MARTIN DIDN'T WEAR.

DAPHNE

Oh, dear. There's something in your
father's jacket.

FRASIER

I don't want to know.

DAPHNE

He forgot the ring. That's going to
be embarrassing for him.

SHE PULLS OUT A RING BOX.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)

I suppose I could bring it down to
him.

FRASIER

Actually, Daphne, I should do that.
It will be an excellent way to show
Dad how much I support his decision
to marry Sherry.

DAPHNE

That would be very nice.

SHE HANDS HIM THE RING.

FRASIER

The only part of this I don't
understand is proposing at McGinty's.
It seems a rather shabby setting.

FRASIER FLIPS OPEN THE RING BOX.

FRASIER (CONT'D)

*

Ah. I guess he was just trying to
match the ring.

*

FADE OUT.

E

FADE IN:

INT. MCGINTY'S - THAT NIGHT - NIGHT/3
(Sherry, Martin, Frasier, Woman #2)

SHERRY, STILL IN HER WORK CLOTHES, AND MARTIN SIT AT AN INTIMATE TABLE AS A WAITRESS SETS DOWN SOME BEERS AND ONION RINGS. SHERRY IS MID-STORY.

SHERRY

Well, I guess she's still not used to spending her birthday by herself.

(IRONICALLY) She has only been divorced for fifteen years. So I said you and I would make a trip up there this spring. You like my sister, right?

MARTIN

Oh yeah, sure.

SHERRY

Oh, now, come on Marty, you can't hold one little embarrassing moment against her. She didn't know you were in there.

MARTIN

I'm not, Sher, I like your sister.

SHERRY

Then what's wrong with you? You're being so quiet.

MARTIN

Well, I guess I got something on my mind.

SHERRY

What is it?

MARTIN

I've been thinking a lot about us, and -- where do you see us going?

SHERRY

Gee, I don't know. I'm just having fun the way we are. You've got your life, I've got mine. No pressure.

MARTIN

That's what I thought you'd say.

SHERRY

Well, is there something wrong with that? Just having fun?

MARTIN

No, but we've been having fun for a long time. Let me ask you this -- where do you see us being in a year? In five years?

SHERRY

I don't know. I try not to think too far ahead.

MARTIN

Maybe I'm different that way. I can't stop thinking that far ahead. Look, Sherry, I guess I realized something about myself. I'd like to be married again, and you know that's nothing you're interested in.

SHERRY

Can you blame me? You know my track record Marty. I've been down that road a lot of times. I've learned the hard way I'm not looking for forever.

MARTIN

Well, I am.

SHERRY

So -- you're breaking up with me?

MARTIN

*

We just want different things here.

I'm sorry, Sherry.

MARTIN TAKES SHERRY'S HAND. IT'S QUIET FOR A BEAT. JUST THEN FRASIER APPEARS IN THE WINDOW. HE SMILES ON WHAT SEEMS TO BE AN IDYLIC PROPOSAL SCENE. FRASIER TRIES TO SIGNAL TO MARTIN, HOLDING UP THE RING BOX. MARTIN DOESN'T SEE HIM.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Jeez, it's hot.

MARTIN PATS DOWN HIS COAT LOOKING FOR SOMETHING. FRASIER POINTS WILDLY TO THE RING. MARTIN TAKES A HANDKERCHIEF OUT OF HIS POCKET TO WIPE HIS FACE BUT DROPS IT ON THE FLOOR. AS MARTIN BENDS DOWN ON ONE KNEE TO GET IT, STILL HOLDING SHERRY'S HAND, FRASIER PANICS AND RUNS IN.

FRASIER

Dad! Fancy running into you. (SOTTO)

Can I see you a second?

MARTIN

Get out of here.

FRASIER

But I have something for you. It might come in handy before you tell Sherry what it is you want to tell her.

SHERRY

He's already told me.

FRASIER

He has? Well, that is wonderful. And may I say, it's about time. I couldn't be more for it.

SHERRY

That's nice to know.

MARTIN

Frasier --

FRASIER

It's not just me, either. Everyone is one hundred percent behind this decision. We're all very excited.

MARTIN

Frasier!

SHERRY

I'm glad to know you're so happy your father is breaking up with me.

FRASIER

Breaking up? I had no idea.

SHERRY

And you actually get paid to help people through their difficult moments?

FRASIER

(BACKING AWAY) I'm mortified. I'm just going to get out of here before I embarrass myself any further. (TO A PASSING WOMAN) Excuse me, Miss -- whatever these people have ordered, it's on me.

WOMAN

I don't work here.

FRASIER

Of course you don't.

EMBARRASSED, FRASIER AWKWARDLY EXITS THE BAR.

DISSOLVE TO:

H

INT. MCGINTY'S - LATER THAT NIGHT - NIGHT/3
(Martin, Sherry, Frasier)

MARTIN AND SHERRY STAND IN THE DOORWAY SAYING GOODBYE.

MARTIN

You sure I can't offer you a ride
home?

SHERRY

Since I drove here and you didn't,
you'd have to drive my car and then
return it to me tomorrow. I think it
might be less awkward if I drove
myself.

MARTIN

If you say so. It's not easy saying
goodbye, is it?

SHERRY

It never gets easier, either -- I should know. Listen, Marty, this is the time where people usually say "Let's stay friends." Then there's a phone call or two, but they never see each other again. I want you to know, I really am still around if you get lonely, or just want to talk.

MARTIN

Thanks.

THEY HUG. SHERRY STARTS TO EXIT.

SHERRY

And when you call, if a man answers, hang up.

THEY SMILE, AND SHERRY EXITS. MARTIN WALKS OVER TO THE BAR AND STARES UP AT THE BASKETBALL GAME ON TV. FRASIER ENTERS AND LOOKS AT HIS DAD FOR A SECOND, THEN MOVES OVER TO JOIN HIM AT THE BAR.

FRASIER

Hi, Dad.

MARTIN CONTINUES TO LOOK AT THE TELEVISION.

FRASIER (CONT'D)

Obviously, the reason I came down here was to give you this.

FRASIER PUTS THE RING BOX ON THE BAR.

FRASIER (CONT'D) *

But obviously I've made another huge, intrusive blunder in a week full of them, and I'm sorry for everything.

IT'S QUIET FOR A BEAT.

FRASIER (CONT'D)

I guess you just don't feel like talking.

MARTIN

Look Frasier, I'm sorry, but sometimes the only thing I really wanna do is sit and watch a game. All right?

FRASIER

Fine, Dad. I can do that.

IT'S QUIET FOR ANOTHER BEAT.

FRASIER (CONT'D) *

So, the Sonics and the Bulls. Boy, that Jordan's awfully good, isn't he? The way he scores those points... and gets the ball back when the other team misses. (THEN) Well, that's just incredible. He made the same impossible shot twice in a row.

MARTIN

That's the instant replay.

FRASIER

Oh.

MARTIN AND FRASIER SIT QUIETLY, AND THEN MARTIN PICKS UP
THE RING BOX.

MARTIN

You know, I've been carrying this
thing around for a month.

FRASIER

Really?

MARTIN

Yeah. By the end of each night I
could never bring myself to pop the
question. Then I finally realized
why -- 'cause I knew what the answer
would be. She didn't want to get
married again.

FRASIER

I'm sorry, Dad.

MARTIN

Who knows, maybe it wouldn't have
worked out between us anyway. Mom's
a pretty tough act to follow. I
never went through anything like this
with her. We knew we were meant to
be together and that was that.

FRASIER

It's hard to find that out there.
I've been looking for a while.

MARTIN

You'll get there. I hope we both do.

MARTIN GIVES FRASIER A SMILE, THEN LOOKS UP AT THE GAME AGAIN. FRASIER JOINS HIM IN WATCHING. IT'S QUIET FOR A BEAT.

MARTIN (CONT'D) *

(RE: GAME) Wow, did you see that?

FRASIER *

You know, Dad, in time you'll --

FRASIER REALIZES THAT MARTIN HAS SAID ALL HE WANTS TO. FRASIER TURNS TO THE TV. *

FRASIER (CONT'D) *

(RE: GAME) That was quite a shot.

MARTIN

Yeah, Payton's been hot lately.

FRASIER

What's the score here, anyway?

MARTIN

The Sonics are down by five. They've still got a chance if they can hold Jordan.

FRASIER

(TO BARTENDER) Can I get a beer here?

MARTIN

We'll take a couple of them.

AS THE FATHER AND SON CONTINUE TO TALK ABOUT BASKETBALL, THE CAMERA PULLS BACK, AND WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO