

Something Borrowed

Written by

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FADE IN:

CLOSE ON A WOMAN担 FACE, BEAUTIFUL AND STRONG. SHE担 CRYING.

INT. KAT担 BEDROOM - NEW YORK CITY - DAY

The woman is KAT ELLIS, 30. Tears stream down her face as she sits cross-legged amid the detritus of a packing frenzy.

There is an unfortunate green bridesmaid痴 dress hanging on the back of the door.

Kat痴 pain is palpable. She buries her head in her lap.

Suddenly, the doorbell RINGS.

Kat sits bolt upright, wide eyed. She looks around in disbelief. How did this happen? What is she doing on the floor?

KAT
(sweetly)
Hold on!

INT. HALLWAY

A BIKE MESSENGER stands outside Kat痴 door. He busts a covert ipod dance while he waits.

KAT (O.S.)
Coming!

INT. KAT担 FOYER

Kat wipes her face and inhales, summoning deep calm.

INT. HALLWAY

The Bike Messenger looks up as the door swings open.

Kat is a changed woman. Nothing like the girl we saw on the floor. You壇 never know she had been crying. Or that she

even knows how.

KAT

I知 so sorry. I wasn't quite ready
for you.

Kat props the door open with her foot as she slides a plane ticket into an envelope. She scribbles a name on the envelope, seals it, and hands it to him.

BIKE MESSENGER

Lady, you said this was a rush. I
can't rush anything anywhere if you
don't give it to me.

Kat looks down at the envelope, she's still holding on to it.

KAT

It's a plane ticket.

BIKE MESSENGER

So it is.

KAT

For a date.

(beat)

For my date. To my sister's
wedding. In London.

(beat)

He's never met my family.

BIKE MESSENGER

I hear that noise.

Kat wills herself to surrender the envelope.

BIKE MESSENGER (CONT'D)

You need to let go.

KAT

Yeah.

(beat)

You're going to have to help me.

The Bike Messenger gently tugs the envelope out of her hand.

Kat smiles.

KAT (CONT'D)

Thank you.

The Bike Messenger looks at her with genuine concern.

INT. KAT'S APARTMENT

Racing against time, Kat throws open a linen closet to reveal three neat rows of plastic bins, all perfectly labeled. Kat reaches into the bin marked "TRAVEL" and pulls out a prepacked toiletry kit.

Kat pulls a box marked 鏞ONDON out from underneath her bed.

She opens it.

Pushing aside an old private school uniform and some letters, she pulls out a worn London A-Z, a Ziploc marked 鄭DAPTERS, and her passport.

She痴 about to close the box when she sees an old photo. In it, a GORGEOUS GUY kisses Kat on the cheek. He痴 holding the camera himself -- it痴 blurred and goofy, but full of love.

Kat jams it back in the box and shoves it under the bed.

EXT. NEW YORK STREET

The Bike Messenger darts in and out of traffic, avoiding the throngs of NEW YORKERS enjoying this crisp fall day.

INT. KAT担 APARTMENT

Kat races through her apartment, packing, cleaning, getting ready. Her place is small yet put together. It痴 Crate and Barrel meets Martha. But in a good way.

INT. KAT担 BATHROOM

Kat, finally still, stares into the mirror as she brushes her teeth. There痴 a strange intensity to it, like she痴 scrubbing away the last of her distress.

EXT. BROWNSTONE APARTMENT

The Bike Messenger passes a waiting Town Car as he pulls up to a stoop. He hefts his bike, runs up the stairs, and slips the envelope into the door of...

INT. BROWNSTONE APARTMENT

A tasteful flat. Stylish yet masculine. A MAN stoops to pick up the envelope. We don't see his face, just his ordered, minimalist apartment as he zips his carry-on and walks out the door.

EXT. NEW YORK STREET

His face obscured, the man steps into the purring Town Car.

EXT. KAT担 APARTMENT BUILDING

A TAXI DRIVER slams his trunk as Kat gets in. Kat痴 apprehensive face peers out the window as they pull away.

INT. JFK AIRPORT

A ridiculously long line snakes towards the X-Ray machines.

Latte in hand, Kat cuts right through the middle.

Irate PASSENGERS scowl at her. Kat does this every day. She should be used to the looks by now. She痴 not. She pointedly flashes the crowd her AIRPORT EMPLOYEE BADGE as she sails through security.

INT. CUSTOMER SERVICE - JFK AIRPORT

Kat enters the Virgin Atlantic customer service hub. It痴 as cramped as it is busy. A FEMALE EMPLOYEE approaches with a question. Kat puts up her hand.

KAT

I痴 off duty. I do not exist.

Don痴 even look at me.

The lady backs off. As Kat hurries away, a HARRIED EMPLOYEE matches her step and launches in.

HARRIED EMPLOYEE

I痴 got a tour group from Taipei trapped in customs, a dead poodle in Cargo parked at T9, and a lost grandmother staggering around International asking for her mommy. Oh, and there痴 a guy on two who was stuck with his in-laws for a week because we couldn痴 get him out of Dulles. The in-laws aren痴 speaking to him anymore and, for some reason, he痴 pissed.

Kat痴 trying not to get sucked in.

KAT

I would love to help you.

Sincerely. But my sister痴 getting married this weekend, I haven痴 seen my family in two years, and my flight leaves in fifteen minutes.

The Harried Employee looks like he痴 going to lose it. Kat struggles, then caves.

KAT (CONT痴)

You take Taipei. Tammy痴 schnauzer

just had puppies.
Put her on the dead dog. Park reps
with wheelchairs at every john in T8.
If Grandma just got off a trans-con,
she痴 gotta go sometime.

Kat starts to walk away.

HARRIED EMPLOYEE
What about line two?

Kat spins around and glares at him.

INT. OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

On the phone, Kat is in the middle of saying way too much.

KAT
(into phone)
I completely understand, sir. You
just want your in-laws to see you
the way you see yourself. Or at
least the way you would see
yourself if you didn't feel so
victimized by them.

At that moment, a CLIPBOARD manager walks by. He overhears
Kat痴 diatribe and is incredulous.

CLIPBOARD
Hello? Calls may be monitored for
quality control?

KAT
Huh?

CLIPBOARD
Over-share!

Kat waves him off. Then, by rote:

KAT
(into phone)
Mr. Rajagopal, we regret that you
were snowed in at Dulles but
snowstorms fall under a category
called force majeure. Along with
earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods.
In short, we池e not liable.

Kat checks to make sure the Clipboard has moved on. Then,
she continues, softly but very quickly.

KAT (CONT奪)
(into phone)
But just this once, I知 going to

refund the full price of your
ticket and credit you 10,000
frequent flyer miles. Thank you
for calling Virgin Atlantic!

INT. CABIN - PLANE

Kat sits in first class, absently scanning the safety card.

A PRETTY WOMAN across the aisle notices and smiles.

PRETTY WOMAN
Your first trip?

Kat realizes she's been reading the safety card. She laughs and puts it back in the seat pocket. As she often does, Kat feels compelled to explain.

KAT
Hardly. My family moved to England
when I was fourteen. My stepdad
a professor at University College,
London.
(beat)
I know going back for my sister's
wedding...and the best man my ex.
In case I chicken out, I want to
know where all the exits are.

Kat eyes the front door, nervously.

PRETTY WOMAN
I don't believe in marriage. I
believe in hot sex. Of course,
that draws men to me like flies to
shit.

Kat doesn't know what to say, but then a HOT GUY walks up the aisle. Kat looks at the empty seat next to her and smiles at him. He returns the smile but sits next to the Pretty Woman.

HOT GUY
Hello, my sweet darling.

He gives the Pretty Woman a stupidly in love kiss. The Pretty Woman rolls her eyes to Kat -- what did I tell you?

INT. GALLEY - PLANE

Kat is hiding out. She tries to calm her nerves as a MALE FLIGHT ATTENDANT pours her a cup of water.

KAT
I know not a knuckler. I fly all the
time. In fact, I transferred from

Heathrow two years ago and now I run Bags and Nags here at Kennedy, so things are going really well for me. The reason I can't feel my legs is that any minute, my date is going to walk in that door. And I need him to look really, really good today.

MALE FLIGHT ATTENDANT
(not listening)

I wish I couldn't feel my legs.

Kat peeks around the corner and spots the back of the mysterious MAN from the opening as he loads the overhead bin above Kat's seat. Kat gasps, ducking back.

KAT
Oh, no. He's here.

The Male Flight Attendant looks out at the Man, who leans against Kat's seat as he chats with a FEMALE FLIGHT ATTENDANT. Kat panics.

KAT (CONT'D)
What do you think? Does he look hot, and is it the kinda hot that'll translate overseas?

MALE FLIGHT ATTENDANT
I resent your stereotyping of a man in my profession but...

He checks out the guy again.

MALE FLIGHT ATTENDANT (CONT'D)
...darling, he'd be hot on Mars. I'd like to unwrap him like a Harrod's gift basket.

Kat smiles, relieved.

INT. CABIN - PLANE

The mystery man is NICK MERCER, 32, commanding and classy, yet somehow totally genuine. He carries his '40s-crooner good looks like he has no idea that men just aren't made that way anymore.

Nick takes two glasses of champagne from the blushing Female Flight Attendant.

NICK
Thank you, Lisa.

He turns around to take his seat and finds Kat standing there, awkwardly.

KAT

Hi. Hey.

NICK

Kat.

Nick kisses Kat warmly on the cheek and hands her a glass of champagne. Nick痴 totally at ease. This may as well be a candle-lit bar.

NICK (CONT奪)

Let痴 sit.

Kat awkwardly negotiates her drink as they take their seats.

KAT

I知 glad you found it okay. The airport. The plane, I mean.

Nick notices Kat痴 anxiety, tries to settle her.

NICK

I really am sorry I couldn稚 leave earlier. I know you would have loved a few hours to settle in before the party.

Kat melts a little. That痴 just what she was thinking.

KAT

Work must be crazy right now.

Nick gives Kat a quizzical look. There痴 something going on here. Though it痴 not clear what. Kat fills the space.

KAT (CONT奪)

I致e gotta warn you, you know those families where everyone痴 out of their minds but at the end of the day, they池e family, so you love them?

(off his nod)

Mine痴 not like that.

The Flight Attendant appears with a small tray. Kat notices the woman痴 cheeks flush as she fumbles Nick痴 drink.

Nick smiles warmly, but deftly ends the moment. He痴 like a famous person who has learned to manage his adoring fans with casual grace.

KAT (CONT'D)

I love my dad. But since he's my
stepdad, he's technically not
family. He's more like a hostage.

Kat tries to find her seat belt. It's under Nick.

She reaches beneath him, tentatively, then pulls back,
embarrassed.

KAT (CONT'D)

My seat belt, it's....

Nick pulls out the seat belt and hands it to her. Kat
buckles up, checks that it's snug, then checks again.

They sit in silence as the plane starts barreling down the
runway.

As they pick up speed, Nick takes Kat's hand. She finds
comfort in his touch, her need to talk abates momentarily.

She is safe.

Kat closes her eyes as the plane levels off, then peeks over
at Nick, who's calmly staring out the window. She closes her
eyes again, this time for good.

EXT. LONDON - ESTABLISHING - DAY

INT. BAGGAGE CLAIM - HEATHROW

Nick and Kat wait at the baggage claim. She looks at his
tie, then down at her dress. They are the exact same color.

KAT

(concerned)

Please tell me you're not wearing
that tonight.

Her dress is indeed the exact same color as Nick's tie.

KAT

It's no big deal. Really. It just
looks like a tailor cut off a yard
of my dress and made your tie out
of it.

Nick doesn't get it. He heaves one of Kat's suitcases onto a
trolley full of matching suitcases.

KAT (CONT'D)

Don't get me wrong, matching's
fine. It's just a little tacky. You're
overreacting.

got to watch out for.
(re: outfits)
This is matchy-matchy.

Nick, amused, tugs the last of the bags off the carousel and adds it to a pile of what appears to be an entire floor model of matching luggage.

NICK
You think we look like we池e trying too hard.

KAT
Exactly. I want us to look like we fit, but not like we池e trying too hard to look like we fit.
(beat)
It痴 welcome cocktails, not prom. With this level of matchy-matchy, we should be drinking peach schnapps under a bleacher somewhere.

Nick laughs at Kat. Then fixes her with an intense stare.

NICK
I值1 teach you a trick. If you look people in the eye, they值1 never even notice what you have on.

Kat, overwhelmed by his charisma, is mesmerized.

NICK (CONT奪)
What color are my shoes?

KAT
(dreamily)
You have feet?

Nick smiles sweetly and touches her cheek.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - OUTSIDE LONDON - DAY

The Heathrow Express thunders towards London.

INT. HEATHROW EXPRESS - [MOVING] - DAY

Nick stands by the W.C., flipping through Cosmo. He can do that without looking gay. He talks to Kat through the door.

NICK
I understand how important this is to you, but you池e a beautiful woman and you致e got everything in the world going for you. I couldn't稚 care less what you have

on.

Kat comes out modeling a black strapless.

KAT

Don't patronize me.
They've clearly been at this a while.

NICK

You're funny.

KAT

Yeah, but I feel like crap. And if
you feel like crap, it's way better
to look hot while you're doing it.

He checks her out.

NICK

Mission accomplished.

KAT

Really?
(beat)
Don't get too attached.

She bolts back to the bathroom, nearly knocking over a ZITTY
TEENAGER who's waiting his turn.

ZITTY TEENAGER

I liked the red one better.

NICK

I'll let her know.

INT. W.C. - HEATHROW EXPRESS

Kat, alone in the W.C., meticulously rearranges a layer of
paper towel on the floor so she can step out of her shoes.

She expertly slides off the first dress while simultaneously
pulling another one on -- not an inch of skin shows.

She struggles as the train rocks back and forth.

NICK (O.S.)

(through the door)

I bet you're doing that girl thing,
where you get undressed without
showing any skin.

Kat looks around suspiciously.

KAT

No, I know not.

How 壇 he know?

INT. HEATHROW EXPRESS - CONTINUOUS

Kat emerges from the bathroom wearing the new dress. Nick checks it out.

NICK

Mmm.

KAT

Mmm, nice dress? Or mmm--

(British accent)

Gorgeous, I was insane to let you go!

NICK

Both.

Kat looks to the Zitty Teenager for his opinion.

ZITTY TEENAGER

I 壇 do you.

(to Nick)

I mean, if it was all right with you.

Kat gives the passenger an appreciative smile, then flies back into the bathroom. Nick, amused by her antics, steps closer to the door.

NICK

You know, they say you can tell everything you need to know about a person from the way they act when they 池e naked.

KAT

(popping her head out)

I don 稚 do naked. My sister? She does naked.

Kat ducks back into the bathroom.

MUSIC UP. NAKED MONTAGE:

INT. W.C. - HEATHROW EXPRESS

Kat pulls her dress over her head.

MATCH CUT TO:

ANOTHER WOMAN, PULLING OFF HER DRESS.

INT. AMY 担 BATHROOM

The woman is Kat痴 sister, AMY ELLIS, 28. She graces a bath mat in all her infinite nakedness. Totally nude, she gently places her veil on her head and begins the ablutions of a Greek goddess. A dot of bath oil, a pure white towel, one squirt self-tanner, one squirt lotion.

Finally, she pulls out a bottle of olive oil, pours two drops into her hands and rubs them together.

Then she stares in the mirror, regarding herself with a look so blank it could be anything from admiration to revulsion.

Just then, a KNOCK.

The groom, EDWARD FLETCHER-WOOTEN, 31, enters, wearing a robe. He flashes Amy as he does a silly dance then smothers her inside his robe. Amy giggles and tries to break free.

At first she痴 laughing, but then she turns on a dime and shoves him off more forcefully than she meant to.

She kisses him on the lips, trying to cover, and shoos him out the door.

INT. BUNNY担 DRESSING ROOM

The mother of the bride, BUNNY ELLIS, 60, drops her robe on the floor. She is about to put on a bra when she catches her reflection in a full-length mirror on the door.

She is momentarily surprised by what she sees. She turns and faces her image. This is not the woman she is in her head.

This is an old woman with uncooperative skin. With one swift movement, she slams the door.

INT. ELLIS HOUSE - ST. JOHN担 WOOD

The father of the bride, VICTOR ELLIS, 65, wearing only a pair of socks, walks downstairs. He's completely comfortable in his nakedness and trots around as if he's fully clothed.

He sings to himself. The words of the song are incomprehensible but he sings with an unrestrained Sinatra sass.

Victor enters the kitchen, opens the fridge and starts scrounging. Inside the fridge door, Victor bends over and his bare butt sticks out. As he closes the fridge door, we cut to...

A SHOWER DOOR SLIDING OPEN.

INT. JEFFREY担 FLAT

Inside, the best man, JEFFREY JOHNSON, 31, the guy from the

snapshot under Kat痴 bed, glistens with a post-shower flush.

Jeffrey towels off with a miniscule washcloth.

Stepping out of the bathroom, Jeffrey notices an 18-year-old NYMPHETTE watching him through her kitchen window. He crosses to the window but instead of closing the blinds, he opens them wider and jumps up onto a pull-up bar.

The Nymphette blushes and looks away. As he starts pumping and his manhood rises dangerously close to frame, we...

CUT TO:

EXT. LANESBOROUGH HOTEL - ESTABLISHING - DAY

Upscale cars deliver upscale people to this stately hotel in Central London.

INT. LOBBY - LANESBOROUGH HOTEL

Nick pays the BELLHOP, who trolleys away their bags. He turns to find Kat. She痴 wearing the red dress. The Zitty Teenager was right. It痴 really hot.

Kat starts doing a yoga breath of fire, trying to relax.

Nick takes Kat痴 hand and pulls her close.

NICK

You okay, hon?

Kat nods, clearly not okay. Nick smooths a piece of hair behind her ear. There is a practiced intimacy to the way he touches her and Kat is almost settled by it.

KAT

I知 not sure I can do this.

Nick moves towards Kat as if he痴 going to kiss her, but then he whispers in her ear.

NICK

You池e never going to be sure of anything, but we still have to go inside.

Just then, Kat痴 mother appears.

BUNNY

(singing)

釘aby love, my baby love.❖

A few BRITS dart looks at this very American display.

KAT
Please, Mom. This is not the time
to be yourself.

Bunny folds Kat and Nick into a drunken embrace. Bunny gives
Nick the once-over.

BUNNY
(to Nick)
And who might this be?

Kat痴 mortified but Nick quickly saves her.

NICK
I痴 the new guy.
(kissing Bunny)
It痴 great to meet you.

Bunny throws Kat an unsubtle, 的痴 impressed look and leads
them into the party.

INT. LANESBOROUGH HOTEL

Bunny, Kat and Nick emerge into a sea of Burberry, floppy
hair, and unspoken judgments. Bunny turns to Nick and Kat,
all business.

BUNNY
This is a marathon, not a sprint.
After welcome cocktails, you致e got
the hen party. Tomorrow, there痴 a
picnic and the rehearsal dinner and
since you致e conveniently left no
margin for jet lag--
(squeezing Kat痴 cheek)
I need you to hydrate, baby.

Nick and Kat are stunned. Bunny hops away as Victor
approaches. Kat throws her arms around her stepfather.

KAT
Dad!

VICTOR
Hi, kiddo.

KAT
Meet Nick.

NICK
Sir.

They shake hands. Just then, Kat痴 sister, Amy, dressed to
the nines, strikes a pose in the doorway.

AMY
I知 getting MARRIED!

As Kat and Amy squeal loudly and hug, Victor leans into Nick.

VICTOR
I find a good, strong drink helps.

Nick smiles, looks at Victor痴 glass.

NICK
Can I get you a refill, sir?

Victor hands Nick the glass.

NICK (CONT奪)
(sniffing the glass)
I知 guessing MacCallum, 18 years.
(beat)
Neat, with a water-back.

VICTOR
Is there any other way to take it?

Nick heads toward the bar and Victor turns to Kat.

VICTOR (CONT奪)
Where壇 you find this guy?

Kat smiles, appreciatively.

KAT
The Yellow Pages.

Victor laughs. Across the room, Bunny has found a microphone. She taps a knife on the side of a glass to get everyone痴 attention.

BUNNY
Welcome, friends and family!

Then she taps the mic, which squeals.

ON KAT, panic stricken.

KAT
Sweet Jesus, who gave that woman an amp?

ON BUNNY, drunk with happiness.

BUNNY
Victor and I would especially like to thank our out-of-town guests for coming to celebrate with us as we welcome Edward and the Fletcher-

Wootens into our family.

THE CAMERA ID痴 LYDIA and GEORGE FLETCHER-WOOTEN, 60痴.

George shifts uncomfortably. Lydia waves as though addressing a room full of her subjects.

ON JEFFREY, searching the crowd for someone. His eyes land on Kat. She doesn't see him. He stares at her meaningfully.

BUNNY (CONT'N)

It's funny. We always thought we'd marry off Kat first. We came close once, but that crashed and burned.

Nervous laughter from the crowd. Kat smiles through the pain. Jeffrey winces sympathetically. His mind working, he spots a piano nearby.

BUNNY (CONT'N)

Still, we had reason to hope. She was always one of the more active girls at the American school, and that's saying a lot.

Suddenly, a loud, lovely arpeggio from the piano. Bunny looks over, surprised. Then she smiles.

ANGLE ON JEFFREY, sitting at the piano, playing.

BUNNY (CONT'N)

Okay, okay. I get the hint! Anyway, imagine our surprise when Ed moved in next door and fell in love with...the girl next door. Our Amy. Lucky for us, he had no idea it was an unforgivable cliché.

(raising her glass)

A toast to the bride and groom to be. Congratulations, babies!

Everyone claps as Jeffrey plays a final flourish.

INT. NEAR W.C. - LANESBOROUGH HOTEL - LATER

Kat is sneaking towards the ladies room when Jeffrey comes out of the men's room. Their eyes meet. Both stop dead.

Neither can find words or even a smile. Kat pretends that seeing him isn't a gut-punch, forces a silly grin.

KAT

Thanks for, you know, with the piano.... It was really.... Hm.

(beat)
I have to pee.

Kat slithers past Jeffrey into the W.C.

INT. W.C. - LANESBOROUGH HOTEL

Kat wills her breath back. She turns on the water as if she were washing her hands. Then she confronts herself in the mirror and applies a coat of lipstick like she's putting on a suit of armor.

INT. NEAR W.C. - LANESBOROUGH HOTEL

Jeffrey, a dashing Brit, is not a man who likes to wait, but wait he has. Kat emerges from the W.C. as if she hadn't seen him before.

KAT
Why, Jeffrey. Hello.

JEFFREY
Hello, Katmandu.

As Jeffrey kisses her on the cheek, Kat's eyes close and she takes in his smell. It's like coming home. She doesn't want it to, but something inside her stirs.

JEFFREY (CONT'D)
You look well, Gorgeous.

All he has to do is look her in the eyes and her big plans fly out the window. Kat blushes.

JEFFREY (CONT'D)
Seeing you again....

KAT
Yeah?

Just then, TJ, 30, Kat's cousin, appears, wrapping Kat in a hug. TJ's deb-of-the-year perkiness is undercut by her Longshoreman's tongue.

TJ
Kat Ellis! We live two hundred miles away from each other but I have to fly all the way to London to see you. You haven't visited me once in D.C. Where the hell have you been? I have gynecologists that call more often.

KAT
You have more than one gynecologist?

TJ

Sure. You致e got to play them
against each other. Otherwise they
think you池e easy.

TJ turns on Jeffrey like she just realized he was there.

TJ (CONT奪)

Hey, asshole, since you dumped my
cousin brutally and without cause,
you won稚 mind if I steal her away?

I have all kinds of interesting
things to tell her.

TJ darts Jeffrey a dirty look and drags Kat away.

INT. LANESBOROUGH HOTEL - CONTINUOUS

Arms locked, Kat and TJ rejoin the party.

KAT

You didn稚 have to do that.

TJ

I wasn稚 saving you from him. I
was saving you from yourself.

You池e too fucking nice.

KAT

Don稚 worry. I知 so over him.

(beat)

By the way, do you know if he痴
seeing anyone?

They spot Nick talking to Bunny, surrounded by OCTOGENARIANS.

He doesn稚 look the least bit lost. In fact, he痴 charming
the Dockers off them.

TJ

Why waste ten more seconds on the
slimy limey when Mr. Tie-Me-Up-Tie-Me-

Down is waiting for you at the bar?

ANGLE ON NICK, listening patiently as Bunny pours her heart
out.

BUNNY

After Kat痴 father died and I
married Victor, I was so desperate

for my little girl to love him. It never occurred to me that she might love him more.

ANGLE ON KAT AND TJ, still staring at Nick.

TJ
What痴 he do anyway?

KAT
Therapist.

Just then, Nick looks up and gives Kat an intimate, 堵et over here❖ look. TJ sighs audibly.

TJ
I think I just came.

INT. LANESBOROUGH HOTEL - LATER

Nick stands with Kat at the bar. The BARTENDER hands Kat a drink.

AMY (O.S.)
Can I have that?

Kat looks over and sees Amy. She puts her drink on the bar, but Amy can稚 quite reach it from her stool. Amy makes an exaggerated reaching gesture and whimpers.

Nick takes note as Kat slides the drink closer. Amy sips it through the straw without picking it up.

AMY
You know what I love about all this?

KAT
There痴 finally a reason for the whole world to revolve around you?

AMY
Exactly! Today痴 my day. Tomorrow will be my day. And the day after that? My day.

As Amy gloats, Ed dances over. He痴 a refreshingly unaffected upper-class Brit.

ED
How痴 the future Mrs.?

Amy kisses him on the lips.

AMY

Perfect. All ginny.

KAT

Except it痴 Scotch.

AMY

(ignoring Kat)

But I知 not taking your name,
buster. I知 a feminist!

(shaking her drink)

I need icy! Mr. husband-man, get
me more icy!

ED

All right, then kiss me.

(she kisses him)

God, I知 a lucky sod.

Ed lifts Amy off the stool and spins her around. He does an
awkward dance move and steps on her toe.

AMY

See what happens when you put off
dance lessons til two days before
the wedding?

Ed looks to Nick for support.

ED

Who痴 ever heard of dance lessons
for a wedding, honestly?

NICK

Um, just about everyone.

ED

You are taking the piss?

Ed looks to Kat, who shakes her head.

NICK

We值l go with you guys tomorrow. I
suck too. It值l be fun.

Amy kisses Nick痴 cheek.

AMY

I don稚 even know you, hunky-dunky,
and I love you already.

Kat throws Amy a dark look.

ED

(to no one)

Dance lessons. Right.

EXT. BALCONY - LANESBOROUGH HOTEL

Escaping, Nick steps outside and bumps into Jeffrey, who teeters on the railing.

NICK
Hey.

JEFFREY
Oh, hello.

Jeffrey looks upset. Nick tries to break the ice.

NICK
A wedding is a sacrament...a joyous celebration of love and commitment.

In Utopia. In the real world...

it痴 an excuse to drink excessively and say things you shouldn稚 say.

JEFFREY
Ah, a philosopher.

NICK
Shrink, actually.

JEFFREY
Crikey.

NICK
What?

JEFFREY
Nothing, nothing.

NICK
No, tell me.

JEFFREY
You Yanks and your therapy. It痴 great.
(beat)
It痴 all a bit too touchy-feely for me.

A beat as Jeffrey watches the party. He sees Kat and Amy at the bar and slowly turns to Nick. With difficulty, he begins to unburden himself to his new therapist.

JEFFREY
It痴 just, there痴 this girl I care for -- God, I suppose I could even say I love her -- and the bugger

is, of course, she痴 here with
someone else. Bollocks!

Nick hides his surprise as Jeffrey raises his glass in a
silent toast to his misery. Nick is just clinking glasses
with him when Kat appears and slips her arm in his.

KAT
Here you are.

Jeffrey is horrified. Stares at Nick, aghast.

JEFFREY
Hey, Kat.

KAT
Hey, yourself.
(to Nick)
I see you致e met my ex.

They all stand there, awkwardly.

KAT (CONT奪)
Did I interrupt something?

Jeffrey looks desperately at Nick. Nick hesitates, then
covers.

NICK
I was just telling Jeffrey how we
met.

Kat gives Nick a confused look. Nick smiles warmly--

NICK (CONT奪)
The Knicks game? We both wanted
the last hot dog?

KAT
Oh, yeah.
(pointedly, to Jeffrey)
So we split it. You know, as in
都hare.◆ People do that.

JEFFREY
You hate sports.

Kat squeezes Nick痴 arm, adoringly.

KAT
Not when Nick explains them.

Jeffrey痴 desperate to get out of there.

JEFFREY
(to Nick)

Right. I should be going. Good to meet you. Perhaps I'll see you at the stag party. My place.
(to Kat)
You know the address.

Kat watches him rejoin the party.

KAT
Well, he looks miserable. What were you talking about?

NICK
Love.

Kat and Nick walk back into the party.

INT. LANESBOROUGH HOTEL - CONTINUOUS

They walk arm and arm. After the confrontation with Jeffrey, Kat's excitement is almost manic.

KAT
Jeffrey knows love like he knows macramé.

NICK
He was pretty drunk, but I think he's still crazy about you.

KAT
Of course he is. I know here with my new man.
(beat)
I love it! Your magic already working. Let the suffering begin.

Nick stops Kat and faces her. He is quiet but intense.

NICK
The only one suffering here is you. You need to stop worrying about everyone else. You think you can do that?

Kat takes a deep, calming breath.

KAT
No.

She turns and surveys the room, trying to calm down. But then slowly her face begins to tense.

KAT
What did he say exactly? I mean, you don't think he wants me back?

NICK

I don't know.

KAT

What does your gut say?

NICK

You're too good for him.

EXT. ST. JOHN WOOD - LATER

Nick drives slowly down St. John Wood tree-lined main street. Nick looks out the window as they pass a corner market, a flower shop, pubs, restaurants.

EXT. ELLIS HOUSE - ST. JOHN WOOD

A charming period house in a row of identical houses. You never know where the Americans lived but for a conspicuous boat trailer parked in the driveway.

Victor and Bunny try to help Nick unload Kat many bags from the taxi. He won't let them. As Nick lugs the bags up the driveway, he reads the name, "ACK SHIP," off the back of the dilapidated cabin cruiser.

INT. HALLWAY - ELLIS HOUSE

Nick struggles with Kat many bags as Kat parents escort them upstairs. Kat stops by her bedroom door, doesn't go in.

KAT

Well, here we are.

They stand there, awkwardly sandwiched into the small space.

NICK

(to Bunny and Victor)

Thanks again for having me.

BUNNY

Don't be silly. It's wonderful to finally meet you. Although, technically, I had no idea you existed because when my daughter turned twelve, she stopped talking to me, except when she needed money. So let me rephrase that.

It was nice to discover you existed and then finally meet you all at once. I love surprises.

VICTOR

Okay, Bun. That痴 enough.

Kat gives them a look, but doesn't 稚 open her bedroom door.

KAT
Where痴 Nick sleeping?

BUNNY
Why, with you.

KAT
(not listening)
My mother has a rule about men and women sleeping in the same room without a ring in the picture. She thinks it痴--

Kat puts her fingers up to do air quotes, then suddenly realizes what her mother just said.

KAT (CONT 奪)
Huh?

BUNNY
(twinkling at Nick)
I知 not as square as my daughter thinks.

As Kat痴 parents walk away, Bunny flirtatiously sidles up to Victor and pulls him into their bedroom.

KAT
She must have drowned her rules in the Chardonnay.

With that, Kat closes the door.

INT. KAT担 ROOM

The door CLICKS shut and the happy couple separates instantly. Kat to one side of the room, Nick to the other.

Kat痴 childhood bedroom has an aggressively floral decor.

KAT
Sorry about the creepy room. I went through a painfully earnest Laura-Ashley phase.

Kat takes a brown envelope out of her purse, opens it, and removes A STACK OF HUNDREDS.

She hands the pile of money to Nick.

KAT

Count it. Six thousand even.

Nick doesn't look at the money, just tucks it into his bag.

NICK

I trust you.

Kat almost lets it go, but then...

KAT

No, count it, anyway.

NICK

Why?

KAT

I know compulsive and weird?

Nick humors her. Pulls out the stack of bills and counts it.

KAT (CONT'D)

Six thousand, right?

NICK

On the nose.

(beat)

I tell you what, because you're so cute, I'll take care of our incidentals.

KAT

How does it feel to get that much money just for being you?

NICK

(wryly)

Great, with the occasional stabs of shame. Now, listen, this covers the weekend, but as we discussed, if you want to be intimate, we talk money before anything happens.

KAT

That won't be an issue, believe me. I find the idea of sex for money morally repugnant.

(realizing)

No offense.

NICK

It's okay. Hell, I've never paid for it. But please don't feel like you have to explain yourself to me.

Kat walks over to an old dollhouse. Its rooms have been

gutted, their mini furnishings replaced with a teenager痴 cassette-tape collection.

Kat pulls out Guns and Roses◆ 鄭ppetite for Destruction◆ and opens it. There痴 no tape inside, just some nicotine patches. Nick watches as she opens one up and slaps it on.

NICK
You quitting?

KAT
I知 desperate to start but I don稚 have an addictive personality. Except for approval. That, I can稚 get enough of.

Nick notices an ◆80s poster of two guys with guitars, all big hair and laser light shows.

NICK
Who are they?

KAT
Graham Russell and Russell Hitchcock.

Nick thinks about those names for a second, then his face twists.

NICK
Air Supply?

Embarrassed, Kat hastily rips down the poster and stuffs it in the closet.

KAT
My parents had a German exchange student a few years back.... He must have left it here.

Nick hides a smile as Kat ducks into the bathroom.

INT. KAT担 BATHROOM

Kat has left the door open a crack as she gets ready for a shower. Unbeknownst to her, Nick watches from the bed, enjoying the ritual.

KAT
(quietly)
Everyone knows their greatest hits but some of their lesser-known ballads are surprisingly poignant.

Inexplicably, Kat stands on her tiptoes as she looks into the

mirror. It痴 a little thing, maybe the tiles are cold, but it gives her an innocence that makes Nick smile.

KAT
What?

NICK
It痴 cute.

KAT
What is?

NICK
You stand on your tiptoes.

KAT
I do?

Kat looks down, she never noticed before.

NICK
Is it an old habit from ballet class or a childhood spent walking on eggshells?

She throws him a glance, impressed with the sharpness of his mind.

KAT
I never took ballet.

She smiles and kicks the door closed with her foot.

INT. KAT担 ROOM - LATER

Nick hangs up his tux. It痴 definitely not a rental. Kat comes out of the bathroom, drying her hair with a towel.

KAT
Have you ever done anything like this before?

NICK
A weekend?

KAT
A wedding.

Nick thinks about that. Kat wonders what痴 taking him so long.

NICK
No. Though strangely, I致痴 done quite a few funerals.

Kat makes a face.

NICK (CONT_奪)

Not the way you池e thinking. The women wanted me there for support. You can understand that.

KAT

I think that痴 disgusting.

Kat immediately backpedals.

KAT (CONT_奪)

Not you. You池e not disgusting. You池e lovely. Just the idea that they壇 bring an escort. I mean, a stranger who, um, didn稚...who never.... I mean, someone痴 dead.

NICK

That痴 right. Imagine facing it alone.

Kat blanches.

KAT

Sorry. I知 a little nervous. I never thought something like this would happen to me.

NICK

This happened to you?

KAT

Well, happen, in the sense that I picked up the phone, tracked you down, flew you here and gave you six grand out of my 401K.

Nick laughs at her. Kat pulls something out of her purse.

KAT (CONT_奪)

Can I ask you something?

Nick sees what she痴 unfolding. It痴 a crinkled New Yorker article. The artsy photo shows the FACE OF A MAN, blurred against a neon cityscape. The title: 泥iscretion Assured: Diary of a Male Escort.◆

NICK

How did you know that was me?

KAT

I have a friend at the magazine.

NICK
(sharply)
Your 吐riend guaranteed my
anonymity.

KAT
If it makes you feel any better, to
get your number, I had to cough up
two round-trip tickets to Amsterdam
and a case of mini-Baileys.

Nick shakes his head at her and pulls off his shirt. Kat
instinctively looks away.

NICK
You can look. It痴 part of the
package.

Kat can稚 tell if he痴 joking. She sneaks a look as Nick
disappears into the shower. Wow. Kat looks down at the
papers in her hand. She moves towards the bathroom but at
the last minute, shies away.

NICK (O.S.)
Would you grab my shampoo?

KAT
Shampoo, got it!

Kat grabs the shampoo and rushes into the bathroom.

INT. KAT担 BATHROOM

Without looking in the shower, Kat hands him the shampoo and
hurries out, way too quickly. Nick peeks out of the shower
curtain. She痴 gone. He shakes his head and closes the
curtain. Suddenly, Kat reappears. She stands by the door.

KAT
The part where you were a sexual
surrogate and then started to, um,
freelance. Is that really how it
happened?

Kat pretends to straighten things up as she moves closer to
the shower.

NICK
The real story is that my mother
was a hippie. And a stripper. She
was insanely inappropriate with me.
She used to wash her lingerie in my
bathwater. While I was still in
the bath.

KAT

Oh, no.

NICK

Yeah. As an adult, I needed to find some way to experience intimacy and sex, but with rules that couldn't be violated.

Kat is totally engrossed now. She closes the toilet lid and sits down.

KAT

Wow.

Nick pokes his head out.

NICK

Yeah.

Nick sees that Kat is heartbroken for him, feels bad.

NICK (CONT'D)

I'm just screwing with you.

Kat throws a towel at him.

KAT

You shit!

NICK

I have a different story for every woman who asks. I look at her and figure out what she needs to hear to feel okay about being with me.

KAT

And you thought I'd respond to the hippie stripper with no boundaries?

NICK

Admit it. You were disturbed, but ultimately moved.

Kat gives him a dirty look, then examines the article again.

KAT

This part here. You say, and I quote. Each woman has the exact love life she wants.

(beat)

That seems like a pretty broad generalization.

Nick steps out of the shower. Kat, her eyes at the level of his manhood, covers her subtle jaw-drop. Nick wraps a towel

around his waist as Kat tries to pull it together. She looks down at the article, tapping it indignantly--

KAT (CONT_奪)

So...what was I...oh, yeah. Do you honestly think that I want to be single and miserable? That I want to be obsessed with some asshole who led me on for years then -- out of the blue -- shattered my heart.

NICK

First of all, it痴 never out of the blue. And second of all--

Nick levels his gaze at her.

NICK (CONT_奪)

Yes.

KAT

What?!

NICK

When you池e ready to let go, to be un-single and un-miserable, you will. Until then....

Nick shrugs and walks out of the room.

INT. STAIRWELL - ELLIS HOUSE - LATER

Nick and Kat walk downstairs, ready for a night out. Kat痴 wearing an over-the-top sexy golf outfit -- pleated mini skirt, tight white oxford, plaid vest. On the bottom step, Kat stops short.

KAT

(quietly)

Is it always women?

Nick looks at her like she痴 crazy.

NICK

Are you asking me if I知 gay for pay?

KAT

I guess so.

NICK

What do you think?

Nick confronts her. She takes him in.

KAT

Got it.

INT. SITTING ROOM - ELLIS HOUSE

Victor reads a book as Bunny scratches hieroglyphics on a white board featuring an elaborate chart of information. Kat and Nick enter, see the chart.

KAT
(to Nick)
Mom痴 refining her strategy for DDay.

BUNNY
I知 sure General Eisenhower never had to master the finer points of the seating chart and centerpieces.
(pointing proudly)
Oh, and tomorrow afternoon you are carpooling to the country with the Fletcher-Wootens.

KAT
Sir, yes, sir!

She turns on her heel like a soldier, walks to Victor, and holds out her hand,

BUNNY
Make sure you show Nick Regents Park.
(winking)
It痴 romantic at night.

Victor doesn't雅 look up, just pulls the car keys out of his pocket and tosses them past Kat to Nick.

VICTOR
Better him on the wrong side of the road than you behind the wheel.

Kat huffs grumpily and they head out.

EXT. ELLIS HOUSE - NIGHT

Kat and Nick walk toward the car.

KAT
So, um. What about testing?

Nick opens Kat痴 door for her.

NICK
There痴 a guy on 81st and Madison.
You get your results in 24 hours.
(beat)
Do you make your lovers get tested

before you sleep with them?

KAT

My sixth-grade science project was
entitled, **鑄**ove Hurts: The
Heartbreak of Human Papillomavirus. **◆**
Trust me, I **知** careful.

Kat gets in the car and Nick shuts her door.

INT./EXT. CAR - LATER

Nick drives while Kat navigates. They crawl down a small
street, which bustles with activity. PATRONS of London **痴**
many pubs spill out onto the pavement.

NICK

I love that you **池**e asking
questions, but do you really want
to get into all of this?

KAT

This is awkward for me.
(beat)
Talking about it makes me feel
better.

Nick looks over at Kat, who gets quiet. She picks at nothing
on her skirt. The TICK TICK TICK of the indicator fills the
silence as Nick changes lanes.

NICK

Hey.

Kat looks at him.

NICK (CONT **奪**)

Don **稚** stop asking questions, okay?

KAT

Okay.

Kat smiles, but stays quiet. Then--

KAT (CONT **奪**)

Do you pay taxes?

EXT. QUIET SIDE-STREET - CONTINUOUS

Nick holds the door open for Kat as she gets out.

NICK

(with a laugh)

I swear. I don **稚** have a signature
move.

KAT

Oh, come on. You池e like the Yoda
of escorts.

KAT(cont'd)

Getting you on the phone was harder
than getting into college.

Nick turns off the car, gets out, walks around, and opens the
door for Kat. She gets out and stands by the door.

NICK

I don稚 have gimmicks or play
games. It痴 way more...

Nick rubs two fingers together, he can稚 think of the word.

KAT

Subtle?

NICK

I disappear. It痴 not about me.

It痴 about you.

Nick is standing very, very close to Kat now. She didn稚
even see him move but there he is.

NICK (CONT奪)

It痴 hard to explain.

KAT

Show me.

Nick shakes his head.

KAT (CONT奪)

Come on.

NICK

I致e got this bad taste in my
mouth. What is it? I think it痴
the words: 杜orally repugnant.◆

Kat tugs urgently on his waist.

KAT

Show me.

Nick doesn稚 say anything for a moment. Then he pushes her
up against the car. It痴 a gentle movement, but firm. Kat
breathes in sharply from the power of it.

NICK
Close your eyes.

Kat痴 hesitant. She looks around the empty parking lot but Nick takes her cheek and guides her eyes to his.

NICK (CONT奪)
Close your eyes.

She does. Nick leans in close and begins whispering into her ear with a hypnotic intensity.

NICK (CONT奪)
I知 not going to kiss you. You can relax. You池e safe.

Nick takes Kat痴 head in his hands and moves his lips across the contours of her face. It痴 incredibly intimate. His mouth hovers over hers but their lips don稚 touch. They breathe each other in.

NICK (CONT奪)
I知 not going to kiss you. Trust me. All you have to do is listen to my voice.

Kat痴 body starts to relax. Slowly, she slumps back against the car.

NICK (CONT奪)
He痴 going to be so sorry he let you go.

He moves his lips across her eyelids.

NICK (CONT奪)
He值l look at you with your sexy dress and your perfect date but it won稚 matter because it痴 not about him. It痴 about you.

As Nick slowly talks, he moves his lips across Kat痴 forehead, then her cheek, then her nose:

NICK (CONT奪)
I want you to let go of the hurt. ...the insecurity...the past. When you do, he值l see you the way I see you, and, in that moment, he值l finally understand what he lost.

Nick tips Kat痴 chin towards him. She opens her eyes. Nick is suddenly serious.

NICK (CONT~~奪~~)

But by then, the amazing thing
is...you won~~稚~~ care.

Kat shudders, and gradually comes to. Her eyes are lazy, she
feels off balance.

KAT

Holy crap. You~~池~~e worth every
penny.

Nick gives her a half smile.

NICK

You better get going.

Kat is turned on and can~~稚~~ seem to move.

KAT

Okay, Yoda.

Silence.

NICK

Go.

Nick turns Kat around and points her toward the bar next
door. Wearing an almost dopey look of pleasure, she adjusts
her underwear, and stumbles towards the bar. A sly smile
creeps across her lips as we...

CUT TO:

A LINE OF TWENTY SHOTS BEING SET AFLAME. WIDEN TO REVEAL --

INT. THE COCK & BOTTLE

Kat passes out the shots to a pack of WOMEN all wearing
hybrid golf-slut outfits: ass-tight polo shirts and plaid
Capri pants abound. It~~痴 鉄~~ Society Girls Gone Wild.◆

KAT

Yo, ladies! Listen up! The bride
has made the foolhardy and perhaps
fatal request, that we play Pub
Golf tonight.

(holding up a shot)

Behold hole one. There~~痴~~ a twostroke
penalty for failure to
finish a hole and a three-stroke
penalty for barfing. Yell ~~擢~~ore!◆
before you barf and it~~痴~~ only two
strokes.

The girls are scared shitless.

KAT (CONT_奪)

We_致 got eight more holes waiting at
eight more bars, so in the name of
all things sacred, pace yourselves!

(raising her shot)

To Amy!

Amy loves the attention.

AMY

To me!

Cheering, the girls blow out their shots and do their best to
down them in one go. Just then, Nick walks in.

All eyes are drawn to him. The WORLD SLOWS as he beelines
for Kat. He hands Kat her purse.

NICK

I thought you might need this.

Kat gives Nick a shy smile.

KAT

Silly me, where was my head?

Kat can_稚 help noticing that the group of girls has subtly
clustered around Nick.

TJ

Stay. Have a fiery drink with us.

NICK

I don_稚 know....

A SMITTEN GIRL puts a drink in Nick_痴 hand.

SMITTEN GIRL

Stay.

Nick looks to Kat, she smiles. Amy furrows her brow
theatrically. Unfortunately, no one sees her.

INT. THE COCK & BOTTLE - LATER

Nick is surrounded by women and completely at ease. Amy_痴
drunk and pouty. TJ stands between Kat and Amy. Oblivious
to the brewing tension, she_痴 eating beer nuts and staring at
Nick.

TJ

It_痴 like the director_痴 cut of ♠9

1/2 Weeks. ♠

She pops a nut in her mouth.

TJ (CONT_奪)

The thing about Nick is, you池e
either looking at him, or you池e
pretending not to.

(beat)

Me? I知 looking.

(to Amy)

Can you believe Kat gets to sleep
with this guy?

Amy sneers. TJ turns back to Kat.

TJ (CONT_奪)

Honestly, you should send God a
bottle of wine or a muffin basket.

TJ clinks glasses with Kat. Kat appreciates the attention.

Amy appreciates it less. She suddenly wails.

AMY

Why is he still here?!

This snaps Kat out of her reverie. She scurries into problemsolving mode.

KAT

Oh, sorry. You池e right. Girls
only.

Kat turns and throws Nick a look. Nick, ever sensitive to nuances, easily catches the hint and puts on his coat to go.

NICK

Ladies, thank you for granting me
this rare glimpse into a timeless
female ritual.

(raising his glass)

To the husbands who won you, the
losers who lost you, and to the
lucky bastards who have yet to meet
you.

They all clink glasses. Kat beams, until...

AMY

(sour)

And to the cock in the hen house.

Nick kisses Kat on the cheek and smoothly departs. They all watch him walk out. TJ is still watching the door, as if Nick痴 essence has lingered.

TJ

I can't believe you met him first.
It's so depressing. Somebody buy
my wooha a drink.

Kat raises her drink to TJ's nether region.

KAT

To TJ's lady business. And to Amy!

GUYS (O.S.)

To Ed!

INT. JEFFREY'S FLAT - SAME

A DOZEN MEN down their shots. Jeffrey immediately refills their glasses with tequila. Alcohol and alpha abound. Nick walks in the front door. He takes off his suit coat and tries not to feel like the chaperone at a frat party.

Over by the bar, Jeffrey stands with Ed, eyeing Nick.

JEFFREY

What's his problem?

ED

What?

JEFFREY

There's something about him that's just a bit odd.

ED

Other than, he's shagging your exgirlfriend?

JEFFREY

No, that's not it.

Jeffrey pours Ed another drink.

JEFFREY (CONT'D)

You are a tosser.

Jeffrey suddenly emotional.

JEFFREY (CONT'D)

Remember when we went hiking in the lake district and Amy was wearing that little bikini thing.

ED

No.

JEFFREY

It was before you started going

out. We had lunch at that inn on the lake.

ED

Oh, yes. Right. The Rat and Parrot.

JEFFREY

And Kat was fully clothed.

ED

But, somehow, it was Kat痴 arse that was stung by nettles. And you rubbed it with a dandelion leaf.

JEFFREY

That痴 when I realized I wanted to be a doctor.

ED

Oh, shut up. You池e an optician.

JEFFREY

Lasik surgeon, actually.

Jeffrey takes a thoughtful sip of beer.

JEFFREY (CONT^奪)

I didn^稚 deserve her back then.

ED

And you do now?

Jeffrey looks genuinely pained, then something dawns on him.

JEFFREY

Maybe I hate women.

Nick appears.

NICK

All women or just the two-legged ones who steal your money, screw your friends, and vacuum during the World Cup?

Jeffrey laughs. He has no idea Nick is making fun of him.

ED

Jeff was just reminiscing about your girlfriend痴 backside.

Ed crosses away and Jeffrey glances nervously at Nick.

JEFFREY

Look, the thing is. About that

love-of-my-life nonsense. I would appreciate it if you didn't say anything to Kat. It was silly. It's all rather complicated.

Nick is about to respond when the music CRESCENDOS and a STRIPPER strides in from the back room. Spotting Ed, Jeffrey clothes-lines him and drags him off into a chorus of GUYH

OWLS and CHEERS.

INT. WOODY'S WATERING HOLE - LATER

The bachelorette-party girls CHEER as they down drink number seven at bar number seven, an Australian outback-themed pub.

Things have gone way downhill -- or uphill -- depending on how you look at it.

Kat sits at the bar. In the background, Amy dances drunkenly with TJ. WOODY, the dorky, sexy Australian bartender, appears behind the bar with a drink for Kat.

WOODY

This one's on the house.

Kat grabs his sleeve.

KAT

I'm worried. Amy's not good at drinking. She gets sooo drunk sooo fast. Does free alcohol get you less drunk or more drunker?

(to herself)

Is it drunker or drunker-er?

WOODY

Just drunk enough.

Woody dumps out the free drink and exchanges it with a bottle of water.

WOODY (CONT'D)

If you switch now, you might be able to stand up for the ceremony.

Kat looks at him for the first time and realizes she knows him.

KAT

Woody?

Woody just smiles.

WOODY

Not yet...◆

KAT

◆...but it's getting there. ◆

Kat clumsily lunges across the bar to hug him, knocking over a bottle of beer, which Woody deftly catches.

KAT (CONT'D)

I thought you were living in San Francisco. Or was it Nepal?

WOODY

Close. Sydney. Turns out, I missed the rain.

They take each other in. Her smile is bleary.

KAT (CONT'D)

You look so much better.

Woody's trying not to feel shy around Kat.

KAT (CONT'D)

Is this what you're doing?
Bartending?

(beat)

Not that it's not great. It's just, you used to have dreams and plans.

Woody proudly points to Kat's cocktail napkin. It says, WOODY'S WATERING HOLE.

KAT (CONT'D)

Whoa! Good for you!

Woody's weighing something. He decides to say it.

WOODY

I always wondered what happened with us.

KAT

(taken aback)

I haven't thought about that in years.

Just then, Amy comes up behind Kat.

AMY

Did Kat tell you she dumped you because of your funky breath?

KAT

Did Amy tell you she keeps her
Homecoming tiara by the bed?

To Kat痴 annoyance, Amy laughs.

KAT (CONT奪)

She痴 drunk. -er than me. But I
didn稚 really dump you, did I?

WOODY

Hard.

Woody smiles, sweetly.

WOODY (CONT奪)

Which was understandable -- you
were one of the hottest girls at
the American School, but I sort of
thought you租 be nicer...at least
tell me why...团ause we were
friends first.

Kat痴 on the spot. Embarrassed. Amy痴 drunk-dancing and
mumbling to herself.

AMY

And we know Kat was the hottest expat
in school because she was voted
Best Eyes, Brightest Smile, and Most
Likely to Age Well. No, wait. That
was me. Never mind.

Kat can稚 take it.

KAT

Christ, Amy.

AMY

Oh, shut up and be happy. It痴 always
this or that. You池e never happy, you
frowny-faced Grumplestilskin.

KAT

Drunk isn稚 the same thing as
happy, Amy.

They both know they池e serious but Amy pouts and throws her
arms around Kat.

AMY

You池e my half sister, but I whole
love you.

Kat痴 furious but she forces a smile.

KAT

Why don't you get my half sister
her seventh hole?

AMY

Bacardi 151.

Woody disappears just as Amy teeters and catches herself on
the bar.

KAT

Are you okay?

Amy's drunkenness turns. Tears well up in her eyes.

AMY

I don't think I can go through with
this.

KAT

Pub Golf?

AMY

The wedding.

(loud whisper)

I am so, so bad! I don't think I
should be allowed to get married.

Kat is blindsided.

KAT

What are you talking about?

Then, as quickly as she went into the darkness, Amy pops out.

She yells over to TJ.

AMY (CONT'D)

TJ! Virginia Slim!

TJ comes dancing up, hands Amy a cigarette and a lighter. The
crowd watches as Amy puts the cigarette in her lips, pours
the shot into TJ's open mouth and lights it on fire with her
lighter. Then she leans over and LIGHTS HER CIGARETTE ON THE
FLAMES COMING OUT OF TJ'S MOUTH.

The bar erupts in CHEERS but Kat is left worried, troubled by
Amy's confession. A beat, then she downs her shot.

EXT. ED'S HOUSE - LATER

The cheers ECHO in the night as Nick helps Ed walk towards
his house. Ed navigates the pavement like it's made of
water. They reach the front door.

NICK
(propping Ed up)
You池e okay. You got it.

Ed wobbles, then stands up by himself. Nick unlocks the door.

ED
Just because some slag痴 been paid
for, doesn稚 mean you致e got
to...you know.

NICK
It痴 been my experience that the
people who hire a prostitute, need
a prostitute.
(beat)
You did the right thing.

Ed blinks at Nick.

ED
I think I love you, mate.
(beat)
How do you know so much about so
much?

NICK
I知 a hooker.

Ed bursts out laughing, pats him on the back, and walks into his house.

EXT./INT. LONDON STREET [DRIVING] - LATER

The bachelorette girls ride home in 典he Pub Prowler.◆ It痴 a senior citizen med-van that痴 been pimped out with a full bar and an all-shag-all-the-time interior.

The girls are drunk and rowdy. Kat climbs up behind the DRIVER and taps her on the shoulder.

KAT
Can you pull over at the next seven
ATMs?

The Driver gives Kat a dubious look, then pulls up to a bank.

ATM MONTAGE:

EXT. STREET [VARIOUS]

--Kat jumps out of The Pub Prowler and clumsily slots her ATM card into the machine.

--Kat checks her lipstick in The mirrored security camera of a different ATM machine then flips through a stack of credit cards. She pulls out a different card and slips it in.

--ECU on screen: MAXIMUM WITHDRAWAL J200. Kat痴 at another ATM. In the Prowler, a couple of girls heckle passers-by as Kat rifles through her cards, desperate for some un-maxed plastic.

--The Prowler drops off a couple more girls. Kat walks back from an ATM and gets in.

EXT. TJ担 HOTEL - NIGHT

Kat and Amy wave at TJ as she trips out of the Prowler and stumbles towards her hotel. TJ waves back with a bright, happy smile--

TJ
That was awesome! How much do we
rock?
(beat)
Fore!

She whips around and throws up in a topiary. In the Prowler, Amy and Kat wince. TJ whips back up.

TJ (CONT奪)
I WIN!

She waves at Kat and Amy and trots past the STOIC DOORMAN, who holds the door open for her.

EXT. ELLIS HOUSE

Kat and Amy stand in the driveway. They watch as the Prowler pulls away. Amy is about to head next door, when she turns to Kat.

AMY
It was a great party. Thank you.

Amy reaches out to hug Kat. Kat wasn稚 expecting the hug and it痴 awkward. Amy senses it and pulls away.

KAT
Do you want to come in for a minute?
We could talk about--

AMY
When I freaked out at the pub?
(she hiccups)
That was nothing, just nerves.
Don稚 worry about it.

KAT

But I do. I will. You池e my
sister.

With a post-Bacardi 151 suddenness, Amy痴 face contorts with
shame. She recoils, an angry tear running down her face.

AMY
God, Kat! Please. Don稚 be nice to
me. I can take anything right now
but you being nice to me.

KAT
(wildly confused)
What? Why? What do you mean?

Amy is suddenly in terrible distress.

AMY
I should get going.

KAT
Are you sure you池e okay?

AMY
I知 fine. I promise.

Kat wants to say more but Amy is already walking away. Kat
turns towards the house and just catches the light shutting
off in her upstairs room.

INT. HALL - ELLIS HOUSE

Kat shuts the front door. She leans against it for a moment
to get her balance, clear her head.

INT. KITCHEN - ELLIS HOUSE

Kat sits at the kitchen table, a glass of water in front of
her. She downs three aspirin and stares into the darkness.

INT. HALL - ELLIS HOUSE - LATER

Kat starts up the stairs. The first step CREAKS loudly.

Remembering countless school-age sneak-ins, Kat flattens her
foot against the back of each step and soundlessly walks up
the stairs.

INT. KAT担 ROOM - ELLIS HOUSE

Nick is asleep in Kat痴 bed, bare-chested under a single
sheet.

The CAMERA FINDS Kat standing with her back to the door,
staring at Nick. Nick stirs, opens his eyes, and rises onto
one arm.

NICK
You okay?

Kat walks to him, takes his hand.

KAT
(whispering)
Shhhh.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - ELLIS HOUSE

Kat leads Nick down the driveway towards the BOAT TRAILER.

On it, the twenty-six-foot CABIN CRUISER with peeling paint.

Kat unbuttons the weathered cover and peels it back. She climbs up a ladder and hoists herself into the boat. Nick smiles at the strangeness of this, then climbs in after her.

INT. BOAT

In the cabin, Kat flicks a couple of switches and a row of lights flicker on. She flicks another switch and a piercing sea-horn BLARES the 展illiam Tell Overture.◆ She scrambles to turn it off and checks the house for activity. A dog BARKS in the distance.

Relieved, Kat pushes a tape into an old radio. MUSIC limps through hollow speakers.

Kat leads Nick into the cabin and onto the bed. Without taking her eyes off him, Kat starts to slowly undress. Her shirt drops to the floor. Then, a moment later, her skirt.

Kat breathes deeply then reaches behind her back and flicks open her bra. We watch Kat痴 face as she lets it fall to the floor. Kat is indeed a woman who doesn't痴 do naked -- this is killing her.

On the bed, Nick doesn't痴 say anything, just watches. Kat wants to read something into his stare. Longing, desire, anything. But he痴 utterly inscrutable. It痴 both unnerving and extremely sexy.

Kat steels herself and removes her underwear. She loses her nerve momentarily and pulls them up again. Finally, she slips them off and tries not to laugh as she scurries onto the bed.

Hovering lazily in the waking dream of interrupted sleep, Nick gazes at Kat. In a trick of light, the cabin windows glow liquid, as though the moon were reflecting off water.

Nick runs his hand across Kat痴 waist. She痴 trying to hold back. He knows it and likes it. He takes her face in his

hands and kisses her. It痴 amazing. A different kind of kiss. They pull back and look at each other.

In one swift movement, he flips Kat underneath him.

Suddenly, the space between them collapses and they attack each other.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - ELLIS HOUSE - DAWN

Kat痴 house beams in the scarlet light of dawn. Two BIN-MEN walk down the driveway toward the bins. They grab three bins and drag them noisily past the boat parked in the driveway.

INT. BOAT

CLOSE ON Kat and Nick, asleep, their faces pressed up against each other.

We PULL BACK to reveal Kat and Nick entwined, naked. We PULL BACK further to reveal that they池e covered with a fleece blanket and a pile of life vests.

Nick opens his eyes and looks at Kat, who is as calm and content as we致e seen her. Then, he realizes where he is.

It痴 like waking up in a strange hotel room, only weirder because it痴 a boat...in a driveway...in London.

Nick carefully extricates himself and begins to dress. We致e seen this scene a thousand times before, but Nick痴 escape is breathtakingly precise and practiced.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - ELLIS HOUSE

Nick climbs down the ladder of the boat just as the Bin-Men are returning the empty bins beside the garage. Nick gives them a nod.

NICK

Morning.

The guys nod back and finish their job as Nick sneaks toward the house.

INT. KITCHEN - ELLIS HOUSE

Victor and Bunny sit at the kitchen table. Victor痴 buried in the International Herald Tribune crossword puzzle. Bunny looks out the window and sees Nick creeping towards the house, shoes in hand.

BUNNY

She still thinks we don't知 know about the boat thing.

Victor looks up from his paper. He sees Nick, snorts, and goes back to his crossword.

INT. BOAT - LATER

Kat痴 eyes flutter open. Her hair is plastered into an impromptu quasi-beehive. She looks down at her 菟illow.❖

It痴 a buoy.

Kat suddenly sits bolt upright. She grabs a life vest to cover her naked chest and looks around in horror. Then her eyes widen as she remembers the rest of the night.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - ELLIS HOUSE

Kat slinks towards the house, retreading Nick痴 walk of shame.

INT. KITCHEN - ELLIS HOUSE

Victor looks up from his paper and sees Kat.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - ELLIS HOUSE

Kat痴 almost to the house when she hears a loud, POUNDING.

She looks up to see HER FATHER tapping on the window and laughing at her. Kat痴 mortified, but can稚 help smiling.

She waves and keeps walking.

CUT TO:

INT. KAT担 ROOM

Kat looks around frantically for something. She finds her purse and checks to see if the ATM money is still there. It is. She breathes a sigh of relief, then, hearing footsteps, hastily stuffs the wad back in.

Nick opens the door, carrying a breakfast-in-bed tray. Kat spins around, guiltily.

NICK

I wasn稚 sure what works for you,
so I致 got a pack of Saltines, a
bottle of Pedialyte -- preferred by
infants and rock stars -- an eggand-
cheese sandwich, a black
coffee, and a Bloody Mary.

Kat slumps onto the bed. She hasn稚 gotten her land legs back yet.

KAT
This is really sweet of you, but I
need to ask you something.
(desperately)
What happened last night?

Nick is taken aback. He sets down the tray. He 痴 not sure
what to say, then makes a decision.

NICK
Nothing.

Kat looks surprised, then skeptical.

KAT
Are you sure?

NICK
We kissed. Made out a little.
Then you passed out.

She stares at him long and hard.

KAT
Whether it 痴 true or not, thank
you.

Kat disappears and Nick bites into a Saltine as the shower
HISSES on. Then something catches his eye. It 痴 Kat 痴 purse
lying next to the bed. Stuffed on top,

A WAD OF MONEY. His brow furrows, Nick picks it up and leafs
through the stack of pounds and euros.

INT. KAT担 BATHROOM

In the shower, Kat lets the scorching water punish and purify
her.

NICK (O.S.)
What 痴 this?

Startled, Kat peeks her head out of the shower curtain and
sees Nick holding the pile of money.

KAT
Oh. Shoot. I--

She retreats into the shower, yanking the curtain closed.

KAT (CONT 奪)
(mouthing words)
Shit! Shit! Shit!

Nick pulls open the curtain and Kat instantly stops her

pantomimed self-flagellation.

NICK

Is this for last night?

KAT

Of course not. How...how could it be? Nothing happened.

NICK

If I was going to charge you, I would have told you beforehand. I thought I explained that.

Naked in front of Nick, Kat is trying not to flinch.

KAT

I didn't want you to think I was expecting anything to be free or that I was expecting something at all. Well, clearly I was expecting something or I wouldn't have stopped at all those ATMs on the way home.

(beat)

By the way, would it have been enough? I mean, if something had happened. Which it didn't?

Kat wants to slip down the drainpipe. Nick looks at her, considers his words carefully.

NICK

Don't they have a limit at those machines?

KAT

(quietly)

Not if you take an advance on your credit card.

Now Nick has to really try to stifle a laugh. Nick puts the money on the sink. He goes to leave, then turns back.

NICK

You're three hundred short.

With that, he walks out. In the shower, Kat gently bangs her head against the tile. She looks down and notices something.

KAT

And my Brazilian wax looks like...
Brazil.

(resting against the tile)

Awesome.

INT. KITCHEN - ELLIS HOUSE

Nick and Victor are eating breakfast, the newspaper spread out between them. Victor痴 still working on the crossword puzzle.

VICTOR

What痴 a four letter word for
daughter defiler?

(beat, writing it in)

Oh. N-I-C-K.

Before Nick can react--

VICTOR (CONT奪)

You a boating man, son?

Victor痴 expression is inscrutable. Nick weighs his options and then--

NICK

I am now, sir.

VICTOR

(laughing)

At least somebody痴 using the damn
thing.

(beat)

I was gonna fix her up but we took
one trip and the kids fought so
much, we never launched her again.

Just then, Kat walks in with an air of feigned nonchalance.

KAT

That痴 not true. We checked for
leaks a few years back.

(kisses her father)

Good morning.

VICTOR

Ahoy!

Kat throws him a look. He chuckles. As Nick gets up to get himself some orange juice, Kat corners him behind the refrigerator door.

KAT

(hushed)

So you痴e telling me. If something
had happened last night...it would
have cost me fourteen hundred
dollars? That痴 a down payment on
a Ford Focus!

NICK
Not dollars. Pounds.

Nick pours a glass of juice and offers it to Kat. Kat shakes her head.

NICK
My rate isn't arbitrary. It was determined by prevailing market conditions. By the way, it includes oral. That's the extra three hundred.... Pounds.

He smiles and sips his juice. She is outraged by his presumption--

KAT
And what if I didn't want you to...to do that to me?

NICK
No, no. The three hundred is for you doing it to me.

KAT
What?

NICK
Believe me, if anything had happened, that would have been one of the highlights. For you.

KAT
But nothing did.

NICK
Yup. That's why you get to keep your money.

Nick walks away. Sits down next to Victor. Kat glares daggers at him. Nick smiles and toasts her with his juice.

Just then, Amy enters in a flurry of cheerfulness, as if last night never happened. Bunny follows, carrying a clipboard.

AMY
Hey, Ginger! Hey, Gilligan! How much do I love all this? I'm going to get divorced and remarried over and over again so it'll last forever. Kat, be a sweetie, and go help with the rings. No way Jeffrey's going to get it right.

Amy breezes out.

KAT
(to no one)
I 壇 be happy to. You 池e welcome.

BUNNY
Oh, don 稚 be that way.

VICTOR
(sticking up for Kat)
Come on, Bun. Leave her alone.

BUNNY
(to Kat)
It 痴 not always about you, sweetie.

Kat 痴 stung. Nick watches out of the corner of his eye.

KAT
How could you say that? Of course
it 痴 not about me. It 痴 never
about me when she 痴 in the room
because you two are on a special
team. You might as well have Tshirts
made up.

Kat lowers her voice.

KAT (CONT 奪)
I 知 sorry. I don 稚 know why I 知
being so sensitive. I just get
tired of being odd man out.

Bunny looks over at Victor.

BUNNY
Tell me about it.

Bunny squeezes Kat 痴 cheek and kisses her.

BUNNY (CONT 奪)
Oh honey, it 痴 not that I love Amy
more. It 痴 that she lets me love
her.

This flip comment hits Kat hard.

BUNNY (CONT 奪)
(obliviously)
I 知 off. Ta-ta!

As Bunny walks out, Victor raises an eyebrow, then goes back
to his crossword. Kat stands a moment, feeling awkward.

KAT
(to Nick)

Okay, then. I值l catch up with you
at the dance thing.... Sweetie.

Nick gives Kat a casual nod. She exits. Behind the BUSINESS
section, Nick痴 face is a mask. Then he smiles. This girl
is nuts.

A door BUZZES.

INT. JEWELRY STORE - ST. JOHN担 WOOD

Kat enters and approaches SAL, 60, a tough-talking, Cockney
teddy bear.

KAT
Hey, Sal.

SAL
I heard you were back in town,
kitty cat. You池e here for the
highland flings, I bet.

KAT
I get all the glamour jobs.

He smiles and heads into the back. Kat casually looks into
the counter. Her face is blank as she scans row after row of
engagement rings.

Sal reemerges with two ring boxes. Kat takes the rings and
smiles.

KAT (CONT奪)
Thanks, Sally.

She turns to go.

SAL
The one I made for you is the
cherries. You hang onto it or give
it back?

KAT
Give it back? Are you nuts?

SAL
You pawned it.

KAT
Not exactly. I wear it.
(defiantly)
On my right hand. And only rarely.

Just then, the door BUZZES. Kat turns. It痴 Jeffrey,
tugging on the handle. Sal scowls.

SAL
You want I nut him in the boat?

KAT
Yes? No. What?
(beat)
Save the patter for the tourists.

SAL
You want me to let him in?

KAT
Of course, don't be silly.

Sal BUZZES Jeffrey in and gives him the dirty eye before he disappears into the back.

KAT (CONT'D)
Hey, you!

JEFFREY
Let me guess. Amy presumed I forgot the rings.
(off her look)
I think I know her least favorite person.
(beat)
You know, I am sorry.

KAT
(warming)
Maybe not her least... There always--

KAT/JEFFREY
Ed's mother.

They share a moment.

KAT
So, tell me, how's unmarried life?

JEFFREY
I have regrets.

Kat jumps down his throat, instantly abandoning her false largesse.

KAT
Whoa, Jeffrey. Slow down. You and me, we're the past. I know not sure if you noticed, but I know here with someone else.

JEFFREY

Kat, we must talk. This guy,
there痴 something not quite right.

KAT

It痴 called character. God, you池e
predictable.

JEFFREY

Is that why you brought him?
Because of me.

Kat laughs way too hard.

KAT

Don稚 be absurd.

Kat is about to walk out the door, but she can稚 help
herself. She stops.

KAT (CONT奪)

I brought him here because he痴 my
boyfriend. Because I adore him.
Because late at night he takes me
in his arms and....

Kat leans in and whispers something into Jeffrey痴 ear.

KAT (CONT奪)

I壇 stick around and explain what
that means, but even if I give you
the instruction manual, it doesn稚
mean you致e got the tools to get
the job done.

Kat tries not to do a little 吐uck-you◆ jig as she walks out
the door.

EXT. STREET - ST. JOHN担 WOOD

Kat strides away but Jeffrey catches up to her. She secretly
smiles at the power she is exerting over him.

JEFFREY

Kat, wait. I don稚 want you hating
me. We致e never had this talk.
You know how crap I am at this.

KAT

Um, news flash: I don稚 give a
shit.

JEFFREY

Kat, stop it. You do. You can稚
even look me in the eye. You went

back to the States when we split
up.

Jeffrey sees Kat flinch. He knows he痴 hit something. She
looks away.

KAT
That was a long time ago.

JEFFREY
It was. And it took your sister
getting married to get you back
here.

KAT
(wavering)
So, what痴 your point?

JEFFREY
I should have told you why I broke
up with you. I was a coward. You
deserve to know.

Just then Nick walks up. He puts a protective hand on Kat痴
back and shakes Jeffrey痴 hand.

NICK
Hey, man.

JEFFREY
Sorry, can you give us a moment?

NICK
No, I can稚. We池e late for a
dance lesson. I guess you值l have
to finish up later.

Kat gives Nick an angry look as he pulls her away.

INT. DANCE CLUB STAIRCASE

Kat, furious, charges up the stairs--

NICK
Hello, goodbye, I want you, I hate
you. It痴 all just words. None of
it means anything. What matters is
what you do. You either stay put
or you walk away. If you look
back, you池e not walking away!

KAT
Oh, cut the crap!

NICK

I just hate seeing you so stuck.

KAT

He was about to un-stick me!

(hissing)

I paid you to help me get closure.

NICK

You paid me for a lot of reasons.

Closure wasn't one of them.

Kat is infuriated. She huffs and pushes open the door.

INT. STEP-BALL-CHANGE DANCE CLUB

Nick and Kat burst in, late. Glistening hardwood floors, mirrored walls. Eyes closed and hands clasped, Amy and Ed stand in a circle with SONJA, late 50, the melodramatic dance teacher. Kat and Nick join the circle.

KAT

(mumbling)

Sorry.

Sonja barely tolerates the interruption, closes her eyes and breathes in deeply.

SONJA

The wedding dance is, sans doubt, the most important dance-moment in a person's life.

Ed cracks open his eyes to see if anyone else thinks this is a crock of shit. Nick catches Ed's eye. Amy darts Ed a wary attention-seeking look.

SONJA (CONT.)

A room full of friends, family, enemies...watching, smiling, betting on how long the marriage will last. All you have is each other and whatever skills you acquire today.

Kat's grip on Nick's hand tightens. Ed cracks open his eyes again. This time, he looks unnerved.

SONJA (CONT.)

There are people who will tell you that the wedding dance is symbolic of a couple's compatibility. Of a rapport that cannot be faked. That an unskilled man on the dance floor is a man who lacks grace in bed.

(beat)

These people are right.

Sonja claps three times.

SONJA (CONT~~奪~~)
Eyes open and pair off!

They all open their eyes wide.

INT. STEP-BALL-CHANGE DANCE CLUB - MOMENTS LATER

Ed and Amy dance awkwardly to a standard as Sonja gives them instructions.

ANGLE ON KAT AND NICK, dancing sedately, if awkwardly. There is still tension between them. Kat, contrite, dares a glance into his eyes.

KAT
I~~知~~ sorry I was such a bitch. I
really appreciate your doing this.

NICK
(simply)
It~~痴~~ my job.

Kat gazes deep into his eyes. A long look. The longest she~~痴~~ been able to sustain since the boat. She can~~稚~~ read him.

SONJA (O.S.)
(to Amy and Ed)
She knows you better than anyone.
You know her better than she knows
herself. Where does that feeling
live? I don't care if it's your
heart, your head, or your crotch.
Find that place and dance from it.

KAT
You know what pisses me off? I~~致~~
been spilling my guts all weekend
but I don~~稚~~ know anything about
you. Not one thing.

Nick looks down at her, considering.

NICK
I~~知~~ allergic to fabric softener, I
majored in Comparative Literature
at Brown, and I think I~~壇~~ miss you
even if we had never met.

Kat blinks, the power of his words hitting her hard. They dance a moment in silence.

KAT

Now will you tell me how you became
an escort?

Nick smiles enigmatically. Then without warning--

NICK SPINS KAT AROUND, THEN REELS HER IN TIGHT.

In a hyper-romantic cinematic flourish,

THE FLOOR SWELLS AND THE WALLS DISAPPEAR.

The music sharpens as if it痴 no longer coming from an old
record player but from a classic MGM soundtrack.

Nick and Kat are weightless as they glide across the floor.

Their eyes stay locked on each other as though it were this
connection, and not gravity, that keeps them on earth.

Kat and Nick seem to slow down but the world stays at normal
speed.

ON SONJA, astonished. She stops and watches.

ON AMY AND ED, as they notice what痴 going on. They stop
dancing and stare, too, slacked-jawed, as Nick and Kat float
past, completely wrapped up in each other.

Nick and Kat are incredible together.

The music CRESCENDOS as Nick gracefully spins Kat to a
perfect stop.

ED

So you can稚 dance, eh? Bloody
liar.

Nick and Kat crash back to earth. They stop dancing. The
walls close in and the music sucks back into the speakers.

ED (CONT奪)

I thought you said you were crap.

NICK

I had to say something to get you
here.

ED

Fair enough, but I知 stepping on
toes here and you池e waltzing
around like...

AMY

Fred Astaire and what痴 her face!

NICK

It痴 not me. I swear. It痴 her.
She痴 magic.

Kat blushes. Sonja claps her hands, happily.

SONJA

And, switch partners!

EXT. STEP-BALL-CHANGE DANCE CLUB - LATER

Nick, Kat, Amy, and Ed walk out of the studio. Ed skips down the steps and onto the street. Then he realizes what he痴 doing and abruptly stops.

ED

You壇 better get going. My parents
will be 喪ound to cart you off to
the country.

AMY

Whatever you do, don稚 mention
Italy. Or politics. Or baby
buggies.

(beat)

Or Edith Piaf.

ED

Your probably best off pretending
you池e asleep.

Ed grabs Amy by the neck and pulls her away.

Amy laughs but Kat catches a look on her sister痴 face. It痴 not quite nervousness. It痴 something closer to panic. Amy waves over her shoulder as they walk away.

CUT TO:

A BOAT SAILING ACROSS FRAME, WIDER TO REVEAL--

EXT. KAT担 HOUSE - ST. JOHN担 WOOD

Victor tows the boat with an annoyed Bunny in the passenger seat. As they pull out of the driveway, they wave to Nick, who sits on a stone wall in front of the house.

Nick talks on his cell phone, Kat痴 bags piled high next to him, as Pigeons walk and flap around him.

Kat appears carrying two bottles of water. When Nick sees Kat, he hangs up too quickly. Kat pretends not to notice.

She eyes the pigeons suspiciously.

KAT

Pigeons creep me out. They池e like
dirty doves...plotting something.

Nick playfully pulls Kat down next to him. Spooked by the increasing number of pigeons, Kat inches away from them and closer to Nick. Kat frowns, suddenly pensive.

KAT (CONT奪)

How do you have real relationships?
You know, ones you don稚 get paid
for?

Nick isn稚 sure he wants to get into this.

KAT (CONT奪)

You have had girlfriends?

NICK

Sure, but it痴 never easy. They
say they池e okay with it, and they
are...for a while. Then one day,
they池e not.

They sit in silence. It痴 not awkward, it痴 nice. London beams under a rare cloudless sky.

NICK (CONT奪)

When I said I壇 never done a
wedding before, I didn稚 say that
no one ever asked. I just never
said yes.

KAT

So, why壇 you say yes to me?

NICK

There was something in your voice
on the phone that day.

KAT

Desperation?

Nick doesn稚 acknowledge her joke. Kat sneaks a look at him.

NICK

I think it was hope.

Kat hides a smile as her leg touches his. They are both keenly aware of the contact.

KAT

What would you do if you weren't an
escort?

NICK
Make out with you for free.

Nick puts his arm around her. Kat laughs.

NICK (CONT'D)
What would you do if you stopped
worrying about what other people
think?

KAT
Spontaneously combust?

They sit in silence a moment. Just then, Ed's parents drive up in a beautiful old Bentley. Ed's mother reaches over her embarrassed husband and HOOTS the horn.

INT/EXT. BENTLEY [DRIVING]- LATER

George drives through the lush countryside while Lydia carries on. In the back seat, Kat drops her head on Nick's shoulder; they've clearly been enduring this awhile.

KAT, NICK, AND ED'S PARENTS -- SCENE FORTHCOMING.

CUT TO:

EXT. FLETCHER-WOOTEN ESTATE

Nick, Kat, and Ed's parents unload the Bentley and carry their bags up the steps of a stately stone mansion.

EXT. BOATHOUSE - FLETCHER-WOOTEN ESTATE - LATER

A small boathouse sits at the edge of a charming lake that borders the main property. Nearby, a Sloop struggles to stay afloat as PASTY KIDS sun themselves on the moored junker.

Ed mans an elaborate grill as GUESTS in summer hats mill about.

AT A PICNIC TABLE, Victor plays poker with Nick, Kat, and TJ.

From the pile of money in front of him, it's clear Victor's kicking ass. Victor throws in ten pounds.

TJ
(shrewd poker voice)
You know, I might just call you...
but if I did...I would lose...
because my hand blows.

She throws down her cards. Kat studies her hand and tosses in a bill.

KAT

Call.

All eyes are on Nick.

VICTOR

Let痴 see what kind of a man my
daughter痴 found for herself.

Nick looks down at his money. Ten pounds. He reaches into his pocket and pulls out a HUGE WAD OF CASH. Everyone is in shock but he doesn稚 notice. He strips off a hundred, tosses it in the pot, and takes back sixty.

NICK

Raise you thirty.

Victor raises an eyebrow.

ON TJ, looking at Nick. She leans over to Kat and whispers--

TJ

(re: Nick痴 penis)
Can I see it? Just for a sec?

Kat laughs and hits TJ.

TJ (CONT奪)

Come on, it痴 so not fair. At
least describe it to me.

Just then, Nick's cell phone RINGS. Victor plucks the phone out of Nick's hand. Kat darts a worried look at Nick and reaches for the phone.

KAT

Daddy!

Victor won稚 give it up. He answers.

VICTOR

(into phone)

I知 sorry, Nick's about to win a
pile of my money. He's gonna have
to call you back.

Kat and Nick are frozen as Victor listens.

VICTOR (CONT奪)

Thank you for your understanding,
ma誕m. And good luck putting out
that fire.

He hangs up the cell phone and looks quizzically at Nick.

VICTOR (CONT奪)
What is it you do again?

NICK
What would you say if I told you I was a member of an elite task force employed to safeguard our nation痴 most precious resource: your daughter.

Victor snorts.

VICTOR
Oh, yeah, shrink. Call.

Kat hides her relief. Victor throws in the cash.

VICTOR (CONT奪)
Let me save you some trouble. My old man hit the bottle like it was his job and he had a mean streak as wide as the English Channel. So, me? I drink in moderation and have never raised my voice around a kid.

Kat throws in thirty pounds. Victor lays down a PAIR OF ACES AND TWOS.

VICTOR (CONT奪)
What do you say to that?

NICK
I say that feeling compelled to do the opposite of your parents is as enslaving as emulating them.

Nick lays down his hand. THREE KINGS. Victor shakes his head. Nick glances at Kat. She twinkles at him, then lays down a LOW STRAIGHT.

VICTOR
That痴 my girl!

She does a little dance as she swipes the pile of money toward her. Nick can稚 believe it.

VICTOR (CONT奪)
Best thing about being a dad is when your kid starts kicking your ass--

NICK
--and The ass of The man who adores her.

Nick rises from the table, but his comment lingers. Kat searches his face, wondering if he was serious. He holds her gaze a moment, then begins picking up the cards.

Ed appears holding a plate piled high with bangers.

ED
Anybody seen my future-wife?
(re: sausages)
She'll kill me if I don't serve her first.

KAT
Have you guys ever had a real, honest-to-God fight?

Ed thinks about that.

ED
(lying)
Of course.

KAT
Yeah, right.

ED
I hear that make-up sex is the best kind. Unfortunately, I'll never know.

Victor calls out to Nick--

VICTOR
Hey, Sigmund, you think you could rustle up the bride and tell her to join the party?

NICK
Will do.

Nick smiles at Kat and heads toward the boathouse. Kat watches with a hint of apprehension.

FOLLOW NICK, walking across a carpet of pine needles. He passes through a latticework of shadows and steps into the boathouse--

INT. BOATHOUSE - FLETCHER-WOOTEN ESTATE - SAME

NICK'S POV: Amy and Jeffrey, their backs turned, are in the middle of an argument.

AMY
(pulling her arm away)
I said no! I'm not getting married tomorrow! What do you want from

me?

Amy turns and sees Nick. Her face falls. Jeffrey sees him, too, and blanches, then badly covers--

JEFFREY

Right, then. I'll get you a Tofurky Burger instead.

Jeffrey walks out stiffly and Amy, mortified, turns and stares blankly out the window.

NICK

Sorry to interrupt. Your dad sent me.

AMY

What for?

NICK

To make sure you're okay.

Amy turns around and looks at the tiny boathouse. Although it had looked perfect to us before, under her gaze, we see all the cracks and dirt.

AMY

You know all that stuff these walls could talk about? Do you believe it? That a place has a memory?

NICK

Actually, I do.

Amy's expression clouds as her eyes fall on the bedroom door.

Through the open door, Nick can see a small bed surrounded by bookshelves.

AMY

This place has been in Ed's family forever. We used to spend weekends out here every summer.

(with a sigh)

God, I hope it doesn't remember everything.

LAUGHTER floats in from outside, an ironic soundtrack to Amy's desperation.

Nick pushes out the chair across from him. Amy looks at him a moment, then sits down.

EXT. LAKE

Kat is standing with her mother, absentmindedly looking for Nick, when Jeffrey approaches.

JEFFREY

May I have a word? It'll be just a minute.

BUNNY

Let me think. You stole seven years of her life with your charm and your bullshit and now you want a couple more minutes? Sure. Go right ahead.

As Jeffrey walks away, Kat whispers to her mother.

KAT

Thanks for the solidarity, but next time? A little less information.

Kat follows Jeffrey toward the lake.

INT. BOATHOUSE - FLETCHER-WOOTEN ESTATE

Amy is now sitting across from Nick at the kitchen table.

Nick is shell-shocked.

NICK

Does Kat know?

Amy doesn't even bother shaking her head.

AMY

It was such a long time ago.

NICK

Still--

AMY

If Ed ever found out....

NICK

Or Kat....

AMY

And she wonders why I swim to the bottom of a Lemondrop every time I see her.

Nick pushes back from the table. He's at a loss for words.

EXT. LAKE

Jeffrey speaks to Kat with disarming sincerity. Kat tries to keep her guard up, but despite herself, she's listening.

JEFFREY

You were so good to me. I swear I never meant to hurt you. We were together what, five years?

KAT

Seven if you count the on-and-off years. Which I do.

JEFFREY

Right. Seven.

(realizing)

Christ, that痴 a long time, isn't it?

KAT

Not for a dog.

JEFFREY

Well, we had a lot of good years, but then...

Jeffrey fumbles.

KAT

Is this supposed to be an apology?

JEFFREY

It痴 not supposed to be anything, Kat. It痴 just my rather feeble attempt to.... Oh, I don't know.

(beat)

You see, I thought I could deny my feelings--

Something catches Kat痴 eye: Nick exiting the boathouse.

Even from this distance, she knows that something is wrong.

JEFFREY (CONT'D)

You池e not even listening.

KAT

When we were together I was 鍍oo here, ❷ now I知 not here enough.

FOLLOW KAT, as she walks away from Jeffrey through a stand of trees and meets Nick.

In the background, Jeffrey watches, confused, then walks away. Kat reaches out and touches Nick痴 arm, tentatively.

KAT (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

Kat痴 tenderness finds its way into Nick. It takes him a moment to recover.

NICK

Yeah. You?

KAT

Yeah.

They look at each other a moment.

KAT (CONT奪)

Let痴 go.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

Nick and Kat walk back to the main house. Side by side, they cut through a picturesque glen. Nick shoots Kat an anxious glance, deciding whether to reveal what he knows.

Kat catches him and smiles back, sweetly. Nick takes her hand and kisses it, surprising her. His eyes turn back toward the house but he doesn稚 let go of her hand.

INT. BATHROOM - FLETCHER-WOOTEN ESTATE - NIGHT

Kat is getting ready. She's up on her tiptoes, doing her make-up in the mirror. The radio is blaring Air Supply. Kat sings along, passionately, embarrassingly.

Kat was clearly lying about not liking the cheesy greatest hits. She knows every word. Somehow, she seems different, freer. She's singing like she means it.

EXT. BALCONY - FLETCHER-WOOTEN ESTATE

Nick and Victor, sipping cocktails, stand on a back balcony overlooking the party preparations. In the backyard below, Bunny zips around, hissing orders at the STAFF.

BUNNY

You, with the hair and all the bright ideas. Paper lantern plus open flame equals no-no.

VICTOR

That woman is insane. God damn if I don稚 love her.

Nick wants to come clean but can稚 find the courage. He chooses his words carefully.

NICK

Kat does this thing. She stands on her tiptoes when she痴 looking in

the mirror. You ever notice that?

Victor smiles, he knows what Nick痴 talking about.

VICTOR

I remember the day I met Kat. It was in New York. I壇 been dating Bunny for a few months, and she finally trusted me enough to introduce me to her kid. So I知 over at her place and in walks this little monster that won稚 stop talking.

(remembering)

She hands me a walkie-talkie made out of an orange juice can and drags me over to her fort. The fort was this lop-sided mess of blankets and the walkie-talkie almost took my ear off, but she was having the time of her life.

(shaking his head)

That was it. I was a goner.

A wave of nostalgia passes over him.

VICTOR (CONT奪)

That was the day I became a dad. And from that moment on, I just knew. I壇 give that little girl everything she ever needed, I壇 love her unconditionally, and I wouldn稚 let her out of the house until she was thirty.

Nick laughs.

VICTOR (CONT奪)

You think it痴 going to get easier when they get older. That you池e going to worry about them less. Or trust the world more. But that痴 just not how it goes.

They stand in silence a moment.

NICK

I知 not sure if this is going to make sense to you, Sir, but I壇 like to ask permission to date your daughter.

Victor gives Nick an intense but unreadable look.

VICTOR (CONT_奪)

The ladies are fond of you, Nick.
I can see that. I also see that
whatever else you are, you_池e a
helluva good guy.

(beat)

She paid a real price dating
Jeffrey. This will be different,
won_稚 it?

Nick_痴 not sure what Victor knows. He wants to assure him,
to make promises. Instead, he says nothing. Victor and Nick
look at each other, a silent understanding between them.

EXT. GARDEN - FLETCHER-WOOTEN ESTATE - LATER

The rehearsal dinner is underway. Strung with paper
lanterns, the yard looks enchanted. The usual suspects are
packed around a candle-lit table, absorbed in lively
conversation. Jeffrey, brooding, doesn_稚 engage, just drinks
heavily.

At the center of it all, Nick is quietly relishing being a
part of this family dinner. Kat and Nick make eye contact.

They_致e finally caught up with the couple they were
pretending to be at the beginning of the weekend.

Bunny_痴 voice cuts through the din like a knife--

BUNNY

I blame Tony Pee-Pants!

KAT

Oh, no.

(to Nick)

She tells this story at every major
holiday.

BUNNY

Why should this be any different?

(taking Nick_痴 arm)

Besides, I have to initiate Nick
into the family.

(to Nick)

I blame Tony for why my two girls
can_稚 seem to get along.

Kat and Amy moan, here we go.

BUNNY (CONT_奪)

Oh, don_稚 deny it. You barely
tolerate each other.

TJ

It痴 true. All you have in common is that you both secretly want to be me.

(raising her glass)

Cheers.

KAT

(to Nick)

She blames Tony Pee-Pants Pinterello for everything. The fall of the British Empire, the Cold War, the internet.

BUNNY

It was just after we moved here. My little girls got in a fight over Tony Pee-Pants and they haven稚 made up since.

Amy rolls her eyes, saves them all from Bunny by telling the story herself.

AMY

Apparently, Kat and I were inseparable.

BUNNY

If Kat ate a banana, Amy threw it up.

TJ

If Amy threw it up, Kat ate it.

Lydia is vaguely disgusted. She pulls a face. Bunny waves a hand in front of her eyes. This story always kills her.

KAT

We were eating and puking together in harmony until one day, Tony walked me home from school. He was my first boyfriend.

(pointedly)

I was fourteen.

AMY

So Tony Pee-Pants starts ignoring Kat. He wanted to play with me.

KAT

You practically bribed him with your erector set.

NICK

(aside, to Kat)

Fourteen and he痴 hoodwinked by a
an erector set?

KAT

I didn稚 say he was worth it.

They share a private smile.

AMY

Whatever. The point is, Tony ended
up with a chair in his face.

BUNNY

(in her defense)

It was plastic. And child-sized.
But there were some stitches
involved.

TJ

Like fifteen.

KAT

Dad made me go over and apologize
the next day.

BUNNY

I知 an American and in America,
people sue. So to prevent a
lawsuit, I baked a tart. And I
don稚 bake.

KAT

So Dad rang the bell and when Tony
Pee-Pants opened the door, I threw
the tart at him and popped his
stitches.

Victor laughs, remembering. Bunny hits him on the arm.

VICTOR

Sorry.

He chuckles again.

VICTOR (CONT奪)

You should have seen his face--
(he makes a surprised
face)
Then, boom. Right in the kisser.

BUNNY

(shaking her head)

What happened to my little angels?

Amy and Kat both ignore their mother, who痴 misting up.

NICK

And that痴 when he peed in his pants? After the tart?

KAT

He bled a bunch, but no, there was no peeing.

NICK

So what痴 with the nickname?

They all think about that.

BUNNY

I have absolutely no idea.

Everyone laughs.

EXT. GARDEN - FLETCHER-WOOTEN ESTATE - LATER

Many of the guests have gone. Empty bottles of wine litter the table. Only the immediate family, TJ, Nick and Jeffrey remain. Jeffrey痴 still drinking heavily and Kat痴 not at the table.

INT. WINE CELLAR - FLETCHER-WOOTEN ESTATE

Kat pulls a bottle of wine off the top shelf just as someone comes up behind her. Kat feels a hand on her back, spins around and drops the bottle. Jeffrey reaches out and grabs it before it drops. She looks at his somber face, takes the bottle, and sets it back on the shelf.

KAT

Okay, let痴 do this. What痴 the big confession?

EXT. GARDEN - FLETCHER-WOOTEN ESTATE - SAME

Nick looks for Kat. Concern crosses his face as he notices that Jeffrey痴 gone, too. Nick picks up a couple of empty wine bottles off the table.

INT. KITCHEN - FLETCHER-WOOTEN ESTATE - MOMENTS LATER

Nick drops the bottles into a recycling bin then looks over at the basement door.

INT. WINE CELLAR - FLETCHER-WOOTEN ESTATE - SAME

Nick stands at the top of the cellar stairs. He痴 eavesdropping, partially concealed by the half-open door.

JEFFREY (O.S.)

Well, in a way, you were right. The prob was, you were in love. I

wanted to be. But I wasn't.

INTERCUT WITH JEFFREY AND KAT:

JEFFREY (CONT'D)

If I had have confessed, you would have forgiven me. But the truth is, I didn't want to be forgiven. I sort of just needed it to end.

Kat processes Jeffrey's words, tries to be open.

JEFFREY (CONT'D)

Bollocks, I know sorry. I had no idea this would be so difficult.

KAT

Relax. Take a breath and just say it. It's no big deal. I promise.

JEFFREY

Brilliant.

KAT

Well, it was a big deal. As late as...yesterday. Or this morning.

(beat)

But not anymore.

Nick smiles.

KAT (CONT'D)

And you were right -- it is why I brought Nick with me...because I wanted to drive you insane. To torture you slowly, for the entire weekend. But then something happened. I started to fall for him. And now, and I hope this doesn't hurt your feelings, now I'm sick of you and me, of our story.

Nick, almost giddy with happiness, moves away from the door, then back towards it again. Finally, he closes it quietly and leaves.

Downstairs, Kat takes Jeffrey's hand.

KAT (CONT'D)

It's the past. It's nothing but ghosts. So just get it off your chest, then let it go back upstairs and eat some tiramisu.

JEFFREY

I slept with your sister.

Silence.

KAT

I知 sorry?

JEFFREY

I shagged Amy. Two years ago.
That痴 why I ended it. And then,
after you left, sod it, we kept at
it like rabbits until we both
realized it was absolutely mad.
And, you know, morally wrong. Then
there was that one other time. And
that was it.

Kat stares at him, blood pounding in her ears.

JEFFREY (CONT奪)

Last Christmas when Ed proposed, I
realized...I知 in love with her. I
can稚 lose her.

She feels like she痴 trapped in a horror movie. She痴 got to
get out of here. In a daze, she turns around and heads
toward the stairs.

JEFFREY (CONT奪)

What? Good lord, say something.

You said I should tell you the
truth.

Kat stops dead, her jaw stiffens. When she turns and looks
at him, her face is filled with loathing.

KAT

I wasted two years grieving this?

Kat laughs. It is so close to tears, that the sound catches
in her throat. She shakes her head, wearily, and
mechanically walks up the stairs.

EXT. GARDEN - FLETCHER-WOOTEN ESTATE

Kat emerges like a sleepwalker. She looks for Nick, doesn稚
find him anywhere. She drifts toward the table. Jeffrey
appears in the doorway behind her.

TJ is the first to look up. She sees Kat痴 face, sees
Jeffrey, and knows what happened. TJ goes to Kat.

TJ

Oh, no. He told you.

KAT
You knew?

TJ
I知 so sorry.

Kat shakes her head and looks past TJ to Amy. Amy meets her sister痴 gaze and instantly gets it. Desperate to keep this from Ed, she heads Kat off.

AMY
Please don稚 say anything.

Kat looks at Amy like they致e never met. Amy痴 eyes are wild, silently pleading.

AMY (CONT奪)
Please.

Kat has never felt more alone. She looks everywhere for Nick.

He finally emerges from the house and comes to Kat痴 rescue, folding her in his arms. Kat holds onto him for dear life.

Then--

AMY
(to Nick)
I can稚 believe you told her!

Kat pulls away from Nick, confused. As she stumbles backwards, all she sees is Nick痴 face. All she hears is Amy痴 voice, miles away.

AMY (O.S.)
You said your job was discretion.
You couldn稚 wait until you got
back to New York?

Bunny and Victor watch, confused, as Kat runs out. Nick runs after her as Ed approaches Jeffrey.

ED
What痴 going on?

Jeffrey looks straight at his best friend.

JEFFREY
Nothing.

ED
(skeptical)
Doesn稚 look like nothing.

Jeffrey puts his arm around Ed.

JEFFREY

Now is not the time to catch on.

(re: Ed痴 empty glass)

It is, however, time for another round.

EXT. FLETCHER-WOOTEN ESTATE

Kat staggers down the moonlit lane. She痴 barely staying off a breakdown. Nick runs up behind her.

NICK

Kat!

Kat charges forward, blindly, as Nick follows.

NICK (CONT夺)

Come on! Don稚 be--

Kat痴 anger swells, she spins around.

KAT

What?! I can稚 believe I trusted you! How could you not tell me!?

Nick sees the pain in Kat痴 face. It痴 pain for Jeffrey, for the past.

NICK

(angrily)

Jesus, Kat. What did you want me to say? That your sister slept with your fianc◆? That everybody knew and no one respected you enough to tell you?

Nick is not used to being angry. He grows uneasy, hedges--

NICK (CONT夺)

Besides, you hired me for my discretion.

KAT

You致e always got that to hide behind, don稚 you? It痴 just business!

NICK

Yeah! For all I know, come Monday morning, we值l go back to the real world and...and you值l be hiring me for your best friend!

Kat痴 face fills with hurt.

NICK (CONT奪)

I mean, come on. Did you actually think we壇 be boyfriend and girlfriend?

This stops Kat a moment, then--

KAT

You let me make a fool of myself! You lied to me! I don稚 know why that surprises me because lying is what you do. It痴 your job. It痴 who you are. How would you even know if something were real?

NICK

You池e judging me?! Oh, that痴 a good one. You池e lying to me, you池e lying to your family, and you池e lying to yourself. But you池e going to stand there and point a finger at me? The man you hired to pretend to be your boyfriend?

Silence. Each wants the other to fight for it. But neither does. Kat gives up.

KAT

You池e right. I was so desperate to make everyone believe I was happy that I spent six grand on a lie. And after all that? The only one who ended up falling for it was me.

NICK

Go ahead, Kat. Hate me. You were running out of steam on the whole Jeffrey thing. Maybe now you值l be able to hold onto this just long enough to ruin your next relationship.

Nick痴 had enough. He turns and walks away, leaving Kat stunned.

EXT. FLETCHER-WOOTEN ESTATE - LATER

The party is over, the house lights low. Moonlight washes over Nick as he carries his packed suitcase to his car. Ed comes out of the house, jogs up to Nick.

NICK

I值1 just check into a hotel.

ED

Don稚 be ridiculous. It痴 late and the place is empty. Just take my car.

Ed hands him a set of keys.

ED (CONT夺)

I don稚 know what痴 going on with you two, but I知 sure it值1 work out. You couldn稚 be more perfect for her if she picked you out of a catalogue.

Nick smiles, wearily.

NICK

Thanks, man.

Nick tosses his bag in back and gets in the car.

INT. SITTING ROOM - FLETCHER-WOOTEN ESTATE - SAME

Kat stands at the window, her eyes puffy. She watches as Nick drives away, then she turns around.

Her mom and dad wait in the darkened living room. Kat tries to be strong, but then she goes to her father, burying herself in his arms. Bunny hides a pang of disappointment as she gently touches Kat痴 head.

INT. KAT担 ROOM - FLETCHER-WOOTEN ESTATE - LATER

Kat straightens up her room. A KNOCK on the door and Amy walks in.

AMY

Hey.

KAT

Hey.

Kat keeps cleaning up.

AMY

I just wanted to say thank you. For not outing me in front of Ed. I want to tell him. Just not on the night before our wedding. With these kind of things, timing is everything.

Kat turns on her sister, she痴 smiling.

KAT

You池e right. You should really
time it right so when he hears that
you repeatedly screwed his best
friend, he doesn稚 feel like the
world is collapsing around him and
there痴 no escape because you
tricked him into marrying you.

Amy wasn稚 ready for Kat痴 intensity, she backs towards the
door.

AMY

You know what? I知 not having this
conversation right now.

KAT

Sure, disappear. We致e been
walking away our whole lives.

Amy turns around and faces Kat, willing to hear anything.

KAT (CONT奪)

I知 not even going to discuss the
fact that you screwed my fianc❖
because you致e always been a
spoiled, amoral, little princess.

Amy looks horrified but Kat痴 not backing down.

KAT (CONT奪)

But I put up with all of it because
I really believed that deep down,
you loved me and you were a good
person. I really thought you
deserved someone like Ed. God I
envied you guys. Somehow, he made
your selfish bullshit seem okay.
Almost endearing.

Amy looks at Kat with tears in her eyes.

KAT (CONT奪)

And now I know. You didn稚 deserve
any of it. You were just lucky.

Kat looks at her sister, sadly.

KAT (CONT奪)

Don稚 worry, Amy. Your wedding
will be perfect. Tomorrow, I值1

smile and say all the right things
and you值 deal with Ed when you池
ready. But right now, tonight, I
can稚 pretend it痴 okay.

Amy, stricken, exits. As she leaves, her shoulders start to
shake. She is crying. Kat痴 reflex is to go to her, but she
stops herself. It痴 too soon to forgive. She walks over and
closes the door.

INT. BOATHOUSE - FLETCHER-WOOTEN ESTATE - SAME

Nick stands, alone in the darkened boathouse, speaking on his
cell phone.

NICK
And that痴 the first flight out?

He writes something down on a piece of paper.

NICK (CONT夺)
All right, thank you.

He hangs up and sits down on the edge of the bed. He looks
at the floor. At nothing.

INT. KAT担 ROOM - FLETCHER-WOOTEN ESTATE

Kat lies in bed. She stares at the ceiling. At nothing.

CUT TO:

INT. KAT担 ROOM - FLETCHER-WOOTEN ESTATE - MORNING

Kat痴 eyes flutter open. She痴 not refreshed and she doesn稚
feel better. The only thing that痴 changed is that it痴
morning. Kat looks up at the ceiling.

KAT (O.S.)
I知 okay.

CU ON KAT担 FACE, STARING INTO CAMERA. SHE SEES NOTHING.

INT. HAIR DRESSER - DAY

Kat痴 make-up is flawless and her hair is perfect but her
eyes are clouded with pain and sleeplessness.

BUNNY (O.S.)
I don稚 believe you.

Bunny sits next to Kat in a barber痴 chair.

KAT

No, I知 fine, really. Nothing a bottle of Jack and a straight razor can稚 fix.

Kat痴 trying to be light, but her eyes are a dead giveaway.

Kat draws in a long breath, trying to summon some semblance of joy.

KAT (CONT奪)

Anyway, it doesn稚 matter. Today痴 Amy痴 day.

She braves a glance at her mother痴 face. Bunny痴 not buying.

EXT. CAR PARK - HAIR DRESSER

Kat stands in the car park behind the salon, furtively sucking on a cigarette as she pulls off an old nicotine patch. Choking, she throws down the cigarette as the salon door opens and Bunny steps out.

BUNNY

What痴 going on with you two?

KAT

I was pretty hard on her last night.

(welling up)

And now she痴 getting married.

BUNNY

There痴 a reason I always tell that Tony Pee-Pants story, you know.

KAT

Trust me. This is bigger than Tony Pee-Pants.

BUNNY

(pressing on)

Before Tony, you and your sister were best friends. I couldn稚 split you up. If your sister ate the spinach, you ate the spinach. If you threw up--.

KAT

Mom, please.

BUNNY (CONT奪)

Anyway, when that boy came over, it was the first time you ever did anything without her.

(beat)
And Amy wasn't just jealous...she
was sad and lonely. She missed
you.

KAT
She did?

BUNNY
So she flirted with Tony, and you
got mad and sent him away. Who did
that leave?
(beat)
You and Amy. Reunited.

Kat stands, stunned, as Bunny brushes her hand against Kat's
cheek.

BUNNY (CONT'D)
I wish I had known it would go by
so fast.

Kat watches, full of emotion, as Bunny leaves with tears in
her eyes.

INT. CHURCH

A series of images as Wedding preparations transform the
austere church. A carpet is unrolled down the aisle. A
bouquet is affixed to a pew. Programs are laid out.

CUT TO:

A HAND ZIPPING UP A SUITCASE.

INT. BOATHOUSE - FLETCHER-WOOTEN ESTATE

Bag in hand, Nick locks up the boathouse and sets the keys on
top of the door frame.

EXT. FLETCHER-WOOTEN ESTATE

Limos wait outside both Kat's house and the house next door.

Bunny fusses with Amy's dress as they walk toward the car.

Victor and Kat follow, arm in arm.

ANGLE ON VICTOR AND KAT. Victor looks at Kat, who is trying
to be brave. It's almost working.

INT. ANNEX - CHURCH

Amy nervously fusses with her dress when Kat walks in. Kat
stops when she sees her sister, glowing in a beam of dusty
light. It takes Kat's breath away.

KAT

Wow. You look beautiful.

AMY

Yeah. Most important day of my life. Whatever. Listen, I chose you to be my Maid of Honor for a lot of reasons: I love you, you池e my favorite, and only, half-sister, blah blah blah. But the main reason I picked you is because you致e been so miserable for the past few years, I knew you wouldn't outshine me.

(beat)

But here it is, my big day. My big day. And something doesn't feel right. Maybe it was that pep talk you gave me last night, I don't know, but your misery just isn't working for me anymore.

Amy tries to keep up her tough attitude but when she levels her gaze at Kat, her eyes cloud with a regret deeper than we thought her capable of.

AMY (CONT'D)

It was a horrible thing I did to you. I知 really sorry.

Amy takes her sister's hand. Then lets it drop.

AMY (CONT'D)

I know you hate when I get what I want. But right now, all I want is for you to be happy.

ON KAT as this sinks in.

EXT. CHURCH

Kat pushes open the heavy church doors. Organ music floods out as Kat surreptitiously looks up and down the street.

Victor appears behind her. Kat looks at her dad and forces a smile. Victor knows she's upset.

VICTOR

So why'd you let him go?

KAT

It's complicated, Dad.

VICTOR

(ironically)
Oh, well, then. It probably won't
work out.

Victor stops and faces her, his voice full of meaning.

VICTOR (CONT.)
I read a fascinating article in the
New Yorker once and this guy said:
"Every woman has the exact love
life she wants." You know what? I
agree. And I refuse to believe
that this is what you want.

Kat is overwhelmed but Victor continues.

VICTOR (CONT.)
Ever since you were a little kid,
you've been trying to please other
people. And in return for your
services, all they've done is
disappoint you.
(beat)
So tell me, is this the guy for
you?

Kat thinks about this.

KAT
Yeah.

VICTOR
Then for once in your life, do
something for yourself.

Kat looks at him gratefully and makes a silent decision.

INT. CAR [DRIVING]

Kat speeds down the road in her parents' car. The empty boat
trailer clatters behind her.

INT. CHURCH

Amy watches through a crack in the door as the GUESTS take
their seats.

INT. ANNEX - CHURCH

Amy paces nervously. Ed knocks and enters, covering his eyes
so he doesn't see her dress.

ED
Your mother said you'd like a quick
word.

Amy takes Ed's hands away from his eyes. From the look on her face, Ed knows something is wrong.

INT. WOODS

Kat races through the woods, trying to keep her dress from catching on the branches that whip at her on all sides.

INT. CHURCH

The Guests are all seated now, and the organ has begun its mood music. In the atrium just outside the church, the entire wedding party, minus Amy and Ed, is gathered, waiting.

EXT. BOATHOUSE - FLETCHER-WOOTEN ESTATE

Kat bursts into the clearing, her hair tousled, her dress nightmarish. She tries to catch her breath as she looks up to the porch of the boathouse. This is supposed to be the part where she sees Nick and they live happily ever after.

INT. BOATHOUSE - FLETCHER-WOOTEN ESTATE

Kat desperately searches the rooms of the boathouse. By the time she gets to the kitchen, she knows it's going to be empty. She opens the door, anyway.

Nick's gone. On the kitchen table, a brown envelope. Kat picks it up. Written on the front: KAT. She turns it over to open it. On the back it reads: 的T担 ALL THERE, TRUST ME. Kat laughs at how well Nick knows her. Her eyes fill with love.

INT./EXT. CAR [DRIVING]

Inside the car, Nick's face is stoic as he drives, his carryon on the seat next to him.

INT. ANNEX - CHURCH

Amy faces Ed, her eyes red and puffy.

AMY
I was too scared to tell you. I
thought you'd never speak to me
again. I know so sorry.

Ed is reeling, he just stares at Amy, saying nothing. Amy's finally doing her penance. The silence is killing her.

AMY (CONT'D)
Say something. Please.

ED

I knew you were still seeing
someone else when we finally got
together. I never in a million
years would have dreamt it was
Jeffrey.

Ed shakes his head, trying to understand.

ED (CONT~~奪~~)
Does Kat know?

AMY
Jeffrey told her last night.

ED
Last night?

Ed winces, remembering, then lets out a growl.

ED (CONT~~奪~~)
That worthless bastard!

Ed staggers towards the door.

INT. CHURCH

Ed slams the door on his way out of the annex. He charges up
the aisle, past the pews full of guests.

Guests MURMUR in surprise. Ed picks up speed. He's like a
heat-seeking missile that's found its mark:

JEFFREY, stands at the back, chatting up a DUMPY BRIDESMAID.

He turns just in time to see Ed running up the aisle. TJ
spots Ed, too.

Jeffrey痴 seen this movie before ◆- he knows he痴 about to
get his ass kicked.

Jeffrey drops everything and starts running. At that moment,
TJ grabs a FLOWER GIRL and uses the little girl to trip
Jeffrey. He falls, scrambles back up and keeps running.

EXT. STREET

Kat trudges up the church steps, her head down. Just then,
the door bursts open and Jeffrey flies out of the church and
races down the street. Moments later, Ed explodes from the
church and takes off after Jeffrey.

Kat watches them run down the street, confused, then goes
inside.

INT./EXT. CAR [DRIVING]

Nick痴 staring straight ahead when something

STREAKS PAST HIS WINDOW.

Nick thinks he痴 seeing things, looks in the rear-view mirror to investigate. Just then, ANOTHER FORM STREAKS PAST.

Nick looks out the back window and sees Ed chasing Jeffrey down the street. Nick shakes his head, but keeps driving.

This family is not his problem anymore.

Nick wills his eyes to stay on the road, but then he can稚 help it. He looks into the rear-view mirror again.

Almost despite himself, Nick throws the car into a U-turn.

He catches up and pulls alongside Ed, who痴 still chasing Jeffrey.

NICK

Hey.

Ed looks over at Nick, but keeps running, his tuxedo flailing. Nick keeps pace.

ED

(winded)

I look like a total wanker, don't稚 I?

NICK

Yeah, kind of.

Ed keeps running.

NICK (CONT'奪)

Only way to beat that guy is to take yourself out of the game.

Ed finally stops running. Wheezing, he bends over to catch his breath. Nick pulls over.

INT. ANNEX - CHURCH

Back inside, Amy nervously awaits her fate. Kat enters. She wants to hug Amy, but offers her a tissue instead. Amy takes it gratefully.

INT./EXT. CAR ◆ LATER

Nick and Ed pull up to the church. Nick turns off the car.

Neither one of them gets out.

ED

You heading to the train station?

NICK

I figured you could pick up your car tomorrow.

ED

Yeah.

They sit in silence, the church looming in front of them.

ED (CONT~~奪~~)

I felt sorry for you last night. I was sitting there like some smug arse thinking how lucky I am.

Ed~~痴~~ clearly struggling. Nick lets him talk.

ED (CONT~~奪~~)

I forgave her when I thought it was just some bloke. Bugger it. Why Jeffrey?

(beat)

I~~致~~ had her up on a pedestal ever since...since the day I put her up there. It~~痴~~ going to take a long time for me to get over this.

Nick tries to find the right words of encouragement.

Finally, he takes his best shot.

NICK

Think about it this way: you get to spend the rest of your life having make-up sex.

Ed thinks on this a moment. Then he turns to Nick.

ED

Listen, mate, are you coming to this wedding or not?

EXT. CHURCH

Kat pushes open the heavy doors to take one last look. She steps outside and the door closes, revealing--

NICK, now dressed in his tux. He smiles at her.

NICK

Hi.

KAT

Hi.

They take each other in.

NICK

When we were fighting last night,
it hit me. No one had ever cared
about me as much as you cared about
Jeffrey. That痴 why I was so
angry. I知 sorry I took it out on
you -- I didn稚 mean to hurt you.

(beat)

And then, I was going to get out of
here and leave you alone, but
halfway to the station, I realized--

From inside, the WEDDING MARCH begins to play. Nick takes
her face in his hands.

NICK (CONT奪)

I壇 rather fight with you than make
love to anyone else.

Kat is speechless. Nick leans down and kisses her like he痴
going to keep on kissing her forever. But then, he breaks
away.

NICK (CONT奪)

I should go.

KAT

What?! No, no. You can稚--

NICK

I have to.
(he smiles)
I知 the best man.

INT. HALLWAY - CHURCH

Nick and Kat stand in a dark doorway, facing the closed door.

They share a secret smile in the dark.

Just then, the USHER opens the door and Nick leads Kat down
the aisle. As they walk, they exchange sidelong glances.

Both are as nervous and excited as school kids.

Behind them, Victor and Amy beam as they await their turn.

Nick leans over and whispers in her ear.

INT. CHURCH ◆ LATER

In the background, Amy and Ed stand at the altar. They hold
hands tightly, grateful to have lost and found each other.

Nick and Kat peek across at each other. They both smile.

KAT (O.S.)

Today is a day for love and for beauty. But most of all, it's a day for truth.◆

INT. TENT - FLETCHER-WOOTEN ESTATE - AFTERNOON

Kat speaks into a microphone, trying to deliver her speech.

All around her, she sees faces: Mom, Dad, Amy, Ed, TJ. Kat looks down at a crumpled scrap of paper.

KAT

I've been working on this speech since these two got engaged. It was supposed to be touching and funny.

Kat looks at Nick. He doesn't have to do anything. He just is support.

KAT (CONT'D)

I thought I'd come back to England and have an epiphany. I see Amy and the perfect thing would pop into my head and it would encapsulate how and why I love my sister. But I came home and everything was a mess and the truth and beauty line was all I could come up with.

(beat)

And I think I stole that from the back of an in-flight magazine.

The GUESTS laugh. Kat looks at her mom.

KAT (CONT'D)

A wonderful woman once said about Amy: the fact that I love her more, it's that she lets me love her.◆

Kat raises her glass in a toast.

KAT (CONT'D)

(to Ed and Amy)

It can be the scariest thing in the world to let someone love you and to know how to love them back. Take good care of each other. I love you both.

Everyone clinks glasses. A few people sniffle or kiss their dates. Kat and Amy hold each other痴 gaze. Nearby, Bunny watches her little girls with tears in her eyes.

INT. TENT - FLETCHER-WOOTEN ESTATE - DUSK

The STAFF has already started packing up. Ed痴 Father whispers something to the BANDLEADER and pulls his wife out on the dance floor. He spins her around as 溺a Vie en Rose❖

begins to play. She smiles, happily, as they dance.

Ed tries to keep a very drunk Amy away from the present table. Slouching on the piano, TJ makes out with her date, Woody, the bartender.

The CAMERA FINDS Kat and Nick on the dance floor.

NICK

Nice speech. I thought it was
鍍ouching❖... and 吐unny.❖

KAT

Thank you.

Nick gracefully spins Kat around; they really do dance beautifully together.

KAT (CONT奪)

Since I致e generously agreed to go
out with you, I think it痴 only
fair that you tell me how you got
into the business?

Kat smiles mischievously. Nick pulls her close. He痴 finally going to tell her.

NICK

You know why I never tell the real
story of how I got into this?

Kat shakes her head, "no." Nick swings her around in an elaborate dip and kisses her on the neck.

NICK (CONT奪)

Because it痴 boring.

(Kat laughs)

Now if you want to hear a good
story, let me tell you the one
about how I got out of it.

Kat and Nick smile at each other as their dancing grows more effortless. In the background, Ed tugs a half-opened present out of Amy痴 hands and puts it back on the table. She jumps

up on his back and he happily carts her off to the loo.

CUT TO:

A HAND COUNTING MONEY IN THE BROWN ENVELOPE.

EXT. BOATHOUSE - FLETCHER-WOOTEN ESTATE - SAME

A WORKER finishes counting the money, closes the envelope, and tucks it in his pocket.

The CAMERA PULLS BACK as he walks over to TWO OTHER WORKERS, who are scraping paint off a hoisted-up ~~BACK~~ SHIP. 

As the first star appears in the night sky, the music swells and we slowly make out the sounds of the greatest make-up sex of all time, echoing in the distance.

FADE TO BLACK.