"The Fix-up"

Written by
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Directed by
Tom Cherones

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS NOT A COMPLETE SCRIPT.

THIRD REV. (Y) 9/23/94

FINAL DRAFT
September 21, 1994
"The Fix-up"
(#C320)

CAST LIST

ELLEN DEGENERES
ELLEN

ARYE GROSS
ADAM

JOELY FISHER
PAIGE

DAVE HIGGINS
JOE

ALICE HIRSON
LOIS

BRADLEY WHITFORD
DOUG

JIM JACKMAN
MAN

STEPHEN JAMES CARVER
DETECTIVE #1

GARRET DAVIS
DETECTIVE #2

September 22, 1994
September 22, 1994

"The Fix-up"
(#C320)

SET LIST

COLD OPENING (1) - INT. ELEVATOR - DAY (PREVIOUSLY SHOT)

ACT ONE

SCENE A (2) - INT. BUY THE BOOK - DAY (DAY 1)
SCENE B (7) - INT. APARTMENT - THAT EVENING
SCENE C (15) - EXT./INT. COFFEE SHOP - THE NEXT NIGHT (DAY 2)
SCENE CC (17a) - INT. COFFEE SHOP - LATER THAT NIGHT
SCENE D (18) - INT. APARTMENT - THE NEXT DAY (DAY 3)
SCENE DD (19a) - INT. APARTMENT - DAY - FOUR DAYS LATER (DAY 4)

ACT TWO

SCENE E (20) - INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS
SCENE H (24) - INT. ELLEN'S OFFICE - DAY - A FEW DAYS LATER (DAY 5)
SCENE J (27-29) - INT./EXT. COFFEE SHOP - A FEW NIGHTS LATER (DAY 6)
SCENE K (33) - INT. APARTMENT - THE NEXT NIGHT (DAY 7)
SCENE M (40) - INT. BUY THE BOOK - ANOTHER DAY (DAY 8)

RESHOOT "SO FUNNY" TAG (42) - INT. BUY THE BOOK/ELLEN'S OFFICE - DAY
TAG (44) - TBA

SFX

PHONE RINGS (10, 13, 22)
### "The Fix-up" (#C320)

#### SHORT RUNDOWN

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COLD OPENING

NOTE: THIS COLD OPENING HAS ALREADY BEEN SHOT

FADE IN:

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY
(Ellen, Security (V.O.), Extra)

ELLEN IS ON AN ELEVATOR WITH ANOTHER PASSENGER.

MUSIC CUE: ELEVATOR VERSION OF "RESPECT"

ELLEN IS QUIETLY GROOVING TO THE MUSIC. THE ELEVATOR STOPS, THE DOORS OPEN, AND THE PASSENGER GETS OFF. WHEN THE DOORS CLOSE, ELLEN BEGINS SINGING AND DANCING WITH THE FREEDOM AND ABANDON ONE RESERVES FOR TIMES WHEN ONE IS SURE THAT ONE IS COMPLETELY ALONE. SHE TWISTS AND DOES A BIG FINISH JUMP. SUDDENLY THE MUSIC IS CUT OFF BY THE P.A. SYSTEM.

MUSIC CUE: MUSIC OUT

SECURITY (V.O.)

Excuse me, ma'am, this is security.

Please refrain from jumping in the elevator. Thank you.

ELLEN'S BODY AND FACE FREEZE IN EMBARRASSMENT.

FADE OUT.

END OF COLD OPENING
FADE IN:

INT. BUY THE BOOK - DAY (DAY 1)
(Ellen, Joe, Lois, Extras)

ELLEN IS SITTING WITH HER MOTHER, LOIS.

LOIS
Well, you'll be glad to hear your father finally got that mole removed.

ELLEN
Whew! That is good news.

JOE APPROACHES WITH A POT OF COFFEE.

JOE
Would your sister like more coffee, Ellen?

ELLEN
(FLATLY) Joe, this isn't my sister.

JOE
You're kidding. I didn't know you had a daughter.

ELLEN
This is my mother.
JOE
Yeah, right. (TO LOIS) Shouldn’t you be in school, young lady?

HE MOVES OFF.

LOIS
So are you seeing anyone these days?

ELLEN
No one special.

LOIS
What happened to that Chris fellow?

ELLEN
That was three years ago.

LOIS
I liked him.

ELLEN
I know you did. But we broke up. He moved to Chicago and married someone named Sandy.

LOIS
Are they getting along?

ELLEN
Mom, I think it’s time to give up on Chris.

LOIS
I just worry about you.

ELLEN
You don’t have to.
LOIS

Ellen, you're not immortal. Your looks are going to go just like everyone else's. Already there are signs.

ELLEN

Signs? What signs?

LOIS

Your hips are widening.

ELLEN

They are not.

LOIS

You're reaching that age. I remember when mine started.

ELLEN

I exercise every day.

LOIS

So did I. And I ate like a bird. They kept right on widening. Slow but sure, like glaciers.

ELLEN

Mom!

LOIS

I just want you to be happy.

ELLEN

It's possible to be happy without a man.
LOIS

Must you joke about everything?

(THEN) Oh, guess who I saw yesterday?

ELLEN

Sigfried and Roy. (ALARMEDE) Oh my God, I must joke about everything.

LOIS

Wanda Henderson.

ELLEN

From when we lived in New Orleans?

What's she doing in L.A.?

LOIS

She and her husband moved into our complex. And you know who dropped by? Her son, Doug. You remember him.

ELLEN

Hooh-yeah.

LOIS

Why do you say it like that? He was a very nice boy.

ELLEN

Weird Doug? Mom, you know how at school there's always that one strange kid that eats bugs and talks to himself and everyone kind of avoids?

LOIS

Yes...
ELLEN
Well, that kid thought Doug was a freak.

LOIS
I gave him your number.

ELLEN
You what? You had no right. I cannot believe you're doing this again. I do not want you setting me up on any more blind dates. They never work out.

LOIS
You had a nice time with that Mitch Verdugo.

ELLEN
Mom, he stole from me.

LOIS
You had no proof.

AS ELLEN THROWS UP HER HANDS, WE:

DISSOLVE TO:
INT. APARTMENT -- THAT EVENING
(Ellen, Adam, Paige)

ADAM IS IN THE KITCHEN PICKING THROUGH THE MAIL. ELLEN ENTERS IN A PAIR OF SWEATS, CARRYING SEVERAL LARGE PLASTIC BAGS OF RECYCLABLE ITEMS.

ADAM
(RE: ELLEN) Hey, Santa brought trash this year.

ELLEN
It's not trash, it's recycling.

ADAM
(SNIFFS) Smells like trash.

ELLEN
My recycling program is not going exactly as planned. The neighbors seem to think it means dumping their empties on our doorstep.

ADAM
(INdicating one of the bags) Wow, somebody sure can put away the scotch.

ELLEN
Yeah, that's Jeff in 3B.

ADAM
How can anyone drink that much and still hold down a job?
ELLEN

It's no big deal. These days those big planes practically fly themselves.

ADAM HAS OPENED A LETTER. HE READS IT.

ADAM

Oh, my God. "Cosmopolitan" magazine wants to print one of my pictures!

ELLEN

Really? Adam, that's great!

ELLEN MOVES OVER TO HIM.

ADAM

I entered this contest they held for photos depicting "The Women of L.A." Let's see... (READING) "Our editors consider you one of the finest up-and-coming female photographers..." Uh-oh.

ELLEN

(TAKING LETTER FROM HIM) You entered a contest for women?

ADAM

I thought it was for pictures of women, not by women. It was an honest mistake.
ELLEN.
Oh, come on. (RE: ENVELOPE) "A. Green." You didn't enter under your full name. Very clever.

ADAM
That's how I'm known professionally.

ELLEN
By who? A. Imaginary Friend?

ADAM
Fine. Make fun. My first shot at national exposure dashed. That is amusing.

HE LAUGHS A BITTER, MOCKING LAUGH.

ELLEN
I'm sorry, Adam. I guess you'll have to withdraw.

ADAM
Maybe not. All they know is my first initial. I could tell them my name is Annabelle.

ELLEN
No, you couldn't.
ADAM
Why not? I took a good picture.
Why should I, once again, be
discriminated against just because
I'm a man?

ELLEN
Because it would make you a lying,
self-serving lowlife. I will not
let you do this.

ADAM
It's a picture of you.

ELLEN
(EXCITED) I'm going to be in
"Cosmo?"

ADAM
Maybe not. After all, I don't want
to be a lying, self-serving low-
life.

ELLEN
Did I call you that? I meant
scamp.

SFX: PHONE RINGS
ADAM GOES TO ANSWER IT.

ELLEN (CONT'D)
No! Don't answer it. It could be
Doug. My mother said he was going
to call me today.
ADAM
So, I can’t answer my phone again?
Ever?

ELLEN
Just let the machine get it.

THE PHONE STOPS RINGING.

ADAM
Oh, great. They hung up. That
could have been the most important
phone call of my life. It could
have been a job. It could have
been the President. It could have
been a woman. (OFF HER LOOK)
Well, okay, but it could have been
the President.

PAIGE ENTERS. THEY ADLIB GREETINGS.

PAIGE
So I see Jeff’s still putting away
the scotch. How does he keep a
job?

ADAM
Oh, these days those big planes
practically fly themselves.

PAIGE LAUGHS.

ELLEN
That’s my joke.
ELLEN (CONT'D)

(HUSKY VOICED) Hello... (REACTS, THEN) Hi, Doug. No, I had a frog in my throat... It's just an expression. Me? Oh, you know. Keeping busy. Self defense classes. Shooting range. That sort of thing... Dinner? Uh, sure. Friday sounds great. How about we meet, oh... let's say at the police station... That's a mighty strange laugh you have there, Doug.

AND ON HER UNSETTLED LOOK, WE:

DISSOLVE TO:
MAN
Pictures of me.

ELLEN LOOKS AT THEM.

ELLEN
(REACTIONS IN HORIZON) They certainly are. You're not Doug, are you?

MAN
Not really.

ELLEN GETS UP FROM THE TABLE. JUST THEN, A GOOD-LOOKING MAN, DOUG, ENTERS FROM THE BACK AND SPOTS ELLEN.

DOUG
Ellen?

ELLEN
(SURPRISED AND PLEASED) Doug?

DOUG
Who's your friend?

ELLEN
Oh, he's not my friend.

MAN
(HURT) Ellen!

ELLEN
I just met him. I'm just with him. Not with him. I thought he was you.

DOUG
You thought this was me?

MAN
Hey...
ELLEN

It was just a big mistake. And boy, am I glad. Why don't you grab us a table? (SOTTO) I think I'm going to go wash up.

AS ELLEN CROSSES OFF, WE:
PAIGE

Ellen, I’m supposed to go to this new club tonight. Could I borrow your bomber jacket?

ELLEN

No way. You’d lose it.

PAIGE

That is not true.
ELLEN
You are constantly losing things. Why don’t you wear the suede jacket you just bought?

PAIGE
It’s... temporarily missing. (THEN) So, did Weird Doug call?

ELLEN
Not yet. He’s probably still figuring out where to stash my body.

PAIGE
Just because he was weird as a kid doesn’t mean he’s weird now.

ELLEN
Yes, Paige, a childhood of wedgies, arson, and bug-eating almost always leads to a normal adulthood. I hate it when my mother does this. She fixes me up with a weirdo, and no matter how bad the date is, the guy always calls me for a second one.
EXT./INT. COFFEE SHOP - THE NEXT NIGHT (DAY 2)
( Ellen, Paige, Doug, Man, Extras)

A NONDESCRIPT COFFEE SHOP. ELLEN AND PAIGE ARE OUTSIDE THE DOOR.

PAIGE

(RE: COFFEE SHOP). This is where he's taking you? Swanky.

ELLEN

And me without my pearls. Apparently, he comes here a lot. So, you know the drill?

PAIGE

Yeah. I'll come back and bail you out. You just tell me when.

ELLEN

Well, (CHECKING WATCH) it's 7:00 now. I really should spend some time with him. Why don't we say... 7:05. (OFF PAIGE'S STARE) Okay, 7:30.

PAIGE

Great. (LOOKING AROUND) Now what should I do for a half an hour?

ELLEN

(POINTING) Well, there's a pawn shop. You could get a jump on your Christmas shopping.

(MORE)
ELLEN (CONT'D)
I don't want to drop any hints, but
I'm hoping this is the year I get
that switchblade.

PAIGE SMILES AND CROSSES AWAY.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - CONTINUOUS

ELLEN ENTERS. SHE LOOKS AROUND FOR SINGLE MEN SITTING ALONE.
SHE NOTICES A MAN SITTING AT A TABLE -- A SCRUFFY-LOOKING LOSER.
SHE CRINGES AND APPROACHES HIM.

ELLEN
Doug?

MAN
Hi!

ELLEN BLANCHES, THEN PASTES ON WHAT SMILE SHE CAN MANAGE.

ELLEN
I'm Ellen. Sorry I'm late. The
traffic.

MAN
That's all right.

SHE SITS DOWN WITH HIM. THERE IS AN IMMEDIATE LULL.

ELLEN
Nice place.

THERE IS ANOTHER AwKWARD BEAT. THE MAN TAKES SOME POLAROIDS OUT
OF HIS POCKET AND HANDS THEM TO HER.

MAN
Look.

ELLEN
(TAKING THEM) What are these?
ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - THE NEXT DAY (DAY 4)
(Ellen, Paige)

ELLEN IS AGAIN SORTING THE RECYCLING AS PAIGE KNOCKS AND ENTERS.

PAIGE

Ellen, remember when I told you I was over losing things? I was wrong.

ELLEN

Oh, no. You lost my jacket?

PAIGE

Yes. But it gets worse. The jacket was in the trunk of my boss' BMW. I took it to be detailed, and when I came back to the place for it, it had been stolen. I lost a car, Ellen. A fifty-thousand dollar car.

ELLEN

That may be a personal best. Did you tell your boss?

PAIGE

Yeah. This was weird. He didn't care. In fact, he seemed downright pleased with me.
ELLEN

Wow. If you could find a way to misplace his house, you’d be looking at a promotion.

PAIGE

Hey, what was going on last night? Why didn’t you want the bail-out?

ELLEN

 Couldn’t you see? Doug wasn’t weird at all. He was cute, sweet and funny. We had a great time.

PAIGE

So, he didn’t eat a single bug all night long?

ELLEN

Nope. He’s been off the bugs for twenty years.

PAIGE

Are you going to see him again?

ELLEN

I sure am. Paige, for the first time in my life, I’m looking forward to the follow-up call from a blind date.

PAIGE

Incredible.
INT. APARTMENT - DAY - FOUR DAYS LATER (DAY 4)
(Ellen, Paige)

ELLEN AND PAIGE ARE IN THE EXACT SAME POSITION, BUT IN DIFFERENT CLOTHES.

PAIGE

It's only been four days. He still might call.

ELLEN

No, Paige. It's time for me to face facts. When something is this obvious, you just have to accept it. Clearly... Doug has been kidnapped and can't get to a phone.

OFF PAIGE'S LOOK, ELLEN SADLY PUTS HER HEAD DOWN ON THE COUNTER, AND WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE
INT. COFFEE SHOP - LATER THAT NIGHT
(Ellen, Paige, Doug, Extras)

ELLEN AND DOUG ARE EATING AT A TABLE, LAUGHING AND HAVING A GREAT TIME.

ELLEN

...but my worst blind date ever
would have to be the "rooskie" guy.

DOUG

I have no idea what that means.

ELLEN

(DEMONSTRATING) "Hey, Ellen, how
about a glass of wine-aroskie?"
"I'm going to have the steak-
aroskie." "After dinner, why
don't we take a stroll-aroskie?"
I wanted to push him in front of a
bus-aroskie.

THEY LAUGH.

DOUG

That really sounds like a long
night. Let's flag down a waitress.
I think it's time to orderereno.

ELLEN

Aaah! Don't you start with me,
Doug.

THEY BOTH LAUGH.
ELLEN (CONT'D)
You know, you're a lot different
from the fifth grader I remember.

DOUG
Well, people change.

ELLEN
(PLEASD) They sure do. I never
thought I'd say this, but score one
for Mom.

THEY SHARE A MOMENT.

DOUG
Oh my God, I just remembered the
worst blind date of all. I went
out with a woman who went so far as
to arrange to have a friend call
the restaurant in the middle of
dinner and say her house was on
fire.

ELLEN

DOUG
Can you believe that? If she
didn't want to go out with me, she
could have just said so. I mean,
we're all adults, right?

ELLEN LOOKS SICK. PAIGE ENTERS AND CROSSES TO THEIR TABLE IN A
PANIC.
PAIGE

Ellen, there you are. Thank God I found you. (TO DOUG) Sorry to interrupt. (TO ELLEN) You've got to come with me.

ELLEN

(BRIGHTLY) Oh, Paige, whatever it is, I'm sure it can wait.

PAIGE

No, it can't. It's an emergency. Adam fell off the roof.

DOUG

Who's Adam?

PAIGE

Her best friend. And roommate. Come on, Ellen, we'd better get to the hospital.

DOUG

If you need to go...

ELLEN

(WITH A GREAT DEAL OF MEANING) Paige, are you sure he fell off the roof? Because maybe he didn't. And if he didn't, I wouldn't have to go to the hospital. I could stay here and continue to enjoy my date with Doug.
PAIGE

Ohh. You're right. Adam didn't fall off the roof. He... fell off the couch. Onto some pillows. He's fine. I just thought you should know. Bye.

PAIGE EXITS. ELLEN TURNS TO DOUG.

ELLEN

That's my friend, Paige. Boy, is she funny. See, we've got this kind of inside joke where she tries to get me to go to the hospital and I try to get her to go... to the airport. She's up three to one. But I've got a plan for this weekend. Anyway...

ELLEN PICKS UP A BIG MENU AND HIDES BEHIND IT.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

We really should order.
ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS
(Ellen, Adam, Paige)

ELLEN AND PAIGE ARE AS WE LEFT THEM.

PAIGE
Come on, Ellen, maybe Doug's just
out of town.

ELLEN
I drove by his place last night.
He looked pretty in town through
the binoculars.

PAIGE
Shame on you.

ELLEN
I'm not taking this well, all
right? Every blind date calls,
except for the one I want to call.

ADAM ENTERS FROM THE BEDROOM.

ADAM
Ellen, I've been thinking it over
and I really need you to do this.
ELLEN
Forget it.

ADAM
What's the big deal? When "Cosmo" calls, all you have to do is pose as me.

ELLEN
Annabelle.

ADAM
Whatever. Please?

ELLEN
No. It's dishonest and I won't be a party to it.

ADAM
Okay. I understand. You're a woman of principles and I respect that. (BEAT) Paige, what about you?

PAIGE
Okay.

ADAM
Great. They're going to call any minute, so let's practice. Why is my work so rooted in my womanhood?

PAIGE
Because you're a woman?
ADAM

No. It's because I meditate on my feelings and moods until, in a rush of womanly inspiration, an image comes to me from my womb. And then, through photography, I give birth to it, clutch it to my bosom, and suckle it. Say that.

PAIGE

Without laughing?

ADAM

You're so coarse.

ELLEN

Adam, I think Paige knows more about how women talk than you do.

PAIGE PUTS HER BEER ON THE COFFEE TABLE.

ADAM

Use a coaster.

SFX: PHONE RINGS

ELLEN

That's Doug. He's escaped!

ELLEN RACES FOR THE PHONE BUT ADAM ANSWERS IT.

ADAM

Hello?... Yes, she is. Just a minute.

ELLEN BRIGHTENS. ADAM GIVES THE PHONE TO PAIGE.
ADAM (CONT'D)

It's for Annabelle,

ELLEN IS DISCOURAGED, AND WE:

Dissolve to:
INT. ELLEN'S OFFICE - DAY - A FEW DAYS LATER (DAY 5) (Ellen, Lois)

ELLEN IS WITH HER MOTHER.

ELLEN

So what's the deal? Did you talk to Mrs. Henderson?

LOIS

I certainly did.

ELLEN

What did she say? Why didn't Doug call? I thought we had a nice time.

LOIS

That's not what I heard. Doug told his mother that... (THIS IS DIFFICULT) you seemed weird.

ELLEN

Weird?!

LOIS

Doug says that he found you with some vagrant, buying pornographic pictures.

ELLEN

What? I wasn't buying them. I just looked at them.
LOIS
Ohh dear. When did this 
fascination with pornography start?

ELLEN
Mom, I'm not fascinated with 
pornography.

LOIS
And then apparently some crazy 
friend of yours came in, babbling 
about falling off the roof.

ELLEN
She didn't fall off the roof. Adam 
fell off the roof.

LOIS
Adam fell off the roof?!

ELLEN
No, Mom. This is just ridiculous. 
I've got to straighten this out 
with Doug.

LOIS
Oh, good. Because you should know, 
Wanda Henderson talked to a lot of 
the gals in the complex. They're 
starting to call you... "Weird 
Ellen."

ELLEN GOES PALE. AND WE:

DISSOLVE TO:
PAIGE
Why do parents think they're such great matchmakers, anyway? I mean, if they were so good at it, how come they spent their lives trapped in loveless marriages, screaming at each other night after night and then trying to blot out their pain with alcohol?

AN UNCOMFORTABLE BEAT.

ELLEN
Something you'd like to share with us, Paige?

PAIGE
(MEEKLY) No.

SFX: PHONE RINGS

ELLEN AND ADAM LOOK AT EACH OTHER.

ADAM
Either you answer it, or I will.

PAIGE
Maybe it's just an obscene caller.

ELLEN
My luck is nowhere near that good.

SHE VERY RELUCTANTLY ANSWERS THE PHONE.
INT. COFFEE SHOP - A FEW NIGHTS LATER (DAY 6)
(Ellen, Paige, Doug, Extras)

ELLEN AND PAIGE SIT AT A TABLE. THE WAITRESS BRINGS OVER TWO PLATES OF HORRIFYINGLY GREASY FOOD.

PAIGE
Do we have to eat here again?

ELLEN
We do if I want to run into Doug. He comes here a lot.

PAIGE
Why? Does he have a cholesterol deficiency?

ELLEN
He says the place has character.

PAIGE
Yeah, I think I saw some character traps in the ladies room.

PAIGE PICKS UP HER GREASY GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICH.

ELLEN
Here, just wring it out into some napkins. It'll be fine.

PAIGE PUTS DOWN HER SANDWICH.

PAIGE
So, even if Doug comes in here, what are you going to say to him? He thinks you're weird.
ELLEN

That's exactly the point. I have been wrongly accused of weirdness, and I've got to clear my name. I'm like the "The Weird Fugitive."

PAIGE

Yes, you are. So, speaking of weird, it turns out my boss arranged to have his car stolen because he couldn't get out of his lease.

ELLEN

You're kidding. He used you to commit fraud?

PAIGE

(NODS) He better get me something really nice this Secretary's Day. I could be implicated in this whole thing. I need your advice.

ELLEN

All right. When you get to prison, don't just join the first gang that asks you. Be choosy. (THEN, NOTICING) Oh my God. It's him.

PAIGE

(TURNING) Doug?
ELLEN

Yes. Shoo. Get out of here.

We'll talk at home.

PAIGE

Okay. Good luck.

SHE EXITS. DOUG WALKS PAST.

ELLEN

Doug! What a complete and total coincidence.

DOUG

Ellen. What are you doing here?

ELLEN

Well, I was in the neighborhood, so I stopped in for a quick, greasy bite. You want to sit down?

DOUG

Actually, I'm with some friends.

ELLEN

(SINKING) Oh. Well, listen, it was great seeing you.

DOUG

You too.
HE BEGINS TO LEAVE. ELLEN IS ABOUT TO LET HIM, BUT AT THE LAST MINUTE WORKS UP SOME COURAGE.

ELLEN

Doug, can I ask you a question?
(NERVOUSLY) It's kind of a weird question, but... The other night, did you think I was weird? Ha!
That sounded weird, didn't it?

DOUG

No...

ELLEN

Come on, Doug. Be honest with me. We're both grown-ups here. Your mom told my mom I was weird.

DOUG

(A BEAT, THEN) Well, there was that thing with the guy and the pictures, and then your friend who fell off the roof, or couch, or whatever... You have to admit, it did start to get a little strange.

ELLEN

You don't date much, do you, Doug? Look, I admit, I had my friend Paige come to bail me out.

(MORE)
ELLEN (CONT'D)

A single woman goes on a blind date at a downtown diner... She's got to take precautions. But if I'd known how nice you were going to be, I wouldn't have bothered. Now I ask you, is that so weird?

DOUG

I guess not.

ELLEN

And to further convince you how very very not-weird I am, how about another date?

DOUG

I'd like that. How's dinner tomorrow?

ELLEN

Great. I just have one request.

DOUG

What's that?

ELLEN

(BEGGING) Can we please not come here?!
INT. APARTMENT - THE NEXT NIGHT (DAY 8)
(Ellen, Adam, Paige, Doug, Detective #1, Detective #2)

ELLEN ENTERS FROM THE BEDROOM WEARING HER RECYCLING PANTS. SHE CROSSES TO THE FRONT DOOR AND OPENS IT TO FIND SEVERAL BAGS OF BOTTLES AND CANS ON HER DOORSTEP. JUST THEN, PAIGE APPEARS AT THE FRONT DOOR.

PAIGE
Hey. Is that what you're wearing on your date?

ELLEN
Yes, Doug's taking me to this new landfill that just opened up downtown.

ELLEN PULLS THE BAG INSIDE. PAIGE FOLLOWS. ELLEN CROSSES TO THE FRIDGE.

ELLEN (CONT'D)
Actually, he won't be here for an hour. Beer?

PAIGE
No, thanks.

ELLEN TAKES ONE OUT OF THE REFRIGERATOR FOR HERSELF.

PAIGE (CONT'D)
Hey, great news! The police found my boss' car. I'm driving it to the insurance adjuster's now.

SHE WAVES THE KEYS FOR EMPHASIS, THEN PUTS THEM DOWN ON THE TABLE BY THE DOOR.

ELLEN
(FEIGNING ENTHUSIASM) Whoo-hoo!
PAIGE
No, the great news is, your jacket was still in it.

ELLEN
Hey, that is great! So where is it?

PAIGE
Well, officially I think it's still considered evidence.

ELLEN
Evidence?

PAIGE
There was something in one of the pockets with your name on it, so now the police want to talk to you. I guess "great news" may have been overstating it.

ELLEN
You mean I'm a suspect?

PAIGE
No! No, no, no, no, no. Yes.

ELLEN
Paige!

PAIGE
Ellen, it's nothing. All you have to do is tell them the truth. You lent the jacket to me.

(MORE)
PAIGE (CONT'D)

There's nothing linking you to the car at all.

ELLEN

Well, okay. As long as I only have to tell the truth.

PAIGE

So, is Adam still here? I was supposed to meet him an hour ago. He said he needed me to pose as that Annabelle creature again -- in person this time.

ELLEN

I haven't seen him. Look, I'd better hop in the shower.

(BRIGHTLY) Doug is taking me to Patina tonight.

PAIGE

Ooh, fancy. I recommend the Montrachet Pouilly-fuisse.

ELLEN

What is that?

PAIGE

It's either a wine or a soup. But I hear it's good.

PAIGE EXITS. ELLEN STARTS TO THE BEDROOM, BUT SPOTS PAIGE'S BMW KEYS AND PICKS THEM UP. SHE CROSSES TO THE DOOR.
ELLEN

(CALLING) Paige, your keys--

SHE OPENS THE DOOR REVEALING DOUG.
DQUG

Ellen?

ELLEN

Doug! Hi! You're early.

DOUG

I'm sorry. I should have called, but I got tickets to the Laker game. If we hurry we can just make it...

ELLEN

Great. Come on in. Sorry I'm dressed like this, but I wasn't expecting you for...

DOUG MOVES TOWARD HER, ACCIDENTALLY KICKING THE PLASTIC BAG. IT TIPS OVER AND EMPTY BOTTLES SPILL OUT. HE LOOKS AT ELLEN.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

Those are my bottles. Well, not my bottles. I don't drink. (NOTICES BEER IN HER HAND) Much. See, everybody brings their bottles to me. Not as a gift or anything, it's just that I'm nutty for recycling. Well, not nutty. I'm normal for recycling.

JUST THEN ADAM ENTERS, WEARING WOMEN'S PANTS, A STUFFED BLOUSE, MAKE-UP, A WIG, AND WOMEN'S SHOES.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

Adam?
ADAM

Don't start with me, I'm in a mood.

(TO DOUG) Do I look like a woman to you?

DOUG

(A LITTLE SPOOKED) Ah... sure.

ADAM

I think so, too. But not "Cosmopolitan" magazine. No. To them, I'm a sexist freak.

ELLEN

Doug, this is my roommate, Adam. Adam, Doug.

ADAM

(OFFERING HAND, MANLY) How's it going?

ADAM EXITS. DOUG LOOKS UNSETTLED.

DOUG

You know what, maybe tonight's a bad night. Why don't you and uh... your pal there take these tickets?

HE TAKES THEM FROM HIS POCKET.

ELLEN

Doug, wait. I know how strange all this must look. But everything can be explained. (LAUGHING) It's actually a really amusing story.
THERE IS A KNOCK ON THE DOOR.

DETECTIVE #1 (O.S.)

Police. Open up.

ELLEN

And wait until you hear this one!

SHE OPENS THE DOOR. TWO DETECTIVES STAND THERE.

ELLEN (CONT’D)

Can I help you, officers?

DETECTIVE #1

Are you Ellen Morgan?

ELLEN

Yes.

DETECTIVE #1

We’d like to question you in connection with a stolen BMW.

ELLEN

A stolen BMW? (FOR DOUG’S BENEFIT)

I certainly don’t know anything about that.

DETECTIVE #2

Just the same, can we come in?

ELLEN

Whatever.

SHE MAKES A GESTURE TO DOUG AS IF TO COMMUNICATE, "WHAT A WACKY WORLD WE LIVE IN."

ELLEN (CONT’D)

(TO DOUG) This will only be a minute. Have a beer.
DETECTIVE #2 FINDS THE KEYS LEFT ON THE TABLE.

DETECTIVE #2

Ma'am, what do you know about these BMW keys?

ELLEN

Ah...

DETECTIVE #1

I'm afraid we're going to have to bring you in for questioning.

ADAM REENTERS FROM THE HALLWAY, HALF-UNDRESSED.

ADAM

Ellen, where do you keep the cold cream?

DOUG

I'm outta here.

DOUG STARTS TOWARD THE DOOR.
ELLEN

Doug, wait. They'll grill me a few hours, we can still make the second half!

DOUG

This is all just too weird.

ELLEN

No, it can all be explained! I swear!

HE EXITS.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

Doug! Come back! I'm not weird!
I'm not weird!... Call me.
ELLEN, DOUG, AND LOIS SIT AT A TABLE. ELLEN AND DOUG SIT CLOSE TOGETHER AND ARE AFFECTIONATE. LOIS LOOKS ON FONDLY.

ELLEN

...so when I finally got through at the police station, I had to go back to the coffee shop and explain everything again.

DOUG

Yep. We've had a few bumps along the way, but now that we're together, it's all been worth it.

ELLEN

That's the greatest thing about Doug. He's so generous and forgiving. It seems no matter what I do, he understands. (PROUDLY)

You know, Mom, Doug is a very talented architect.

DOUG

Oh, come on, Ellen, your mom doesn't want to hear about that.

ELLEN

Of course she does. She wants to hear everything.
DOUG

Well, all right. Let me run to the
bathroom, and then we'll continue
this over lunch. My treat.

HE CROSSES AWAY. ELLEN AND LOIS SMILE AND WATCH HIM GO. THEN,
STILL SMILING, THEY TURN TO EACH OTHER.

LOIS

I don't like him.

AND, ON ELLEN’S REACTION, WE:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO
JOE NEARLY BUSTS A GUT.

JOE

Recession.

ELLEN

Joe, I'm going to have to cut your pay.

JOE

(STOPS LAUGHING) I don't get it.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW