

HAPPY ENDINGS

by
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INT. SPORTS BAR - DAY

A HOT GUY (25, model looks), drinks/laments to his BUDDIES.

HOT GUY
She's the perfect girl. I love
her, guys. And I never even got to
tell her. And now it's too late.

He DRAINS his pint. Sad beat. His BUDDY looks at his WATCH.

BUDDY
It's not too late yet. You still
have 20 minutes. Tell her now.

Hot Guy looks up, THINKING...the Buddies NOD...then --

EXT. SPORTS BAR - MOMENTS LATER

Hot Guy BURSTS out -- JUMPS in his car -- and PEELS OUT!

INT. IDYLIC CHURCH, DRESSING ROOM - SAME

A perfect bride, ALEX (30, the type of girl guys write songs about), gets ready for her wedding. Her bridesmaids: JANE (26, motherly) fusses with the GOWN; while PENNY (29, slutty dress, bitterly single) puts on too much make-up.

JANE
This is so exciting. You're gonna
love being married. It's the best.
Oh, and the house next to me and
Brad just went up for sale, so...
(off Alex's look)
I know you're not moving to the
suburbs *right* away, but when we have
kids, they could be best friends,
maybe they'll even get married!

ALEX
We're sisters. Our kids would be
cousins.

PENNY
I can't believe our whole group of
friends is married now. Except me
and Max. At least he's got an
excuse - he's gay, it's illegal -
I'm just unlovable.

JANE
That's not true. And what about
that new guy you're dating? Todd?
I thought things were going great.

PENNY

No, they are. I actually invited him to my birthday next week so everyone can meet. I know you all usually hate the guys I date, but Todd's different. I...kinda think he's the one.

ALEX

You know, that term sorta loses it's meaning when you use it ten times in a row.

(off Penny's glare/smile)

I'm kidding. We're excited to meet him. But can we do me? Kinda makin' a major life step over here.

PENNY

Sorry. But c'mon, you're marrying the perfect guy. Dave's the best. Your life's *completely set*.

Alex smiles...then her smile begins to FADE --

INT./EXT. HOT GUY'S SPEEDING CAR - LATER

Hot Guy RACES through the streets of Chicago like the END OF A SHITTY ROMCOM! He WHIPS around a corner and -- GRIDLOCK! He's TRAPPED in traffic! He looks around FRANTICALLY -- then spots his ROLLERBLADES on the floor. Beat.

INT. IDYLLIC CHURCH - LATER

Now Alex is on the altar with her nervous groom, DAVE (30, loves love/Springsteen/The Bulls, hates idiots), flanked by: PARENTS; Jane and her husband, BRAD (30, black, works hard/plays soft); MAX (30, hot, fast talking - like a gay Vince Vaughn); and Penny.

DAVE

Alex, for 20 years you've been either my best friend, my girlfriend, my fiancée, or all three. I don't know what I'd do without you. I *literally* would not wanna live. But luckily, I never have to think about that again, cause I get to spend the rest of my --

THE DOORS BURST OPEN! THE CROWD GASPS AS HOT GUY ROLLERBLADES IN!

HOT GUY

STOP! I object! Alex, I love you.

DAVE

Wait, what? Who is this guy?

HOT GUY

(blading toward Alex)

Don't do this! You say all the time that you're not even sure you still love him, that he's boring, that the sex is bad --

DAVE

(embarrassed)

C'mon man, my grandma's here.

HOT GUY

Sorry, but - Alex, you deserve more. I love you, come with me.

Dave LAUGHS arrogantly ("No chance."). But when he looks at Alex, she's DEEP IN THOUGHT. A LONG PREGNANT SILENCE...

ON THE GROOMSMEN: Brad leans in/whispers to Max.

BRAD

Yo, I feel like we're supposed to kick this guy's ass or something.

MAX

You do it. You're a black guy, he's probably already afraid of you.

Finally, Alex turns to Dave.

ALEX

I...I have reservations.

DAVE

(hoping against hope)

To...a nice restaurant for later?

ALEX

No. About us. I'm so sorry.

She grabs Hot Guy's hand -- a ROMCOM SCORE IGNITES as they run up the aisle and -- BURST out of the church!

WE FOLLOW THEM INTO THE SUNSET AS THE SCORE CRESCENDOES... IT'S THE PERFECT HAPPY ENDING TO A SHITTY ROMCOM...!

BUT...as they RUN/BLADE toward bliss, we SLOWLY PULL THE CAMERA BACK AWAY FROM THEM...and then BACK INTO THE CHURCH...

INT. CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

FIND Dave on the altar, DESTROYED; flanked by the STUNNED WEDDING PARTY. This is the story of the *OTHER SIDE OF THE HAPPY ENDING*. The place is SILENT. A COUGH, A WHISPER...

Behind Dave, Max/Brad/Jane/Penny exchange LOOKS, prodding each other to say something. Finally, they all talk SIMULTANEOUSLY (with Max trailing in at the end) --

JANE/BRAD/PENNY
She'll be right back./Sorry, man./
We're all here for you.

MAX
That guy probably has a small peen.

Jane/Brad/Penny look at Max incredulously, then to Dave for a reaction...but Dave just stares ahead, DUMBFOUNDED. Beat.

DAVE
When did my life turn into a Sandra
Bullock movie?

TITLE CARD: **HAPPY ENDINGS**

ACT ONE:

INT./EXT. "HAPPY ENDINGS" DINER - LATER THAT NIGHT

Brad, Jane, Penny and Max (all in loosened/rumpled wedding clothes) sit around a table, SHOCKED, SILENT. Long beat.

BRAD

Wow. I mean...wow. You just don't see that everyday.

JANE

Who was that guy? Does anyone know who that was?

They all shake their heads no.

PENNY

I don't know what's more shocking, that Alex ran out on her wedding, or that she did it with a guy who rollerblades.

MAX

Even I think rollerblades are gay and I had sex with a man last night.

BRAD

Has anyone talked to either of them? Both their phones are off.

PENNY

Dave texted me that he's fine, he just doesn't wanna talk for awhile. But he said he's okay.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT./EXT. DAVE'S CAR - SAME

Dave CRIES HYSTERICALLY as he drives! As CARS pass him, the DRIVERS HONK/SMILE/WAVE at Dave enthusiastically!

A SHOT of the back of Dave's car reveals a big SIGN: "HONK! WE JUST GOT MARRIED!"

CUT BACK TO:

INT. "HAPPY ENDINGS" DINER - AS WE LEFT THEM

PENNY

Has anyone heard from Alex?

JANE

She went on the honeymoon.
(off their STUNNED LOOKS)
It was pre-paid.

BRAD

What a bitch move.
 (off Jane's LOOK)
 Sorry babe, I love Alex, and I know
 she's your sister, but still. I
 mean...it's already on Youtube.

Brad shows her his iPhone: the CLIP is titled, "LOSER GETS
 LEFT AT THE ALTAR CAUSE HE SUCKS IN BED".

HOT GUY (ON YOUTUBE)

...boring, that the sex is bad...

The WAITRESS approaches with DRINKS -- NOTICES the video.

WAITRESS

Oh hey, my friend just sent me
 that. Hilarious, right?

They GLARE at her. Beat. She just puts down 5 shots and 5
 beers, then retreats away. BRAD MOVES JANE'S DRINKS AWAY.

BRAD

You're not drinking, right hun?

JANE

(off Max/Penny's looks)
 Oh yeah, I'm getting over a cold.
 I'll just have water.

MAX

(raises his shot)
 Well, here's to the last time we
 were ever all together.

JANE

C'mon, they could still work it out.

They all look at her incredulously, then down their shots.

MAX

You sound like my little brother.
 He still thinks mom and her new
 husband aren't that serious. You
 really think Dave and Alex can ever
 even be in the same room again?

PENNY

This sucks.
 (they all nod sadly)
 And...not to make it about me - but
 what about my birthday? It's
 supposed to be at their place.

MAX

There is no 'their place' anymore.
Your party's in a week, you'll be
lucky if either even shows.

PENNY

But...it's my 30th. They've been
at every one of my birthdays since
like 5th grade. And I need
everyone to meet Todd cause...
(scared for their reaction)
I kinda wanna bring him on the
Thanksgiving ski trip this year.

They all roll their eyes.

BRAD

Really? You're gonna bring another
new dude to Mammoth after what
happened two years ago?

PENNY

We're not *positive* he stole your
identity, Brad.

Everyone looks at her skeptically. Max grabs Jane's shot.

MAX

Twenty bucks there's no trip this
year anyway. Trust me, this is
just like when my folks split.
(downs Jane's shot)
We're gonna shuffle between them
for awhile, they'll get pissed we
still love the other one, we'll all
start hating each other, then
eventually we'll gain 15 pounds,
drop out of college, and turn gay.

JANE

That's...specific.
(to Penny)
Why don't you have your party at
our place? It'll be my first
chance to host in the new house.

PENNY

Thanks, but you guys live like
three DUIs away. Maybe I just
won't have a birthday this year.

JANE

What? No way. You're having a
party. I'll find a good place.
And everyone's gonna be there. And
there's gonna be a ski trip too,
guys. This is the tenth year in a
row.

(MORE)

JANE (cont'd)
 I already made t-shirts that say
 'Hang Ten'. C'mon, everything's
 gonna be totally fine. Right?

They're all silent. Jane looks at Brad PRODDINGLY --

BRAD
 Oh yeah, totally. Fine. In a
 couple months we'll be like, 'What
 ...runaway bride situation?'
 (beat)
 Just chillax everyone, okay? Let's
 take this one step at a time.
 Right now we should really just
 worry about Dave.

MAX
 Right now we should really just
 worry about you saying 'chillax'.
 Give Dave a few days. He's a guy,
 I'm sure he's fine.

CUT TO:

INT. DAVE AND ALEX'S APARTMENT - DAY?

Springsteen's "She's the One" BLARES in the MESSY room:
 SHADES drawn; PHOTOS/BOTTLES/WRAPPING PAPER strewn everywhere
 - the place is PACKED with UNWRAPPED/OPENED WEDDING GIFTS.

FIND Dave (tux, tie undone, disheveled) on the couch, blanket
 over his lap. He SINGS ALONG as he OPENS GIFTS and arranges
 a FANCY PLACE SETTING on the coffee table with some of them
 (plate, silverware, napkin, etc.).

DAVE/SPRINGSTEEN
Whoa...she's the one! SHE'S THE --

KNOCK! KNOCK! Dave MUTES the music with the remote and gets
 very QUIET. A key UNLOCKS the door -- he stands up HOPEFUL...

DAVE
 Alex?

Penny/Jane/Max/Brad (always in a SUIT) enter gingerly. Dave's
 blanket DROPS -- reveal WHITE BRIEFS (he's in half the tux).

DAVE (CONT'D)
 Oh...hey guys. What's up?

They look around, AMAZED by the mess. [ITALICS = BABY VOICE]

JANE
Hey, sweetie. How...are you?

DAVE

You know, pretty good. I came up with an awesome new drink. Who wants to be the first customer to try my world famous beer float?

He grabs a BLENDER out of a gift box, scoops ICE CREAM into it, pours BEER over it, then holds it out to them. Beat.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Side bar: thanks for the blender, Penny.

BRAD

(re: beer float)

No thanks, pal. Neat idea though. So...is that what you've been up to all week?

DAVE

(surprised)

It's been a week?

PENNY

Dave, I hope you know you're a catch. I'd marry you in a second - I mean - a million girls would marry you in a second. This was probably a really good thing.

MAX

(looks at Penny cross)

Yeah, it's totally a *good thing* that you got humiliated in front of everyone you know and Youtube.

DAVE

It's on Youtube?

MAX

Dave, the truth is, your wedding really sucked. But there is one positive: you're single. So - even though I like the whole Donald Duck look - why don't you go throw on some pants - preferably not your tux pants - probably a whole new outfit - and let's go get you laid.

DAVE

I don't wanna get laid. I wanna get married. To Alex.

MAX

I don't think that's really on the table anymore, champ.

Dave DROPS back down on the couch, destroyed. A TOASTER (gift) DINGS! Dave pulls out a piece of TOAST, takes a sad bite.

DAVE

I don't get it. What did I do? Did she tell you guys the sex was bad? I might've gotten a little lazy recently, but *bad* is pretty strong.

Dave sips the beer float -- RECOILS DISGUSTED, then wipes his mouth with the LINEN NAPKIN from the place setting.

JANE

You're...probably gonna have to return this stuff, honey.

Dave BLOWS his nose into the napkin.

BRAD

Listen, you don't have to get laid, but you really should get outta the house. How bout some food?

DAVE

I just ate two pizzas and most of the world's largest chocolate bride.

They look left to see -- an FAO SCHWARTZ SIZED CHOCOLATE GROOM and the DISEMBOWELED BOTTOM HALF OF THE BRIDE. Beat.

MAX

I got it! Strip club. Right now.

DAVE

No, I hate strippers. I always make up really depressing back-stories for them in my head.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. STRIP CLUB - **FLASHBACK**

Dave's SO UNCOMFORTABLE as he gets a lap dance from a STRIPPER. As she GRINDS him, we hear her (imagined) INNER MONOLOGUE.

STRIPPER (V.O.)

I was born in the backseat of a Miata on the El Paso border. We were poor, but I didn't know it... til my dad traded me to his friend Ron for a pack of whippits --

CUT BACK TO:

INT. DAVE AND ALEX'S APARTMENT - AS WE LEFT THEM

Dave lies back down on the couch, defeated, and pulls a nice blanket (GIFT TAG visible) over himself.

DAVE
I appreciate what you're doing guys, but I think I'm gonna lay low for awhile. I mean, just in case...well, she might call or something.

Beat. The friends don't know what to do.

BRAD
(blurts out)
She went on the honeymoon with the rollerblade guy.

JANE
Brad.
(to Dave)
It was...pre-paid.

They all look to Dave, awaiting his reaction...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. LOUD BAR - LATER

Dave DOWNS two shots quickly, GETTING DRUNK!

DAVE
What the hell, guys?! I mean, seriously, what the HELL!?

Brad/Penny/Jane look on, CONCERNED. Max drinks with him.

DAVE (CONT'D)
You know what, though? Whatever, I'm over it. Max is right, I'm single - which is awesome - and like Penny said, I'm a catch. I just wanna go back to normal right away, okay guys? It's all good.

JANE
(SUPER baby voice)
Don't bury your emotions, honey.

DAVE
You gotta stop talking to me like I just got back from Iraq. You're making it worse. *I'm moving on!*

He puts up his beer -- Max CHEERS-ES it hard!

MAX

There he is! Now pick a girl and give her two tickets to bangtown.

PENNY

You shouldn't just jump into bed with some slut, Dave. You're too good for that.

DAVE

I don't know that I am, Pen.

MAX

He's not. And getting laid's the best medicine for him right now. It's like...penis-cillin. Hey-o!

PENNY

Nice one, Leno.

DAVE

It's not that easy though, Max. You're a gay guy, you can get laid in the bathroom of a Barnes and Noble. It's a lot harder to convince a girl to have sex --

Max GRABS the next HOT GIRL (very young/hot) that walks by.

MAX

Whoa darlin, slow up. I wanna introduce you to the best French kisser in Chicago. Legit. He's won a couple Tongue-y's. Which is like the Oscar for Frenching.

HOT GIRL

(smiles flirty at Max)
You're funny.

MAX

I'm gay. But Dave's the straight me. And the Jewish me. Which means he controls the liberal media. So, French it up!

Hot Girl looks at Dave. Beat. DAVE DRUNKENLY LEANS IN... --

HOT GIRL

Um, thanks, but...

DAVE

Oh, I understand, nice to meet --

BRAD
 (steps in to help)
 Have you seen the Youtube video
 where the guy gets humiliated at
 the altar?

Jane shoots Brad a look, upset he's helping.

HOT GIRL
 Yeah, that's hilarious. I feel
 sooo bad for that guy.

Max/Brad point at Dave. Dave smiles, embarrassed. Beat.

SMASH CUT TO:

DAVE AND HOT GIRL DIRTY-DANCE DRUNKENLY ON THE DANCE FLOOR!

MEANWHILE ACROSS THE ROOM, PAN DOWN THE LINE of friends
 watching: Penny (frowns)...Jane (shakes her head)...Brad
 (suppresses a smile)...Max (dances in place).

JANE
 Can we let this happen? I feel
 like he's cheating on Alex. Or...
 we're cheating on Alex.

MAX
 Alex is in Cabo doing body shots
 off another dude.

JANE
 You really shouldn't have told him
 she went on the honeymoon, Brad.
 It makes her look bad.

BRAD
 Alex looks bad because she's doing
 bad stuff. That's like saying John
 Mayer's songs are making John Mayer
 look bad.

PENNY
 I love her Janey, but even I can't
 defend her on this one.

JANE
 (looking out at the dance
 floor)
 He does look happy...

THEIR POV: Hot Girl's bent over, GRINDING her ass into Dave's
 crotch as he gives the friends a GOOFY THUMBS UP! He looks
 down at Hot Girl's TRAMP STAMP: "STAY GROUNDED". He ROLLS
 HIS EYES at the idiocy, but then YELLS OVER THE LOUD MUSIC --

DAVE
I LOVE YOUR TATTOO!

HOT GIRL
It really just reminds me to STAY
GROUNDED!

DAVE
That's the dumbest thing I've ever
heard!

HOT GIRL
WHAT?

DAVE
I said...I LOVE STAYING GROUNDED!

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. DAVE AND ALEX'S APARTMENT - LATER

Dave and Hot Girl BURST in, MAKING OUT MADLY -- KNOCKING into
gifts as they BOUNCE around the room UNDESSING!

HOT GIRL
Do you have a condom?

DAVE
Oh, wow. Nice. Um...I'm not sure.
I haven't used one in like 10 years.
(she STOPS, SO FREAKED)
Oh, no, not like that. I just -
meant cause I've been in a
committed relationship. I don't
have AIDS. Or...warts.
(off her weird look)
I'm sure I can find one.

She tackles him O.S. onto the couch -- leaving the CAMERA ON
A PHOTO OF DAVE AND ALEX LAMELY POSING ON THE SLOPES HAPPILY.

DISSOLVE TO:

BEDROOM - NEXT MORNING

Hot Girl SNORES LOUDLY on Dave's chest in his bed. He STARES
at the ceiling. The doorbell RINGS. He SLIDES out carefully
and trudges to the FRONT DOOR, HUNGOVER. He opens it to...
ALEX (tan, Bo Derek BRAIDS). He's FLOORED. Long beat.

ALEX
Hi.

DAVE
Hi? That's what you're going with?

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO:

INT. DAVE AND ALEX'S APARTMENT - AS WE LEFT THEM

Dave and Alex stare at each other in the doorway.

ALEX

Dave, I - I'm so sorry. I didn't mean to do that...to you.

DAVE

So, is that guy like your boyfriend now?

ALEX

Who, Bo?

DAVE

Of course his name's Bo. I bet he smells like Axe Body Spray.

ALEX

He's not my boyfriend. We barely even know each other. We flirted a little at work, I guess - had some smokes - but I don't know why he thought I'd run away with him.

DAVE

Uh...cause you did?

ALEX

No, I didn't. I ran away with... myself. The truth is, I was having second thoughts for awhile - things just weren't the same between us. But I didn't have the guts to say anything. Then when Bo ran in --

DAVE

You mean, rollerbladed in.

ALEX

Right. I thought it was a sign, or maybe it was just the out I needed. In a weird way, him breaking up the wedding was a good thing.

DAVE

Yeah, tell him thanks for me. And ask him if he enjoyed my honeymoon.
(re: Alex's hair)
I can't believe you got the white-trash tourist braids. I feel like I don't even know you anymore.

ALEX

Bo didn't go with me. I went alone. It was...pre-paid. I never cheated on you. I loved you. I don't know - Can't we just go back to being friends for now? You said if we tried to take it to the next level and it didn't work, we could go back to being friends.

DAVE

That was like 9 years ago! And I was just trying to sleep with you.
(shakes his head)
You were the only girl I ever even liked. I literally can't even picture myself with another girl ever again for the rest of my life --

BEHIND HIM, Hot Girl enters NAKED.

HOT GIRL

Have you seen my tongue ring? I hope I didn't swallow another one.

Alex is SHOCKED/HURT. Dave goes RED.

INT. EQUINOX GYM - DAY

Penny SPRINTS on a treadmill, DRIPPING SWEAT/GRUNTING!

PENNY

Ugh! Ugh! So, he's moving out?

PAN RIGHT to reveal Alex and Jane WALKING SLOWLY on their treadmills/drinking smoothies, AMAZED at Penny's intensity.

ALEX

I told him he could stay for a little, but he said no. I feel bad, but...I own the place.

PENNY

You're really doing a complete tear-down on his entire life.

ALEX

Well...he already moved on. He had sex with the trashiest girl I've ever seen. In our bed.

PENNY

(really disappointed)
He slept with the tongue ring girl?

ALEX
You know her?

PENNY
They met at the bar last night.

ALEX
Wait, so you guys stood by and let
him go home with another girl?

JANE
You don't really have a leg to
stand on right now, Alex.

Alex knows they're right. Penny INCREASES her speed -- she's
GRUNTING SO LOUD NOW! Other GYM-GOERS look over oddly.

JANE (CONT'D)
Jesus, Pen, take it easy.

PENNY
Hey, you're married. I still gotta
advertise. Welcome back to the
single life by the way, Al. I hope
you like cardio, cause it's gotten
really competitive out there.
C'mon --

Penny SLAPS off her machine, jumps down. Alex/Jane follow.

PENNY (CONT'D)
While you've been spooning for ten
years, the whole game changed.
(motions at SCANTILY CLAD GIRLS)
They're all sluts now. A guy
doesn't even have to call anymore.
A text at midnight is basically a
romantic dinner for two. So I hope
you're ready to put out.

Alex's POV: HOT YOUNG GIRLS EVERYWHERE. She's a bit WORRIED.
Penny lies down at a BENCH PRESS and starts LIFTING HARD.

PENNY (CONT'D)
You shoulda married Dave. I mean,
he's a great guy, he's good
looking, he's your best friend...

ALEX
I wasn't sure we were...still in love.

PENNY
That is love. It's not gonna feel
like "The Notebook." Trust me,
there's nothing better out there.
It's mostly poor guys with weird
sexual stuff. And Dave's awesome.

ALEX

Then you marry him.

PENNY

(forces a laugh/belying feelings)

Yeah, right - that's hilarious.

Besides -

(sing songy)

Todd and I had our first sleepover and it was awesome.

(sits up, excited)

I can't wait for you guys to meet him tonight. And don't worry Al, Jane got us the room at Gibson's. We figured you probably wouldn't wanna have my party at your place anymore.

ALEX

(suddenly realizes)

Oh my god - today's your birthday.

I'm so sorry. I completely forgot.

(scared of Penny's response)

Happy...*birthday?*

PENNY

Don't worry. It's totally okay.

You've got a lot going on right

now. I completely understand.

ALEX

(surprised)

You do? Wow. Thanks. Well...in that case, do you think it's okay if I don't come tonight? I kinda...just don't wanna deal with Dave and everyone.

PENNY

(suddenly pissed)

Really!? It's bad enough you didn't even *remember* my 30th birthday - and I was so cool about that by the way - but now you're not even gonna come to my party?!

Alex is SURPRISED by the anger, she looks to Jane for help -- but Jane's pissed too.

JANE

Seriously Al. I mean, this isn't just about *this* party. It's about if we're still even gonna be a group of friends anymore. Or are we just, like, six separate people that don't go to each other's birthdays?

Alex is STUNNED. A HOT GIRL (19, half naked) approaches.

HOT YOUNG GIRL
Excuse me ma'am, are you done with
that machine?

PENNY
(looks at her sadly)
Ma'am?

Penny STORMS off. Jane follows. Alex is at a loss.

INT. DAVE AND ALEX'S APARTMENT - SAME

Dave/Max/Brad finish packing BOXES. Dave SLOWLY puts STUFF
in a box, PAUSING on each thing. Max/Brad are uncomfortable.
Max has to lighten the mood - he holds up a SPRINGSTEEN CD --

MAX
No Springsteen's leaving this house!
(off their ODD LOOKS)
St. Elmo's Fire? When Sheedy's
moving out of Judd Nelson's loft?

BRAD
(rolls his eyes at Max)
So...Dave, you sure you don't wanna
stay with me and Jane?

DAVE
No thanks. I'm single now, I
can't live in the suburbs. I'm
gonna just crash with Max.

MAX
It'll be like college again.
Except now I like dudes, so you
might actually get some girls.

Dave laughs a little, goes back to packing SLOWLY/FORLORNLY.

BRAD
Everyone knocks the burbs, but we
love it. It's quiet, homeless guys
don't piss on your car...and kids
that are raised in the city grow up
too fast. My boss' son got caught
doing blow at his Bar Mitzvah.

MAX
Are you guys already talking about
putting a baby in Jane?

BRAD
(hiding something)
No...but it's the logical next step.

MAX

Your kids are gonna look amazing.
Half black is god's photoshop.

BRAD

Why do you think I married white?
Now c'mon, let's go, I gotta get
back to the office. And I still
need to grab Penny a present, too.
What do you get the girl that hates
everything? Maybe I'll do the
funny gift thing. I've always
wanted to try that.

MAX

Sweet idea, Leno. I made her a
card.

BRAD

What're you, five?
(to Dave)
So...you're comin tonight, right?
It's gonna be at Gibsons now. And
Penny's bringing a new dude, which
is always interesting.

MAX

Of course he's coming.

DAVE

Yeah, of course I am. Why wouldn't
I? Cause of Alex? I bet she
doesn't even have the balls to
show. Not that it would matter to
me if she did. I'm good. Besides,
Penny might legit murder me if I
don't come. She seems a little on
edge about turning 30, right?

MAX

What? No way. Do people actually
care about that kinda thing?

CUT TO:

INT. EQUINOX, LOCKER ROOM - LATER

Penny CRIES HYSTERICALLY on a bench as Jane consoles her.

JANE

Trust me honey, you do not look
like a ma'am at all.

Alex enters. Penny/Jane GLARE at her in the mirror. Penny
wipes her eyes, then gets up and starts changing.

PENNY

I'm sorry Al, but...I just want things to be like they always were. I want all my friends at my birthday, happy and drunk. And I want everyone to meet Todd and tell me he's great and that he can come to Mammoth with us, and that I'm not gonna die alone, surrounded by pillows crocheted with inspirational sayings.

ALEX

(laughs)

Wow, you really think this guy's marriage material?

PENNY

Yeah, but the last guy I thought that about stole Brad's identity.

ALEX

That dude had obvious red flags you shoulda seen from the beginning.

PENNY

That's not true.

ALEX

You met him at a Planned Parenthood.

PENNY

It was outside a Planned Parenthood. And I didn't realize he was coming from there.

(shakes her head, sits)

You're right. I'm an idiot.

ALEX

Well...that's what we're here for. I'll tell you within five minutes tonight if he's the one, or if you should lock up your valuables.

PENNY

(beat, looks up happy)

Really? You'll come? Even if Dave comes too?

Jane smiles at Alex -- she smiles back, BARELY HIDING HER FEAR.

ALEX

Yeah. I mean...what's the big deal?

(Penny HUGS her huge)

So where'd you meet Todd? Outside a prison? At a Klan rally?

PENNY

Ha, ha. No, this was legit. We met on JDate.

JANE

(exchanges a look with Alex)
Don't...you have to be Jewish to be on that?

EXT. DAVE AND ALEX'S BUILDING - LATER

Dave/Max/Brad load the boxes into Dave's car.

DAVE

(trying to be nonchalant)
So...do you know if Alex *is* gonna be there, though?
(faux tough)
Not that I care at all.

BRAD

(sensing Dave's reluctance)
I don't know, man. But...hey, everyone would really understand if you can't handle going.

DAVE

(scoffs, slams the trunk)
You kidding me? Alex can't handle going. I can totally handle it. I'm gonna handle it like an adult.

CUT TO:

INT. GIBSON'S RESTAURANT, FRONT BAR - THAT NIGHT

Jane/Max/Alex drink at the bar, when --

DAVE (O.S.)

Whaaazzzuup!?

They turn to see Dave walk in...with the hot tongue ring girl he slept with, JACKIE (slutty top, Ed Hardy hat), on his arm.

Alex's mouth drops, AMAZED/HURT/PISSED. Jane/Max look at each other SHOCKED/UNCOMFORTABLE. Dave HI-FIVES Max awkwardly.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE:

INT. GIBSON'S RESTAURANT, FRONT BAR - AS WE LEFT THEM

Alex looks Jackie up and down as Dave introduces her.

DAVE

Max, Jane - you remember Jackie
from the other night.

They say hello awkwardly. Dave acts surprised to see Alex.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Hey! I didn't know you were coming
to this. I guess you two already
sorta met, but this is Jackie, my...
(to Jackie)
I don't know what to call us. My
kinda...*girlfriend*?

ALEX

Girlfriend?

JACKIE

Girlfriend?

Jackie BLUSHES/SMILES. Dave KISSES her with A LOT OF TONGUE
right in Alex's face. Max DOWNS his whiskey, leans to Jane.

MAX

This is just like when my mom
brought her new boyfriend to my
21st birthday party.

JANE

How'd it end?

MAX

My dad shot himself.

JANE

What?!

MAX

Not to death. In the hand. It was
a hunting party. Total accident.
But he *was* distracted by everything.

Jane pulls over the WAITER, talks to him quietly.

JANE

Listen, I need vodka in a water
glass with ice. I'm gonna keep
ordering "water" from you all
night, okay? "Water" means vodka.

WAITER

...Okay.

Waiter exits. Now everyone just stands there AWKWARDLY.

ALEX
So...Jackie, I love your hat.

JACKIE
(oblivious)
Thanks. It's Ed Hardy.

DAVE
(glares at Alex)
What're you wearing that's so great?

Jackie's confused. Max/Jane exchange an uncomfortable look.

PENNY (O.S.)
Hey everybody!

They turn to see -- Penny enter with her date, TODD (25, hot).

JANE
Happy birthday!
(whispers to Alex/Dave)
*You guys should really try and keep
it together for Penny's sake!*

Alex/Dave put up their hands "innocently". The Waiter hands Jane her "water" as Penny and Todd approach the group.

PENNY
Hey guys! Um, so...this is Todd.
This is Alex, Jane, Max, Dave and --

Penny's STUNNED to see Jackie there. She glances at Alex.

JACKIE
Jackie. Dave's girlfriend.

Max DOWNS his drink. Jane takes a BIG GULP off her "water".

TODD
Penny's told me so much about you
guys. It's awesome that you've had
such a close group of friends for
so long. That's really special.
(to Penny)
I'm just gonna run to the men's real
quick and wash my hands, okay babe?

He KISSES her, exits. Penny SMILES WIDE to the group.

PENNY
So...? Isn't he amazing?

Alex doesn't respond, her eyes are locked on Dave, who is ALL OVER Jackie. Jane tries to pick up the slack --

JANE
He seems really great. *Super* hot.

MAX

Gay. I mean, he also seems really great and super hot, but he's gayer than Hugh Jackman's boyfriend.

PENNY

We've been dating for a month. I think I'd know if he was gay.

MAX

You didn't know I was gay.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. COLLEGE MAX'S DORMROOM - **FLASHBACK**

COLLEGE MAX and COLLEGE PENNY make out on his bed. She DRIFTS down on him...he just SMILES, then GAZES to his left -- at an EVANDER HOLYFIELD POSTER (shirt off, glistening).

CUT BACK TO:

INT. GIBSON'S RESTAURANT, FRONT BAR - AS WE LEFT THEM

MAX

I'm just looking out for you, Pen. Trust me, I can tell. C'mon, what straight guy ever washes his hands?

Penny glares at him -- Todd comes back in.

TODD

Sorry, it's just so hard to get the soot off. I'm a volunteer fireman.

Max EYES Penny ("See.") -- she GLARES back ("What?"). Then --

BRAD (O.S.)

Happy birthday party people!

They all turn -- Brad (suit) enters carrying a WALKER (with a BOW, and a NOVELTY LICENSE PLATE hooked to it: "30")!

BRAD (CONT'D)

Sorry, had to work late.
(hands Penny the walker)
Get it? Cause...30's old? It's funny, right?

MAX

Not really, Leno.

TODD

(to Penny)
I...thought you were turning 26.

Everyone looks at Penny, SURPRISED. She GLARES at Brad --

PENNY

I am.

BRAD

Oh...did I say 30? I misspoke. And mis...purchased the wrong novelty license plate. That should say 26.

Awkward beat.

JACKIE

I can't wait to be 26. I feel like no one takes you seriously when you're still in high school.

Dave SPITS/COUGHS his drink out, BLOWN AWAY! Everyone's STUNNED. Beat. Jane SIGNALS the waiter.

JANE

Another water when you get a chance.

INT. GIBSON'S RESTAURANT, PRIVATE ROOM - LATER

They eat/drink in TENSE SILENCE at a round table. Silverware CLINKS. Penny leans in/WHISPERS to Alex --

PENNY

So...what do you think of Todd? Any red flags? He's not gay, right?

ALEX

(not listening to Penny)
So Jackie, what do you wanna be when you grow up?

JACKIE

Well, I either wanna be a veterinarian, or on a reality show.

ALEX

Wow.

DAVE

You know what I love about you, Jackie? Whatever you decide to do, you'll really do it. You won't just say you'll do it, and then rollerblade away at the last second.

ALEX

Well, unless you get to vet school and you suddenly realize, 'Wow, I don't love animals anymore. They totally take me for granted.'

Jackie/Todd are CONFUSED. SILENT BEAT. Jane whispers to Brad --

JANE
Say something.

BRAD
(to Penny and Todd)
So, where'd you two lovebirds meet?

TODD
JDate. We just instantly connected.

BRAD
Oh, I thought you had to be Jewish
to go on that thing.

TODD
I am Jewish.

BRAD
No, I meant --
(off Penny's LOOK)
Penny's also Jewish.

Penny tries to smile through. Max puts his ARM AROUND Todd.

MAX
I love Jewish guys. Like that Shia
Lebouf. I'd love to connect with
him on JDate. Scale of 1 to 10:
69, am I right, T?

TODD
(wiggles free, confused)
I'm more of a Megan Fox guy, bro --

Jane HOPS UP/CLINKING her glass, trying to save with a toast --

JANE
It really is all about connecting
though, isn't it, Todd? Great to
finally meet you. You guys are so
cute together. And happy birth --

DAVE
(stands up toasting, drunk)
I couldn't have said it better
myself. But I would throw in one
caveat, Todd. Which is that you
never know when someone else is
gonna come in and connect with the
person you already connected with,
and then you're the jackass on
Youtube that --

BRAD
(jumps up, trying to save)
I think what my pal's trying to say
is that love is a four letter word --

ALEX

(stands up toasting)
 You know Todd, Dave has a point.
 Things change. You can't just go
 through the motions. You gotta
 work at the relationship. Don't
 wear sweatpants everyday and only
 focus on yourself in bed.

TODD

...Okay.

Penny drops her head, defeated.

DAVE

I'm a very caring lover! And all I
did was work on our relationship!
 You're the most high-maintenance
 person on the planet. You make Mariah
 Carey look like...Maya Angelou.
 (off everyone's odd looks)
 I'm assuming she's low maintenance.

JACKIE

Wait, so...Alex is the runaway bride?

ALEX

Yes, *genius*, I'm the runaway bride!
 I ruined everything for everyone! I
 know you all want some great
 explanation, but all I can tell you
 is that two minutes before I was
 supposed to walk out there, Jane was
 talking to me about kids and the
 suburbs, and I just had this image
 of myself as a fat soccer mom in a
 minivan and...I freaked out. Then
 Bo rollerbladed in and - that's all
 I got, okay!? I'm sorry everyone!

DAVE

Really great bridesmaid work, Jane.

JANE

You know Dave, if a few sentences
 can make a girl run out on your
 wedding, you're not really on solid
 ground in the first place.

DAVE

You're not on solid ground!

BRAD

Whoa everybody. C'mon, this is a b-
 day celebration, not a dirty laundry
 ...mat. Todd must think we're nuts.
 Alex, we'll work it out, okay?
 Breathe, have some water.

Brad grabs Jane's "WATER" and hands it to Alex -- she GULPS it and -- COUGHS/SPITS it out all over the place!

ALEX
What the hell!? That's all vodka!

BRAD
What? Jane, why are you drinking?

MAX
Why do you care all of a sudden?

BRAD
Because we're trying to have a baby!

JANE
You're not supposed to tell anyone!
It's bad luck!

BRAD
It's also bad luck to drink vodka.
Unless you like Downs Syndrome!

JANE
God, you're so uptight! You don't have to quit drinking when you're *trying*. Drinking's how most people get pregnant in the first place. But *nooo*, you gotta do everything by the book. You're like the whitest black guy in the world!
(chugs her "water" in his face)
I don't wanna have a baby right now, okay? I did - when I thought Alex and Dave were gonna have one too, and live next door - but now we're all alone. And you always work late, and I hate the suburbs and I don't wanna be a SOCCER MOM EITHER!

Jane STORMS OUT! They're all STUNNED (she's not a yeller).

BRAD
Well...you coulda told me all that before we JUST BOUGHT A FOUR BEDROOM HOUSE!

Brad GLARES at Alex/Dave, then goes after Jane angrily.

DAVE
Nice work, Al. You're the Michael Jordan of destroying marriages.

ALEX
Well...you're the Michael Jordan of banging high school sluts!
(MORE)

ALEX (cont'd)
 Seriously Dave, she's wearing an Ed
 Hardy hat. Have some self-respect!

JACKIE
 GOD, YOU GUYS ARE ALL SO IMMATURE!

Jackie gets up to leave, pauses, THROWS her drink in Alex's
 face, then STORMS OUT! Dave looks at Alex, DRENCHED. Beat.

"Happy birthday to you...". WAITERS enter SINGING. They put
 a CAKE in front of Penny. Todd looks at it: "HAPPY 30TH!"

TODD
 Wait, so you are 30, or 26?

PENNY
 (fed up)
 I'm 30...and Catholic...and I'M
 GONNA DIE ALONE!

Penny SWEEPS the cake off the table and storms out! The
 Waiters RETREAT slowly/oddly. Now it's Todd/Max/Alex/Dave.

TODD
 I'm...so confused right now.

MAX
 I know you are. I've been there.
 But at some point - couple weeks,
 couple years - you're gonna figure
 out, Hey, I like dudes.
 (puts his CARD in Todd's pocket)
 When that happens, gimme a shout.
 We'll get some beers, talk about
 where you're from, maybe see a
 movie. No pressure.

TODD
 Dude, I'm not gay, OKAY?!

Todd STORMS out! Now it's just Max/Dave/Alex.

MAX
 Wow, what a homophobe. Well...good
 work guys. See you in hell.

Max CHEERS-ES Dave/Alex, DOWNS his drink, exits. Now it's
 just Dave and Alex. Beat. She sighs, then gets sincere.

ALEX
 Dave, I...I'm so sorry. But think
 about the last couple years. Can
 you honestly say things still felt
 the same between us? You got me
 gift certificates for our last
 three Valentine's Days.
 (Dave considers that)
 (MORE)

ALEX (cont'd)
 I feel like we just got engaged
 cause we were 30 and that's what
 you're supposed to do. Like we
 were in love for so long, we didn't
 realize that...we weren't anymore.
 You didn't feel any of that?

Dave thinks on that...sighs. He knows she's right. Beat.

DAVE
 Yeah, I guess. Maybe. But...even
 if that is true, that's the type of
 thing you talk about over dinner,
 not on the altar.

ALEX
 I know. I'm so sorry. Really.
 You've been my best friend for 20
 years. I don't want that to
 change. *Please...forgive me.*

DAVE
 (long beat)
 Well...that's not gonna happen.

Alex's face falls, disappointed, sad. Beat.

DAVE (CONT'D)
 But that's *our* problem. And if we
 don't keep it between us, we're gonna
 lose all our friends. And they're
 gonna lose all their friends. And
 we'll probably all be alone forever,
 cause I don't think any of us has
 made a new friend in like 11 years.

Alex laughs a little. Beat. They both know he's right.

EXT. VALET STAND - LATER

Todd and Penny talk by his car.

PENNY
 So...crazy night, right? Sorry.
 Do...you still wanna come over?

TODD
 I actually have an early morning, so...

Beat. Todd sorta BRO-HUGS her, then gets in his car and
 goes. Penny's SAD. She turns around to -- Brad/Jane/Max/
 Alex/Dave there. They don't know what to say. Beat. Then
 they all TALK SIMULTANEOUSLY (Max trails in at the end).

JANE/DAVE/ALEX/BRAD
 Sorry./Loser./Forget him./His loss.

MAX
Guaranteed small peen.

BRAD
(rolls his eyes, then)
No Pen, it's my fault. I'm the one
that brought the walker. I'm just
...not the funny gift guy. Sorry.

They all look to Penny, scared for her reaction. Long beat.

PENNY
It's not your fault. It's mine. I
was never this...*psycho*. Guys used
to lie to have sex with *me*. Guys a
lot cooler than Todd. Something
about getting close to 30 turned me
into a Sex and the City character.
It's embarrassing. And I'm sure
I've probably been driving you guys
crazy. So...*I'm* sorry.

They're all TAKEN ABACK by her mature reaction. Beat.

MAX
We forgive you.

PENNY
Uh, you're still an asshole for
hitting on him all night.

ALEX
Guys c'mon, all this fighting is
really just cause of me and Dave. Or
me, I guess. I mean, Jane - You've
wanted to be a soccer mom since you
were 6. What's really changed? And
Brad might be the most uncool black
guy on the planet, but he just wants
what's best for you guys.
(Jane laughs/SMILES at Brad)
And Pen - Max was just trying to
break up the tension that we caused.
And...he's an idiot.

MAX
I really am a moron.

PENNY
(finally laughs/smiles)
It's cool. There's always tons of
hot guys in Mammoth. I'd rather be
single there anyway.
(realizes something)
I mean, if anyone still wants to do
the trip this year.

Awkward beat as they all look at each other.

BRAD

Yeah, we need to decide who's in.
If we're gonna get a smaller house
this time, we gotta get on that.

Everyone looks to Alex/Dave, HOPEFUL. They exchange a look.

DAVE

Of course we're all in.

Alex SMILES/NODS. Everyone SMILES, HAPPY. Beat.

JANE

But...then do we actually need a
bigger house though? Cause...
don't we need an extra room now?

ALEX

Oh. Yeah, I guess we do.

Beat. EVERYONE REALIZES THINGS HAVE CHANGED.

MAX

Why Al? Are you gonna bring the
rollerblade guy?
(off everyone's GLARES)
What? Too soon?

They all look to Dave, AWAITING his reaction. Beat. Then --

DAVE

Well...he'll probably just show up
at the last second.

Everyone laughs, RELIEVED. The weight is lifting...

JANE

You should bring Jackie. If she
doesn't have too much homework.

BRAD

Oh! Le-no!

Everyone LAUGHS HARD. BRAD PUTS HIS ARM AROUND JANE -- SHE
SMILES. Awkward beat. What now...? Penny checks her watch.

PENNY

Well...it's still my birthday for
six more minutes. Who needs a
drink? Alex, you're buying.

Alex smiles/nods. Dave puts his arm around Penny, KISSES HER
HEAD PLATONICALLY -- SHE SMILES UP AT HIM, BLUSHING WITH SECRET
LOVE. They all walk back in. CAMERA STAYS OUT ON THE WINDOW:
They belly up to the bar. Max makes a joke. They all LAUGH.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG:

INT. MAX'S SHITTY APARTMENT - LATER

Dave looks around Max's MESSY place (like a shitty college apartment). Max hands Dave a blanket.

DAVE

I thought gay guys were supposed to be clean.

MAX

I thought Jewish guys were supposed to be rich.

(slaps Dave's ass)

Sleep tight, roomie.

Max exits. Dave clears crap off the NASTY FUTON, then lies down. He stares up at the ceiling. His life has changed. It's a HEART MOMENT. Then -- KNOCK! KNOCK!

Dave looks over. Max comes out in his boxers, opens the front door to...TODD. They lock eyes. Beat. Then they KISS AGGRESSIVELY!

THE END