

THE RELUCTANT SUITOR

BY

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FADE IN:

INT KITCHEN DAY

The small kitchen of a modest, suburban home. DAVID URBANSKI, a man in his mid-thirties, is seated at the kitchen table. EMMA URBANSKI, David's mother, stands at the kitchen sink with a towel in her hand.

 DAVID
 I don't want to get married!

 EMMA
 Who said you should get married?

Emma snatches a plate from the table and wipes it.

 EMMA
 I want you to go to your
 cousin's wedding.

David snatches the plate back out of her hands.

 DAVID
 I haven't used that yet.

Emma reaches for the plate but David puts it on the table out of her immediate reach.

 DAVID
 You want me to take Sue to the
 wedding.

David points an accusing finger at her.

 DAVID
 But what you're really saying is
 that you want me to marry Sue.

Emma lunges for the plate and she and David tug-of-war with it.

 DAVID
 Stop it!

Emma grabs the plate decisively and puts it in the cupboard.

EMMA

Dinner is over!

Emma fixes David with a glare as she wipes the table.

DAVID

You think I'm going to end up
like Uncle Max?

EMMA

(wiping)

If you don't go you'll insult
your cousin.

Emma gathers crumbs.

EMMA

And would it be so bad to take a
nice young lady along with you?

David bends over to tighten the laces on one shoe.

DAVID

I don't like her like that.

Emma pulls a broom from behind the door and sweeps the
floor around David's feet.

EMMA

What did you do last night?

DAVID

(sitting up)

Will you stop that?

EMMA

Just tell me what you did.

DAVID

Nothing! I did nothing.

Emma swats David's legs until he raises them out of her
way.

DAVID

Ma! The floor's clean!

Emma points the broom as if it were a rifle at David.

EMMA

You don't think it would've been nice to take a pretty young lady out to dinner instead?

DAVID

No, I don't.

David carefully puts his hand on the end of the broom and lowers it carefully.

EMMA

She likes you.

Emma pulls the broom free from his hand and presses it against his throat. David grabs at the broom, but Emma leans into it, cutting off David's air.

DAVID

(rasping)

Ma! You're choking me.

EMMA

She likes you, but she won't wait for ever.

DAVID

(choking)

Won't wait for what?

Emma presses harder, and David slides down in his seat, now squirming to get away, his head is pinched against the seat back.

EMMA

You don't want to go to the wedding alone and embarrass me, do you?

DAVID

(desperate)

I'm no good to her dead.

Emma releases her grip and resumes sweeping.

EMMA

Pooh! What good would you be anyway?

David pulls himself up in the seat, rubbing his throat.

DAVID

Did she ever say she likes me?

Emma leans the broom against the refrigerator and wipes the window over the sink with the dish cloth.

EMMA

Whoever says such things?

DAVID

Mom, the window's clean too.

EMMA

You should say something.

DAVID

I'm not interested.
(sticks his tongue
out at Emma's back)
And I'm not going to the
wedding.

Emma throws the cloth backhand into David's face.

EMMA

It's family! You have to go.

David peels the cloth and hands it back to Emma, who begins scrubbing the kitchen counter.

DAVID

I'm sick of you telling me how
to live.

Emma puts down the cloth and faces David. Emma rests one hand on the broom, getting David's attention.

EMMA

Who's telling you how to live?

DAVID

(tentatively)
You don't like me to spend an
evening reading.

Emma picks up the broom. David raises his hands.

DAVID

Okay! It's okay for you to tell me how to live. Maybe I don't know.

Emma points the broom and David leans back, shielding his face and neck with his hands.

EMMA

Fine: You want to be a bookworm, I won't say a word!

Emma slowly lowers the broom.

DAVID

It's just a wedding.

EMMA

There's no harm in taking a girl to a wedding.

DAVID

I'm not saying I won't ever get married.

David bends over to finish tightening the laces on his shoe.

EMMA

So ask her. Ask her!

DAVID

(bent over)

Mom! You're starting to bug me!

Emma hits David in the head with the bristle end of the broom, knocking him to the floor.

EMMA

(leaning down)

Don't take that tone with me!

DAVID

That does it!

David gets up, EXITS the room, and immediately ENTERS again.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I will not be accosted in my own house!

David EXITS, going to his room.

EMMA

(shouting)

David! Don't go!

Emma goes to the doorway but stops short. She sweeps the hallway around her feet.

EMMA

It's a family event.

Emma turns around as if looking for something. She notices the broom in her hands, and resumes sweeping where she stands.

EMMA

You don't want to see the family?

David returns in a jacket carrying a hastily packed duffel bag.

DAVID

Don't bother calling to tell me that you're sick, because I won't come running home!

EMMA

(frustrated)

Go on then.

DAVID

I'm serious! I'm moving out this time!

David EXITS. The SOUND of the DOOR SLAMMING is heard.

EMMA

Wait!

Emma throws aside the broom and hurries to the door.

EMMA

I thought you said you were still hungry!

INT HOTEL FRONT DESK

DAVID stands at the desk, avoiding eye contact with the CLERK. The SOUND of ROCK MUSIC is heard. David looks through the lobby.

DAVID
What's all the commotion.

CLERK
The Alper wedding.

DAVID
(scowling)
Must they be so loud?

The Clerk looks at David curiously.

INT HOTEL ROOM

DAVID sits on the bed reading. The room is dark but for the lamp on the night stand. David SIGHS and sits up, looking around the room absently.

The SOUND of a WOMAN SCREAMING is heard. David goes to the window and looks out.

INT/EXT PARKING LOT

A BRIDESMAID from the wedding is being CHASED by a GROOMSMAN. The Bridesmaid SCREAMS IN JOY as the groomsman catches her by the waist, then scoops her up in his arms, and carries her back to the hotel. They KISS.

INT HOTEL ROOM

DAVID SIGHS as he turns away from the window.

INT HOTEL LOBBY

DAVID meanders through the lobby with his book in his hand. The SOUND of ROCK MUSIC is heard. David approaches the banquet room and peeks through the door.

INT BANQUET ROOM

A WEDDING in progress. There are PEOPLE DANCING, PEOPLE TALKING at tables, PEOPLE DRINKING at the BAR.

DAVID notices the wedding cake top piece, and studies the plastic bride and groom on top of it. David looks up, and scans the room until he sees the

BRIDE AND GROOM

Dancing. They hold each other close and kiss while swaying to the music.

DAVID

is STARTLED by an OLD WOMAN.

OLD WOMAN
Are you Maurice's son?

DAVID
Excuse me?

OLD WOMAN
You look like Maurice. Are you his son?

DAVID
(looking about
anxiously)
No. I'm just a guest.

OLD WOMAN
Good!

The Old Woman grabs David by the arm and drags him into the banquet room towards a GROUP OF PEOPLE.

David shakes free.

DAVID

No! I mean I'm a guest at this hotel.

David turns and goes back to the doorway. The Old Woman goes after him.

OLD WOMAN

Are you single?

David goes out the door into the

LOBBY

The OLD WOMAN catches up and grabs David again.

OLD WOMAN

Are you single?

DAVID

Excuse me?

OLD WOMAN

Come here a minute.

She pulls him along to the banquet room door again, and waves to a YOUNG WOMAN in the CROWD.

OLD WOMAN

That's my granddaughter, Denise. She's just a doll, but very shy.

DAVID

Oh Lord!

OLD WOMAN

I was just thinking, if you're not busy...

The Young Woman approaches them and David pulls free once more.

DAVID

I'm very sorry. I have to make an important phone call.

David EXITS.

INT LOBBY

DAVID hurries out of the banquet room doorway to the lounge.

INT HOTEL LOUNGE

The lounge is crowded but quiet. There is PIANO MUSIC, and a few small groups chatting at tables. DAVID sits alone at the bar, sipping a beer and reading his book.

SUE ENTERS. SUE is in her early thirties. She moves reluctantly to David's side, glancing about nervously.

SUE

Guess who.

David is startled and spills beer on his book.

DAVID

Sue!

SUE

Sorry!

Sue helps wipe, but David pushes her napkin away and wipes it himself.

DAVID

What're you doing here?

SUE

It's not what you think!

DAVID

How did you find me?

SUE

She found a hotel towel in the bottom of your closet.

DAVID

Lovely.

SUE

I swear it's not what you think.

DAVID

Yeah right.

SUE

What does that mean.

DAVID

You and my Mother are plotting
because you're desperate for a
husband.

Sue takes David's beer mug and throws what's left of it
in his face.

David turns to the bartender.

DAVID

Bar towel.

The BARTENDER tosses the towel across David's face.

SUE

Can we get one thing straight?

DAVID

(wiping face)

I can't deal with this.

David heads for the door, leaving his book on the bar.
Sue goes after him.

SUE

Wait!

HOTEL LOBBY

Sue chases David through the lobby, past the banquet
room.

SUE

I have never asked Emma for
anything more than a recipe.

Sue catches David, who turns to face her.

SUE

I do not need help finding a
boyfriend!

DAVID

Yeah, right.

David back steps away from her.

SUE

I'm sorry your mother has these weird fantasies, but I have absolutely no desire to go out with you!

DAVID

Sure.

SUE

In fact, I think you're a big jerk!

The OLD WOMAN, along with an OLD MAN, ENTERS LAUGHING. The Old Woman approaches David and pokes him in the arm.

OLD WOMAN

I see your girlfriend is here!
How nice she looks.

(to Sue)

You're very lucky: he seems nice.

SUE

(bristling)

I am not his girlfriend!

David NODS to the OLD MAN, who NODS in return.

OLD WOMAN

Well my granddaughter would sure like to dance.

The SOUND of the CHICK DANCE starting is heard.

OLD WOMAN

Ah! That chicken dance!

The Old Man WAVES HIS ARMS, CLAPS HIS HANDS, and STOOPS DOWN with the music.

OLD MAN

Emily! Dance!

SUE
Don't you want to go dance with
what's her name?

The Old Man and Old Woman both do the Chick Dance.

David turns to leave again.

SUE
David!

DAVID
(searching)
Where's my book?

David goes back to the

LOUNGE

DAVID retrieves his book from the bar. SUE comes up behind him.

SUE
I came here as a favor for your
mother. You weren't in your
room, so she couldn't call.

DAVID
(rolling his eyes)
Is she sick?

SUE
No!

David turns away from Sue and fans the pages of his wet book.

DAVID
What then?

SUE
Your brother.

David drops the book and looks at Sue.

DAVID
Frank?

SUE

Yes.

DAVID

What about him?

SUE

He's home.

David stands up.

DAVID

With Ma?

SUE

Yes. He got home just a couple of minutes after you left. She asked me to come get you.

DAVID

Oh my God!

David rushes from the room.

SUE

David!

Sue notices David's book on the bar. She picks it up and looks around to see if she is being watched. She looks the book over, then fans the pages, lifting the book close to her face to smell it.

INT KITCHEN DAVID FRANK EMMA MERINA

FRANK, David's younger brother, sits on the counter drinking a beer. He is rough-looking, wearing a T-shirt, jeans, and boots. MERINA, his girlfriend, sits at the kitchen table. She is also rough-looking, sporting tattoos and multiple ear rings. They are both smoking.

DAVID ENTERS and glares at Frank. Emma, who is busy putting away groceries, takes hold of David's arm.

EMMA

Look who's here!
Both my boys are
home!

David squirms free of Emma's grasp.

DAVID
What's the big idea?

FRANK
What?

DAVID
What're you doing here?

Emma steps next to Frank.

EMMA
He's going to the wedding
tomorrow.

FRANK
Can't I visit my own mother?
(to Emma)
Get Merina a beer, will ya' Ma'?

Emma takes a beer from the grocery bag and hands it to Merina, who cracks it open.

MERINA
Thanks.

David grabs the broom from behind the door and points it at Frank.

DAVID
I told you to call before coming
here!

Emma disarms David of the broom.

EMMA
Such nonsense. Look: he's
brought his fiancé all the way
from Arizona!

David notices Merina, and steps close to her, a queer smile on his face.

Merina smiles and blows smoke through her teeth into David's face.

MERINA
We're not engaged.

EMMA

Let me dream a little.

Emma pats Merina on the shoulder, but Merina grabs the full ashtray and hands it to Emma.

MERINA

Thanks.

Emma empties the ash tray as David looks about confused. Frank chugs his beer, and David looks back at Merina.

DAVID

(to Merina)

Arizona?

MERINA

Yeah, we been hanging out, but it's pretty hot. Needed a vacation, you know?

Frank leans over and punches David in the shoulder.

FRANK

See how much my big brother loves me?

DAVID

I suppose Frank hasn't explained everything.

FRANK

What's there to explain?

David turns and glares at Frank.

DAVID

Let's not get into it here.

FRANK

Then why'd you bring it up?

EMMA

Boys! This is a happy time.

David looks about and sees the grocery bags on the counter and table.

DAVID

Ma: you shopped this morning.

EMMA

I needed more stuff.

David goes to a bag and looks inside.

DAVID

(to Frank)

Mom needed a case of beer?

FRANK

Ain't that something?

David shoves Frank. Emma grabs David and gets between them.

DAVID

She's on a fixed income Frank!
Could you at least buy your own
beer.

FRANK

Fine.

(to Emma)

Ma: I'm paying for the beer!

EMMA

No you're not!

DAVID

It's bad enough you buy his
beer, you have to lug it five
blocks from the store.

FRANK

She didn't want to ride the
motorcycle.

EMMA

For heaven's sake stop it.

Merina stands up.

MERINA

I guess I'll go upstairs.

FRANK

Yeah! Get changed. We're going out!

Merina EXITS, going up the stairs. David gapes after her, then turns back to his brother.

DAVID

(whispering)

You brought a woman to whom your not even engaged into this house?

FRANK

Yeah?

EMMA

She's a very nice girl.

DAVID

Like two dogs.

Frank jumps down from the counter.

FRANK

What's that?

DAVID

Nothing.

FRANK

Say it again weasel and I'll knock your teeth out.

David shoves Frank, Frank steps forward into David's face.

DAVID

Your breath reeks!

Emma forces her way between them.

EMMA

Boys! Stop it now!

FRANK

I'm warning you.

DAVID

And I'm warning you!

Frank pushes past and goes up the stairs. David looks at Emma, who scolds him with her look.

EMMA
(motioning to
grocery bags)
Help me put this away.

There is a KNOCK at the side door.

SUE (V.O.)
Hello!

SUE ENTERS

carrying David's book.

SUE
You left in such a hurry you
forgot your book!

David takes the book, avoiding her gaze. DAVID EXITS.

EMMA
Such a klutz!

SUE
So how's the reunion going?

EMMA
Wonderful.

FRANK AND MERINA ENTER

They are dressed in motorcycle leathers. Emma pulls Merina along to meet Sue.

EMMA
Frank, Merina, this is Sue.

SUE
How do you do.

MERINA
You want to go out with us? You
and Davey look like you both
could use a drink.

SUE
I don't think so.

EMMA

Go with them! Maybe you'll meet someone.

SUE

No! Really!

Frank maneuvers past Emma, dragging Merina along.

FRANK

That's cool.

MERINA

We'll see you around.

SUE

Thanks for the offer.

Frank and Merina EXIT. There is the SOUND of a MOTORCYCLE STARTING, and then DRIVING AWAY.

Emma gives Sue an expectant look.

SUE

What?

EMMA

You should've gone with them!

SUE

Three on a motorcycle is bad luck.

INT KITCHEN DAY

EMMA is at the sink washing the breakfast dishes. DAVID is seated at the table paying bills.

FRANK ENTERS carrying something (a carburetor) wrapped in newspapers. He sets it on the table, pushing aside David's paperwork.

DAVID

What in God's name are you doing?

Frank unwraps the bundle, revealing his motorcycle carburetor.

FRANK

It was choking off on the way
home last night.

Frank removes numerous tools from his pockets as he
sits down, and begins disassembling the carb.

DAVID

If you don't mind, I'm trying to
balance Mom's checkbook.

FRANK

(sets down tool)

Why?

DAVID

To reconcile her transactions
with her financial statement.

Frank resumes working on the carb.

FRANK

Nobody really does that.

DAVID

(sets down pencil)

It may surprise you to know that
some people are responsible in
this world.

FRANK

Give me a break.

DAVID

It may be nice to cruise about
like there's nothing in the
world to do, but someone has to
pay the bills.

Frank SCOFFS.

DAVID

(to Emma)

If you want your bills paid,
tell him to leave me alone.

FRANK

(throwing up his
arms)

There's no where else to do it!

EMMA

He's fine right where he is! I like to see my boys work.

DAVID

Ma!

EMMA

As long as he doesn't soak parts in the bathtub, I don't mind.

FRANK

So there.

Emma sits at the table, wringing the dish towel nervously.

EMMA

David: you have to go to the wedding. Frank and Merina are going.

David puts the pencil down in frustration.

DAVID

I'm going to be balancing your accounts all day. I won't have time.

Frank holds up part of the carburetor.

FRANK

(to himself)

This thing is all gummed up.

EMMA

Leave my stupid accounts. They'll be out of balance tomorrow too!

DAVID

Mom...

Frank takes a can of WD-40, SPRAYS the choke, splashing David's paperwork and spraying him in the face.

David jumps up holding his face.

DAVID
I can't see. My eyes!

FRANK
Woops! Sorry!

Emma rushes to David and presses the dish towel into his face!

EMMA
Wipe it!

David holds it there, then pushes it away.

DAVID
Soap! There's soap in my eyes!

David RUNS from the room.

EMMA
So you think he'll go to the wedding?

INT KITCHEN EMMA

Greasy newspaper remains on the table where Frank had been working. Emma is picking up David's paperwork.

DAVID ENTERS

holding a washcloth to one eye.

DAVID
Mom! I wasn't finished.

EMMA
Now you are. I don't want any excuse for missing the wedding.

David grabs the checkbook from Emma.

DAVID
Look! There's oil on it! I knew this would happen.

EMMA
So what's a little oil?

DAVID

For thirty years I get yelled at for putting my elbows on the table. Now Frank can rebuild an engine on it!

EMMA

Listen: tell me you're taking Sue to the wedding.

David gathers up the paperwork in his free arm.

DAVID

I'm not.

EMMA

Either ask that woman out on a date, or move out of my house.

DAVID

I own the house, Ma. You can't make me leave.

EMMA

Fine.

Emma throws down the papers she was holding.

EMMA

Then I'll leave.

Emma goes to the door.

DAVID

You will not.

EMMA

(turning back)

And you better ask her out!

INT EMMA'S BEDROOM

EMMA, dressed in a slip, sits on the edge of her bed putting on makeup using the mirror above her dresser.

She pauses, puts the makeup jar and applicator on the dresser, and puts an ear to the wall to listen.

INT DAVID'S BEDROOM

DAVID is lying on his bed reading.

INT EMMA'S BEDROOM

EMMA is leaning against the wall adjoining David's room.

EMMA

David! Are you getting dressed?

DAVID (V.O.)

No!

The SOUND of a WATER RUNNING is heard.

Emma goes out of the bedroom and crosses the hallway to the bathroom door.

INT BATHROOM DOOR

EMMA KNOCKS on the door.

MERINA (V.O.)

Yeah?

EMMA

(whispering)

Can I talk to you?

MERINA opens the door a crack and peeks out. She recognizes Emma and opens the door, revealing that she is smoking as she puts on makeup.

MERINA

Sorry! I know you said no smoking in the house, but I really needed one.

Emma pushes inside and shuts the door.

INT BATHROOM

EMMA and MERINA. Merina is smoking, and waiting with makeup in hand to find out what Emma wants.

EMMA

I need your help with something,
if you wouldn't mind.

INT DAVID'S ROOM

DAVID is lying on his bed reading. The room is busy with stuffed bookcases and stacks of magazines. The SOUND of a FAINT KNOCKING is heard.

DAVID

(looking to door)

Yes?

A Beat.

David turns back to his book. The SOUND of a FAINT KNOCKING is heard. David sits up.

DAVID

Who's there?

The door opens slowly. A hand (MERINA's) grips the edge and pushes open the door. MERINA ENTERS and closes the door behind her. Merina is wearing an impossibly tight black dress and a black leather jacket.

David's eyes open wide as Merina sits on the edge of his bed.

MERINA

I want you to come tonight.

David gulps.

DAVID

You mean to the wedding
reception?

Merina takes the book from his lap and fans the pages.

MERINA

Yes. I want to have fun.

DAVID
But what about Frank?

MERINA
He's just going to get drunk.
(looks into David's
eyes)
I want to have fun.

DAVID
But...

MERINA
I won't ask you again.

Merina drops the book in David's lap and goes out.

INT PARTY CENTER

DAVID is escorting EMMA through the lobby. David tugs nervously at his collar. Emma beams proudly, smiling at a FAMILY at the banquet doorway.

INT WEDDING RECEPTION BANQUET HALL

The BRIDE and GROOM are receiving guests at the doorway. DAVID and EMMA are just through it, moving past the tables. WEDDING GUESTS sit at tables and mill about.

EMMA
I think your cousin was very
happy to see you.

DAVID
He didn't even remember me.

Emma inspects the table they are passing, filled with GUESTS.

EMMA
Oh good! Assigned seating!

DAVID
Assigned?

EMMA
Do you see our table?

DAVID
(looking around)
Where?

David trips over a chair.

DAVID
(catching up)
Can we go now?

INT BANQUET HALL TABLE

DAVID and EMMA are seated at a table. Emma looks about happily.

EMMA
Look! There's Marcie Zeldna.

DAVID
Is Frank here? I don't see him.

EMMA
I thought she was dead.

DAVID
Have you seen Merina?

A GUEST approaches Emma.

GUEST #1
Emma! You look wonderful!

EMMA
So do you!

GUEST #1
Hello David.

David smiles.

EMMA
Never mind him.

David searches the crowd, and spots MERINA near the bar.

INT BANQUET HALL BAR

DAVID pushes through the CROWD at the bar. MERINA is gathering drinks and fighting her way out.

DAVID

Merina!

Merina smiles at him, but turns away.

DAVID

Wait!

INT BANQUET HALL DANCE FLOOR

The DISC-JOCKEY is setting up his equipment. FRANK is flipping through the DJ's albums, and MERINA leans against the wall, admiring the wedding cake.

DAVID approaches Merina cautiously.

DAVID

Hi! I made it.

MERINA

Congratulations.

DAVID

So...

MERINA

So.

DAVID

Is Frank drunk yet?

David LAUGHS nervously. Merina looks at him blankly.

David's AUNT SYLVIA and UNCLE JOHN, old, shrunken people ENTER.

AUNT SYLVIA

David!

David turns abruptly and blushes. Merina EXITS the frame.

DAVID

What!

AUNT SYLVIA

David! How are you.

Aunt Sylvia pats him on the cheek.

DAVID

Hello Aunt Sylvia.

David leans down and kisses her cheek.

DAVID

Hello Uncle John.

UNCLE JOHN

Hello young fella'.

AUNT SYLVIA

This is your nephew David. David Urbanski.

Uncle John inspects David carefully, then the light of recognition dawns on him. David smiles reassuringly.

UNCLE JOHN

How do you do?

DAVID

Have you met Merina?

David turns to introduce her, but she is gone. He turns around searching. There is only the DJ at his station, sorting albums.

UNCLE JOHN

Who's he looking for?

AUNT SYLVIA

Some mariner.

Uncle John takes David's hand and shakes it.

UNCLE JOHN

Mariner? How do you do.

INT BANQUET HALL TABLE

All the tables are filled with GUESTS. At the HEAD TABLE, the WEDDING PARTY is standing behind their seats, and the Bride and Groom stand off to one side next to the DJ who's holding a microphone.

DJ

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my
pleasure to announce Mr. and
Mrs. Keith Kreft.

The GUESTS APPLAUD as the Bride and Groom approach the head table.

EMMA, DAVID, FRANK, MERINA, UNCLE JOHN, and AUNT SYLVIA are seated at the table. There is an empty seat next to David.

EMMA

(clapping)

I think brides are the most
beautiful women in the world.

DAVID

They all can't be.

AUNT SYLVIA

Yah! She's a beauty all right.

EMMA

So pure and white.

UNCLE JOHN

Who's that?

DAVID

It's just the dress.

SUE ENTERS. Sue moves self-consciously to the empty seat. Emma beams at the sight of her.

SUE

I guess I'm sitting here!

EMMA

Hi!

MERINA

Don't you look pretty!

SUE

Thanks.

David watches in horror as Sue takes the empty seat next to him.

DAVID

What are you doing here?

Sue snatches the name tag above her plate and holds it in front of David's nose.

SUE

I'm an invited guest, see?

DAVID

But how?

EMMA

David! Hush!

SUE

I'm friends with Karen, the bride.

DAVID

Yeah but...

EMMA

Hush!

UNCLE JOHN

What's the matter?

EMMA

Nothing!

UNCLE JOHN

(to David and Sue)

So when are you two getting married?

The SOUND of SPOONS CLAPPING GLASSES is heard. Emma and Merina CLAP their SPOON against their water glass. David and Sue look at each other, then quickly look away at

The BRIDE and GROOM KISSING.

David stares at Merina, who smiles and shrugs at him.

INT BANQUET HALL BAR

DAVID and UNCLE MAX, an overweight, balding man in his sixties, leans against the bar. Uncle Max stares blankly at a distant point, while David searches the crowd. GUESTS are gathered around the bar. The hall is filled with the SOUND of ROCK MUSIC.

UNCLE MAX

Your Mother was always a pain in the ass.

DAVID

She never mentioned.

UNCLE MAX

So were you, come to think of it.

David stretches to look at the dance floor, where FRANK AND MERINA DANCE.

DAVID settles against the bar again and drains his beer glass.

UNCLE MAX

I lived with my mother too, you know. Your grandmother.

DAVID

Oh yeah?

Uncle Max motions for the BARTENDER to refill their glasses.

UNCLE MAX

Your grandmother was a real pain in the ass too!

The BARTENDER refills their glasses. David immediately drinks off most of it.

UNCLE MAX

She never quit nagging me about getting married.

David looks with interest at Uncle Max.

UNCLE MAX

'Max', she'd say. 'You ought to
get married. Take someone out to
dinner', she'd say.

(sighs)

Right up until she died.

Uncle Max drains his beer glass in a single pull, and
belches. He puts a hand on David's shoulder and looks
at him sincerely.

UNCLE MAX

Is it my fault I never met the
right woman?

INT DANCE FLOOR

The CROWD is DANCING the CHICK DANCE.

INT BANQUET HALL BAR

MAX and DAVID staring at the dancers.

INT DANCE FLOOR

SUE approaches the bar, smiling at the people dancing
the Chick Dance.

SUE

David!

Sue shoves past a COUPLE and moves next to DAVID at the
bar. MAX looks up from his drink.

DAVID

What?!

SUE

Hi!

Sue grins stupidly.

SUE

I'm a little drunk!

DAVID
Congratulations.

SUE
I want to dance!

DAVID
So?

SUE
I was hoping you'd be a little
drunk too!

DAVID
Well I'm not.

Sue GIGGLES and reaches for his hand.

SUE
C'mon and dance anyway.

David pulls away, spilling his drink.

DAVID
No!

SUE
I just want to dance.

David gives her a stern look as he mops the spill with
a napkin.

DAVID
I am not drunk, and I will not
dance.

Sue is taken aback.

SUE
Fine. Sorry I bothered you.

SUE WALKS AWAY. David looks around, then takes a step
after her.

DAVID
Sue!

Max grabs David by the arm.

MAX

Let her go!

David looks at Max.

MAX

Dancing is only the beginning,
trust me.

INT BANQUET HALL DANCE FLOOR

The crowd is smaller, more spread out. There is a LOVE SONG playing.

SUE is DANCING with a HANDSOME MAN. FRANK and MERINA are near them, holding each other close and doing a bump and grind to the music.

DAVID watches from a table near the wall as SUE LAUGHS.

Frank CUTS IN on Sue, and the Handsome Man dances with Merina, who draws him close to bump and grind. Frank and Sue LAUGH.

INT BANQUET HALL

DAVID is hustling EMMA towards the door as the SOUND of the HOKEY POKEY is heard.

DJ (V.O.)

You put your left leg in.

EMMA

What's the rush all of a sudden?

DJ (V.O.)

You put your left leg out.

DAVID

I'm leaving!

DJ (V.O.)

You put your left leg in, and
you shake it all about.

Emma sees a FRIEND in the crowd and stops to CHAT.
David SIGHS impatiently.

DJ (V.O.)

Right arm!

David glances back at the

DANCE FLOOR

Where FRANK MERINA SUE and the HANDSOME MAN dance the
HOKEY POKEY.

DJ (V.O.)

You put your right arm in.

EXT BANQUET HALL PARKING LOT NIGHT

DAVID and EMMA are walking to their car. Emma's hands
are full with wrapped cake. David is carrying Emma's
purse and camera.

EMMA

Do you have my purse?

DAVID

Yes.

Emma stops.

EMMA

My camera! I left it under the
table.

David swings the camera by its strap before her.

DAVID

I've got it.

EMMA

You do? Good.

They continue walking.

EMMA

What's the hurry all of a
sudden.

DAVID
I simply want to leave.

They come to their

CAR

and split up as they walk to the doors.

EMMA
(closing rear door)
Did you dance with Sue?

David unlocks the doors, and Emma opens the backdoor to unload the cakes on the backseat. David leans against his open door.

DAVID
No.

EMMA
No? I thought you would drive her home?

DAVID
I'm driving you home, Mom. How could you get home if I took Sue home.

EMMA
I could get home.

DAVID
Yeah, yeah.

EMMA
Why didn't you dance with her?

DAVID
I didn't want to.

Emma's mouth drops open.

EMMA
Why not?

DAVID
Mom: get in the car now!

EMMA

I just don't see the harm in dancing.

DAVID

Can we go home, Ma? Can we just go home?

EMMA

(getting into the car)

I swear you're becoming just like your Uncle Max.

David rolls his eyes as he gets into the car.

INT FRONT ROOM

EMMA totes a suitcase in and sets it down by the door. DAVID follows her in.

EMMA

I told you I'm leaving, and I am.

DAVID

You are not leaving!

David picks up the suitcase and carries it out. EMMA follows him, grabbing the handle in the doorway. They struggle.

EMMA

If you can leave, then I can leave too!

David releases his grip on the suitcase.

DAVID

Where are you going to go?

EMMA

I'll stay with Sue until I can make other arrangements.

DAVID

With Sue?

EMMA

She's my friend.

DAVID

Have you asked Sue if you can stay with her?

EMMA

I know she wouldn't turn an old woman away.

DAVID

Yeah, right.

EMMA

She, at least, cares about what I think.

DAVID

Let me get your bag.

David grabs the suitcase, and carries it out, setting it on the front stoop.

EMMA

I really am going to go!

DAVID

Fine. Go.

EMMA

I can't stay here thinking you'll end up like Max, and I'll end up like my mother.

DAVID

Send Susan my best.

EMMA

We'll hate each other, you and I.

David holds open the front door, and Emma reluctantly passes through. David closes the door, and Emma looks in through the screening.

EMMA

All I'm saying is that you should go out more. Date a woman, any woman!

DAVID

I'll send the rest of your things over just as soon as I pack them up.

David closes the door.

INT SUE'S HOUSE

EMMA struggles through the side door, and into the kitchen. SUE helps her along.

EMMA

I know I shouldn't impose on you, but I don't know what else to do.

SUE

It's all right.

EMMA

I'm an old woman: I can't drive anywhere, and now I can't go back to my own house.

SUE

What we're you fighting about?

EMMA

You!

SUE

Oh my.

EMMA

I just want him to realize how much he loves you!

SUE

You really shouldn't.

EMMA

He's stubborn.

SUE

If he doesn't ask me out, he must not want to see me.

EMMA

Baloney!

Emma drags the suitcase through the kitchen and into the hallway.

SUE

You really are moving in.

EMMA

(looks about the
kitchen)

So which room is mine?

FRONT ROOM

NIGHT

EMMA is seated on the sofa watching TV, rolling her hair up; she is dressed in an old-fashioned house coat. SUE is standing in the doorway, dressed in a bathrobe.

SUE

You'll be comfortable tonight?

EMMA

I really need a firm mattress,
but I'll survive.

SUE

I'm sorry. I don't have a lot of
guests.

EMMA

It's all right. Forget I said
anything.

SUE

Well, good night.

EMMA

Good night. I just pray I can
sleep.

Sue stares at her, then turns and goes into her room.

SUE'S BEDROOM

DAY

The CLOCK-RADIO beside Sue's bed reads six a.m. The SOUND of the ALARM is heard. SUE, asleep in bed, awakes and turns off the alarm. She rises and puts on her robe.

SUE WALKS out of her bedroom, and into the

KITCHEN

EMMA is at the sink washing dishes. She is dressed in the housecoat, wearing a scarf over her curlers.

SUE

Emma?

EMMA

Good morning!

SUE

You weren't up all night?

EMMA

Most of it.

SUE

I'm sorry.

EMMA

I wanted to clean these dishes for you.

SUE

You shouldn't do that.

EMMA

I guess you're too busy.

Sue reaches to take a pan out of Emma's hands.

SUE

Here, let me help.

Emma wrests the pan free.

EMMA

I can finish! It won't take a minute.

SUE

I feel terrible.

EMMA

Don't! It doesn't take that much to stay on top of these things.

Sue shakes her head, and turns to leave.

EMMA

Do you want French toast for breakfast?

SUE

I usually just have coffee.

EMMA

You have to eat something solid! I'll make bacon too.

SUE

I don't have bacon, so...

Emma waves her hand reassuringly.

EMMA

I brought some with me.

SUE

I wish you wouldn't.

EMMA

Don't thank me.

Sue EXITS the kitchen.

KITCHEN

SUE ENTERS dressed in a suit for work. She busies herself with earrings and notices a plate of French toast and bacon on the table.

Sue heaves a SIGH of frustration.

SUE

Emma?

Sue pours herself a coffee and goes to the door.

SUE

Emma? Yoo-hoo!

EMMA (V.O.)

I'm in the basement.

The SOUND of the WASHING MACHINE STARTING is heard.
Sue's eyes widen in horror.

SUE

Oh no!

SUE RUNS DOWNSTAIRS

EMMA is in the BASEMENT, dropping laundry into the washing machine. The washing machine and dryer are both running.

SUE

Emma!

EMMA

How was the bacon?

Sue approaches the washing machine, looking down at the piles of laundry.

SUE

You're washing my blouses?

EMMA

I'll wash everything.

Sue kneels down and retrieves a blouse from the pile of her clothes.

SUE

(reading tag)

One-hundred percent silk. Dry
clean only!

Emma snatches the blouse and stuffs it into the washing machine.

EMMA

Dry cleaning costs a fortune!

Sue lunges for the washing machine.

SUE

So does replacing my wardrobe.

Emma pushes away Sue's hands and closes the washing machine.

EMMA

You want them clean, don't you?

Sue stares with gaping mouth.

EMMA

I don't mind helping you out.

Sue puts a hand to her forehead.

SUE

(mumbling)

Tomorrow I'll be naked.

EMMA

(stuffing the
machine)

What's that?

Sue plods away slowly. Emma suddenly looks up from the wash.

EMMA

(calling)

Maybe David will call you at
work.

Sue pauses at the foot of the stairs.

SUE

Great.

EMMA

Or maybe tonight, you think?

SUE

I may have killed myself by
then, anyway.

EMMA

What was that?

SUE

Nothing.

Emma smiles and waves her hand magnanimously.

EMMA

It's no problem: I love doing
laundry!

Sue smiles politely.

EXT STREET DAY

David's CAR pulls into his driveway, and Sue's CAR
pulls into her driveway across the street. They both
get out of their car.

DAVID pauses to watch as SUE treks up her front steps.

DAVID

(shouting)

How's it going?

Sue pauses and looks back with an unhappy scowl.

SUE

(shouting)

Fine, thanks!

David LAUGHS and walks up the driveway.

EMMA is watching from Sue's FRONT WINDOW, pushing the
curtain aside to make room for her face.

David pauses at the corner of his house and looks back
tenderly at

SUE

as she goes inside her house.

EXT SUE'S HOUSE DAY

EMMA bursts out of the front door. She marches down the drive and across the street, and up the driveway of David's house.

Emma goes up the front steps, and POUNDS on the FRONT DOOR.

INT FRONT ROOM

The room is cluttered with magazines, cereal bowls, and dirty laundry. The SOUND of POUNDING on the FRONT DOOR is heard. DAVID is just coming in and rushes to the

FRONT DOOR

David opens the door, where EMMA waits with anger in her eyes.

DAVID

Ma! Ready to come home?

EMMA

You didn't once even call to see how I was doing.

DAVID

I thought this was for my own good?

Emma pushes past him and comes inside. She surveys the room.

EMMA

It's a pig sty!

DAVID

So?

Emma begins stacking bowls and throwing the laundry into a pile.

EMMA

I could have been dead, for all you cared!

DAVID

I figured if something was wrong, Sue would have mentioned.

EMMA

Sue! How dare you even mention that dear girl's name.

DAVID

Now what?

EMMA

You like her, don't you.

Emma carries the bowls into the kitchen.

DAVID

No!

EMMA (V.O.)

I saw you looking at her just now!

DAVID

What are you talking about?

EMMA RETURNS.

EMMA

You've waited so long, she's got a date with someone else.

DAVID

Who?

EMMA

Sue! With a doctor.

DAVID

A doctor?

EMMA

Or maybe a lawyer.

David looks out the door at Sue's house.

EMMA

That's right: the girl next door is going out with a doctor-lawyer.

David turns away and goes to the

KITCHEN

Emma follows close on his heels. Again Emma surveys the room, which is filthy with dishes and trash.

EMMA

What a mess.

David busies himself at the sink.

EMMA

If she's smart, she'll marry the guy and move away from this dump.

David turns angrily.

DAVID

Can we get something straight? I don't need you to take care of me, and I don't need Susan to do it either.

EMMA

Doesn't look that way to me.

DAVID

I don't need anyone. So why don't you take Frank and Merina over to Susan's as well.

EMMA

Is that right?

DAVID

And leave me in peace.

Emma waves her hands in disgust, and EXITS.

INT/EXT STREET NIGHT

DAVID peeks through his front window as a LINCOLN TOWNCAR pulls into SUE's driveway.

The HANDSOME MAN who danced with Sue at the wedding gets out of the car with a bouquet of flowers and knocks on Sue's door.

SUE opens the door, accepts the flowers and sets them inside the door. Sue KISSES the Handsome Man as she steps outside.

Sue and the Handsome Man get in the car and drive off.

INT FRONT ROOM

DAVID paces the floor. He goes to the front window and peeks through the curtains.

INT/EXT SUE'S HOUSE

Sue's house is quiet and dark.

INT FRONT ROOM

DAVID pushes the curtain back in place and throws himself down on the sofa in frustration.

David covers his face with a pillow.

DAVID
(muffled)
I don't care!

INT FRONT ROOM

DAVID is sprawled on the sofa, staring at the TV. The SOUND of the SIDE DOOR OPENING is heard, and LOUD BUMPS.

David sits up and goes into the

KITCHEN

EMMA ENTERS dragging her suitcase. She looks up at David, and shakes her head in disgust.

DAVID

So you're home?

Emma glares at David, and pushes past him.

DAVID

What's the matter?

David reaches for her.

DAVID

What happened?

Emma stops in the doorway and turns to face David.

EMMA

I'll tell you what happened: Sue had a wonderful time, that's what.

David swallows hard.

DAVID

So?

EMMA

So I give up on the both of you.

Emma turns and EXITS.

INT BEDROOM

EMMA is on all fours dragging a suitcase from under the bed.

DAVID ENTERS and helps her lift it on top of the bed.

DAVID

What are you doing?

EMMA

Packing the rest of my things.

David helps her up.

DAVID

Now what?

EMMA

Don't worry. I won't torment you
the rest of your life.

Emma goes to her dresser drawer and hands a stack of
underwear to David, then grabs a stack for herself.

DAVID

Ma!

Emma opens the case and dumps the underwear inside.

EMMA

I'm going to live with Max. I've
already called him.

Emma takes the underwear from David and throws it in
the case.

DAVID

That doesn't make any sense.

Emma pulls a drawer out and dumps it into the suitcase.

EMMA

I've failed you.

DAVID

No you haven't.

Emma takes an armful of dresses from the closet and
stuffs it into the suitcase.

EMMA

Sue kissed that guy good night
like he was going off to war.

DAVID

(swallowing)

She did?

Emma pauses to reflect.

EMMA

He must be a dentist the way he worked his tongue around her mouth.

DAVID

That doesn't mean anything.

Emma SCOFFS.

EMMA

Max will pick me up, so don't worry about driving me.

DAVID

It's the middle of the night. You can't just up and leave!

EMMA

I can't stay here!

Emma gets on all fours and starts putting pairs of shoes into the case, which spill out onto the bed.

DAVID

Ma stop it! She just met someone is all.

Emma looks up from where she kneels beside the bed.

EMMA

I promised your father I would find you a wife.

DAVID

What?

EMMA

He always thought you were shy, but I didn't see it.

DAVID

But Ma!

EMMA

I'll just be a burden to you.

Emma gets up and closes the case.

EMMA

Maybe with me gone for good...

Emma SIGHS and she snaps the suitcase shut.

The SOUND of a CAR's HORN is heard.

EMMA

That'll be Max.

Emma snatches up the suitcase, and bears it heavily out the door.

David goes to the doorway.

DAVID

Ma!

EMMA (V.O.)

Goodbye David!

INT KITCHEN DAY

FRANK is eating a bowl of cereal at the table while MERINA pours two cups of coffee. The SOUND of BUMPS is heard.

MERINA

What's he doing?

FRANK

Packing up Mom's stuff.

Merina sits at the table and eats a handful of dry cereal from the box.

MERINA

Is he all right?

DAVID ENTERS dragging a cardboard box overflowing with Emma's clothes. He leaves the box in the hallway and looks at Frank and Merina with wild eyes.

MERINA

Hi David!

DAVID

'In revenge and in love woman is
more barbarous than man.'
Friedrich Nietzsche.

David holds himself still with an air of righteous
vulnerability.

Merina stands and glares at David defiantly.

MERINA

Whatever is done from love is
always done beyond good and
evil.

David is shocked. Frank looks at Merina with amused
shock.

DAVID

You've read Nietzsche?

MERINA

How else would I know it?

David smiles absently, leaning against the doorjamb, he
appears bewitched by Merina.

Merina looks at Frank, who scowls at her. Merina sits
down and grabs another handful of cereal from the box.

FRANK

(to David)
Helping Emma pack?

DAVID

Hmm?

David is startled as if he just noticed Frank.

DAVID

She wants to move out, so she'll
need her things.

David EXITS back to Emma's room.

Frank looks to Merina expectantly. Merina shrugs.

MERINA

The book was in the can this
morning.

(shrugs)
I read that one line.

Frank pours another bowl of cereal. Merina TAPS A SPOON nervously against an empty bowl, leaning forward in her seat and looking at the doorway which David just vacated. Frank eats with his face low to the bowl, oblivious.

MERINA
How was your mother when she called?

FRANK
(shrugs)
I don't know.

Frank SLURPS a spoonful of cereal.

FRANK
(while chewing)
She was crying so much...
(swallows)
...I couldn't hear a thing she said.

Merina looks at Frank in amazement. He continues eating.

The SOUND of DAVID CRYING is heard.

Merina intercepts Frank's hand as he reaches for the cereal box.

MERINA
Shh!

FRANK
What?

MERINA
Listen.

The SOUND of DAVID CRYING is LOUDER, more of a WAIL.

Frank and Merina get up and as they start towards the hallway, DAVID ENTERS wearing Emma's WEDDING DRESS. Behind the VEIL, David's eyes are puffy and red as tears stream down his face.

DAVID
(sobbing)
I found it in the closet!

Frank and Merina freeze in shock.

DAVID
She wore this to get married.

MERINA
Yes but...

DAVID
She saved it all these years,
and now she's gone!

Frank takes a cautious step closer.

FRANK
Dave?

DAVID
All she ever wanted was for me
to be happy.

MERINA
That's right David.

Frank takes David by the shoulders and gently sits him
down at the table.

FRANK
Here we go.

DAVID
She must have been beautiful in
it.

FRANK
Actually Dave, I think this was
Dad's wedding dress.

Merina punches Frank in the arm.

INT FRONT ROOM

DAVID is sitting on the sofa, slouched down in a defeated posture, he's wearing only his underwear. FRANK is beside him, offering him a glass of water.

FRANK

Listen, buddy: we're going to see Mom. Okay?

David looks away from him in a pout.

FRANK

Want a little drink?

Frank presses the glass to his lips and pours, dribbling water down David's chest.

FRANK

That's the boy.

David pushes the glass away, spilling water in his lap.

MERINA ENTERS carrying David's clothes, and sets them down on David's lap.

MERINA

How is he?

FRANK

Better.

Frank hands Merina the empty glass, and holds up David's shirt for David to see.

FRANK

Want to get dressed and see Mommy?

MERINA

I think he wants to be left alone.

Frank lowers the shirt.

FRANK

Worst thing in the world for him.

Frank kneels down to slip a pair of shorts over David's feet, and Merina bends over to help pull them up to David's knees.

FRANK

I actually saw this on Maury Povich last week.

David glares at Frank.

DAVID

Oh shut up.

FRANK

It was a panel of aging bachelors who live with their Mother.

MERINA

You sure it wasn't Oprah?

FRANK

I'm sure: Maury was really bonding with them.

David kicks the shorts off of his legs, and pushes Frank away.

DAVID

Leave me alone!

Frank stands up to lecture.

FRANK

Hey! Maury would tell you to confront this thing head on.

DAVID

(face buried in
sofa)

I don't want to!

Frank nods reassuringly to Merina.

FRANK

One of the panelists said the same thing to Maury.

EXT MOTORCYCLE ON STREET

FRANK is driving DAVID, who clings to Frank's waist, along a boulevard.

FRANK

And then Maury takes the microphone into the audience, right?

DAVID

Yeah?

FRANK

And this woman, a real fat woman, says: 'If you think you can only love your mother, why don't you marry an older divorcee?'

DAVID

What'd Maury say?

FRANK

He agreed with her!

INT MAX'S KITCHEN

MAX and FRANK and DAVID are seated at the kitchen table. Max and Frank are drinking beer.

MAX

(whispering)

If you ever want to see your mother alive, get her out of here tonight.

Frank LAUGHS.

MAX

I'm not kidding.

DAVID

She's your sister

Max throws up his arms in frustration.

MAX
She's driving me crazy.

DAVID
She's your sister!

FRANK
She's a pain in the ass!

MAX
I can't even look at a magazine
because of her.

MAX gets up and retrieves a magazine from the trash.

MAX
It's like a prison.

Max hands the magazine to Frank, who holds it up,
showing the PLAYBOY logo on the cover.

MAX
My Mother, God bless her, passes
away, and I'm finally able to
live the way I want to.

Max looks about, pulls a small flask from his pocket,
and takes a swig from it.

MAX
(gasping)
Then you guys kick her out.

DAVID
She left of her own accord.

Max leans down in David's face.

MAX
Don't bullshit me!

EMMA (V.O.)
Max! Who are you talking to?

MAX
(whispering)
She's awake!

Max gathers the beer cans and stuffs them in the trash.
Frank looks around for a place to ditch the magazine.

MAX

Quick! She's coming.

EMMA (V.O.)

I hope you're not watching Maury
Povich again!

Frank throws the Playboy at David, who fumbles with it.

EMMA ENTERS

as David gets hold of the Playboy with the centerfold
open in his lap.

EMMA

What are you two doing here?

Frank rises to greet her, and kisses her on the cheek.

FRANK

Hi Mom.

EMMA

How's my boy?

FRANK

See who I brought?

Frank turns to David. Emma sees the Playboy, and walks
over to David.

David fumbles with the Playboy again, looking to Max
and Frank for help. Emma snatches the Playboy out of
his hands.

DAVID

Hi Mom.

Emma turns on Max and hits him with the Playboy.

EMMA

Smut-monger! No wonder you never
married!

MAX

That does it!

Max goes to the door, and Emma throws the Playboy after
him.

EMMA

Here: entertain yourself.

David watches gloomily as Max scoops up the Playboy and EXITS.

Emma turns on Frank.

EMMA

So?

FRANK

David just thought you might...

David looks at Frank in surprise.

DAVID

What's that?

FRANK

We'd like you to come home, now.

(looks at David and
back)

If you want.

Emma goes behind the kitchen door and brings out the broom.

EMMA

(to David)

You ask that girl out yet?

Emma sweeps around David's feet.

DAVID

The floor's not dirty, Mom.

EMMA

(to Frank)

How're my tomatoes?

FRANK

I don't know.

Emma shakes her head and sweeps more vigorously.

EMMA

(muttering)

Tch-tch-tch.

DAVID
(standing)
Maybe we should go.

EMMA
(studying floor)
I never seen such dirt.

David steps past Emma and EXITS out the side door.

Emma shakes her head at Frank.

EMMA
Check on my tomatoes!

INT UPSTAIRS BEDROOM DAY

The SOUND of HAMMERING can be heard as MERINA is making the final adjustments on a bikini bathing suit. There is a tattoo of a SMILEY FACE on Merina's hip, BIG RED LIPS on her arm, and a ROSE on one of her breasts. Merina examines herself in the mirror.

MERINA
(shouting)
What's he doing now?

FRANK ENTERS and looks out the window.

FRANK
He's fixing that stupid roof.

Merina checks herself in the mirror.

MERINA
Okay.

EXT BACK YARD

DAVID is on the garage roof, HAMMERING. Beside the garage is a garden with ripe tomatoes growing. MERINA, wearing a T-shirt, steps onto the deck behind the house and arranges the lounge chairs.

MERINA
Hi David!

David pauses and looks at her. She waves. He smiles.

DAVID

Hi.

Merina peels off the T-shirt, and begins to spread oil on her body.

MERINA

Beautiful day, isn't it?

David stares as Merina reclines on the lounge chair. He awakens, and resumes HAMMERING.

GARAGE ROOF

DAVID is sweating profusely, and laboring to breathe. He looks up at the sun, and is blinded as sweat pours into his eyes. He DROPS the HAMMER, and nearly falls from the roof.

MERINA

Careful up there!

DAVID

Yeah.

MERINA

Hot, isn't it?

David stares at

MERINA'S BODY

where the oil glistens in the bright sun. She scratches at an itch on her side. Sweat beads on her upper lip. She licks her lips.

The SOUND of DAVID FALLING FROM THE ROOF is heard.

MERINA

Frank!

GARDEN BESIDE GARAGE

DAVID lies amongst the tomato plants, his head resting on dirt. FRANK and MERINA run up to him. Frank is carrying a cordless phone.

FRANK

Dave, buddy. You all right.

DAVID

What happened?

MERINA

You fell off the roof.

DAVID

When?

Merina and Frank nod to each other.

Frank dials a number on the telephone and hands it to David.

FRANK

Call for you.

DAVID

What's that?

(into the phone)

Who's this?

Frank shrugs to Merina. Merina kneels down beside David, and rests her hand on his thigh. David stares at the tattoo on her breast.

MERINA

Tell her you want to go out with her to dinner.

DAVID

I want to go out with you.

MERINA

To dinner.

DAVID

To dinner.

David listens for a beat.

DAVID

When?

MERINA

Tonight at eight.

DAVID

Tonight at eight.

MERINA

You'll pick her up.

DAVID

I'll pick you up.

Merina winks at Frank, who takes the phone out of David's hand and listens to it.

FRANK

Okay: she hung up.

Merina pats David on the cheek and gets up.

DAVID

Who was that?

FRANK

Your date.

DAVID

My date?

FRANK

You just asked Sue out to dinner.

David scrambles to his feet.

DAVID

I certainly did not!

FRANK

Come on, buddy: you know you want to go out with her.

MERINA

She's a really nice girl.

DAVID
Who wants to go out with a nice
girl?

EXT STREET IN FRONT OF DAVID'S HOUSE

MAX's CAR pulls into the driveway.

INT MAX'S CAR

EMMA opens the door and looks at MAX.

EMMA
Thanks for the ride Max.

MAX
My pleasure.

EMMA
I'll have the boys bring me by
to pack up my stuff tomorrow.

Max raises a hand of protest.

MAX
No! I'll pack it up and bring
everything over tonight.

EMMA
No, Max: that's too much.

MAX
My pleasure!

EXT DRIVEWAY

EMMA gets out and closes Max's car door. MAX backs out
of the driveway fast, and roars off down the street.

INT SUE'S KITCHEN

EMMA ENTERS smiling.

EMMA

Sue! It's me!

SUE (V.O.)

Come on in!

INT SUE'S BEDROOM

SUE is dressing for the evening. EMMA ENTERS.

EMMA

Can you believe it? What did I
tell you?

Sue smiles politely.

SUE

Hi Emma.

EMMA

Please: call me Emma!

SUE

Well...

EMMA

Look at you! What a knock-out.

SUE

Thanks.

EMMA

Are you going to a night club? a
show? what?

SUE

I don't know.

Emma waves it off.

EMMA

Ah! He's surprising you.

SUE

Emma, uh, Mom: please sit down.

Sue directs Emma to the edge of the bed and they sit
down.

SUE

I meant to tell you sooner, but here goes:

Sue takes a breath to gather herself.

SUE

He asked me to marry him.

Emma clutches at her heart.

EMMA

David?

SUE

No! I mean Tony.

EMMA

The guy you met at the wedding?

Sue nods.

EMMA

Already?

SUE

Yes.

EMMA

So you're not going out with my David?

SUE

Yes, I am. I mean I haven't said yes, to the proposal, yet.

Emma gets up brusquely.

EMMA

I'll go tell him.

Sue jumps up and takes hold of Emma's hand.

SUE

No! I don't want him to know yet.

EMMA

This Tony, he's rich, right?

SUE
Yes, he's wealthy.

Emma starts to leave.

EMMA
I'll go tell David.

Sue pulls her back by the hand.

SUE
I want to see David. We've been
neighbors for all these years, I
just have to know.

EMMA
What's to know? David is David.

SUE
You think he likes me, don't
you?

EMMA
Since he was four years old,
he's had a crush on you.

SUE
I like him too.

Sue giggles shyly.

SUE
Since I was three.

EMMA
I knew it.

SUE
I wanted to go out with him in
high school.
(blushes)
Did he like me then?

EMMA
Please: I thought the poor boy
would go blind.

Sue fumbles with her necklace, and Emma gets behind her
to snap it shut for her.

EMMA

He always would watch you
through the window.

SUE

Really?

EMMA

If I know my David, he's peeking
through the blinds right now.

Emma turns Sue around to admire her, and pats Sue on
the cheek reassuringly.

EMMA

I'm going to check on David.

EMMA EXITS.

INT DAVID'S KITCHEN

DAVID is peeking through the blinds of the kitchen
window. FRANK ENTERS, and comes up behind David, trying
to see whatever it is he sees. EMMA ENTERS from the
side door, and comes up behind Frank.

FRANK

What are you looking at?

David jumps back in fright.

DAVID

Nothing!

David sees Emma and is even more startled.

DAVID

Emma!

EMMA

What's all this about?

The SOUND of a BULL WHIP CRACKING is heard. Frank and
Emma peek through the blinds.

INT/EXT BACK YARD

MERINA is beside the garage, coiling a whip. The side of the garage is splattered with tomato.

EMMA

My tomatoes!

EMMA RUNS to the side door.

EXT GARAGE

MERINA is winding up to whip another tomato. EMMA runs from the house, waving her arms.

EMMA

Stop! Don't you dare!

Merina CRACKS THE WHIP, splattering a ripe tomato.

INT DAVID'S BEDROOM

DAVID is dressing for the evening. FRANK sits on his bed drinking a beer.

FRANK

Let me give you some advice.

David is fumbling with his neck tie, and glares at Frank.

DAVID

I really don't want to discuss it.

FRANK

I've been around the block a few times, you know what I mean?

DAVID

No.

FRANK

I mean you may know a thing or two about accounting, and dating women is something that I know a thing or two about.

Frank adjusts his position on David's bed, and spills beer on the quilt.

DAVID

Hey!

David rushes over to check the damage. Frank mops the spill with David's tie.

FRANK

Sorry.

David sees that his tie is wet too, and yanks it out of Frank's hand.

DAVID

Idiot!

FRANK

Case in point: if you're going to mess with women, you have to get used to wet spots.

David looks at him in utter confusion.

DAVID

What?

FRANK

You don't even know what that means.

As David looks through his closet for another tie, Frank raises his beer can in salute and drinks off what's left.

DAVID

I think you've helped enough already.

Frank tosses the empty beer can into the trash can.

FRANK

I know we've never gotten along very well, but we never had anything like this to bond us together.

David again fumbles with his tie, glancing at Frank who waits expectantly for David to accept his help.

DAVID

Fine. Let's say I ask your advice.

FRANK

Fine.

DAVID

Sue's a modern women.

FRANK

Real modern.

DAVID

Do I pay for everything?

FRANK

Everything!

DAVID

That won't offend her?

David works again on knotting his tie.

FRANK

I don't know about that, but if you want to get any tonight, you better buy some chow, know what I mean?

David stops and stares at Frank. Frank gets up from the bed.

FRANK

Let me help you with that tie.

Frank takes up the two ends of the tie and begins tying a crude double bow knot.

DAVID
That's the most shamefully
mysoginistic thing I've ever
heard.

FRANK
(proudly)
Thanks.

David tries to look down at what Frank is doing with
his tie.

DAVID
What are you doing? That's not a
Windsor.

FRANK
Windsor, schmindor.

Frank tightens down the knot, and steps back. The two
uneven bows hang limply from David's neck.

FRANK
There you go.

David shakes his head in frustration.

DAVID
Thanks.

FRANK
Not a problem.

EXT SUE'S HOUSE

DAVID, wearing a suit but with no tie, walks up the
front steps of Sue's house. He RINGS the DOORBELL.

EMMA opens the door. She raises a camera and takes
David's picture.

EMMA
Look at my boy!

DAVID
Emma, please!

EMMA

Look! Here she is!

SUE steps past Emma. Sue is dressed up for the evening. David is stunned.

EMMA

(laughing)

Look at him!

SUE

Emma, please.

EMMA

Wait! Pictures.

Emma scrambles down the steps ahead of them, and begins taking pictures.

EMMA

Stand there. You, David, put your arm around her!

David and Sue shuffle nervously on the steps.

DAVID

You're not making this any easier.

EMMA

But you never went to the prom.

SUE

I think we should go.

Sue takes David by the hand and leads him down the steps. Emma maneuvers around them, snapping pictures.

EMMA

If I didn't see it with my own eyes, I wouldn't believe it.

David ushers Sue along and holds the car door for her. Emma keeps taking pictures. David gets into the car, and quickly backs out of the driveway. Emma follows it into the street.

EMMA

Have a good time!

The Car pulls away, and Emma walks after it, still taking pictures.

INT RESTAURANT LOBBY

DAVID and SUE stand before the Maitre de as he studies the table layout on his desk. There are OTHERS milling about, also waiting to be seated.

MAITRE DE
Sorry. Nothing for Urbanski.

DAVID
Check under David.

MAITRE DE
I did.

DAVID
And?

MAITRE DE
Nothing.

DAVID
I don't believe this.

Sue smiles and pats David's arm.

SUE
It's all right. I don't mind waiting.

David pulls away from her childishly.

DAVID
But I called. I had a reservation.

MAITRE DE
It will only be a few minutes.

DAVID
It shouldn't be anything. We should be sitting down right now.

SUE

David! It's okay. We can wait.

MAITRE DE

Perhaps you called a different restaurant.

DAVID

Do I look like an idiot?

MAITRE DE

Well, sir...

SUE

David, why are you getting so excited.

DAVID

I just think when you make a reservation, it should be honored.

MAITRE DE

We honor all of our reservations.

DAVID

Then where's mine?

SUE

(to Maitre De)

Let us know as soon as a table is ready.

MAITRE DE

Very good, madam.

Sue pulls David to a sofa and pushes him into it.

SUE

David: let's just enjoy ourselves.

DAVID

Excuse me, but it's a matter of principle.

Sue SIGHS impatiently and looks about at the crowd.

SUE

(whispering)

Defending your country is matter
of principle; waiting for a
table at a restaurant is just
good manners.

DAVID

Well then I'm sorry.

SUE

You're just like your mother.

DAVID

What is that supposed to mean?

The OTHER PEOPLE begin to notice them, and Sue motions
for David to keep his voice down.

SUE

I didn't mean anything. Just
forget it, okay?

DAVID

I don't think I can forget that
one.

Sue gives him a look of embarrassment.

SUE

I'm sorry, okay?

DAVID

Great. Takes a crack at my
mother, then tells me to forget
it.

Sue looks at him again but a little angrier than
before.

SUE

You were the one that threw her
out of your house.

DAVID

I did not!

SUE

I suppose you think that I threw
her out of my house.

The Maitre de approaches them.

MAITRE DE

I have a table.

DAVID

That's the one thing I don't think!

SUE

What do you mean by that?

DAVID

I figure you've always wanted my mother for yourself.

SUE

What?

MAITRE DE

Your table is ready.

DAVID

Even as kids you spent more time with my mother than you spent with your own!

SUE

That's absurd.

DAVID

I bet you two have been plotting this little date for years.

MAITRE DE

Your table...

SUE

You're paranoid!

DAVID

That doesn't mean it isn't true!

Sue stands up.

MAITRE DE

The table...

SUE

Give me the keys.

DAVID

What?

SUE

The keys to the car. Give them
to me.

David reaches in his pocket and hands the keys to Sue.
With her free hand, Sue SLAPS David's face.

SUE

Thank you for a wonderful
evening.

David is stunned, and looks up as

Sue EXITS.

MAITRE DE

Will you still want the table,
or shall I call you a cab.

David looks at the Maitre de, then at the CROWD, then
back at the Maitre de.

DAVID

Yes. Please call me a cab.

MAITRE DE

You sir, are a cab.
(turns abruptly)
Johnson, party of two!

EXT DAVID'S HOUSE CAR

SUE drives up the lawn of David's house, and RAMS the
fronts steps. The SOUND of a HEADLIGHT BREAKING is
heard. The CAR HORN HONKS and stays on.

Sue gets out, SLAMS the CAR DOOR, and walks across the
street towards her house.

INT DAVID'S KITCHEN

EMMA is at the table, polishing silverware but startled by the SOUND of the CAR HORN. Emma rushes to the front window.

INT/EXT CAR ON FRONT LAWN

The front of David's car is resting on the steps. Across the street, SUE goes into her house.

EXT DAVID'S HOUSE

A TAXICAB pulls up to David's house. DAVID gets out of the cab, standing in the open door as he looks at his car parked on the front lawn.

David looks back at Sue's house, a look of pained frustration and regret on his face.

INT FRONT ROOM

FRANK is drinking a beer, standing in the doorway, and DAVID sits on the sofa staring at the wall. MERINA is at the front window.

FRANK
So she slapped you?

DAVID
I don't want to talk about it.

FRANK
No! That's good! A slap in the face shows passion.

Frank takes a long chug of beer.

MERINA
Frank! Shut up.

FRANK
The quiet ones are always hot to trot!

MERINA
Which is also how you pick
horses at the track, you
drunken...

FRANK
(to David)
It works!

Merina goes back to the window, and looks out.

INT/EXT FRONT STEPS

EMMA is sitting on the front steps wearing a jacket and
with her purse by her side. The car is still parked on
the front lawn.

INT FRONT ROOM

MERINA points at the window.

MERINA
You guys can't leave her sit
there.

FRANK
I offered to drive, but she
thinks I'm too drunk.

Frank's beer can slips out of his hand, and he loses
his balance reaching for it, stumbling into the stairs.

DAVID
She's the one that wants to live
with Max. She can wait for Max
to pick her up.

Frank lifts himself from the stairs and motions to
Merina.

FRANK
Come on to bed, honey. I've got
something I want to show you.

Merina rolls her eyes.

MERINA
Go ahead and start without me.

FRANK
(winking)
Right!

Frank looks down at the empty beer can on the floor.

FRANK
Bring some beer. I've only got a
couple under the bed.

FRANK EXITS up the stairs.

Merina looks out the window.

INT/EXT SUE'S HOUSE

SUE steps out her front door and walks across the lawn.

INT FRONT ROOM

MERINA brightens as she points out the window. DAVID
glances at her.

MERINA
Here comes Sue now!

David gets up and looks out the window.

INT/EXT FRONT LAWN

EMMA walks across the lawn to meet SUE at the curb.

INT FRONT ROOM

DAVID and MERINA.

DAVID
She's just going to talk to Mom.

MERINA

But now you can straighten them
both out!

DAVID

I don't want to!

David flops onto the sofa and buries his face in a
pillow.

Merina looks out the window again.

EXT FRONT LAWN

EMMA and SUE.

SUE

He's picking me up any second
now.

EMMA

I'm so happy for you.

SUE

I hope David understands.

Emma looks back at David's house.

INT FRONT ROOM

MERINA is at the window and David is prostrate on the
sofa.

MERINA

Huh! How about that.

David looks up.

DAVID

What?

MERINA

(glancing at David)
Nothing.

DAVID

What!

David gets up and looks out the window.

INT/EXT FRONT LAWN

SUE and EMMA talking.

INT FRONT ROOM

DAVID and MERINA.

DAVID

They're just talking.

MERINA

Yes, but you're interested.

David gives her a dirty look.

EXT FRONT LAWN

EMMA and SUE are still on the curb. The HANDSOME MAN'S CAR pulls into Sue's driveway.

SUE

We can give you a ride.

EMMA

You sure it's no trouble?

SUE

No trouble at all!

Emma walks towards David's house.

EMMA

Wait! Let me have Frank call
Max!

Sue goes across the street.

SUE

Okay!

INT FRONT ROOM

DAVID is seated on the sofa again, and MERINA is at the window.

MERINA

There! That guy is here again.
Now's your chance.

DAVID

My chance for what?

Merina throws a punch in the air.

MERINA

Punch him in the nose! Let Sue
know you're interested!

David waves her off.

DAVID

You sound like Mom.

INT UPSTAIRS

FRANK is at the top of the stairs, draining a can of beer as he starts to descend.

INT FRONT ROOM

MERINA grabs DAVID by the shoulders and stands him up.

MERINA

Take hold of her.

DAVID

(frightened)

Hey!

MERINA

Look her in the eye. Tell her
you love her!

DAVID

To her face?

MERINA

Yes! Make her beg you...

INT STAIRS

FRANK descends into the FRONT ROOM area.

INT FRONT ROOM

MERINA is holding DAVID by the shoulders. FRANK ENTERS
unnoticed.

MERINA

...kiss me David. For God's sake
kiss me!

Merina kisses David passionately on the lips. David's
eyes are wide with surprise.

Frank rushes them and tears Merina away from David.

DAVID

Hi Frank.

Frank punches David in the gut, doubling him over.

EMMA ENTERS through the front door as Merina steps in
front of Frank.

MERINA

Frank no!

EMMA

What's going on?

FRANK

(to Merina)

So he finally got his wish!

Frank pushes Merina aside and grabs David by the shoulder. David is GASPING for breath.

Emma grabs Franks shoulder.

EMMA

What'd he do?

FRANK

(to Emma)

He was kissing Merina!

EMMA

Oh my!

Frank punches David in the face, laying him out flat.

MERINA

Frank!

Merina kneels beside David and offers comfort.

MERINA

I think he's really hurt.

EMMA

I always told you boys not to fight. This is what happens when you don't listen to your mother.

EMMA EXITS.

EXT FRONT LAWN

EMMA descends the front steps as SUE crosses the lawn towards her. Sue appears concerned.

SUE

What's all the shouting?

Emma shakes her head and waves Sue off.

EMMA

Nothing! Let's go.

Sue lingers at the foot of the steps.

SUE

I was thinking I should talk to David.

EMMA

Forget about him.

Emma puts her arm around Sue and escorts her back across the lawn towards the street.

SUE

But I think he'd want to know I'm getting married.

EMMA

He don't want to know nothing right now.

SUE

But...

EMMA

Forget about him.

INT FRONT ROOM

DAVID, SUE, and FRANK. Merina helps David sit up. David clutches his stomach with one hand, and holds his face where Frank punched him with the other hand. Frank sits in a chair.

FRANK

Dave: I'm sorry.

Merina gives Frank a dirty look.

FRANK

How was I supposed to know you were just kidding?

DAVID

Where's Sue?

MERINA

She's still outside.

David struggles to stand up. Frank reaches to help him.

FRANK
Dave, listen, I'm sorry.

David pushes Frank's hands away.

DAVID
Get away!

David EXITS out the door.

EXT FRONT STEPS

DAVID rushes down the steps, still clutching his stomach.

Across the street, SUE is climbing into the HANDSOME MAN'S CAR.

DAVID
Sue!

The car pulls away from the curb as David runs after it.

DAVID
Sue! Wait!

INT HANDSOME MAN'S CAR

SUE is in the passenger seat, and EMMA is in back. The HANDSOME MAN notices

DAVID IN THE MIRROR

The Handsome Man makes a face and accelerates away.

EXT STREET

DAVID runs after the Handsome Man's car as it pulls away from him down the street.

DAVID
Sue! Wait!

David comes to a stop in the middle of the road.

DAVID

Sue!

EXT FRONT OF HOUSE

DAVID runs across the lawn towards the house. David's face is red and swollen where Frank punched him.

FRANK and MERINA watch from the porch as David runs to the car. Merina tosses David the car keys.

MERINA

Go get her!

David gets in the car, but only a CLICKING NOISE is heard when he turns the key. Frank comes down the steps.

FRANK

Battery's dead.

David gives Frank a dirty look as gets out of the car and SLAMS the DOOR.

DAVID

Thanks.

FRANK

Listen man: this is all my fault.

Frank kneels down before David and raises his hands.

FRANK

Hit me, man! I want us to be friends, again.

Frank grabs David by the shirt.

FRANK

Hit me amigo! Hit me compadre!
Hit me hard.

David pushes Frank away.

DAVID
If you want to help, drive me to
Max's house.

Frank clutches his hands in supplication.

FRANK
You got it!

MERINA
He's too drunk to drive!

Frank staggers to his feet, and falls face first into
the flower bed beside the front stoop.

Merina gives David an 'I told you so' look as Frank
sits up out of the flowers.

FRANK
I'll do it! Anything for you
man!

DAVID
(to Merina)
Will you drive me?

Merina leaps off the stoop.

MERINA
Let's roll!

EXT STREET

MERINA and DAVID tear out of the driveway on a
motorcycle.

FRANK runs after them down the street.

FRANK
You're my brother, and I love
you man!

Frank stops in the middle of the street, waving after
them.

EXT STREET AT MAX'S HOUSE

MERINA and DAVID roar into Max's driveway on the motorcycle, and screech to a halt at the side door.

INT MAX'S KITCHEN

EMMA is sweeping the floor. DAVID ENTERS, marching at Emma defiantly.

Emma sees him and raises the broom as if to stab him with it.

EMMA

What do you want?

David snatches the broom out of her hands.

DAVID

Where's Sue?

EMMA

Why do you want to know?

DAVID

I'm warning you, Emma!

David tries to break the broom over his knee, but he lacks the strength, and instead hurts his knee and throws the broom aside.

DAVID

Just tell me where she is.

EMMA

They went to the cathedral downtown.

DAVID

Why'd they go to the cathedral?

EMMA

To get married.

David is stunned and horrified.

DAVID

Married?

Emma picks up the broom and breaks it over her knee, throwing the two pieces aside.

EMMA

What do you care?

David looks down at his feet for a moment. He raises his head with fire in his eyes, a defiant sneer across his lips.

DAVID

I'm going to marry her.

Emma shrugs.

EMMA

Then you'd better get downtown.

EXT SIDE DOOR

DAVID BURSTS out of the door and climbs on the motorcycle behind MERINA.

DAVID

Downtown! Go!

Merina KICK STARTS the motorcycle, but MAX steps out from behind the house and PULLS DAVID from the motorcycle.

DAVID

Hey!

MAX puts David in a head lock and drags him behind the house.

EXT BACK OF HOUSE

MAX pins DAVID against the house, throttling him by the throat with one hand. David pulls and claws at Max's hand.

MAX

I'm going to give you a second chance.

DAVID

(gasping)

It was Mom! She broke your broom.

MAX

Did I hear you say you're going to marry a woman?

DAVID

Yes.

MAX

Well here it is: if you want to leave your mother here with me, I don't care.

DAVID

What do you mean?

MAX

Stay single. Live alone!

DAVID

But Sue!

MAX

The hell with Sue and the hell with your mother.

DAVID

But I love her!

MAX

Love, schmove! Save yourself. You've seen what they're like.

Max looks up to the kitchen window.

MAX

You've seen what they become!

Max tightens his grip and lifts David off of his feet. David's eye's bulge out, and he struggles to break Max's grip.

MAX

They get into your brain, and chew on it like maggots.

David's tongue distends.

MAX

They scrub the inside of your
skull with Formula 409 until it
shines like enamel cookware.

Max grinds his teeth in anger.

MAX

I'm giving you a chance to be
free! Entirely free.

EMMA ENTERS from around the corner of the house, and
WHACKS MAX on the hands with the broken broom handle,
breaking Max's grip on David.

David slumps to the ground as Emma beats Max with the
broken broom handle, chasing him across the back yard.

EMMA

(turning to David)

It's up to you David.

MERINA comes around the corner and helps David to his
feet.

EMMA

I'll stay here with Max if you
like.

MAX

Don't do it boy!

David looks at Merina.

DAVID

Take me to her!

David and Merina run around the house, climb on the
motorcycle and drive away.

Max chases them down the driveway.

MAX

(shouting)

You'll be sorry!

Max stops and shakes his fist.

MAX
You'll be sorry!

EXT CITY STREETS

MERINA and DAVID on the motorcycle:

-- Running a red light

INT CATHEDRAL LOBBY

A BRIDE, her FATHER, and TWO USHERS at the door to the nave. The Father of the Bride extends his arm, which she takes as the SOUND of TRUMPET VOLUNTARY is heard.

EXT CITY STREETS

MERINA and DAVID on the motorcycle:

-- Weaving in and out of traffic

INT CATHEDRAL NAVE

The BRIDE is escorted down the aisle by her FATHER the SOUND of TRUMPET VOLUNTARY is heard. The pews are filled with WEDDING GUESTS.

EXT CITY STREETS

MERINA and DAVID on the motorcycle:

-- Leaping across a DRAWBRIDGE as it opens

INT CATHEDRAL ALTAR

At the front of the nave, the FATHER OF THE BRIDE shakes the GROOM's hand, and puts the BRIDE's hand in the Grooms as TRUMPET VOLUNTARY closes. The PRIEST

looks down from the altar as the MAID of HONOR arranges the Bride's train.

EXT DOWNTOWN CATHEDRAL

A LIMOUSINE is parked at the curb, and the DRIVER leans against the side of the limo. There are PEDESTRIANS and PIGEONS on the sidewalk. The streets are busy with TRAFFIC.

MERINA and DAVID come down the street on the motorcycle. Merina POPS a WHEELY and JUMPS the CURB, scattering the PIGEONS and driving the motorcycle up the CATHEDRAL STEPS.

Merina smashes open the doors, and drives inside.

INT CATHEDRAL LOBBY

TWO USHERS stand at the NAVE ENTRANCE and watch as MERINA and DAVID drive through the lobby on the motorcycle. Inside, WEDDING GUESTS look back from the pews.

Merina halts the motorcycle at the NAVE DOORS.

MERINA

Okay Dave. You do the rest.

As David dismounts, the USHERS stand in his way. Merina REVS the ENGINE, backing them off a step, allowing David to slip into the nave.

INT CATHEDRAL NAVE

The PRIEST, BRIDE, and GROOM stand at the altar looking back at David. The Bride's face is covered with a veil. They are flanked by the BEST MAN and MAID OF HONOR.

DAVID jogs down the aisle, slowing to a defiant march. The SOUND of WHISPERS can be heard as David nears the altar. The Groom scowls at the Bride.

INT BRIDE'S FAMILY IN PEWS

The FATHER OF THE BRIDE leans over to the MOTHER OF THE BRIDE.

FATHER OF THE BRIDE
Tell me this is not one of her
old boyfriends.

MOTHER OF THE BRIDE
I'm hoping it's Ted's gay lover.

INT ALTAR

The PRIEST, BRIDE, GROOM, BEST MAN, and MAID OF HONOR watch as DAVID approaches the altar steps.

The PRIEST sets a book mark in his service book and closes it, tucking it under his arm.

PRIEST
May we help you?

David sets one foot on the first step. The Groom takes a step at him, but the Best Man holds him back.

DAVID
I love this woman, and I'm here
to marry her.

The SOUND of MURMURS in the CROWD are heard.

DAVID
I've loved her when I was four,
as we played house in the
backyard.

David drops to one knee and looks up at her, clenching his hands in supplication.

The Groom, Best Man, Maid of Honor, and Priest, look at the Bride. The Bride shrugs.

DAVID
I loved her in grade school,
though I was too shy to talk
with her.

WOMAN GUEST (V.O.)

The poor dear.

DAVID

And I loved her in high school
as she blossomed into a woman:
smart, beautiful, and funny; but
still I was too shy.

GROOM

I don't believe this.

The Bride looks to the Groom, the Maid of Honor, and
the Priest.

DAVID

Marry me!

David crawls closer to her feet.

DAVID

Please, please, please marry me!

BRIDE

(to David)

Do I know you?

David's jaw drops open and his eyes bug out. The Bride
peeks out from under the veil.

DAVID

Sue?

INT NAVE

SUE stands up from among the WEDDING GUESTS.

SUE

David!

INT ALTAR

DAVID turns around and WAVES to Sue.

DAVID

Oops.

David sheepishly turns back to the altar.

DAVID

Sorry, I...

The PRIEST steps past the Bride and Groom and PUNCHES DAVID, laying him flat.

EXT CATHEDRAL STEPS

MERINA is at the foot of the steps with her motorcycle.

DAVID is carried by the GROOMSMEN and dropped down the steps.

SUE runs out of the cathedral and kneels at David's side. David's faces is now red and swollen on both sides.

SUE

David! You poor fool!

David lifts his head, and smiles up at Sue.

DAVID

Guess I should have asked.

SUE

Do you really want to marry me?

INT WEDDING RECEPTION BANQUET HALL

WEDDING GUESTS sit at tables and mill about. DAVID, in a tuxedo, and SUE, in a wedding dress, are receiving GUESTS at the doorway.

FRANK, in a tuxedo, and MERINA, in a bridesmaid dress are to one side talking with TWO GUESTS.

EMMA, AUNT SYLVIA, and UNCLE JOHN approach the receiving line and shake hands with David and Sue.

EMMA

(shaking hands)

I think brides are the most beautiful women in the world.

AUNT SYLVIA

Yah! She's a beauty all right.

UNCLE JOHN

Who's that?

EMMA

This is your new aunt and uncle,
Sue. David is their favorite
nephew.

UNCLE JOHN

Our only nephew!

AUNT SYLVIA

We got two nephews, John! You
always forget Frank!

UNCLE JOHN

Who?

EMMA

Frank.

UNCLE JOHN

Yeah, but who's Frank?

EMMA

I was just telling Sylvia that I
might visit them awhile, to give
you two a chance to settle into
the house.

SUE

(smiling)

What do you mean?

EMMA

You don't want me around. You
deserve a little privacy. It'll
only be for a couple of weeks.
Don't worry about me.

SUE

(clenching her
teeth)

But Frank and Merina...

EMMA

Maybe they can stay at your house. You're not going to sell it already, are you?

SUE

I'm not selling it!

EMMA

Rent it then, whatever. I just can't wait until we're all together! It'll be so much fun.

Sue elbows David in the ribs.

DAVID

Actually Emma, we won't be...

EMMA

(to Sylvia)

It'll be crowded, but I'm going to like having a woman around, after all these years with boys.

SUE

David!

David looks around for help, and notices Frank and Merina.

DAVID

Mom: don't you think it's about time Frank got married.

SUE

Yes, definitely.

EMMA

He's never even told us how long he's known Merina.

DAVID

I'm sure it's been an adequate courtship.

Emma steps over to Frank and pulls him aside and whispers in his ear.

SUE

David, you need to talk to your mother.

Frank pulls away from Emma, looking at her cross-eyed.

UNCLE JOHN

So when do you two think you'll get married?

AUNT SYLVIA

They just got married!

UNCLE JOHN

Oh? That's nice.

CLOSE ON FRANK AND EMMA

FRANK

I don't want to get married!

EMMA

Who said you should get married?

FRANK

Then what then?

EMMA

All I'm saying is, if you like this girl, you should get engaged.

FRANK

What's the difference?

EMMA

You're going to lose her.

MERINA smiles and reaches for Frank's hand.

MERINA

So what do you think, Frank?

FRANK

I just got a job! Can't you people leave me alone?

EMMA

If you like her, you don't want
to lose her!

BACK on DAVID and SUE

DAVID

That's right Frank!

The SOUND of SPOONS CLAPPING GLASSES is heard. David
takes Sue in his arms and kisses her.

FADE OUT

ROLL CLOSING CREDITS ON

DAVID, SUE, FRANK, MERINA, and EMMA DANCING to the
CHICK DANCE.