"The Dentist"

Written by
Mark Driscoll

Directed by
Tom Cherones

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS NOT A COMPLETE SCRIPT

SECOND REV. (P)  8/12/94

FINAL DRAFT
August 10, 1994
"The Dentist"
(#C315)

CAST LIST

ELLEN ............................................. ELLEN DEGENERES
ADAM ............................................. ARYE GROSS
PAIGE ............................................. JOELY FISHER
JOE ............................................... DAVE HIGGINS
JOANNA .......................................... ANDREA PARKER
DAVE ............................................. HARLEY VENTON
WAITRESS ....................................... BLAIRE BARON
SARAH ............................................. MARTHA THOMPSON
ROMANTIC GUY ................................ BRIAN MCGOVERN *
PRETTY GIRL .................................... ALICIA ANNE *
DR. GARBER ..................................... ROBERT GRANT *
"The Dentist"
(#C315)

SET LIST

COLD OPENING (1) - INT. APARTMENT - MORNING (DAY 1)

ACT ONE

SCENE A (2) - INT. POOL HALL - NIGHT (NIGHT 2)
SCENE B (9) - INT. DENTIST'S OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY (DAY 3)
SCENE C (12) - INT. BUY THE BOOK - A FEW DAYS LATER (DAY 4)

ACT TWO

SCENE D (20) - INT. APARTMENT - A FEW DAYS LATER (DAY 5)
SCENE E (25) - INT. DENTIST'S OFFICE - LATER
SCENE H (29) - INT. POOL HALL - THAT NIGHT
SCENE HH (33A) - INT. APARTMENT - LATER
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SCENE K (37) - INT. BUY THE BOOK - LATER THAT DAY
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TAG 2 (44) - INT. POOL HALL - ANOTHER NIGHT (NIGHT 7)

SFX

A LOUD WHIRRING (1)
FAINT TV SOUNDS (24)
DENTIST'S DRILL (36)
"The Dentist"
(#C315)

**SHORT RUNDOWN**

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COLD OPENING

FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - MORNING (DAY 1)
(Ellen, Adam)

ELLEN STANDS AT THE ISLAND WORKING AN ELECTRIC JUICER. A SMALL PILE OF ALREADY-SQUEEZED ORANGE HALVES IS ON THE COUNTER. ELLEN REALLY LEANS INTO ANOTHER ORANGE ON THE JUICER.

SFX: A LOUD WHIRRING

SHE DISCARDS THE ORANGE HALF AND MOPS HER BROW. SHE PULLS OUT THE JUICE TRAY AND POURS IT INTO A GLASS, PRODUCING ONLY AN INCH OF JUICE. SHE SIGHS AND, WITH DETERMINATION, SLICES ANOTHER ORANGE AND BEGINS JUICING AGAIN.

ELLEN, DRENCHED IN SWEAT, IS STILL JUICING. THE COUNTER TOP IS COVERED WITH SQUEEZED ORANGE HALVES. SHE FINISHES THE LAST ORANGE, ADDS IT TO THE PILE, AND, AGAIN, PULLS OUT THE TRAY. THIS TIME SHE FILLS THE GLASS TO THE TOP.

ELLEN SCOPS ALL THE ORANGES INTO A GARBAGE BAG, HOISTS IT OVER HER SHOULDER LIKE SANTA CLAUS, AND CARRIES IT OUT TO THE HALLWAY.

JUST THEN, ADAM, LOOKING SLEEPY, ENTERS FROM THE BEDROOM. HE SPOTS THE ORANGE JUICE.

ADAM

(BRIGHTLY) Hey, orange juice...

HE PICKS UP THE GLASS, DRINKS IT ALL DOWN, AND EXITS. ELLEN RE-ENTERS AND SPOTS THE EMPTY GLASS. AS ELLEN SCREAMS, WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF COLD OPEN
FADE IN;

INT. POOL HALL - NIGHT (NIGHT 2)
(Ellen, Adam, Paige, Joanna, Waitress, Extras)

ELLEN, PAIGE, ADAM, AND JOANNA, HIS PLEASANT AND ATTRACTIVE GIRLFRIEND OF THE LAST FEW WEEKS, ARE SHOOTING POOL. ADAM HAS HIS ARM AROUND JOANNA.

ELLEN

(TO JOANNA) So I figured, I have next to no money in the bank, zero credit, and three-thousand dollars left on a college loan. I know! What I should really do is buy a bookstore.

JOANNA

Well, you always said you were going to be your own boss someday.

ELLEN

And now I am. I'm also my own employee. You should see me suck up to myself. Something to see.

PAIGE

Ellen, you're up.

ELLEN

All right, step aside.

SHE TAKES AIM AT THE CUE BALL.
ADAM
Gotta call your shot.

ELLEN
Okay. I'll call it "Mayhem on Felt."

ELLEN LINES UP AND LASHES OUT WITH HER CUE. THE BALLS GO EVERYWHERE. ELLEN WATCHES AND ROOTS FOR SOMETHING TO DROP. NOTHING DOES.

ELLEN (CONT'D)
Perfect.

JOANNA
(LAUGHS) How about another round of beers?

THEY AD-LIB AGREEMENT. JOANNA KISSES ADAM.

PAIGE
Eewww, someone's kissing Adam.

JOANNA EXITS.

PAIGE (CONT'D)
Seriously, you guys seem really great together.

ADAM
Thank you.

ELLEN
Isn't there someone else you should be thanking?
ADAM

Yes, Ellen. Thanks. Thanks again. For the millionth time, thank you for setting us up.

ELLEN

Oh, please. There's nothing more satisfying than bringing people together. If only the whole world could follow my example. Instead of man making war against his fellow man, he'd fix up his fellow man with a lonely fellow man friend. The whole Middle East would be one big mixer.

A WAITRESS APPROACHES THE TABLE.

WAITRESS

(TO ADAM) Hey, cutie. Can I get you anything?

ADAM

Thanks, my girlfriend just went up to the bar.

WAITRESS

(MOCK-CRUSHED) Girlfriend? How come the good ones are always taken?

THE WAITRESS LEAVES.
ELLEN
That waitress was flirting with you.

ADAM
Really? Nah.

PAIGE
She was. You know, it's weird, but I've noticed that lately you're... almost... attractive.

ADAM
ELLEN
Adam, the reason you’re almost attractive lately is because you’re happier and more confident. And the reason you’re happier and more confident is because you’re dating Joanna. And the reason you’re dating Joanna...?

ELLEN INDICATES HERSELF.

ADAM
Thank you, Ellen.

ELLEN
Stop it.

JOANNA RETURNS WITH THE BEERS; THEY ALL GRAB ONE.

JOANNA
Sorry that took so long. Did you miss me?

ADAM
Terribly.

ELLEN
Rack 'em up, Paige. Seven more wins and we’re even.

ELLEN STRUGGLES WITH HER TWIST-OFF BEER BOTTLE. IT'S TOO SLIPPERY TO OPEN, SO SHE TRIES TO USE HER TEETH. THIS IS A MISTAKE.

ELLEN (CONT’D)
Ow!!
ADAM
What's wrong?

ELLEN
(FEELING IN HER MOUTH) Oh, it's nothing. Just a little... okay, maybe not so little-- huge, really, chip off my tooth.

PAIGE
(LOOKING IN ELLEN'S MOUTH) Ellen, you need to see a dentist.

ELLEN
I don't have one.

PAIGE
Then I'll set you up with mine. He's great. And the best part is, he's cute.

ELLEN
(WITH FINGER IN HER MOUTH, PROBING TOOTH) Cute? Who cares if he's cute. I just want someone to fix my tooth. (BEAT) How cute?

CUT TO:
ELLEN IS RECLINED IN THE DENTIST'S CHAIR, TAKING IN HER SURROUNDINGS. SHE NOTICES THE BUTTONS ON THE CONSOLE IN FRONT OF THE CHAIR. SHE TRIES TO CONTROL HER CURIOUSITY, BUT CAN'T RESIST FINALLY PUSHING ONE BUTTON, THEN PUSHING ALL THE BUTTONS.

DAVE, THE DENTIST, AN AFFABLE AND HANDSOME, THIRTY-SOMETHING MAN, AND HIS HYGIENIST, SARAH ENTER. HE APPROACHES THE CHAIR AND EXTENDS HIS HAND. ELLEN IS STRICKEN BY HIS GOOD LOOKS.

DAVE

Hi, Ellen? Dave Ellis.

ELLEN

Hi. Just Dave, huh? Not "Doctor" Ellis?

DAVE

No, no. I never went in for "Doctor." Too formal for me.

ELLEN

Well, I hope the actual study of dentistry wasn't too formal for you.

DAVE

Not to worry. (INDICATING DIPLOMA)

I got my degree.
ELLEN
Oh, I'm not worried. Paige told me you were a great dentist and also very... un-dentist-like.

DAVE
I'll take that as a compliment.

ELLEN
Whatever.

DAVE
Now, let's have a look at that tooth, shall we?

ELLEN FLASHES THE SORT OF DEMURE SMILE ONE MIGHT OFFER A PHOTOGRAPHER.

DAVE (CONT'D)
Very nice smile.

ELLEN
Thank you.

DAVE
But I'd like to see the chipped tooth; let's open wide.

ELLEN OPENS A BIT WIDER.

DAVE (CONT'D)
Really, really wide.

ELLEN OPENS HER MOUTH REALLY WIDE. DAVE PROBES IN HER MOUTH WITH AN INSTRUMENT.

DAVE (CONT'D)
Hmmm. Do you floss?
ELLEN

Oh, religiously. You know, on
Easter and Christmas. Yom Kippur,
Rosh--

DAVE DEFTLY CUTS HER OFF BY BEGINNING THE DENTAL EXAM.

DAVE

You have a little decay in there.
I'd like to do some x-rays. Then
I'll have to clean it out and put
on a crown. It'll probably take a
couple of visits.

ELLEN

Two visits? Whew, aren't we
rushing things a little, Dave?
Let's just try that first visit,
see how that goes, take it from
there.

A BEAT OF BEWILDERED SILENCE. DAVE SQUIRTS SOME WATER IN ELLEN'S
MOUTH.

DAVE

You can spit now.

ELLEN MODESTLY DECLINES, SHAKING HER HEAD AND SMILING POLITELY, 

* AS WE:

D I S S C L I V E  T O :
INT. BUY THE BOOK - A FEW DAYS LATER (DAY 4)
(Ellen, Adam, Paige, Joe, Joanna, Extras)

ELLEN IS AT HER COUNTER WITH PAIGE.

PAIGE
So, was that a cute dentist, or was that a cute dentist?

ELLEN
Yes, Paige, he is now my cutest health care provider.

PAIGE
So, are you going to ask him out?

ELLEN
No, of course not. (DISGUSTED) He had his hands in my mouth.

PAIGE
So you’ve already broken the ice. This’ll be easy. Set up a late afternoon appointment. Then afterwards, you suggest going out for a drink.

ELLEN
Great, my mouth will be numb, wine will be dribbling down my chin. It’s a very good look for me.
PAIGE

Ellen, I have to go. But I'm telling you, life is short. Carpe dentist.

PAIGE EXITS.

ELLEN

"Seize the dentist"?
ADAM AND JOANNA ENTER. ADAM IS CARRYING SOME TRAVEL BROCHURES. THEY AD-LIB HELLOS.

ELLEN (CONT’D)

Hey, guys. How was the beach?

ADAM

Okay.

JOANNA

It was great. We ate lunch out on the boardwalk. (TO JOE) Listen, could I get some change for the meter?

JOE

You gotta buy something.

JOANNA

Really? (THEN, TAKING OUT A DOLLAR) Okay, I’ll take a couple of biscotti.

JOE

Comes to one dollar even.

ELLEN

He does that all the time.

ELLEN HANDS JOANNA SOME CHANGE.

JOANNA

Thanks, I’ll be right back. Adam, tell her about Santa Barbara.

JOANNA LEAVES.

ELLEN

You’re going to Santa Barbara?
ADAM
I’m not going anywhere. Ellen, I’m going crazy. I can’t take it another minute.

ELLEN
What?!

ADAM
I’m completely stifled. If it’s not let’s play pool, it’s let’s go to the beach, let’s go to Santa Barbara for the weekend.

ELLEN
Well, clearly the woman is a sadist.

ADAM
I want to be free to pursue other options.

ELLEN
What options? Before Joanna, you spent your weekends sorting laundry.

ADAM
Not anymore. Like this woman at my photo lab. In five years, she’s never given me the time of day. Until today.

ELLEN
What happened?
ADAM

Well... she gave me the time. But it was the way she said it. Like I have the time for you, but too bad you don’t have the time for me because you’re stuck in a relationship.

ELLEN

Are you sure it wasn’t I have the time, but is it enough time to call the men with the big butterfly nets to haul you away? Why are you doing this?

ADAM

You wouldn’t understand. It’s a guy thing.

JOE STEPS IN.

JOE

Adam’s right. It is, in fact, the most primal of guy things. Our survival instinct dictates that we find as many mates as possible to insure the propagation of our genes.

ADAM

That’s exactly it. I want to propagate my genes.
JOE

Of course you do. We still possess the primitive instincts of our hunter-gatherer ancestors. It's virtually impossible to remain monogamous.

ADAM

So you think I should break up with Joanna?

JOE

Joanna? The one that just left? What are you, an idiot?! She's gorgeous! Marry her! Marry her, then stay with her until you die!

JOE MOVES OFF.

ELLEN

You heard him.

ADAM

But I want to hunt and gather. You know, play the field. You said yourself, I'm more attractive lately.

ELLEN

I told you, that's because of Joanna. Before her, you never got dates.
ADAM

I admit, I've had a couple of dry spells.

ELLEN

Decades. They're called decades. Adam, seriously, don't do this. She's a good friend of mine and she's great for you.

ADAM

No. I want out, and the only way to deal with this problem is to face it head on. (SPOTTING JOANNA) Oh, God, here she comes. I've got to figure out what to say.

ADAM RACES OFF TO ELLEN'S OFFICE AS JOANNA ENTERS THE BOOKSTORE. SHE CROSSES TO JOIN ELLEN.

JOANNA

Hey. Where's Adam?

ELLEN

Adam? Well, right now, the bathroom, but next time, who knows? You know that guy, so darn flighty, here one minute, gone the next. Not the most dependable character. Not exactly a sure thing.

JOANNA

What do you mean?
ELLEN
Well, remember when I first set you up with Adam and I warned you about him?

JOANNA
Warned me? You said he was fun.

ELLEN
Oh, no... You didn't think I meant "fun" as in, "happy-go-lucky" or "enjoys life?" I meant "FUN." You know, the acronym F - U - N... as in... (SEARCHING) "Flaky"...
"Unreliable"... "No-gooder."

JOANNA
What are you talking about?

ELLEN
Joanna, you're a wonderful woman, and any sane man would be thrilled to be with you. The key word being sane.

ADAM COMES OUT OF THE OFFICE.

ELLEN (CONT'D)
(SPOTTING ADAM) Well, I'll leave you two alone.

ELLEN CROSSES TO JOE'S COUNTER, LEAVING A BEWILDERED JOANNA. ADAM APPROACHES HER.

ANGLE ON: ELLEN, WINCING AS SHE WATCHES ADAM AND JOANNA, WAITING FOR THE BOMB TO DROP.
JOANNA AND ADAM SIT AT A NEARBY TABLE. ADAM GINGERLY BEGINS SPEAKING TO HER.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

Look at him, Joe. Look what he's doing.

JOE

He's not going to break up with her. In this world, he does not break up with her. He would have to be the dumbest man alive.

JOANNA ANGRILY STORMS OUT.

JOE (CONT'D)

(EYES POPPING) Wow!

ADAM EXHALES IN RELIEF. ON ELLEN'S LOOK OF DISGUST, WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - A FEW DAYS LATER (DAY 5)
( Ellen, Adam, Paige)

ELLEN SITS ON THE COUCH. PAIGE STARES INTO HER MOUTH. ADAM, FEELING FOOTLOOSE AND FANCY FREE, IS LOOKING THROUGH HIS ADDRESS BOOK.

ELLEN

(TO PAIGE) How do they look?

ADAM

What are you doing?

ELLEN

(TO ADAM) Is your name Paige?

ADAM

You didn't say Paige.

ELLEN

Yes, I did.

ADAM

Oh, no, you did not.

ELLEN

I believe I did.

ADAM

Perhaps you intended to.

ELLEN

At any rate, "Paige" was implied.

ADAM

The implication was lost on me.
ELLEN
I'm sure it was not lost on Paige.

PAIGE
I thought you two weren't speaking to each other. You notice I said that kind of hopefully.

ELLEN
You're right. We're not. Where were we?

PAIGE
Your teeth look great. What are you wearing?

ADAM
Where is she going?

ELLEN
(TO PAIGE) I'm wearing this.

ADAM
I thought you were going to the dentist.

ELLEN
I am going to the dentist.

PAIGE
Okay, lean back.

ELLEN LEANS BACK AS IF IN A DENTAL CHAIR.

PAIGE (CONT'D)

Open.

ELLEN OPENS HER MOUTH WIDE.
PAIGE (CONT'D)
I like it. The jacket picks up the pink in your gums.

ADAM
So, you have a date with your dentist?

ELLEN
No, I have an appointment with my dentist.

PAIGE
The last appointment of the day, which could easily lead to a date. I'm going to drop her off, she'll need a ride home, presumably Dr. Dave has a car... Do we have to spell it out for you?

ADAM
(TO ELLEN) And you think this will work?

ELLEN
Of course not. But the point is, I am single, and I don't have a steady relationship, so I'm willing to try idiotic schemes like this. If I had a steady relationship, I wouldn't need to. I would be lucky.
PAIGE
And happy.

ELLEN
And not stupid.

ADAM
Stupid is your opinion.

PAIGE
Stupid is everyone's opinion. I've got three words for you, Adam: Fear of intimacy.

ADAM
Oh, please. I have three words for you. (BEAT, THINKING) I don't know what they are right now, but you're wrong, Paige. Wait, there's three: You're wrong, Paige. I can be as intimate as the next guy. And I have a feeling something great may be coming my way.

ELLEN
(HANDING HIM THE REMOTE) I think it's called "JEOPARDY!". Enjoy.

ELLEN AND PAIGE EXIT. ADAM SAUNTERS AROUND THE APARTMENT FOR A BEAT, MAKING UP A LITTLE SONG TO HIMSELF. HE SINGS QUIETLY AT FIRST, THEN WITH RISING INTENSITY.
ADAM

I’M FREE GUY - SWINGIN’ ADAM GREEN...

WAITING FOR HIS... SPECIAL QUEEN...

HE HAS DIALED THE PHONE.

ADAM (CONT’D)

(CONFIDENTLY) Hello? Audrey?...

Hi, it’s Adam... Yeah, I left you four or five messages about going out tonight. I guess you didn’t get them... (LAUGHS TOO HARD)

Well, it was just a guess. So you want to?.... Oh. Okay. Bye.

A BEAT. ADAM FLOPS ON THE COUCH, GRABS THE REMOTE AND TURNS ON THE TELEVISION.

SFX: FAINT TV SOUNDS

ADAM WATCHES FOR A BEAT.

ADAM (CONT’D)

What is Belgian Congo?

AND WE:

DISSOLVE TO:
INT. DENTIST'S OFFICE - LATER
( Ellen, Dave, Sarah)

ELLEN IS BACK ONCE AGAIN IN THE DENTIST'S CHAIR. SARAH FASTENS A BIB ON HER. DAVE CONSULTS ELLEN'S X-RAYS, OFF TO THE SIDE.

ELLEN
(RE: BABY PHOTO) That baby has some big ears. (RE: BIB) You know, I don't think this'll be necessary. Unless you're planning on serving lobster.

SARAH
It's just to protect your clothes; we think you'll be more comfortable in it.

ELLEN
(STRUGGLING WITH SARAH) No, really, I'd prefer not to wear it.

SARAH
(CLIPPING THE BIB) I'd hate to spill on such a nice outfit. Are you going out someplace special after the visit?

SARAH CROSSES TO DAVE. ELLEN FRANTICALLY ADJUSTS THE BIB SO THAT IT'S HIDDEN WITHIN THE LAPELS OF HER OUTFIT AS SHE CHATTERS.
ELLEN
(RE: CLOTHES) Oh, no you mean, 'cause of this? Nah! This just happened to be the only clean thing left in my closet. (LOUDLY) No, I've got no plans. After this appointment, I'm wide open, all night. Free as a bird. Free as a bird without a ride home.

DAVE APPROACHES ELLEN.

DAVE
Okay, Sarah's going to give you a little nitrous oxide. I'd like you to take about ten deep breaths through your nose, okay?

SARAH APPROACHES AND PLACES THE MASK OVER ELLEN'S NOSE. ELLEN STARTS TAKING HER BREATHS.

ELLEN
This stuff doesn't work on me. I tried it at a Grateful Dead concert once. (OFF THEIR LOOKS) It was okay. I was with my dentist.

DAVE
Just keep breathing.

SARAH
Are you from Los Angeles originally, Ellen?
ELLEN
(BREATHE) No. (BREATHE) Louisiana.

SARAH

ELLEN
(BREATHE) Things you see in New Orleans!

SARAH
Isn't that your hometown, Dave?

DAVE
Born and raised.

ELLEN
(BREATHE) Things you do as a child. Things you do with your mother. Things you do with a chicken.

DAVE
What do you know, Ellen? We're both from the old bayou.

ELLEN, WHO HAS BEEN WHALING ON THE NITROUS OXIDE, HAS A SILLY FAR-OFF LOOK TO HER. SHE SETTLES INTO A SLOW SOUTHERN DRAWL.

ELLEN
The old bayou. The old baa-youu.
Can I ba-you a drink, Dr. Dave?

DAVE
(TO SARAH) I think the nitrous may be starting to work. You feel relaxed, Ellen?
ELLEN
My stars, I feel downright tingly.
(BREATHE) And my daddy won't be home for hours. (RE: SARAH) Does the little tooth fairy need to be here?

DAVE
We're going to give you a little novocaine, numb up your mouth a little.

ELLEN
Why don't you numb it up with a long, hard kiss, like a gentleman?

DAVE REACTS, AS WE: DISEOLVE TO:
INT. POOL HALL - THAT NIGHT
(Adam, Waitress, Pretty Girl, Romantic Guy, Extras)

ADAM SITS BY HIMSELF AT THE HIGH TABLE OVERLOOKING THE POOL AREA. THREE PRETTY YOUNG WOMEN PLAY POOL NEARBY. ONE PRETTY GIRL MAKES A SHOT AND WALKS PAST ADAM.

ADAM
You guys playing eight ball?

SHE IGNORES HIM. AFTER A BEAT.

ADAM (CONT’D)
Don’t sink the white one.

AGAIN, SHE IGNORES HIM.

ADAM (CONT’D)
So, are you guys models?

PRETTY GIRL
(TO HER FRIENDS) Let’s take that table over there.

THEY MOVE OFF AS THE WAITRESS FROM EARLIER APPROACHES.

ADAM
(CALLING) I’ll tell your waitress you moved.

WAITRESS
(TO ADAM) Hey, you. What’s up?

ADAM
Hey. Not a lot. Flying solo tonight. I broke up with my girlfriend.
WAITRESS
Oh, I'm sorry. She seemed so nice.
Pretty, too. So, what can I get you?

ADAM
How about your phone number?

WAITRESS
Oh, that's original. Never heard that one before. Could you hold on? I've got to share that little pearl with the other waitresses.

ADAM WATCHES THE WAITRESS LEAVE. HE LOOKS DEPRESSED. A ROMANTIC COUPLE STROLLS BY. ADAM WATCHES THEM.

ROMANTIC GUY
(TO GIRL) Santa Barbara? That sounds great, honey.

AS ADAM LOOKS CRUSHED, WE:
PAIGE AND ELLEN ARE ON THE COUCH. ELLEN REGALES PAIGE WITH HER DENTIST STORY.

PAIGE

So, when I said, "seize the dentist"...

ELLEN

With both hands. I'm so embarrassed. The worst thing is, I still have to go back for my crown.

PAIGE

I take it you never ended up asking him out.

ELLEN

I asked him to marry me, I suppose that counts.

ADAM ENTERS, LOOKING WEARY AND DISHEVELED. HIS JACKET IS STAINED.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

Well, look who's here. The man of many options.

ELLEN GETS UP AND CROSSES TO ADAM.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

Aren't you going to introduce us to your date? (TO IMAGINARY PERSON NEXT TO ADAM) Hi, I'm Ellen.

(MORE)
ELLEN (CONT'D)
And you must be... nobody! I've seen you with Adam before. I think you're perfect for him.

PAIGE
Give him lots of space.

ADAM
All right, I'm alone. (DEPRESSED)
I'm so alone.

ADAM CROSSES TO THE CHAIR AND FLOPS DOWN ON IT.

PAIGE
Struck out, huh?

ADAM
Aw, I quit trying three hours ago. I've just been driving around thinking about Joanna. Oh, Joanna. My one shot at happiness and I threw it away.

ELLEN
But you have your freedom.

ADAM
Freedom's for losers. I want the iron shackles of a relationship.

ELLEN
What happened to Mr. Hunter-Gatherer?
ADAM
Please. That was crap. Look at me. Do I look like a hunter?

PAIGE
You do wear that awful orange poncho sometimes.

ADAM
God, I want her back. How can I get her back?

ELLEN
You can't. You treated her like dirt.

ADAM
But I've grown. I've changed. Ellen, please. Can't you talk to her for me? She'll listen to you.

ELLEN
Forget it.

ADAM
Look at me. Tonight, I've been slapped in the face, I've had a drink thrown on me, I've been laughed at a half-dozen times. What does that say to you?

ELLEN
It's the weekend?

PAIGE LAUGHS. ADAM DOESN'T.
ELLEN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. But how do I know you really want Joanna? Maybe you just don't want to be alone.

ADAM

No, that's not it. See, I understand now what I did wrong. It was the grass is always greener. When you're in a relationship, you want to be out. And when you're out, you want to be in.

ELLEN

Great. So, I'll get you back in this relationship and you'll just want to be single again.

ADAM

Uh-uh. Not this time. Because I'll never forget how awful and pathetic I feel right now. And if I ever do forget, you'll be there to tell me what a jerk I am.

PAIGE

Can that be my job?

ADAM

Ellen, you've got to trust me on this. Please. I really miss her.
ELLEN

(RELENTING) All right. You better really mean it.

AS ADAM REACTS HAPPILY, WE:

DISSOLVE TO:
INT. DENTIST'S OFFICE - A WEEK LATER (DAY 6)
( Ellen, Dave, Dr. Garber)

ELLEN IS RECLINING IN THE DENTIST'S CHAIR, ANXIOUSLY AWAITING THE DENTIST. HER HANDS STRAY OVER TO THE RACK OF BUTTONS BUT SHE THINKS BETTER OF IT -- TAKES HER HAND BACK. DR. DAVE ENTERS.

ELLEN

(QUICKLY) About the last time,

Dave, I want to explain--

DAVE

(CUTTING HER OFF) Ellen, please...

I'm a dentist. These sorts of things happen all the time.

ELLEN

I'm so relieved to hear that.

DAVE

A female patient comes in here...

I don't know if it's the degree, the authority, the cut of my smock -- an attraction develops.

ELLEN

That's fine, but I want to explain.

I admit, I find you very attractive--

DAVE

Ellen, let's not go down that road again.
ELLEN
I swear it was the nitrous oxide talking.

DAVE
If it makes you feel better to think that, then fine. Look, I just don't feel comfortable being your dentist anymore.

ELLEN
What? But who's going to fix my tooth?

DAVE
If it's all the same to you, my colleague, Dr. Garber, will take over. He's very capable.

ELLEN
I guess that's probably for the best.

DAVE
I think so.

HE EXITS. AFTER A BEAT, DR. GARBER, THE MOST GLORIOUSLY HANDSOME DENTIST IN ALL THE WORLD, ENTERS.
Hello, Ellen. I'm Dr. Garber.

Oh, for crying out loud...

And as she heads out...
INT. BUY THE BOOK - LATER THAT DAY
(Ellen, Adam, Joe, Joanna, Extras)

ELLEN IS BEHIND THE COUNTER. ADAM AND JOANNA ENTER THE
BOOKSTORE, LOOKING VERY MUCH THE COUPLE IN LOVE. THEY BOTH WEAR
TYROLEAN CAPS MADE OUT OF FELT AND CARRY LARGE, PLASTIC BEER
STEINS.

ELLEN

Yodel-ay-hee-who made you wear
those stupid hats?

JOANNA

(LAUGHS) We've just been to a
beer-tasting at this new brewery
downtown.

ELLEN

Well, it warms my heart to see the
happy couple back together again.

ADAM

Too bad you had to work. They
served this amazing bratwurst and
sauerkraut.

JOANNA

And there was a Bavarian folk band.

ELLEN

All right, stop it, now you're
making me jealous.

JOANNA

Only thing they didn't have?
Enough women's bathrooms. You'll
have to excuse me.
JOANNA PECKS ADAM ON THE CHEEK. THEY SMILE TO EACH OTHER AND SHE EXITS TO THE LOO. AS SOON AS SHE’S GONE, ADAM TURNS TO ELLEN, SUDDENLY MISERABLE.

ADAM

My God, you’ve got to help me. I’m suffocating.

ELLEN

What?

ADAM

It’s happening again. I think I want out.

ELLEN

Oh, no you don’t. You’re ecstatic, remember? Joanna is with you. You’re beside yourself with joy.

A PRETTY GIRL WALKS BY AND SMILES AT ADAM.

ADAM

Oh, God, she smiled at me. Hunt...

gather...

ELLEN GRABS HIM.
ELLEN

This is where I'm supposed to remind you how lonely and pathetic you were the other night.

ADAM

Ancient history.

ELLEN

Adam, don't be a jerk. You promised me you wouldn't do this.

ADAM

I'm going to your office. I've got to figure out what I'm going to do.

ADAM RACES OVER TO ELLEN'S OFFICE. JOANNA EMERGES FROM THE BATHROOM AND CROSSES TO A SHAKEN ELLEN.

JOANNA

Hey, what happened to Adam?

ELLEN

Adam? Uh... Adam is, uh... Adam is... Joanna, I am so sorry to have to tell you this, but I have to tell you this. And it makes me so sorry. But it has to be told. And I guess I have to be the one to tell it to you. Which makes me so sor--

JOANNA

Ellen, just say it.
ELLEN
Adam is going to be "fun" again.

JOANNA
He's breaking up with me?

ELLEN
I'm sorry. Look, he's my best friend, but even I don't understand what he's doing.

JOANNA
I do not believe this. You told me he'd grown. You told me he'd changed.

ELLEN
He changed back.

JOANNA
So you talked me into going back to him just so he can dump me again? I don't know what kind of sick, twisted game you and Adam are playing, but I've had enough of both of you.

JOANNA STORMS OUT OF THE BOOKSTORE.

ELLEN
(ALMOST A WHISPER) Forgot your beer stein.

ADAM BURSTS OUT OF ELLEN'S OFFICE AND CROSSES TO HER TABLE.
ADAM

Ellen, I just had the most profound revelation. I was about to throw away my one chance at happiness in life. Again. What an ass I almost was.

ELLEN

But...

ADAM

Please, Ellen, don't defend me.

ELLEN

You know me too well.

ADAM

I was looking at myself in the mirror, and your words started ringing in my ears. "Lonely." "Pathetic." "Jerk." Ellen, thank you. Joanna's the most wonderful, kind, beautiful woman I know. And who am I? The luckiest guy on Earth, that's who.

ELLEN

Well, maybe not the luckiest.

ADAM

Where is she? Where is the woman I love?

ELLEN LOOKS AROUND A BEAT, THEN OPENS HER ARMS WIDE.
ELLEN

Right here!

ADAM REACTS, AND ON ELLEN'S FACE, WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO
TAG 1

FADE IN:

INT. POOL HALL - ANOTHER NIGHT (NIGHT 7)
(Ellen, Adam, Paige, Extras)

***OMITTED***
ELLEN
Emily.

PAIGE
Definitely Emily.

ELLEN
Charlotte was a bimbo.

ELLEN AND PAIGE DROP THE ACT, LAUGHING HARD. ADAM JOINS IN.

ELLEN (CONT’D)
Auuuuggghhh, I hate those commercials.

ADAM
(CONFUSED) What commercials?

FADE OUT.

THE END