

THE WHITNEY CUMMINGS PROJECT

Written by

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INT. CHICAGO - WHITNEY AND ALEX'S BATHROOM - DAY

WHITNEY (28, SMART, GOOFY, FREE THINKER) AND ALEX GREEN (30, EASYGOING, SMART, HANDSOME WITHOUT TRYING) GET READY IN MATCHING ROBES.

QUICK CUTS OF THEIR ROUTINE OVER "HAPPY TOGETHER" BY THE TURTLES:

-WHITNEY UNCEREMONIOUSLY POPS A ZIT IN THE MIRROR AND ALEX SPRAYS ON AEROSOL DEODORANT. AFTER HE SPRAYS HIS UNDERARMS, HE SPRAYS WHITNEY IN THE FACE. SHE LAUGHS AS SHE DUCKS OUT OF FRAME.

-ALEX SHAVES HIS FACE. WHITNEY SITS ON THE TOILET AND PEEES WHILE CLEANING HER EARS WITH A Q-TIP.

-WHITNEY USES TWEEZERS TO PLUCK HER EYEBROWS, THEN A HAIR FROM ALEX'S BACK.

-ALEX IS NOW IN A SUIT. WHITNEY SPRAYS ON PERFUME. AFTER SHE SPRAYS HERSELF, SHE SPRAYS ALEX WITH IT. ALEX MOVES AWAY EVEN THOUGH IT'S CLEAR HE'S USED TO THIS.

-ALEX GARGLES MOUTHWASH. WHITNEY USES A RAZOR TO SHAVE HER MUSTACHE.

INT. WHITNEY AND ALEX'S BEDROOM - THAT MOMENT

ALEX AND WHITNEY CALL BACK AND FORTH FROM THE BEDROOM TO THE LIVING ROOM.

ALEX

We're gonna be late. I'll get online and order them something from the registry.

WHITNEY

Another present? We got them a present when they got a house, when they got engaged, and now we have to get them a wedding gift? Why do I have to buy a present every time they make a mistake?

ALEX

I'm the one buying it.

WHITNEY

Oh. That's fine then.

WHITNEY COMES OUT IN A DRESS AND CASUAL HOODIE.

ALEX

Hurry up and do your hair and make up.

WHITNEY

I did do my hair and make up.

ALEX

Seriously, stop screwing around. Get ready.

BEAT. WHITNEY'S EYES NARROW. ALEX REALIZES SHE'S SERIOUS.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I feel like this is a good time to remind you that I pay the rent.

WHITNEY
(SMILES)

Idiot.

ALEX INDICATES WHITNEY'S HOODIE OVER THE DRESS.

ALEX

You're gonna wear a hoodie to a wedding? It's a little...

WHITNEY

A little what?

ALEX

Helena Bonham Carter at Trader Joe's.

WHITNEY

What about with no hoodie?

WHITNEY TAKES OFF THE HOODIE TO REVEAL A WHITE DRESS WITH TINY FLOWERS ON IT.

ALEX

I'm pretty sure you can't wear white to a wedding. It's like a rule.

WHITNEY
(REALIZING SHE'S IN WHITE)

Ugh. That is so dumb. Does the bride think the groom is going to get confused and marry me by accident?

WHITNEY WALKS INTO THE BEDROOM. ALEX FOLLOWS.

INT. WHITNEY AND ALEX'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

WHITNEY GOES THROUGH HER CLOSET.

WHITNEY

I don't have any dresses left! They're all at the cleaners because all we ever do is go to weddings. I can't remember the last time I sat down to eat without a place card in front of me.

ALEX

Just because your parents got divorced three times doesn't mean marriages are bad.

WHITNEY

Just because your parents have been together for thirty years doesn't mean all marriages are good.

WHITNEY COMES OUT OF THE CLOSET IN A YELLOW DRESS. THE PRICE TAG HANGS OFF THE BACK.

ALEX

The tag is showing. Want me to rip it out?

WHITNEY

No way. I'm not keeping this thing.

THEY MOVE TOWARD THE DOOR.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)

Okay...phone?

ALEX

Got it.

WHITNEY

Keys?

ALEX

Got em.

WHITNEY

My purse?

ALEX

I'm not that whipped.

THEY'RE OUT THE DOOR.

WHITNEY (V.O.)

I can't believe we're missing Shark

Week.

INT. WHITNEY AND ALEX'S CAR

WHITNEY AND ALEX PICK UP THEIR FRIENDS ON THE WAY TO THE WEDDING. FIRST IS A COUPLE, LILY (26, TRADITIONAL, SWEET, UPBEAT) AND NEAL (32, SENSITIVE, COOL, METROSEXUAL, IN A STYLISH CROPPED SUIT.)

WHITNEY

Hey.

LILY

Hi! Hi! (THEN) Neal, do you have my
purse?

NEAL

Got it.

NEAL HOLDS UP THE PURSE. HE IS THAT WHIPPED. ONCE THEY GET IN THE CAR IT'S EVIDENT THAT LILY AND NEAL ARE MATCHING.

ALEX

Are you two matching?

LILY

Cute right?

WHITNEY

Maybe if you're going figure skating later.

INT. WHITNEY AND ALEX'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

THEY PICK UP ROXANNE (33, TIRED, BLUNT, NO BULLSHIT, DIVORCEE.) SHE'S WEARING PANTS.

LILY

Roxanne, you can't wear pants to a wedding!

ROXANNE

Lily, get off my balls. It was either this or a slanket. I'm a thirty-three year old woman who pays alimony to an ex-husband who does spoken word for a living. I can wear pants. (THEN) Why are we even going to this wedding? Hasn't Jeff been married before?

WHITNEY

Yeah, he must hate money.

LILY

I think it's romantic.

ROXANNE
(TO LILY AND NEAL)

If your outfits were planned, you two should kill yourselves.

INT. WHITNEY AND ALEX'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

THEY PULL UP IN FRONT OF A POLICE STATION.

NEAL

Why are we picking up Mark at his work when he lives in the same building as you?

ALEX

He doesn't have a car. He just uses the police car when he's on duty.

ROXANNE

And he's a loser. Don't forget that part.

MARK (33, BLUE COLLAR, CEREBRAL ETERNAL BACHELOR, COP) GETS IN AND GIVES FIST BUMPS ALL AROUND TO MIXED RECEPTION.

MARK

Ohla! Alex, Whitney. Shalom. Neal, Lily. (THEN) Roxy! Love the side boob.

ROXANNE

That's armpit fat.

MARK

It all feels the same in the dark. (THEN) So, I Facebooked all the bridesmaids and if their childhoods were half as bad as their taste in music, I'm getting some lady hole tonight.

NEAL

The fact that you're a police officer is very disturbing.

ROXANNE SNIFFS THE AIR IN MARK'S DIRECTION.

ROXANNE

I didn't realize they still made
Drakkar Noir.

MARK
(TO ALEX)

See dude! Designer Impostors smells
exactly the same!

EXT. CHICAGO ROOFTOP - WEDDING CEREMONY - LATER - NIGHT

A COOL, MODERN WEDDING. WHITNEY, ALEX AND CO. WATCH AS THE WEDDING PARTY WALKS DOWN THE AISLE. AN OLDER WOMAN NEXT TO WHITNEY WEEPS, MOVED BY THE CEREMONY. WHITNEY LEANS IN.

WHITNEY

Don't worry, it'll be over soon.

THE BRIDE APPEARS. SHE'S WEARING A YELLOW DRESS. WHITNEY'S JAW DROPS. PEOPLE START TO NOTICE THAT WHITNEY'S DRESS IS THE SAME EXACT COLOR AS THE BRIDES. THEY GLARE AT HER. AS THE BRIDE WALKS DOWN THE AISLE, SHE NOTICES WHITNEY'S DRESS AND IS VISIBLY UPSET.

EXT. CHICAGO ROOFTOP - LATER

THE CREW SITS AT THE TABLE IN THE WAY BACK.

WHITNEY

How was I supposed to know she was
going to wear *yellow*?! I mean, she
looks like a giant legal pad.

LILY

It's not your fault. Weddings are
getting more and more modern. Last
month a friend of mine got married in
a barn.

ROXANNE

In *yellow*?

LILY

Oh. No. Her dress was white. But, by the end of the night it was more of a...beige-y brownish.

THE BRIDE AND GROOM (ABBEY, 30, JEFF, 30) COME OVER TO GREET THE TABLE.

WHITNEY

ALEX

Hey! Congratulations.

Congrats, guys.

WHITNEY

Abbey, I'm really sorry I wore yellow. I thought you were going to wear white...because that's what people have been doing for hundreds of years. In pretty much every culture.

ABBEY

It's okay. It's not your fault.

WHITNEY

I know. (THEN) So, how long are you planning on being married for?

ALEX

She's kidding.

SHE'S HALF-KIDDING. THE COUPLE LAUGHS.

JEFF

So, when are you guys going to tie the knot?

WHITNEY

Eh. We're good.

ALEX

Whitney and I are basically married.

WHITNEY

I just feel like marriage is when all the problems start. You see a perfectly happy couple, they get married, then boom! All the fighting begins.

THE COUPLE LOOKS CONCERNED.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)

But not you two! You two are going to beat the odds. (THEN) This is not going well. (THEN) The chicken is awesome-

ALEX

Whitney?

WHITNEY

Yep.

THE BRIDE AND GROOM MOVE ON TO THE NEXT TABLE.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)

Please tell me you got them a good present.

ALEX

Not good enough to fix that.

MARK LOOKS AT NEAL.

MARK

Dude, why the hell are you wearing a pink shirt?

NEAL

It's Prada. Lily picked it out for me.

MARK

Bro, you can't wear things your girlfriend picks out for you. Next thing you know you're going to wear a condom just because a girl wants you to.

NEAL

I can't use condoms. I'm allergic to spermicide.

BEAT.

MARK

Dude, that's a good one. Thanks, man.
I'm gonna use that.

EXT. CHICAGO ROOFTOP - LATER

ALEX IS EATING WHEN A HOT GIRL (25) COMES OVER AND JOINS HIM.
ALEX DOESN'T NOTICE.

HOT GIRL

Excuse me, are you the guy who sold that video website?

ALEX

Yeah. I'm Alex. Have we met?

HOT GIRL
(FLIRTY)

I'm Sarah. We met at Jeff's birthday party. A bunch of people are doing shots if you wanna come.

ALEX

I have a girlfriend, so I can't really engage in any kind of merriment. But thanks for making me feel like a man again.

SARAH

Right. You date that photographer girl who hates everything and is really nasal?

ALEX

Yup. That's Whitney.

SHE SMILES.

SARAH

Well, I don't see a ring. It must not be that serious.

WHITNEY RETURNS, EATING A GIANT PIECE OF CAKE. SHE SITS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF ALEX.

WHITNEY

Alex, do you have the Beano or do I? I can't find it and I'm really gassy.

ALEX PULLS A BOTTLE OUT OF HIS JACKET AND GIVES IT TO WHITNEY.

ALEX

Here, bunny.

WHITNEY

Thanks turtle.

DISGUSTED, SARAH GETS UP AND WALKS AWAY. ANOTHER WEDDING GUEST AT THE TABLE (40) MAKES CONVERSATION.

WEDDING GUEST

You two are so cute. How long have you two been together?

ALEX

About five years.

WHITNEY

What? No. Four maybe. What?

ALEX
(DOING THE MATH)

Wait, five years next week. We met on Labor day in 2005 because that's when you shot our family Christmas card-

WHITNEY
(FAKE EXHAUSTED)

We get it, your parents are happily married.

WEDDING GUEST

What are you going to do for your anniversary?

WHITNEY

We're not like that.

WEDDING GUEST

You don't celebrate anniversaries?

WHITNEY

I have a bad back.

ALEX

Last year Whitney took an Ambien at noon by accident and the year before she took Tylenol PM on purpose. Also around noon.

WEDDING GUEST

My marriage fell apart because we stopped putting work into our relationship.

ROXANNE

Same thing happened to me. Me and my ex-husband stopped having sex and things got platonic.

WEDDING GUEST

Same here. Our therapist said healthy couples should have sex at least four or five times a week.

WHITNEY IS TAKEN ABACK.

WHITNEY

With each other?!

WHITNEY IS VISIBLY DISTURBED. THIS CLEARLY ISN'T WHITNEY AND ALEX'S ROUTINE.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)

Five times a week?! Who has time for that?

WHITNEY NERVOUSLY SHOVES THE REST OF THE CAKE INTO HER MOUTH.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)

I mean, people have jobs!

LILY RUNS OVER.

LILY

C'mon! They're going to cut the cake!

WHITNEY FREEZES. EVERYONE NOTICES THAT WHITNEY'S OBVIOUSLY BEEN EATING THE WEDDING CAKE THIS WHOLE TIME. JEFF AND ABBEY'S WEDDING CAKE. THE CAKE THAT IS ABOUT TO BE CUT. THAT WAS ALREADY CUT. BY WHITNEY.

INT. WHITNEY AND ALEX'S APARTMENT- THAT NIGHT

ALEX, IN PAJAMAS, SITS ON THE BED AND PLAYS WITH HIS IPHONE. WHITNEY HANGS HER DRESS UP, INSPECTING IT FOR STAINS.

ALEX

You think Abbey's still mad about the yellow dress thing?

WHITNEY

Doesn't matter. Now that she's married I'll never see her again anyway. Marriage is like the Bermuda triangle.

(MORE)

WHITNEY (CONT'D)

Except you get an extra set of
parents.

ALEX CHUCKLES. WHITNEY LOOKS AT HIM FOR A BEAT.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)

Why aren't we having sex?

ALEX

Your hair is up and I ate pork.

WHITNEY

What do you mean my hair is up?

ALEX

When your hair is up, you don't want
to be touched. Or talked to.

WHITNEY

That's true. When's the last time I
wore my hair down?

ALEX

Two years ago?

WHITNEY

What?! That's what girls do when we
throw in the towel! Have I thrown in
the towel?

ALEX

I'm not exactly sure, but you do
always leave your wet towels on the
bed, which is really annoying.

WHITNEY

I'm serious!

ALEX

Is this about what that woman was saying at the wedding?

WHITNEY

Well, it made me realize that we've gotten kind of platonic. I mean, I wasn't even jealous when that girl was hitting on you.

ALEX

Oh, right. Her hair was down. Dooooown.

SFX: BEEPING FROM AN IPAD BY THE BED. ALEX LOOKS AT IT.

ALEX (CONT'D)

It's your mom. I highly suggest we ignore this.

WHITNEY

I have to-

ALEX

Begging you.

WHITNEY

I'll just tell her I can't talk-

ALEX

I will pay you.

WHITNEY

I have to answer it.

BEAT.

ALEX
(GIVING IN)

She's probably hammered...

WHITNEY
(UPBEAT)

She's probably drunk
anyway...

ALEX TAPS THE IPAD AND HOLDS IT UP TO FACE WHITNEY. WHITNEY'S MOTHER, PATTI MORRIS (55, SELF-ABSORBED, DEFENSIVE, THREE TIME DIVORCEE) APPEARS ON THE SCREEN. AS EXPECTED, SHE'S TIPSY.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)

Hey mom-

PATTI

For a second I thought you weren't going to answer a call from your own mother who is responsible for you being alive. (THEN) Did you just go the gym?

WHITNEY

Nope. This is what I look like.

PATTI

Have you talked to your father? His voice mail is full and he owes me a check.

WHITNEY

I don't know. I think he's traveling.

PATTI

You know what that means. Whores.

WHITNEY

Mom, I can't talk about whores right now. Alex and I are kind of in the middle of something-

PATTI

You've been together for five years. It's not like you're having sex.

WHITNEY

What is that supposed to mean?!

PATTI

It's normal. I mean, read the news.
Look at the TV or the Internet on your
candle or whatever. It happens to
every couple. I mean look at you.
You're in sweatpants.

WHITNEY

So what?!

ALEX
(INTO THE IPAD WITH A
COMPUTER VOICE)

The battery is dead! Beep boop beep
weerreewoop.

HE CLOSES OUT THE ICHAT WINDOW WITH PATTI IN IT.

WHITNEY

See?! I told you! We're not having sex
enough!

ALEX

Please don't take anything your mom
says seriously. It always ends in you
being upset or wanting to move to
Canada.

WHITNEY

It's not just my mom! Roxanne went
through this, that lady at the wedding
went through it...it's a thing! We're
in a rut! This is your fault. Think
about it.

INT. WHITNEY AND ALEX'S APARTMENT - FLASHBACK

ALEX INTENSELY PLAYS A VIDEO GAME ON THE TV. WHITNEY SNEAKS
UP, WRAPPING HER ARMS AROUND HIM, KISSING HIS NECK.

ALEX
(TO THE TV T.V.)

Left! Up! Up! Damn you space monkey!

You're not going to take my banana!

HE JERKS FROM SIDE TO SIDE, WITH WHITNEY ON HIS BACK. HE SCORES A POINT.

ALEX (CONT'D)

YES!

ALEX SUDDENLY RISES AND WHITNEY FALLS TO THE FLOOR.

INT. WHITNEY AND ALEX'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS FLASHBACK

WHITNEY AND ALEX LIE IN BED. WHITNEY GOES TO KISS ALEX. WHILE KISSING HIM, SHE REACHES TO TURN THE LIGHT OFF.

ALEX

Wait, one sec. Before you turn off the
light let me do this real quick.

ALEX PICKS UP A NAIL CLIPPER AND STARTS CLIPPING HIS TOE NAILS IN THE BED. DISGUSTED, WHITNEY ROLLS OVER.

INT. WHITNEY AND ALEX'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS FLASHBACK

WHITNEY AND ALEX WATCH T.V. IN BED. WHITNEY LOOKS AT ALEX AND TAKES HER SHIRT OFF, REVEALING A SEXY BRA. ALEX DOESN'T NOTICE, SO WHITNEY GOES TO UNHOOK HER BRA.

ALEX
(TRANSFIXED ON THE T.V.)

Whoah. Scarlett Johansson is really
pretty.

WHITNEY SCOFFS, PUTS HER SHIRT BACK ON, AND ROLLS OVER.

INT. WHITNEY AND ALEX'S APARTMENT - BACK TO PRESENT.

Whitney looks at Alex: see?

ALEX

It's not *always* my fault.

INT. WHITNEY AND ALEX'S APARTMENT- **FLASHBACK**

WHITNEY LIES IN BED, READING A MAGAZINE. ALEX GETS INTO BED AND GOES TO KISS HER.

WHITNEY
(SPITTING)

Eee. Don't. White strips.

ALEX BACKS OFF.

INT. WHITNEY AND ALEX'S APARTMENT- CONTINUOUS FLASHBACK

ALEX LIES IN BED. WHITNEY RUSHES INTO BED AND PULLS THE COVERS UP TO HER CHIN.

WHITNEY

It's so cold in here!

ALEX SLITHERS TOWARD HER.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)

Get away from me! Your feet are
freezing!

WHITNEY ROLLS OVER AND BURROWS IN THE BED. ALEX GIVES UP.

INT. WHITNEY AND ALEX'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS FLASHBACK

ALEX LIES IN BED. WHITNEY WALKS TOWARD THE BED IN HER PAJAMAS AND STARTS GETTING IN. ALEX TAKES HIS SHIRT OFF AS WHITNEY GETS UNDER THE COVERS. AS ALEX SEXILY GRABS AND KISSES HER, WHITNEY FARTS AND PULLS THE COVERS OVER ALEX'S HEAD AND LOCKS HIM UNDER IN A "DUTHCH OVEN." SHE LAUGHS HYSTERICALLY AS ALEX SCREAMS.

ALEX

Chipotle! Noooooooooo!

INT. WHITNEY AND ALEX'S APARTMENT- BACK TO PRESENT

WHITNEY

Fine, it's both of our faults. I mean,
we don't even have plans for our five
year anniversary. Your parents went to
Fiji for their anniversary. No wonder
they've been together so long.

ALEX

Then let's go to Fiji.

WHITNEY

I can't get on a plane. The germs
and...people. But, we are going to do
something awesome. For now, you get in
that bed because a storm of sexy is
about to come your way.

BEAT. WHITNEY THINKS ABOUT HOW TO BE SEXY.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)

Lingerie! Right!

WHITNEY RUSHES INTO HER CLOSET. SHE OPENS HER LINGERIE
DRAWER. SHE PULLS OUT HER "LINGERIE": A SPORTS BRA, LARGE
COTTON PANTIES, UNSIGHTLY SPANX, BIKING SHORTS, A HUGE T
SHIRT.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)

Hmm.

WHITNEY WALKS BACK INTO THE BEDROOM AND GETS IN BED.

ALEX

What just happened in there?

WHITNEY
(GETTING IN BED, ANNOYED)

Well, my closet looks like it belongs
to a female basketball coach, so the
storm of sexy will be heading this way
more like tomorrow-ish.

WHITNEY GETS IN BED AND TURNS HER LIGHT OUT. OVER BLACK:

WHITNEY (CONT'D)

Scarlett Johansson is pigeon toed.

BEAT.

ALEX
(like that matters)

So?

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOINT. MASONHOUSE - DAY

WHITNEY'S HANGOUT IS A COZY SHORT TERM RESIDENCE HOTEL COMMON AREA (A LA PALIHOUSE.) WHITNEY AND LILY SIT ON COUCHES. LILY POSES SEXILY AS WHITNEY TAKES PHOTOS OF HER WITH A FANCY CAMERA. LILY JUTS HER CHEST OUT.

WHITNEY

Lily, careful with the cleavage.
You're a food critic, not a Real
Housewife of New Jersey.

LILY SQUISHES HER BOOBS DOWN. WHITNEY LOOKS THROUGH THE PHOTOS ON HER CAMERA.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)

Lil, do you and Neal ever go like four
or five days without having sex?

LILY

What? No way. I work really hard to
keep our sex life good. I do kegels
every day. I'm doing them right now.

WHITNEY

(TMI)

That's dark.

LILY

I also text Neal pictures of my you-
know-what when we're not together.

LILY POINTS TO HER CROTCH AREA. WHITNEY STARES AT HER.

LILY (CONT'D)

My...you know...

WHITNEY

I know what you're talking about. I just want to see how long you'll point to your vagina in public. (THEN) So, what's the point of that exactly?

LILY

The sexy photos are like saying "here's what's waiting for you at home..."

WHITNEY

If I was going to do a "here's what's waiting for you at home" photo shoot, I'd take some pictures of the dirty dishes.

ROXANNE WALKS IN AND SITS DOWN. SHE SITS DOWN AND HEAVILY EXHALES.

LILY/WHITNEY

Hey.

ROXANNE

Blah blah blah hi. (CALLING TO A WAITRESS) I'll have a vodka vodka.

WHITNEY

Double vodka. This is gonna be good.

ROXANNE

Sobriety is just not an option anymore. Being a single woman today is embarrassing. That guy I was trying to end things with? Chris? He's in *therapy*, so he's using all his therapy jargon on me.

(MORE)

ROXANNE (CONT'D)

Every time I try to break up with him he tries to tell me I have "intimacy issues."

WHITNEY

You do have intimacy issues.

ROXANNE

I don't have intimacy issues! I'm just not delusional about relationships anymore. I'm thirty three. I'm tired. I have a sciatica from ten years of faking orgasms. I make my own money. I don't need a man. If I want a diamond ring, I'll buy it myself. If I want a baby, I'll order one online.

LILY

That's a terrible thing to say.

WHITNEY
(TO HERSELF)

I should start faking orgasms.

ROXANNE

Do whatever you have to do to make it work, because you can't go back out there. It's a war zone: guys put smiley faces in their text messages. They drink *smoothies*. I dated a guy with calf implants. Remember when men were men? They chopped wood and did cocaine? I dated a guy who had a screen saver of a baby on his computer and it wasn't even his baby.

LILY

That's sweet.

DOT

That's a pedophile.

ROXANNE (CONT'D)

Just lock your men down. That's all
I'm saying.

LILY

Well, Neal and I are for sure getting
married. Whitney, don't you want to
marry Alex?

WHITNEY

Look, I'm not afraid of commitment.
I'm just not completely sold on
marriage: the whole pick-which-friends-
I-like-the-best-and-force-them-to-go-
to-a-party-I-can't-afford thing.

LILY

But at some point you have to make
your relationship official. I want to
spend the rest of my life with Neal
and I want the whole world to know.

WHITNEY

Get a blog.

LILY

Marriage has so many advantages: you
legally become a couple...

ROXANNE

Tax breaks.

LILY

You become part of the other person's family...

ROXANNE

You don't have to worry about STD's.

LILY

You get to take Alex's last name.

ROXANNE

If he cheats on you, you get half of his stuff.

WHITNEY

Roxanne, why are you backing this? I thought you were against marriage.

ROXANNE

I'm trying to be supportive here. Trust me, I'll never get married again. There's a reason marriage is called an institution. It's for crazy people.

WHITNEY

I can't even think about marriage right now. The most important thing is that I have a great five year anniversary and that we get our sex life back on track.

ROXANNE LOOKS AT LILY.

ROXANNE

Lily are you doing that thing where you squeeze your cooch to make it stronger?

BUSTED.

LILY

How did you know that?!

EXT. SEX SHOP - LATER

WHITNEY, LILY, AND ROXANNE STAND OUTSIDE A SEX SHOP. IN THE WINDOW ARE BLOW UP DOLLS ARRANGED IN SEXUAL POSITIONS.

ROXANNE

What are we doing here? I better not run into anyone I know from work.

WHITNEY

I'm going to have amazing sex on my anniversary if it kills me.

INT. SEX SHOP - CONTINUOUS

WHITNEY, LILY, AND ROXANNE PERUSE THE STORE. WHITNEY PICKS UP A CHEAP THONG.

WHITNEY

Wow, this all looks so...flammable.

LILY HOLDS UP SOME SEXY BRIDAL LINGERIE.

LILY

How cute is this thong?! It says "bride" on the back.

WHITNEY

That's perfect if you want to say "I just committed to one person for the rest of my life, but damn it, I am still a slut!"

EXT. TIFFANY'S - SAME TIME

ALEX, NEAL, AND MARK STAND OUTSIDE THE TIFFANY'S WINDOW IN THE EXACT FORMATION THE GIRLS WERE IN OUTSIDE THE SEX SHOP.

MARK

Why are we here? I better not run into anyone I know from work.

NEAL

I'm going to ask Lily to marry me.

ALEX

Congrats again, man. That's so cool.

MARK

Dude. You're getting engaged? That's gay.

ALEX

Actually, it's the opposite of gay.

MARK

As soon as a man gets engaged, he turns gay: living in a house with throw pillows everywhere, you start wearing jewelry, you stop having sex with women. Neal, you gotta snap out of this. You've been brainwashed by society into buying Lily a cubic zirconia!

ALEX

This is Tiffany's. These are real diamonds.

MARK

You're buying her a *real* diamond?! Are you crazy?!

INT. SEX SHOP - SAME TIME

A YOUNG FEMALE EMPLOYEE (25, HEAVILY TATTOOED AND PIERCED) APPROACHES THE GIRLS.

EMPLOYEE

Is there anything I can help you with?

WHITNEY

I need to have mind blowing sex on my five year anniversary. Preferably with my boyfriend.

EMPLOYEE

I highly recommend role play. You dress up in sexy costumes and pretend to be other people.

WHITNEY

Role play.

ROXANNE

It's like being with other people, but you're with the same freaking person and he's dressed like an idiot.

LILY HOLDS UP SOME COSTUMES.

LILY

Sexy maid?

WHITNEY

I don't want to put the idea in his head that I'd ever clean the house.

ROXANNE

You can't do the maid fantasy. You don't speak Spanish.

LILY HOLDS UP A SHORT SEXY NURSE COSTUME.

LILY

Sexy nurse?

WHITNEY

If I was going to do the nurse fantasy for Alex I'd just make him wait in the living room for an hour and have him read Highlights magazine.

INT. TIFFANY'S - CONTINUOUS

THE GUYS WALK INTO THE STORE.

MARK

You're going to propose after a year and a half? You know what this means right?

NEAL

That I'm getting married?

MARK

Nope. Fight club.

MARK STARTS SMACKING NEAL IN THE HEAD.

MARK (CONT'D)

Man up!

ALEX DIVES BETWEEN THEM TO BREAK THEM UP.

ALEX

Mark, you have to stop trying to start fight clubs in public. First of all, it's insane. Second of all, you know the first rule.

MARK

Marriage doesn't work! If half of all planes crashed, would you buy a plane ticket?

BEAT. THE GUYS PROCESS MARK'S COMMENT. MARK LOOKS AT ONE OF THE ENGAGEMENT RINGS AND SEES THE PRICE TAG.

MARK (CONT'D)

A ten thousand dollar plane ticket!?

ALEX

That's actually a good point,
regardless of the fact that it came
from Mark.

MARK

Marriage was invented before the life
expectancy was thirty years old! Now
it's seventy-eight! Monogamy is not
natural.

ALEX

Neither are fake boobs but you love
those.

MARK

Irrelevant. (THEN) Look at Alex. He's
been with Whitney five years and he's
not pussing out.

ALEX

But, Whitney and I are basically
married. She's just not into the whole
marriage ordeal since her parents are
0 - 3.

MARK

See? She's smart. Even though she's a
woman, she's smart.

NEAL

Alex, don't you want to make it
official?

(MORE)

NEAL (CONT'D)

Have something symbolic on Whitney's
finger so guys don't hit on her?

ALEX

I think her personality already does
that.

INT. SEX SHOP - SAME TIME

THE GIRLS HOLD VARIOUS SLUTTY COSTUMES AS THE EMPLOYEE HOLDS
UP A SKI MASK.

EMPLOYEE

One of our most popular costumes is
the "stranger fantasy." It's our best
seller. Couples can't seem to get
enough of it.

WHITNEY AND THE GIRLS NOTICE A GIDDY COUPLE SHOPPING
TOGETHER. THEY'RE POINTING AT COSTUMES AND KISSING AND
LAUGHING. WHITNEY TAKES THIS IN.

WHITNEY
(COMPETITIVE)

Okay. I can get into that. If other
couples are wearing masks and mugging
each other, so will we.

WHITNEY GRABS THREE MORE OUTFITS, INCLUDING A COWBOY OUTFIT.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)

Sexy cowgirl? Add to cart.

EMPLOYEE

Would you like a toy gun to go with
your cowboy costume?

WHITNEY

For what?

EMPLOYEE

It'll help you with the acting. A cowboy would probably have a gun. It would help you get into character-

WHITNEY

Look, I'm not Daniel Day Lewis. I just want to get laid.

INT. WHITNEY AND ALEX'S APARTMENT- LATER

WHITNEY ENTERS THE APARTMENT, CARRYING HER BAGS FROM THE SEX SHOP. SHE SETS THEM DOWN AND PULLS OUT A SKANKY COSTUME. SHE HOLDS IT UP AGAINST HER BODY AND CHECKS HERSELF OUT IN THE MIRROR. SHE PICKS UP THE PHONE AND CALLS ROXANNE.

ROXANNE (O.S.)

What?

WHITNEY
(LAMENTING HER FLAT CHEST IN
THE MIRROR)

Hey, do you know a good plastic surgeon?

ROXANNE (O.S.)

I stopped caring about my appearance in '04.

WHITNEY

I'm not sure I can pull these outfits off with such small boobs.

ROXANNE (O.S.)

Yes you can. Boobs are out. Ass is the new boobs.

WHITNEY

Rappers. God Bless 'em. Well, in that case let's at least go to the gym and pretend to work out.

WHITNEY PUTS THE COSTUMES DOWN, GRABS HER GYM BAG, AND IS OUT THE DOOR.

INT. WHITNEY AND ALEX'S APARTMENT - LATER

ALEX WALKS IN, ON THE PHONE WITH MARK.

MARK (O.S.)

Okay, I'm cool with Neal getting engaged, but only under the condition that I get to plan the bachelor party. I can get us a great deal on a sybian. I have a guy.

ALEX NOTICES THE SEX SHOP BAGS. HE PEEKS INSIDE.

MARK (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Hello? Did I lose you? AT&T is the worst.

ALEX

No, I'm here. I just found some costumes from a sex shop.

MARK (O.S.)

Dude! That's awesome!

ALEX

Whitney's been all obsessed with making our sex life better.

MARK (O.S.)

What kind of costumes?

ALEX PULLS OUT THE COWBOY COSTUME.

ALEX

Elvis?

ALEX PULLS OUT THE SKI MASK.

ALEX (CONT'D)

And a...ski mask? I know she gets cold at night but this is ridiculous.

MARK (O.S.)

That's for you to wear, moron! She wants to do the stranger thing! Girls love it when a guy is dangerous and takes control. Put on the mask and as soon as she walks in the door, punch her in the face.

ALEX

This may come as a shock to you, but I'm not gonna punch my girlfriend in the face.

MARK (O.S.)

You gotta slaughter the pig! Oink!
Oink!

ALEX

Wow. Your mother failed.

ALEX HANGS UP THE PHONE AND LOOKS THROUGH THE COSTUMES.

FADE TO:

INT. WHITNEY AND ALEX'S APARTMENT- AN HOUR LATER

ALEX WEARS THE SKI MASK. HE SHADOWBOXES AROUND THE APARTMENT.

ALEX

The third rule. If someone says
"stop," the fight is over...

ALEX HEARS WHITNEY'S KEYS IN THE DOOR. HE QUICKLY TURNS THE LIGHTS OFF AND CROUCHES BEHIND THE DOOR SO WHITNEY CAN'T SEE HIM. WHITNEY ENTERS CARRYING GROCERIES.

WHITNEY
(CALLING)

Turtle? You home?

ALEX GRABS WHITNEY FROM BEHIND.

ALEX
(TRYING TO BE SCARY)

Don't move!

INSTINCTIVELY WHITNEY SCREAMS AND ELBOWS ALEX IN THE RIBS. ALEX FALLS BACK, HITS HIS HEAD ON THE KITCHEN COUNTER, AND FALLS TO THE GROUND. HE'S OUT COLD. WHITNEY FRANTICALLY TURNS THE LIGHTS ON.

WHITNEY

Oh my God! Alex! I thought you were a burglar or something! I'm so sorry!

ALEX ISN'T MOVING. SHE TAKES THE SKI MASK OFF HIS HEAD.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)

Come on, I can see you breathing. Our counter isn't even real granite.

SHE SHAKES HIM. HE ISN'T WAKING UP. NOW SHE'S REALLY WORRIED.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)

ALEX!

SHE SCRAMBLES TO PICK HIM UP OFF THE FLOOR AND DRAGS HIM OUT OF THE APARTMENT A LA WEEKEND AT BERNIES.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT 3INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT

MEDICS ROLL ALEX THROUGH THE ER ON A GURNEY. WHITNEY RUNS ALONGSIDE IT, FRANTICALLY TALKING TO NURSE (35, HAD IT.)

WHITNEY

He's gonna be okay right?!

NURSE

We'll take care of him, ma'am. Now, what is your relation to this man?

WHITNEY

He's my boyfriend.

THE NURSE STOPS WHITNEY AS ALEX IS ROLLED PAST THE DOUBLE DOORS.

NURSE

I'm sorry, but you're not allowed back here unless you're a spouse or immediate family. Visiting hours are tomorrow from four to six.

WHITNEY

What?! We've been together for five years! We're basically married.

NURSE

You're either married or you're not.

WHITNEY

He's seen me take a deuce.

NURSE

That's disgusting. And that's coming from an ER nurse.

WHITNEY

Sorry. I just really need to be with him. He's like, my whole life. Please?

NURSE

I can't let you back there. I'm sorry.

THE NURSE WALKS AWAY. WHITNEY IS LEFT THERE, GUTTED.

INT. ER WAITING ROOM - HOURS LATER

LILY AND ROXANNE WAIT WITH WHITNEY. WHITNEY'S HEAD IS IN HER HANDS. SHE'S MISERABLE. NEAL APPROACHES HOLDING A BAG.

NEAL

Whitney, I made you some cinnamon waffles in case you were hungry.

WHITNEY

Neal, you're the coolest, but I can't eat. I'm too nervous. And I just crushed like three bags of Combos.

ROXANNE
(TO NEAL)

Give it.

ROXANNE TAKES THE BAG AND STARTS EATING THE WAFFLES.

LILY

Don't worry. The nurse said it's just a mild concussion.

WHITNEY

He's not fine! He's in there all alone...I'm sure they're giving him bad food chock full of dairy. He's a Jew. He can't have diary.

ROXANNE
(MOUTH FULL)

Did you keep the receipt for that ski mask? You should get your money back.

WHITNEY

And his CoQ10! He doesn't have his pills! He needs them for his heart or brain or whatever.

NEAL

Heart.

WHITNEY

Same thing. (THEN) Where's Mark?

LILY

Nobody talks to Mark except you and Alex. If he wasn't your neighbor, we'd never see him.

WHITNEY

I'll ask him to get the key from our landlord and get Alex's pills.

ROXANNE

You're letting Mark into your home?

BEAT.

NEAL

I'll go.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

NEAL AND WHITNEY WALK TOWARD THE EXIT. WHITNEY HANDS NEAL A KEY.

WHITNEY

Neal, you're the best. They should be in the top drawer-

PATTI ENTERS.

PATTI

Parking is twenty dollars?! Alex
better be dead.

NEAL

That your mom?

WHITNEY

Yeah. How did you know?

NEAL

She has the same...eyes.

NEAL EXITS. PATTI AIR KISSES WHITNEY, MISSING HER FACE BY AT
LEAST A FOOT.

WHITNEY

Hey, mom. Alex is gonna be okay, but
I'm just really freaked out right now
because Alex has a concussion.

PATTI HUGS WHITNEY, SYMPATHETIC.

PATTI
(I knew it)

He cheated?

WHITNEY

What? No.

WHITNEY PULLS AWAY.

PATTI

Well, let this be a lesson to you. You
should have married Alex. If he did
die, you'd inherit a lot of money.

WHITNEY

Mom! I don't view marriage as a
paycheck.

PATTI

You know what? That's actually pretty smart since you make your own money. I mean, you don't want to be stuck with him for the rest of your life.

BEAT. THIS HITS WHITNEY.

WHITNEY

Yeah, I do. I do want to be stuck with him for the rest of my life. That's exactly what I want.

PATTI

Now you're not making any sense.

WHITNEY IS LOST IN THOUGHT. PATTI STARTS PUTTING ON LIPSTICK.

WHITNEY

What are you doing?

PATTI

Emergency rooms are a great place to meet newly single men.

WHITNEY

I can't believe that at one point you were responsible for my survival.

INT. ER WAITING ROOM - AN HOUR LATER

WHITNEY PACES BACK AND FORTH IN THE WAITING ROOM.

WHITNEY

Rox, how did your ex husband propose?

ROXANNE

He needed health insurance.

WHITNEY

I mean how did he do it?

ROXANNE

He got down on one knee.

LILY

That's so sweet.

ROXANNE

Not really. Right as I said yes I noticed that he had a bald spot.

MARK COMES OUT OF THE DOUBLE DOORS IN HIS POLICE UNIFORM.

MARK

Yo. The doc said Alex is going to be fine.

WHITNEY

What are you doing?! How did you get back there?!

MARK

I'm a police officer. I can go wherever I want.

WHITNEY

You were with Alex this whole time?

MARK

Calm down. We were playing Uno.

THE NURSE COMES OUT.

NURSE

Miss Morris, you can come see Alex now.

WHITNEY RUSHES PAST EVERYONE TOWARD ALEX'S ROOM.

INT. ALEX'S HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

WHITNEY RUSHES IN AND DIVES ONTO THE BED AND SMOTHERS ALEX WITH KISSES.

WHITNEY

Oh my God! I'm so sorry! Are you in pain? You mad? Please don't leave me.

ALEX

Of course I'm not going to leave you. I love you. And I hate moving.

THEY KISS.

WHITNEY

I don't ever want us to be apart again. I realized that I want to be stuck with you. I want to be stuck with you for the rest of my life.

(Beat) So. I have an idea.

WHITNEY GETS ON ONE KNEE.

WHITNEY (CONT'D)

Alex, will you marry me?

ALEX

No.

WHITNEY
(EXHALES)

THANK GOD!

ALEX

I love you so much I'm not going to marry you.

WHITNEY

I love you so much I'm not going to marry you, too.

ALEX

I know marriage scares you, so we'll just wait until it doesn't anymore.

WHITNEY HOLDS BACK TEARS.

WHITNEY

I was so worried that I was going to lose you. (THEN) I ate Combos.

ALEX

Yeah, I can tell.

WHITNEY

I never want us to be us to be separated again.

ALEX

Then how about you never punch me in the head again?

WHITNEY

That's kind of a big commitment...

ALEX

So, are we done dressing up like transvestites?

WHITNEY

I just want us to stay together.

ALEX

We're gonna stay together, okay? Forget your mom, forget random divorced strangers at parties, forget everything else. (TAKES HER FACE IN HIS HANDS) This is me and you. You can wear sweatpants or your hair up or down or whatever. I don't care.

WITH HER FACE STILL IN HIS HANDS, WHITNEY TAKES A RUBBER BAND FROM HER WRIST AND QUICKLY PUTS HER HAIR IN A PONYTAIL.

WHITNEY

Oh my God that's much better.

ALEX JABS HIS FINGER IN WHITNEY'S RIBS AND THEY LAUGH.

EXT. VERY ROMANTIC RESTAURANT - THE NEXT NIGHT

WHITNEY AND ALEX SIT ACROSS FROM EACH OTHER AT A ROMANTIC RESTAURANT. THEY HOLD UP THEIR CHAMPAGNE GLASSES.

WHITNEY

To five years together.

ALEX

Five years.

THEY CLINK THEIR GLASSES AND DRINK. A GUY NEXT TO THEM DROPS TO HIS KNEES, OPENS A RING BOX, AND PROPOSES TO HIS GIRLFRIEND. THE GIRL SCREAMS WITH JOY.

GIRL

YES!

EVERYONE APPLAUDS. WHITNEY AND ALEX ARE UNFAZED.

WHITNEY

Salmon's a little dry.

INT. CARRIAGE RIDE - LATER THAT NIGHT

ALEX AND WHITNEY WAIT IN LINE FOR A CARRIAGE RIDE. AS A CARRIAGE PULLS UP, ANOTHER COUPLE GETS OUT. THE GUY GETS OUT FIRST, GETS DOWN ON ONE KNEE AND PROPOSES. THE GIRL SQUEALS.

GIRL

OF COURSE I WILL!

WHITNEY AND ALEX STEP AROUND THE ELATED, HUGGING COUPLE AND AWKWARDLY GET INTO THE CARRIAGE.

WHITNEY

Excuse us...we're just gonna try to
get into the ole' carriage here...

EXT. LAKESHORE DRIVE- AN HOUR LATER

ALEX AND WHITNEY SIT ON A PARK BENCH, OVERLOOKING THE CHICAGO RIVER. ALEX'S ARM IS AROUND WHITNEY AS THEY SHARE ICE CREAM.

ALEX

We forgot to call the plumbing guy.

WHITNEY

Oh, right. I'll do that tomorrow.

THEY LOOK UP AND NOTICE A PLANE FINISHING WRITING A PHRASE IN CLOUDS: "JEN, WILL YOU MARRY ME?" A GIRL ON A PARK BENCH NEXT TO THEM SCREAMS AND HUGS HER BOYFRIEND.

ALEX

You ready to go?

WHITNEY

Yup.

THEY WALK AWAY, HAND IN HAND, OVER "HAPPY TOGETHER" BY THE TURTLES.

THE END.