

**THE BEST MAN'S WIFE**

Written for the Screen by:

Rob McNeil

**For Tallie**

OPEN ON:

EXT. WINERY - DAY.

A perfect day for a WEDDING. A gorgeous MIDWESTERN setting. Rows of GRAPES waiting to be WINE behind a RUSTIC, yet modern wedding setup.

GROOMSMEN and BRIDESMAIDS stand in perfect diagonal lines behind the BRIDE and GROOM and a smiling OFFICIANT.

The BEST MAN doesn't look so good, however.

He stumbles out of his place in line and SNATCHES the MICROPHONE from the OFFICIANT.

The crowd gasps and indistinctly murmurs amongst themselves.

BEST MAN

I've got somethin' to say--

The MATRON OF HONOR wears embarrassment on her face as she tries her best to hide it from the crowd.

The BRIDE, GROOM, and OFFICIANT can only look on in disbelief.

BEST MAN (CONT'D)

Yes, it's supposed to be your perfect day. Yes, we ruined your perfect wedding dream. Yes, we have to talk about this right now.

MATRON OF HONOR glares, but looks on with teary eyes--

BEST MAN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry for sucking and I'm sorry for destroying your perfect afternoon. Sorry to everyone. All of you are asking if the rumors are true. Yes. The understanding we have now is a misunderstanding. I guess my wife isn't nearly as cool as I had previously thought. There is no more fucking outside the bounds of our current arrangement. No, it's not nearly as awesome it sounds. No more fun as my wife, or soon to be ex, has decided to join the fun police. In any case, we are to be divorced--

The MATRON of HONOR breathes deep, but it doesn't hide the furious tears--

BEST MAN (CONT'D)  
 --and from the look on her face, I  
 think she wants to steal the mic  
 and have a few words, so...

The Best Man stumbles over to hand her the mic but--

BEST MAN (CONT'D)  
 ...take it away, wifey--

--PUKES EVERYWHERE and PASSES OUT.

GASPS from the CROWD.

VOICES FROM CROWD  
 Oh my god! Oh, my... good heavens!  
 My word!

MATRON of HONOR hesitates, but carefully lifts the microphone from the ground next to his unconscious body.

Our focus is on: THE SHOCKED CROWD. Mouths AGAPE.

She gains the courage to face the crowd, sniffles away her tears, breathes shakily, but then takes a deep breath, and--

SLAM TO BLACK.

TITLE CARD: THE BEST MAN'S WIFE.

OPEN ON:

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT.

Our BEST MAN is NUDE, PLOWING INTO TWO MODELESQUE LADIES. Also nude. On a KING BED.

The room is dimly lit, but just enough to see his toned body thrusting into our LADIES. One receives missionary on the bed and the other is taking finger pleasures from him.

They're really going at it.

INT. CAR - LATER.

Our BEST MAN is TREVOR (30s). He drives in his car, twiddling his WEDDING RING on his finger.

His attention drifts to--

A PAIR OF seemingly normal DICE that sit on the DASHBOARD.

JIM (O.S.)  
Your mother and I met in a bar.

INITIATE FLASHBACK SEQUENCE:

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Trevor sits with his DAD, JIM (60s) who babysit their beers.

TREVOR  
Did you really?

JIM  
There's nothin' wrong with that.

TREVOR  
I know, we did, too.

SNAP CUT TO:

INT. BAR - FLASHBACK.

Trevor wipes a glass dry behind the bar. He spies--

Our MATRON of HONOR: this is CLAUDIA (30s). She rounds the corner into the bar. Trevor is positively captivated by her.

Claudia bellies up to the bar. Trevor leans in.

CLAUDIA  
Shot of tequila.

TREVOR  
One for me, too.

Trevor pours em up for both of them. She looks deeply into his eyes.

CLAUDIA  
You have very trustworthy eyes.

TREVOR  
You have deeply untrustworthy eyes.

CLAUDIA  
Rude, but I'll allow it this once.



JIM

It changed my whole world. Nothing unlike how you felt when you met Claudia. Anytime you feel that feeling, you hold onto it. I had to make her aware that I was nuts about her but balance that out with not scaring her off. I couldn't chase. You know I'm something of a gambler. And she always wore a healthy amount of skepticism on her sleeve. I told her she'd be taking a gamble on me, same as anyone.

He presents the DICE.

JIM (CONT'D)

So, I gave her these and told her, "You give these back to me one day. You let me know if you wanna roll the dice on me, or roll the dice on the rest of the dating pool."

TREVOR

Obviously it worked.

JIM

Our lucky number was snake-eyes. For whatever reason. She knew it before she rolled em, of course. But it landing on snake-eyes was something outside of my understanding.

TREVOR

That's clever, dad.

(beat)

Claudia's having her own healthy dose of skepticism about me.

JIM

It's why I want you to have em, son.

Jim clasps Trevor's hands with the dice.

JIM (CONT'D)

Give em to Claudia, pose her with the same dilemma. I promise you she'll make the right choice. The dice really have nothing to do with it. Women aren't really gamblers, not like we are.

TREVOR

Thanks, dad.

(beat)

You have no idea how much it's taken me to try to convince her. I've thrown everything and the kitchen sink at her.

JIM

Believe me, if you've been through it, I've been through it. Trust me. Make the effort, she'll know what she means to you.

TREVOR

Does she have to roll snake eyes?

JIM

No, that's up to you.

TREVOR

Really?

JIM

Of course not. She already knows who she wants even before she rolls the dice.

RETURN FROM FLASHBACK:

INT. LA APARTMENT - LATER.

Trevor arrives home to CLAUDIA.

Claudia's on the phone, holding a WEDDING CARD.

CARD FACE: GREATEST SISTER IN THE WORLD, LOVE OF MY LIFE, WILL YOU BE MY MATRON OF HONOR?

CLAUDIA

Sis, I just got your letter and of course it's a yes! When the fuck would it ever be a no?!

She hangs on for her response. She smiles at Trevor who walks into the kitchen and embraces her.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

Hold on, he just walked in the door, I'm gonna put you on speaker.

Claudia puts it on MUTE. She stares playfully at him--

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)  
 (to Trevor)  
 You never did call him, did you.

TREVOR  
 I fully meant to, you know I did...  
 okay, yeah, you know me too well.

CLAUDIA  
 I do know you, now luckily I have  
 her so just get on with me and you  
 can tell them both yourself.

TREVOR  
 You're so embarrassing.

She practically mounts him and they kiss between words--

CLAUDIA  
 (in between kisses)  
 You're fucking embarrassing, you  
 didn't even call your best friend,  
 you fucking loser--

She presses speaker phone--

TREVOR AND CLAUDIA (CONT'D)  
 Heyyyy!

Claire, our BRIDE from earlier, answers with a resounding--

CLAIRE  
 (via speaker)  
 Hey yourself, big guy. What are you  
 two love birds doing? That was a  
 long pause between putting me on  
 speaker...

TREVOR  
 Nothing nefarious, I swear it.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. NICE MIDWESTERN HOUSE - NIGHT

Claire fixes up dinner as TEDDY, our GROOM, stumbles off the  
 couch as Claire summons him from the TV ROOM--

CLAIRE  
 Somehow, I don't believe you. So, I  
 have a lazy ass here who I'm sure  
 would love to hear some news from  
 you.

TEDDY  
Hey, big guy.

                  TREVOR  
Coming from the bigger guy. Whatcha  
doin'?

                  TEDDY  
Nothin' you weren't doin.

                  TREVOR  
I highly doubt that.

Claudia looks at him funny...

Trevor returns the looks and shakes his head furiously and shrugs.

                  TEDDY  
So... what do you have for me?

Trevor gives another uncertain look to Claudia. Who gestures to--

AN UNOPENED ENVELOPE. Signed, sealed, and delivered to one  
TREVOR.

She stares daggers at him, he grits his teeth and breathes in sharply. Yeesh.

                  TREVOR  
I give you a resounding yes, as  
well. Was I ever going to deny you  
the best, Best Man there ever  
lived?

Claudia rolls her eyes. Trevor goes in for a kiss. She reluctantly accepts.

                  TEDDY  
(laughs that off)  
Well, you sure know how to answer  
the call, huh? I appreciate it, my  
guy.

                  TREVOR  
Of course! Would I ever let you  
down?  
(after the deafening  
silence)  
Actually, please don't answer that.

Teddy and Claire belly laugh at that.

CLAIRE

Well thank you both and we love you both. Can't wait for the wedding!

CLAUDIA

Oh my GOD!!! I know! I can't wait either, sis. We love you!

TREVOR

Get some sleep over there, ya Midwestern fucks.

TEDDY

You too, you liberal pieces of shit!

They all share in a laugh.

TREVOR

Love ya.

ALL

Bye!

Claudia hangs up.

She kisses him some more. With each kiss, it becomes more intentional.

CLAUDIA

Mmm. I love kissing you.

TREVOR

Damn, I wanted to say it first.

CLAUDIA

Well, it's my line!

TREVOR

Touche, wifey.  
(short beat)  
I love you.

Claudia cocks a brow. Trevor realizes something important--

TREVOR (CONT'D)

Ugh. Right. It's not enough to say, I love you. I have to say--

TREVOR (CONT'D)

I fucking love you.

CLAUDIA

I fucking love you.

This time, she actually goes in for a passionate kiss. Pushed the right buttons, until--

TREVOR (CONT'D)  
Now, you're stealing my line...

CLAUDIA  
Stealing each other's lines now,  
who are we?!

They kiss some more before--

She pulls back, tasting something different. Smelling  
something different...

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)  
(pointed)  
You're home awful late.

TREVOR  
You know me.

CLAUDIA  
Do I want to know where you've  
been?

TREVOR  
I'm not the only one who gets to  
have fun, you know.

CLAUDIA  
I've been meaning to talk to you  
about that.

TREVOR  
Okay...so, talk.

CLAUDIA  
I don't know if I like knowing that  
you've been with other people.

TREVOR  
Is it better for you to not know,  
then?

CLAUDIA  
No. I just-- I don't want us to be  
doing this... at all...anymore.

TREVOR  
Babe. I thought we had an  
understanding about our  
arrangement.

CLAUDIA  
I feel like it's only fun for you.

TREVOR

Well, maybe you should try. Allow yourself to have fun.

CLAUDIA

I just don't know that I like it.

TREVOR

You don't even fucking try!

CLAUDIA

I didn't want this to be a whole thing.

TREVOR

You made it into a thing the moment I walked in the fucking door!

Trevor storms off to their room and SLAMS the door.

Claudia shudders after the BOOM of the door and sits with her shame.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

(over the phone)

Have you tried couple's counseling yet?

INT./EXT. APARTMENT - BALCONY - LATER.

Claudia leans on the balcony railing, not hiding her suffering well, talks on the phone with her sister CLAIRE.

CLAUDIA

It doesn't matter what we try. He's so hung up on this... open marriage thing.

INT. NICE MIDWESTERN HOUSE - CONT.

Claire is the BRIDE we saw before. She speaks on the phone.

CLAIRE

I thought you were okay with this, though. Isn't this what you guys discussed going in to your relationship together?

Claire smiles at TEDDY, our GROOM from earlier, who waddles past her through the kitchen.

INTERCUT:

CLAUDIA

That's the thing he doesn't understand, though-- he's getting all the enjoyment out of that, and... I'm not. I don't know. I guess I regret even agreeing to it in the first place.

CLAIRE

It sounds like you need to get out there and have some fun of your own.

Claudia hangs on that as we--

SNAP CUT TO:

INT. BAR - LATER THAT NIGHT.

Claudia, dressed to the nines, sits at a bar, twiddling with her WEDDING BAND. She scans the bar for any suitors.

She quickly turns bored. She twirls her straw in her mixed drink that's devolving into melted ice.

A MAN'S VOICE BOOMS behind her--

MAN (O.S.)

Looking for a friend who may never show up?

Claudia turns to him, invisible to us--

CLAUDIA

You can be my friend tonight.

HARD CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - LATER.

Moaning fills our ears as we enter a dark studio apartment.

Light barely floods in through the shades onto the bed.

Claudia rides our mystery man to climax.

She rolls off of him. He turns on a lamp, illuminating them.

They both stare at the ceiling, until he focuses in on her playing with her wedding band again.

He looks deep in her troubled eyes--

MAN

Trouble in paradise?

CLAUDIA

Paradise is the last thing I'd call it.

MAN

What's going on?

CLAUDIA

You ever feel like you're fucking things up without even trying?

MAN

I don't think we ever try to fuck things up.

CLAUDIA

I...we just can't seem to repair this. No matter the marriage counseling. Nothing helps. If others can't tell us how to fix this, how do we even help ourselves?

MAN

I don't know the guy, but it's likely he's equal to blame in this. What would he think about what you're doing right now?

CLAUDIA

He doesn't get to have an opinion on that matter.

MAN

I see.

A contemplative beat.

CLAUDIA

I'd better go.

She swings herself from the bed.

MAN

I understand.

Claudia dresses in front of him.

CLAUDIA

Thanks for tonight, but...

MAN

I get it.

Claudia smiles to him, but forlorn.

MAN (CONT'D)

It's Bruce, by the way.

CLAUDIA

I'm sorry, it's better we not know names.

Bruce, much to his chagrin, nods anyway.

Claudia bolts from the apartment.

Bruce revels in the silence.

INT. CLAUDIA AND TREVOR'S APARTMENT - LATER.

She sneakily lets herself in. Looks to the darkness--

Expecting to find Trevor: There's no one.

She tiptoes to the--

INT. BEDROOM - CONT.

Careful not to let the door creak, she slips in.

She rids herself of her "going out" attire, tucks herself into bed with only her bra and panties on.

Mission accomplished. No sign of calling attention to herself.

She lets out a mini sigh.

Trevor's voice DESTROYS the silence--

TREVOR

Dare I ask where you've been?

CLAUDIA

All these years, you never went to the movies by yourself.

TREVOR

You know I love seeing movies alone.

CLAUDIA  
But you never did.

TREVOR  
I never lied to you about that.

CLAUDIA  
You just omitted facts, instead.

TREVOR  
It's about where I went afterwards.  
No movie is that long.

CLAUDIA  
Don't give yourself so much credit.  
You never could last with me.

TREVOR  
Is that a challenge?

They almost want to have sex through the fight.

CLAUDIA  
I just feel like you have no  
remorse.

TREVOR  
You don't have enough fun, that's  
your problem.

CLAUDIA  
It is fun... in the moment. But, I  
always feel guilty ever. I don't  
get the same feeling from you.

TREVOR  
You know I love it more with you.  
It's honestly not fun for me  
anymore.

CLAUDIA  
Okay, that's all well and good...  
but then, what are we even doing  
here?

TREVOR  
So, let's say we stop having fun.  
What then?

She ruminates for a beat.

CLAUDIA

There's still the whole thing with you not wanting kids. You know I want kids!

TREVOR

Well... I want kids with you!

CLAUDIA

You change your mind all the time. Who's to say you won't change your mind about something else?

TREVOR

What in the fuck is that supposed to mean?

CLAUDIA

You know exactly what I meant.

Silence.

TREVOR

I don't wanna go to sleep pissed off.

CLAUDIA

Too late.

More silence.

TREVOR

We need to figure this shit out.

CLAUDIA

No. You need to figure *your* shit out. You know how I feel. Get back to me once you've found the only solution to this nonsense. Because that's what it is. Nonsensical.

TREVOR

Then how does it make sense you agreed knowing exactly what it is you were getting into?

(beat)

Get some sleep. We'll hash it out in the morning.

We hang on Claudia's face, which telegraphs dissociating.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING.

Trevor wakes to an empty side of the bed.

He palms his face and wipes it clean of his distress.

COUNSELOR (V.O.)

My recommendation is to go back to being an exclusive, monogamous relationship.

INT. COUNSELING OFFICE - LATER.

Claudia and Trevor sit on a couch but with a cushion space between them.

COUNSELOR (O.C.)

It's important that the toxicity be removed from this area of your life. It's clear to me this... experiment-- hasn't worked to either of your likings, and... quite frankly: the marriage will not hold if you continue this unhealthy route.

Trevor rolls his eyes as Claudia stares intently.

COUNSELOR (CONT'D)

I'd like to open it up to either of you two if you'd like to voice any concerns, air any grievances. Or, simply let anything out that'd you'd like. Any thoughts at all.

Claudia finally looks to Trevor after an uncomfortable pause.

CLAUDIA

I just don't see how you wouldn't harbor any jealousy, if I were to do anything. Outside of our marriage.

Trevor may as well be a stone wall.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

You don't get jealous, at all?

He shrugs. Claudia scoffs and shakes her head.

TREVOR

I told you, I'm not the jealous type.

CLAUDIA  
It's different if someone else is  
fucking your girl.

TREVOR  
I don't like to think of it in that  
way. Personally.

CLAUDIA  
Clearly, it's not very personal to  
you. The whole act of sex is just--  
impersonal.

TREVOR  
What do you want me to say? I don't  
want to keep harping on the same  
point that I love it with you. I  
just want us to explore and have  
fun outside the relationsh--

CLAUDIA  
This is NOT the foundation for a  
stable relationship.

COUNSELOR  
She has a point.

Claudia gestures as if to say, "well, there ya go."

TREVOR  
Of course you would side with her.

COUNSELOR  
This is not about sides, this is  
important to discuss matters of the  
like--

TREVOR  
Aren't you supposed to mediate,  
give COUNSEL, and shit like offer  
up solutions--

COUNSELOR  
This is the goal and it is what we  
are working towards--

TREVOR  
No, you are letting some sort  
of bias slip through and I am  
not going to sit here--

CLAUDIA  
Trevor...!

TREVOR (CONT'D)  
--idly by and let you--



TREVOR

Divorce?! Is that guy insane?!  
Marriage counselors aren't supposed  
to recommend divorce to married  
couples trying to work their shit  
out! What a crock!

CLAUDIA

He sounded perfectly sane to me.

TREVOR

Motherfucker let his bias show  
through.

CLAUDIA

He listened and gave his  
recommendation, which is what he's  
supposed to do.

TREVOR

You're on board with this...?

CLAUDIA

I agree with his counsel. Either we  
resume a healthy relationship with  
a monogamous foundation, or we  
don't and that's it. If you don't  
think that's reasonable, then  
that's the whole problem!

TREVOR

Of course you would agree with  
that.

CLAUDIA

What else are we supposed to do? We  
can't carry on like this.

TREVOR

You're saying we can't just because  
you aren't getting any action of  
your own.

Claudia sharply turns around. Stops Trevor in his tracks.

CLAUDIA

I fucked somebody last night.

TREVOR

I fucking knew it.  
(playful)  
Well? Are you enjoying yourself?

Claudia folds her arms. Standoffish.

CLAUDIA  
Not as much as I'd hoped.

Trevor moves in closer, breaking down the walls.

TREVOR  
So the guy's not as good as me,  
huh?

CLAUDIA  
That's not what I meant.

TREVOR  
Don't you wanna see if we still got  
it?

Trevor gets intimate. Almost as if they're about to kiss.

CLAUDIA  
I know I've still got it.

TREVOR  
Why don't we compare? Y'know, while  
it's still fresh.

Trevor noseys with her, holds both of her hands. They kiss passionately.

CLAUDIA  
Wouldn't you like to?

TRANSITION TO:

INT. BEDROOM - LATER.

Grunting. Moaning. Passion. It's back in this bedroom.

It's primal at first, but then Trevor moves in and turns it to love-making.

They hold hands as he really leans into her. They both climax at once, gripping tight.

He plops on her and she hugs his back, letting out a vicious moan.

They both breathe deeply as he rolls off and they stare at the ceiling together while they regain their breath.

TREVOR  
Well? What's the verdict?

CLAUDIA  
The sex was never bad, Trevor.

TREVOR  
That's not a ringing endorsement.

The silence speaks volumes.

CLAUDIA  
The guy was big, okay? What do you want?

TREVOR  
Bigger than me?

Claudia looks at him knowingly. He looks semi-defeated.

TREVOR (CONT'D)  
So you're gonna leave me for size.

CLAUDIA  
That's not what I said.

TREVOR  
So, what's the deal?

CLAUDIA  
Just because we have good sex  
doesn't mean we should--

TREVOR  
Don't say it.

They lock eyes for a beat.

CLAUDIA  
We really need to listen to him on  
this one, Trevor.

TREVOR  
Oh my god, Claudia! You would  
fucking destroy this marriage, our  
love, for a bit of side action.

CLAUDIA  
You're one to talk!

TREVOR  
I--  
(grimaces)  
Don't toss me aside just because we  
like getting physical with other  
people on occasion.

CLAUDIA

Trevor... there's a lot of love here. But I don't love our situation. I'm not going to give you an ultimatum, but--

TREVOR

But you're going to give me an ultimatum. Great. What's the poin-- I mean, why can't we just keep having fun if we love each other? Why won't you just do what's necessary and help me save our marriage?

CLAUDIA

Trevor. If we don't do this... the *right* way, I don't know what's left to save.

We hang on Trevor's mouth as it stays agape and we--

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. AIRPLANE - DAY

An AIRPLANE roars through the clouds.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Trevor and Claudia sit one seat apart, crammed in with an OBESE PASSENGER forced in between them.

It's difficult to tell if they're more annoyed with each other, or the packed sardines nature of their seats...

An awkward silence persists between them.

TREVOR

You sure you really can't let us sit together?

The passenger side-eye glares him.

CLAUDIA

I'm perfectly okay with this arrangement.

Trevor attempts to flag down a STEWARDESS--

TREVOR

I'll have the strongest liquor you  
have available, please.

Claudia looks knowingly to him, then straight ahead,  
intentionally away from him, folding her arms and raising an  
eyebrow.

INT. PLANE - MOMENTS LATER.

Trevor is passed out cold on the shoulder of the FAT GUY in  
the middle of them.

The FAT GUY slowly slides his shoulder away, causing Trevor's  
head to slip and he--

SNAPS AWAKE.

Claudia reaches around the FAT GUY and SMACKS Trevor.

CLAUDIA

Fucking asshole!

TREVOR

Let me live my life!

A STEWARDESS passes by--

FAT GUY

I'd like to request a new seat,  
please.

INT. PLANE - LATER.

Trevor reaches over the FAT MAN to steal TINY LIQUOR BOTTLES  
from the STEWARDESS CART.

He stuffs them in his pants, unscrews one of them--

CLAUDIA

Can you not be a fucking menace for  
**one fucking second**?!

Trevor shoves it in his mouth, down the hatch--

TREVOR

I'd like to imagine a world where I  
can drink without being judged by  
my own wife. Do we need to know why  
the chicken crosses the road?

CLAUDIA  
What does that have to do anything?

TREVOR  
I don't need to explain myself!

The STEWARDESS towers over him--

STEWARDESS  
Sir, I'm gonna need you to lower  
your voice, please.

TREVOR  
I'm gonna need you to lower the  
attitude, MISS!

The Stewardess searches for help--

CLAUDIA  
I'm sorry, he's just--

STEWARDESS  
A little drunk?

CLAUDIA  
...a little.

TREVOR  
Hey, I'm not drunk.

CLAUDIA  
He's fine.

TREVOR  
I could be more drunk...

CLAUDIA  
He's not-- he's...

A GRUFF STEWARD approaches.

STEWARDESS  
Should we remove this gentleman  
from the flight?

CLAUDIA  
That's really not...

Claudia stands up, confronts the STEWARDESS--

TREVOR  
I'd need a parachute...

STEWARD  
Ma'am, I'm gonna need you to  
BACK OFF, please--

Claudia backs away, hands up--

CLAUDIA  
I'm not...

TREVOR  
Hey, back off my wife, BRO--

STEWARDESS  
Sir, please STEP OFF--

TREVOR  
You don't get to--

WHAM!

The STEWARD PUMMELS Trevor in the FACE with a wicked PUNCH.

Claudia gasps and clasps her mouth.

Trevor flies backward into their seats. The TINY LIQUOR BOTTLES tumble out of his shirt and dance on the floor--

The FAT MAN SHOVES Trevor off of his lap--

The STEWARDESS spies the LIQUOR BOTTLES as they roll until they bounce off her shoes and rest at her feet.

She eyes them, hands on her hips, glares Trevor down...

CLAUDIA  
We will behave, but I really don't  
feel violence was--

STEWARD  
Sit in your seat and shut the fuck  
up!

Claudia surrenders and gives in.

Trevor recovers, holds his nose, and climbs back in his seat.

The Stewardess collects the liquor bottles and marches off.

TREVOR  
I personally don't think I'm in  
the--

CLAUDIA  
Not another fucking word.

Trevor seals his mouth shut. They share in an uncomfortable silence as the FAT MAN can't help but crack a smirk.

EXT. PLANE - LATER.

All deplane as Claudia furiously marches and Trevor waddles behind, holding ice to his bruised nose.

Claudia refuses to look him in the eye. His eye might be covered by black or even ice, anyway.

POLICE await Trevor as they approach the BAGGAGE CLAIM.

POLICE

Are you Trevor such-and-such?

TREVOR

Do I have to answer that?

Claudia stares daggers at him.

The COP presents HANDCUFFS.

INT. JAIL - LATER.

Trevor hangs his head in the JAIL CELL as OTHER GRUFF CRIMINALS eye him up and down.

The JAILER unlocks the cell door and gestures for Trevor to follow.

Claudia stands at the end of the HALLWAY, arms crossed.

EXT. JAIL - LATER.

Claudia leads Trevor out of the building.

CLAUDIA

We can't ruin Teddy and Claire's perfect day. Just because we can't figure our shit out and that you are physically unable to put down a bottle or avoid fighting anyone--

TREVOR

I didn't start that fight.

CLAUDIA

I personally don't give a flying shit. You need to get ahold of your self, calm your shit, and sober up, you fucking toddler!

TREVOR

You married this toddler--

CLAUDIA

Don't make me sound like a pederast. You know what I meant--

TREVOR

Claudia... what do you think I'm gonna do? Ruin their fucking wedding?

CLAUDIA

I don't know, Trev! You haven't exactly been a model citizen lately! You need to get a grip on your alcohol consumption and your inability to remain civil with literally anyone around you!

TREVOR

Let's not argue outside of a jail.

CLAUDIA

So arguing someplace else is better. Like my sister's wedding.

TREVOR

I don't know, babe. Just-- anywhere but here. Would you please?

CLAUDIA

Let's just get the fucking rental car.

Claudia viciously shakes her head and stomps away.

Trevor can only feebly attempt to catch up.

INT. RENTAL CAR - LATER.

Claudia drives as they both sit in awkward silence.

Only the sound of the moving tomb of the car can be heard.

Trevor does his best to stifle the suffering of his hangover.

TREVOR

I just think that you're being a little--

CLAUDIA

We are NOT discussing this before the wedding.

Beat.

TREVOR

Okay, so during...? I mean, when, Claudia? When? If not now, WHEN?!

CLAUDIA

I don't want this to be weighing on us before, or during their big day.

TREVOR

So, after, then? This IS gonna be weighing on us during if we don't get this out there right now--

CLAUDIA

I feel like this is the WORST time to be bringing this up. Why do we have to talk now? We're just gonna be pissed off for the wedding and I just don't feel that it needs to be resolved at this present moment--

TREVOR

We are only gonna be able to think of this during the wedding if this doesn't get out right now. We need to get shit off our chests immediately. As soon as we're able. Because otherwise, it's gonna get ugly.

CLAUDIA

I don't need this to be a shitshow-

TREVOR

Well that's exactly why we hash this out before it becomes one.

They sit in silence.

CLAUDIA

I don't want to discuss it. So let's just table it, shall we?

TREVOR

I'm not gonna let it get to me. You'd better not--

CLAUDIA

NO. You'd better not let this tidal wave of shit come out when it's literally the worst time--

TREVOR

To let it simmer? Yeah, I thought so too.

CLAUDIA

Let's just let cooler heads prevail, yeah?

TREVOR

Truthfully, I don't think cooler heads would let this--

CLAUDIA

That's it! We're done. It's done. No more. Kay?

Beat.

TREVOR

This is a mistake.

CLAUDIA

You're a mistake.

Trevor tries to ease her attention over with his eyes.

Her eyes purposefully don't meet his...

EXT. TEDDY AND CLAIRE'S HOUSE - LATER.

They park, exit and venture up the path to the front door.

An uncomfortable silence is suffered after the sound of the door bell.

Teddy and Claire answer and smiles radiate from their faces.

TEDDY AND CLAIRE

Hi!

It doesn't last long.

They study their unhappy faces and the smiles quickly fade.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Oh no, what's wrong?

Their refusal to answer says all.

Teddy notices the tension and butts in--

TEDDY

Why don't you come inside?

They enter as Teddy and Claire non-verbally ask each other what's on everyone's minds...

INT. HOUSE - CONT.

Both couples sit in a tense silence on couches opposite each other.

CLAIRE  
So, what's--

CLAUDIA  
We're thinking about a divorce.

Shock and awe.

CLAIRE  
So, wha-- huh?

Teddy's jaw drops. No words come out.

CLAUDIA  
Yeah. We didn't want to do this,  
but...

TREVOR  
Apparently we're doing it. This is  
news to me, actually.

CLAUDIA  
Oh, come on. You really can't think  
that this isn't something that's  
been in the works for a long ti--

Claudia enters into a fit of psychotic laughter.

Teddy and Claire look uncomfortably at one another.

TREVOR  
No, you said you didn't want to do  
this here, only NOW--

CLAIRE  
Okay, wait. Hold on, guys. Don't  
you think this is a little...

TEDDY  
You two aren't serious, are you?

CLAUDIA  
Oh, serious as can be--

TREVOR

This is just rich. This is GOLD! I mean, you really have a way with timing here, don't you, honeysuckle!

CLAIRE

Claudia, I don't understand. I mean, I thought the couples therapy was working though, I mean, wasn't it?

Claudia avoids eye contact.

TEDDY

You guys can work through this, I'm sure of it. You've been through hard times, I mean, I don't think this is the best solution--

CLAUDIA

What do you know about it? How do you know what's best for our relationship? I'd say it's ran its course and I can't continue to suffer through the shit that he puts me through. You don't know, so you should probably lay off on the lazy attempt at advice!

Stunned, Teddy looks to Claire for help. Claire remains uncertain how to react.

Trevor just shakes his head.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

I-- Teddy, I-- I'm sorry. I'm--

Teddy shakes his head and shoos her off.

CLAIRE

I think you guys have had a long flight and that you just may need some rest. We put you guys up in the guest room, but if you need--

TREVOR

Yeah, y'know I think that might be best.

They all rise from the couches and make their way upstairs.

Trevor and Claudia follow in silence.

INT. GUEST ROOM - CONT.

Claire smooths out the bed for them.

CLAIRE

I don't know what you guys want to do, but--

CLAUDIA

Sis, we'll-- we'll figure something out.

She nods and leaves them be. She silently urges for Teddy to follow. He obeys.

Trevor and Claudia awkwardly stare at the bed, share in an uncomfortable cloud of tension. It just hangs in the room.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

I'm not sleeping--

TREVOR

Well, I'm not gonna be sleeping... you know, either!

They both persist in their cold war staring at the bed.

A stalemate.

A moment passes before they make eye contact.

She gives him a knowing look. Egging him on.

TREVOR (CONT'D)

Oh, no. No. Just because we're fighting, does not mean you get to make me sleep on a--

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER.

Trevor lays face up on a COUCH. Eyes wide open to the ceiling. Defeated.

He lets out an exasperated sigh.

INT. GUEST BEDROOM - CONT.

Claudia lies awake, tossing and turning.

She stares at the ceiling a moment.

Her hand makes her way down her pants.

She stops. An annoyed face surfaces.

Claudia throws up the covers and slides out of bed.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER.

Claudia tiptoes over to Trevor. She grabs his hand and pulls him up from the couch.

TREVOR

Wha-- Claud-- What are you--

CLAUDIA

Shh.

She pulls him up the stairs.

FLASH CUT TO:

INT. GUEST ROOM - CONT.

They plow into each other as silently as they can.

Claudia moans softly but through her hand which is clasped tightly over her mouth.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM - CONT.

We come in from above to see Teddy and Claire's eyes from a side view.

They're both awake.

Each gives a knowing look to the other.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING.

Teddy and Claire make breakfast.

Trevor and Claudia mope from the stairs.

A lack of sleep is evident on their faces.

TEDDY

Good morning, you two.

Claire slaps him on the arm, as if to say, "don't do that."

CLAUDIA

Morning.

Trevor rubs his eyes.

TREVOR

Mornin'

Claire gives a half smirk and an eye-brow raise to Claudia.

CLAIRE

You guys get some good sleep?

TEDDY

Couldn't have been **too** good.

CLAIRE

Shut up! Stop it.

TREVOR

It was fine.

CLAUDIA

Yeah, we got enough sleep.

CLAIRE

Good. Big day today.

TEDDY

Yeah.

Beat.

CLAIRE

So. You ready?

CLAUDIA

We're ready.

Claudia looks to Trevor. "You'd better have an answer"

TREVOR

Yeah, oh, yeah. I'm ready.

Claudia's eyes dig into him.

His guilt has no choice but to show.

She pulls him into the other room.

Teddy and Claire share an uncertain look.

INT. DINING ROOM - CONT.

Claudia ensures they keep their voices down.

CLAUDIA  
You haven't even written your  
speech yet, have you?

TREVOR  
It's... coming along.

CLAUDIA  
You fucking moron! Go write it now!

TREVOR  
It's gonna be fine! I'm better off  
the cuff anyway.

CLAUDIA  
I wouldn't trust that. Go type up  
the speech.

TREVOR  
Okay, don't make a scene in front  
of them.

CLAUDIA  
You're causing the scene being a  
fucking idiot!

Trevor marches up the stairs.

TREVOR  
Relax. I'm going.

Claudia scoffs and re-enters the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - CONT.

Claudia doesn't mask her distress well.

Teddy and Claire study her.

CLAIRE  
What is it now?

CLAUDIA  
It's nothing. Typical Trevor. You  
know.

CLAIRE  
It sounded like... things were...  
good? Last night.

Claudia glares her down.

Claire surrenders.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)  
Okay! Okay.

TEDDY  
But... things are...not-- good?

CLAUDIA  
What do you think?

Beat.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)  
Sorry. I'm sorry. Ugh, god...

CLAIRE  
Hey, it's fine. You're fine. Don't worry about it. You guys are going through... a lot.

CLAUDIA  
Thanks.

Forced smiles from all.

INT. GUEST ROOM - CONT.

Trevor furiously types away at the LAPTOP.

LAPTOP FACE: A BLANK PAGE.

He backspaces everything, lets out a long sigh.

Trevor slams the laptop shut and throws it against the bed.

He buries his face in his hands.

INT. CHURCH - DAY.

The Bride and Groom parties both REHEARSE. Bridesmaids all dolled up and the men dressed to the nines.

The ladies stand smiling on the altar as the men file in.

Derek leans back to Trevor and poorly attempts to whisper--

DEREK  
You think any of these ladies are available?

TREVOR

I've never known any women to be single at weddings.

They arrive at the altar and fall into place. Dominic stares over at them as they murmur to one another--

DEREK

You mean to tell me that none of these women are gonna be open to any one of us?!

TREVOR

Trust me, they all have someone. Guarantee it.

DOMINIC

Guys. There's hope.

DEREK

Not if they're all taken.

DOMINIC

Believe me when I tell you, weddings are a different ball game. It's a special sort of energy. There's an air of jealousy that love is in the air, and it's not really for them. You best believe they're gonna be gunnin' for a little somethin'.

Derek turns to Trevor for help.

TREVOR

Just treat them like human beings and they'll treat you.

DEREK

Treat me to what?

DOMINIC

I'm afraid you might be hopeless after all.

OVER TO THE WOMEN:

The women also speak to each other through clenched teeth as THE GROOM softly makes his approach--

SUZIE

What's the men situation like over there?

KATHERINE

Well, you know the best man is off the board.

KRISTYN

Yeah, thanks for that, Claudia.

CLAUDIA

Knock yourself out.

SUZIE

What's that supposed to mean?

CLAUDIA

I'm kidding...mostly.

KATHERINE

Aren't most of the guys single?

KRISTYN

Pretty much guarantee every single one of em is either engaged or married.

SUZIE

Well, if they don't care about rings, then why should we?

CLAUDIA

Because some of us still respect the institution of marriage.

SUZIE

That's not what I heard.

Claudia could smack a bitch right now.

TO THE MOTHER AND FATHER OF THE BRIDE:

All watch as CLAIRE makes her approach, dazzling as ever.

CLAIRE'S FATHER

Don't you think these guys kinda fit the stereotypes of typical groomsmen?

CLAIRE'S MOTHER

Honey, what the fuck are you even talking about?

CLAIRE'S FATHER

Oh. What about the ladies?

CLAIRE'S MOTHER  
They're all sluts.

CLAIRE'S FATHER  
What about Claudia?

CLAIRE'S MOTHER  
Especially Claudia.

Silence falls over them. Claire's father is a bit taken  
aback.

Claire joins her place next to Teddy on the altar.

PRIEST  
And this is when I would welcome  
everyone, enter into the ceremony.  
We gather here today to join the  
yada, yada, yada, you know the  
drill...

TO SUZIE:

SUZIE  
Do we?

CLAUDIA  
Some of us do by now.

PRIEST (O.C.)  
...and then we would move to...

BACK TO THE GROOMSMEN:

DOMINIC  
Isn't Suzie available now?

TREVOR  
Pretty sure she's divorced.

DEREK  
Really?!

TREVOR  
Yeah. I'm fairly certain it's  
official by now.

DEREK  
How the fuck do you know that?

TREVOR  
Claudia hates her.

DEREK

Why?

TREVOR

She fixates on her life for no reason.

DOMINIC

No reason except she's jealous.

Teddy side-eyes them as if to tell them to shut up.

DEREK

I mean, she's not all bad.

DOMINIC

I don't really know who would want her.

DEREK (CONT'D)

Her body is... ooh.

TREVOR

Yeah that personality's a tough pill to swallow.

DEREK (CONT'D)

She's got them curves, though, guys...

DOMINIC

That personality though...

DEREK (CONT'D)

With that face? Forget about it.

TREVOR

I don't know, Derek, it's questionable.

DOMINIC

I mean, have at it, Derek.

TREVOR (CONT'D)

By all means, you wanna deal with that.

TEDDY

(through gritted teeth)  
Guys!

BACK TO THE PARENTS:

CLAIRE'S MOTHER

It's time for a drink.

CLAIRE'S FATHER

You said it sister.

INT. EVENT CENTER - DINING HALL - EVENING

Claudia is surrounded by MEMBERS of the BRIDAL PARTY who include SUZIE (30s), KATHERINE (30s) and KRISTYN (30s).

SUZIE

I mean, are you doing okay? Not that it's any of my business, but-- I heard you guys were kinda on the rocks.

Claudia turns to her Champagne for help.

CLAUDIA

Yeah, no. We're fine. I mean, hey-- we're here!

She raises her glass and takes another healthy drink. The Bridal Party all side-eye each other.

SUZIE

Are you sure? Again, it's none of my business, but--

CLAUDIA

Kinda seems like you're making it your business.

SUZIE (CONT'D)

--but I heard that you two were in couples counseling?

SUZIE (CONT'D)

Or was it marriage counseling? What's the difference, I mean, do you know?

CLAUDIA

The marriage part.

SUZIE

So why would you be in couples counseling?

(short beat)

Wait... are you and Trevor separated?

An uncomfortable beat.

Claudia downs the rest of her champagne and frantically searches for more.

INT. EVENT CENTER - DINING HALL - CONT.

Trevor is surrounded by members of the GROOM'S PARTY. These guys include DEREK (30s), JEREMY (30s) and DOMINIC (30s).

DEREK

How is it being in an open marriage? It's gotta be pretty dope, right?

TREVOR

Eh... it's actually not all that  
it's cracked up to be.

DOMINIC

I mean, how? Aren't you blasting  
pussy all the time?

TREVOR

Not at the expense of your wife's  
sanity.

DEREK

She's probably just upset that  
she's not getting any pipe of her  
own.

TREVOR

I don't know that she even seeks it  
out. I tell her she can, but...

A beat.

JEREMY

I think your problem is you're not  
including her on the action.

TREVOR

What do you mean? She's my wife,  
she sees plenty of action.

JEREMY

You probably aren't inviting her  
into the orgies or whatever the  
fuck it is you're doing, I mean, am  
I wrong?

DOMINIC

Yeah, bro. You gotta let her tag  
along.

DEREK

She's gotta have some fun, too.

JEREMY

Just saying, Trev. Offer it up to  
her, opportunity presents itself--  
you never know.

DOMINIC

Could get freaky.

The THREE all laugh while Trevor pensively drinks.

INT. EVENT CENTER - DINING HALL - MOMENTS LATER.

Trevor approaches Claudia.

CLAUDIA  
Please tell me you're saving me.

TREVOR  
Could be. I just got an interesting  
idea.

CLAUDIA  
Okay, now please also don't say  
something stupid.

TREVOR  
I think we should have a threesome.

Claudia nearly chokes on her drink.

CLAUDIA  
You think we should what, now?!

TREVOR  
I think spicing things up could  
really do us some good.

CLAUDIA  
You really think that bringing  
another person into our bed is  
going to save our marriage?!

Claire and Teddy overhear this from afar...

CLAIRE  
Save...?

TREVOR  
Can you just-- bring it down a  
notch?

CLAUDIA  
You're pathetic.

Claire and Teddy appear by their sides.

CLAIRE  
Guys, what's going on?

CLAUDIA  
This fucking moron thinks that  
fucking another woman with me in  
the room is going to revive our  
love for each other, somehow!

Teddy glances at Trevor while both cringing and wanting to squirm.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)  
It's just rich, isn't it?!

TREVOR  
And now you're causing a scene.

CLAUDIA  
Oh, I'm--! Ohhhhh. Ho hohhhh.

TEDDY  
(softly to Claire)  
And, here we go...

Claire elbows Teddy.

CLAIRE  
Teddy, stay the fuck out of it!

TEDDY  
Sorry.

CLAUDIA  
Obviously this SCENE would've never been started if you had just listened to me tell you not to say anything stupid! But you can never keep stupid shit to yourself! Ever!

TREVOR  
So it's just about that?! It's not about me trying to add the spice of life to our relationship?! I mean, why can't we just do that?! Can't you just try with me?!

CLAUDIA  
Fucking somebody else is not the variety to spice up our lives,  
TREVOR!

TEDDY  
You're not bringing them back to our place, that's for sure.

Claire nudges him again, this time harder.

TREVOR  
Oh, come off it. We already fucked in your bed.

Gasps and guffaws from the rest of the CROWD around them.

TEDDY

Is that crashing etiquette? Don't  
fuck in your host's guest bedroom!

TREVOR

Isn't that what a guest bedroom is  
for?

CLAIRE

No, how about some common  
decency?

TEDDY

Wait, you guys fucked?!

CLAUDIA

Can we please get back to the fact  
that my husband thinks it's somehow  
okay to add another person to our  
bedroom and think that will just--  
POOF fix everything?!

TREVOR

I thought you would think it was  
hot!

CLAUDIA

Oh it's so hot when you plow into  
someone else.

CLAIRE

C'mon, you know how she gets.

CLAUDIA

How I get?!

TREVOR

Territorial?

TEDDY

Brilliant. Just be careful of who  
it is, I have a lot of family  
there. Just don't fuck my niece.

CLAIRE

STAY OUT OF IT.

CLAUDIA

This is just beautiful. I am  
just loving this for all of  
us!

TEDDY

Can we get back to the sex  
juice on my sheets?

TREVOR

(softly to Teddy)

Wait, back up, you have a hot  
niece?

TEDDY

I never said she was hot, you  
asshole.

CLAUDIA

Hey! Prick! I am right fucking here! You're sick.

CLAIRE

You're all sick. Stop fucking ruining the rehearsal dinner! What a couple of bitches! The both of you! Stop!!! God! YOU'RE RUINING MY REHEARSAL!!!

They fall silent.

DEREK

Why is everything so tense?

DOMINIC

Because nothing's funny anymore.

DEREK

It's actually kinda hysterical.

Derek leans over to Dominic--

DEREK (CONT'D)

This is better than any wedding I've ever been to.

DOMINIC

If this is the rehearsal, I can't imagine the wedding...

Suzie sips her drink through a nefarious smirk.

EXT. WEDDING MANOR - NIGHT.

Cars roll around the circle drive of a LAVISH WEDDING MANSION.

The WEDDING PARTY all exit their rides and file in the double doors.

INT. WEDDING MANOR - NIGHT.

The Wedding Party all but gawks at the lavish interior as they scoot through the door.

DOMINIC

Guys, let's do our level best not to fuck up the night before the wedding.

CLAIRE  
(under her breath)  
Already fucked.

TEDDY  
You said it, Dom.

SUZIE  
I certainly won't be the one to do  
it.

CLAUDIA  
(under her breath)  
I somehow doubt that.

KATHERINE  
I think we've all had enough hi-  
jinks to last a lifetime.

KRISTYN  
I didn't know you knew what hijinks  
meant.

KATHERINE  
Shut up!

DEREK  
I think we all just need to go to  
bed.

DOMINIC  
Stop trying to get people to go to  
bed with you, Derek.

Derek slips away with embarrassment.

The Ladies all take in the lush furniture and adornments.

TREVOR  
That acutally doesn't sound so bad  
to me.

DOMINIC  
What, crawling under the sheets  
with Derek?

CLAUDIA  
He probably would, knowing him.

DOMINIC  
Ouch, low.

CLAUDIA  
Not low enough. I'm headed for bed.

DOMINIC

Don't get too tempted, Derek. She's a taken lady!

SUZIE

Probably not for too much longer!

Claudia stops on a dime, stares daggers at her before turning on her heel and marching down the long hallway.

Trevor's eyes dart about, Dominic spies this.

DOMINIC

(softly)

Hey, go get your wife, my man.

Trevor nods and flags her down. They all watch.

KATHERINE

Hey, you might wanna ease up on her. She's going through a lot.

SUZIE

Yeah, she's putting us all through it too, though. Do we deserve all we're being served up so far this weekend? Hm? Do we?

Katherine and Kristyn both look knowingly and essentially shrug.

DOMINIC

Yeah, guys. Stop creating more drama. It's unfitting of you.

SUZIE

Shut your face, Dom. You know you're eating this up.

Dom smirks and shrugs. He kind of is.

DOMINIC

I mean, I don't know what you want from me. It's being served up, might as well eat.

TEDDY

I'm gonna call it, too.

DOMINIC

Had enough?

TEDDY

I just hope the wedding doesn't--

CLAIRE  
Don't. Jinx it.

TEDDY  
Let's go to bed.

CLAIRE  
Yeah.  
(to everyone else)  
Night!

THE GROUP  
G'night!

They all watch as Teddy and Claire make their way to bed.

KRISTYN  
You really don't think...?

Suzie raises one eyebrow as she crafts herself a cocktail.

INT. HALLWAY - CONT.

Trevor chases after Claudia who makes sure to walk faster than him.

TREVOR  
Babe. Babe, wait--

Claudia swings the bedroom door open and SLAMS it right in his face.

He reaches for the doorknob--

Thinks better of it.

INT. GREAT HALL - NIGHT.

We return to the stragglers of the night--

SUZIE  
The audacity of those two to make  
Teddy and Claire's big day about  
their own marital shit.

KATHERINE  
Just...let it go, Suzie.

SUZIE

I can't! It's not fair that they rip away the attention from what's most important to a bunch of bullshit! I just got divorced and--

EVERYONE

Oh, here we go...

SUZIE (CONT'D)

--you don't hear me whining and moaning about it.

DOMINIC

Maybe if you did do more moaning about it, you could get over it.

KRISTYN

Why does everything have to be about you or your divorce, Suzie?

SUZIE

That's exactly my point! I could make it about me and my divorce, and I don't. That's the difference between me and those constantly yearning for the limelight.

DOMINIC

Oh, like you're so fuckin' allergic to the limelight, Suz.

KATHERINE

I think the situation only worsens it we feed into it. We need to try to move past it. It's the only way the big day actually gets to be a good day. Otherwise, it's a big day, in a bad way.

DEREK

Katherine, comin' in clutch.

DOMINIC

Is your face browner than usual?

Derek tosses Dominic a healthy glare before Dom bro-slaps him on the shoulder.

DEREK

Isn't it supposed to be nose?

DOMINIC

Your whole ass face is all the way up there. I don't make the rules.

SUZIE

I'm just saying, they're being a couple of attention-seeking whores. Don't be surprised if you see them pull some more shit tomorrow.

KRISTYN

Don't even fuckin' jinx it.

SUZIE  
Just sayin'.

DEREK  
We'd better call it before  
something worse pops off, right?

Beat.

DOMINIC  
How's about we just get it all out  
of our system instead?

SUZIE  
I'll stay up.

DOMINIC  
Besides, it's not even us. It's  
Bonnie and Clyde who are back on  
their bullshit, anyway.

KRISTYN  
I'll drink to that.

Katherine sighs and shakes her head knowingly.

SUZIE  
You'll drink to anything.

DOMINIC  
So would you...

Derek looks to Katherine and shakes his head in agreement.

INT. STUDY - LATER.

Derek and Trevor share a quiet moment over drinks and the  
FIREPLACE.

DEREK  
I think I know what your guys'  
problem is.

TREVOR  
Please, Derek, by all means--  
diagnose us.

DEREK  
I'm not trying to--

TREVOR  
I know you just want to help.  
What's up? What is our problem?

DEREK

Why do you guys have to make everything about sex?

TREVOR

It's a big part of our relationship. It's really important to us.

DEREK

It's a major part of any relationship. You don't think that's a thing for everyone?

TREVOR

That's not necessarily true. It's different for us.

DEREK

It's different for everyone. Listen-- just-- don't make everything fun have to be about sex. Like, I mean-- all the fun that you're having doesn't have to be sexual or sex-act related. You guys can have fun in so many other ways!

TREVOR

Like I said-- it's a huge part of our dynamic. It's exceedingly, profoundly important to us. We are the most sexually compatible people we've ever come to know. We've never connected this way with anyone.

DEREK

Well then-- why feel the need to bring anyone else into it?

Trevor opts for his drink over an answer. Derek notices this.

DEREK (CONT'D)

You might be a sex addict.

TREVOR

Tell me all about it...

DEREK

You guys make this all...so...toxic.

TREVOR  
 (shrugs)  
 That's kind of our whole deal.

Derek shakes his head and drinks.

INT. MANSION - NIGHT.

Katherine watches Dominic and Suzie laughing and spilling drinks as they push into a RANDOM GUEST BEDROOM.

Kristyn looks jealous as she downs her drink.

KRISTYN  
 Fuck this, I'm going to bed.

Katherine nods as if to say that's a good idea.

Kristyn makes her heels heard as she struts her stuff down the hallway.

Derek slips out of the STUDY and bumps into Katherine.

DEREK  
 Oh, hey.

KATHERINE  
 Hey.

An awkward beat.

DEREK  
 And then there were two. Last ones standing, huh?

KATHERINE  
 Don't even think about it.

DEREK  
 What?

KATHERINE  
 You think I couldn't hear your locker room talk on the altar?

Katherine marches away.

KATHERINE (CONT'D)  
 Enjoy the rest of your night.

Derek drains the rest of his drink down his gullet.

DEREK

Fuck...

After some deliberation, he slinks to another GUEST ROOM.

EXT. WEDDING MANOR - MORNING.

The morning is calm like a light breeze.

Dominic enjoys a MIMOSA as he watches the chill commotion from the BALCONY above. Derek joins him with a coffee.

DOMINIC

Over/under on the wedding going to  
shit--

DEREK

Nope, nope.

WEDDING WORKERS work tirelessly to SET UP and WHEEL SHIT back and forth.

EXT. WEDDING PAVILION - LATER.

The OFFICIANT stands before the WEDDING PARTY for some final details.

DOMINIC

Where the fuck is Trevor?

DEREK

I was with him in the study but I  
don't know what happened to him  
after that.

DOMINIC

Do we have a backup Best Man?

DEREK

Don't even kid about that.

DOMINIC

Yeah, but we need a contingency in  
the case of--

DEREK

He will be here. Just-- don't--

A beat as the Officiant indistinctly goes over the plan--

DOMINIC

I'm telling you, I may need to--

DEREK

Would you shut up about it?

OVER TO--

CLAIRE'S PARENTS--

CLAIRE'S MOTHER

Aren't you the least bit nervous?

CLAIRE'S FATHER

It can't be worse than last night.

Claire's mother slowly cocks her head at him. He tries to ignore but can't.

EXT. WEDDING MANOR - AFTERNOON

Dominic scans the WEDDING GUESTS all filing in. Derek takes in the sights.

DOMINIC

Do you get the feeling that things are going too well?

DEREK

Stop fucking saying that.

OVER TO-- TODD and TEDDY.

TEDDY'S DAD

Just go with the flow, son. There's no possible way to fuck this day up, so just let the day sink in. Let all the feelings wash over you. You got this.

TEDDY

Thanks, dad.

TEDDY'S DAD

Just let everyone else do all the heavy lifting. That's what this day is for.

TEDDY

Okay, will do, dad.

TEDDY'S DAD

You can't conceivably fuck this up.

TEDDY

You mentioned that.

TEDDY'S DAD  
Do me proud, son.

He slaps him on the arm and brushes past him as Teddy nods.

TEDDY  
Okay, dad.

EXT. WEDDING GROUNDS - MOMENTS LATER.

Suzie lights up a cigarette and the other BRIDESMAIDS join her.

SUZIE  
Who's gonna fuck up today?

Trevor stumbles behind her, just barely within view. We notice a HALF EMPTY TEQUILA bottle in hand as he passes.

KRISTYN  
Suzie, shut it.

SUZIE  
What?! Somebody ought to. Just wondering who's gonna.

KATHERINE  
Nobody 'ought' to do anything.  
Let's just fall in line and play our roles.

SUZIE  
Spoken like a true soldier.

KATHERINE  
My dad was in the Navy.

SUZIE  
We all have our flaws.

Glares are fired at Suzie as she takes a healthy puff.

THE GROOM'S SIDE--

Dominic fixes his cufflinks. Derek nervously sways from side to side. Teddy also does what he can to calm his nerves.

DOMINIC  
Anybody seen Trevor?

DEREK  
Not since you guys did that shot.

TEDDY  
What shots?

Dominic's lips are sealed. Derek realizes his slip-up.

                  DEREK  
Nothing.

                  TEDDY  
You guys did a shot without me?

                  DOMINIC  
You could use one.

                  TEDDY  
More like several.

                  DEREK  
Nah, you don't want to ruin today.

                  TEDDY  
Don't put that into the air.

                  DEREK  
You're right. Sorry.

Beat.

                  DOMINIC  
Don't fret. Trevor's gonna show.  
He's not gonna fuck up your big  
day.

This does nothing for Teddy's nerves. Derek shoots Dom a glare. He catches this.

                  DOMINIC (CONT'D)  
Maybe he's getting the rings. Yeah.  
He's grabbing the rings. That's a  
responsible Best Man thing to do.

Derek shakes his head as Teddy nervously swings his arms and claps his hands.

EXT. WEDDING GROUNDS - MOMENTS LATER.

Claire's parents stand at the far end of the aisle, wearing confused looks on their faces.

                  CLAIRE'S FATHER  
Where's the ring bearer?

CLAIRE'S MOTHER

Isn't it a dog?

CLAIRE'S FATHER

Wasn't it a couple of fucking kids?  
I thought it was Teddy's niece or  
nephew or some shit.

CLAIRE'S MOTHER

How do we not know who's bringing  
up the fucking rings, Todd?

TODD

How the hell should I know?

CLAIRE'S MOTHER

It's your daughter's fucking  
wedding.

TODD

It's your fucking daughter's  
wedding too, darling.

Beat.

CLAIRE'S MOTHER

...We're terrible parents.

TODD

You're telling me.

CLAIRE'S MOTHER

It could be worse.

Beat.

TODD

How so?

CLAIRE'S MOTHER

It can always be worse.

(beat)

It could be the rehearsal.

TODD

You got me there.

Longer beat.

CLAIRE'S MOTHER

Please don't let this be the  
rehearsal.

TODD  
Jesus take the fucking wheel.

They both down their drinks.

EXT. WEDDING GROUNDS - MOMENTS LATER.

Claudia emerges from the PREPARATION ROOM. She joins the BRIDAL PARTY.

CLAUDIA  
Claire's having a nervous  
breakdown.

SUZIE  
Why aren't you in there helping  
her?

CLAUDIA  
I was in there fucking helping her,  
Suzie. I'm doing no good in there.  
That's why I'm out here.

An uncomfortable silence takes over, aside from all the soft background chatter. And glasses/silverware clanking.

SUZIE  
What's she panicking about?

CLAUDIA  
What isn't she panicking about?  
She's a nervous wreck and it's her  
wedding day.

Beat.

KATHERINE  
Should I go in there?

CLAUDIA  
If her own fucking sister can't  
help her, there's no help for her.  
It's in the hands of the marriage  
gods, now.

KRISTYN  
I wasn't aware there were any  
marriage gods.

CLAUDIA  
It's like Aphrodite... or the  
Sirens... Or J-Lo.

KATHERINE

Or God.

CLAUDIA

No bearded white guy in the sky can  
save Claire from Anxiety Claire.

Beat.

SUZIE

I've been married before, I feel  
like I can--

ALL

NO.

All fall silent. Suzie clasps her hands.

KRISTYN

Drugs?

CLAUDIA

Yeah. Drugs.

KRISTYN

Lorazepam?

CLAUDIA

Lorazepam.

KRISTYN

Has she been drinking?

CLAUDIA

Not that I'm aware of.

SUZIE

Oh, yeah-- just give the anxiety  
riddled shrew some fucking drugs  
and alcohol. That'll solve it.

KATHERINE

I'm... washing my hands of this.

CLAUDIA

The wedding gods.

KRISTYN

Marriage gods.

CLAUDIA

Whatever. I need a shot.

KRISTYN  
Yeah, I need some fucking alcohol.

CLAUDIA  
Suzie?

Slight beat.

SUZIE  
Fuck it. Fuck me up.

Katherine sighs heavy. She begrudgingly follows.

EXT. WEDDING GROUNDS - MOMENTS LATER.

To the GROOM PARTY--

The GROUP falls silent as they scan WEDDING PATRONS filing in.

DEREK  
Did you get with anyone last night?

DOMINIC  
That's a very personal question,  
Derek.

DEREK  
Fuck you.

Dominic falls silent a beat. Derek awaits, though knowing the answer--

DOMINIC  
Yeah, of course I did.

DEREK  
Need I even ask who--

DOMINIC  
No.

Beat.

DEREK  
Yeah, I know.

DOMINIC  
Then, why did you ask?

DEREK  
I don't know, Dominic, I'm just  
making conversation.

DOMINIC  
Do you always force conversation  
when you feel this nervous tension  
in the air?

DEREK  
Of course.

Beat.

DOMINIC  
What else do you wanna ask me?

DEREK  
Nah. Nope. I'm good.

Beat.

DOMINIC  
We did everything--

DEREK  
Okay...

Todd approaches.

TODD  
Whatcha guys talkin' about?

DEREK  
Ask Dominic.

TODD  
Dominic?

DOMINIC  
I fucked Suzie every which way last  
night.

Uncomfortable beat.

TODD  
I regret coming over here.

Todd slinks away.

DEREK  
You didn't have to tell him tha--

DOMINIC  
Yes, I did.

Derek pauses for an unbearable beat.

DEREK

Where on God's green Earth is  
Trevor?

DOMINIC

How the fuck should I know.

DEREK

Oh, mercy me... help this wedding.

INT. MAKEUP/PREP ROOM - MOMENTS LATER.

Claire, looking beautiful, save for some ruined makeup from  
wet eyes, fixes her hair and thin VEIL.

Claire's Mother and Claudia pamper her and through forced  
smiles attempt to hype her up to no avail--

CLAIRE

(sniffles)

I look like a shrew.

CLAIRE'S MOTHER

Oh no, honey, you look  
beautiful--

CLAUDIA

No! Sis-- You're perfect.

Claire fights back tears and tries to prevent them from  
ruining the makeup.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

I thought you preferred bar wench,  
anyway.

Mom throws her a "now's not the time for jokes" glance.

CLAIRE

No, that's you, Claud.

Beat.

CLAUDIA

In any case, you're a gorgeous  
shrew.

CLAIRE

You're not supposed to look like a  
harlot on your wedding day.

CLAIRE'S MOTHER

Sweetheart, you're not a  
harlot. You know that title's  
reserved for Claudia.

CLAUDIA

You know you look amazing.  
We're all our biggest  
critics.

Claudia wears a big frown as they stare into the mirror together.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)  
 (deadpan)  
 Thanks, mom.

EXT. WEDDING GROUNDS - MOMENTS LATER.

We now join a SIGNIFICANTLY DRUNKER TREVOR who stands beside RANDOM WEDDING GUESTS, barely able to keep his balance.

The TEQUILA BOTTLE in his hand is now two thirds killed.

CONCERNED GUEST  
 Aren't you supposed to be...?

TREVOR  
 (grunts)  
 No.

CONCERNED GUEST  
 Okay.

The CONCERNED GUEST and his DATE move on past with trepidation.

Trevor stays in place but struggles to stand still.

INT. MAKEUP/PREP ROOM - MOMENTS LATER.

Claire's mother pats Claire on the shoulder and turns to leave.

CLAIRE'S MOTHER  
 Let me know if you need anything at all, sweetheart. You're going to be perfect today. No matter what. R Always remember that.

CLAIRE  
 Thank you, mom.

Claire's mother's eyes meet Claudia's briefly before they snap right back away from them.

She brushes past her as she leaves.

Claudia motions to the door before--

CLAIRE (CONT'D)  
 Don't you dare think about leaving  
 just yet.

Claudia stops dead in her tracks. Wearing a look of dread.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)  
 Come here.

Claudia cautiously approaches her--

CLAIRE (CONT'D)  
 Look at me.

She looks dead into her eyes--

CLAIRE (CONT'D)  
 Don't you **DARE**... hijack my day  
 today. Either of you.

Claudia's anxiety is through the roof. Claire's soul-sucking glare is unwavering.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)  
 You got me?

Claudia viciously nods. Claire begrudgingly accepts.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)  
 Now go up there and stand with me.  
 There's no one else I'd rather have  
 by my side. I mean it. You two  
 drove me insane at the rehearsal,  
 but I love you both. You know that.

CLAUDIA  
 I know.  
 (beat)  
 I love you.

Claudia kisses her on the cheek and they embrace.

CLAIRE  
 Can you tell him to behave?

Claudia hesitates--

CLAUDIA  
 I would, but--

Claire looks like she could smack a bitch...

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)  
 (pushing through  
 uncertainty)  
 I will, I will.

Claire seems satisfied with that answer...

EXT. WEDDING GROUNDS - MOMENTS LATER.

PROCESSIONAL MUSIC plays as KRISTYN is walked up by DOMINIC.

DOMINIC  
 (poor attempt at a whisper)  
 Is he gonna be able to stand--

KRISTYN  
 (soft, terse)  
 Shut your face, Dom.

Followed by DEREK and KATHERINE.

Derek appears to want to say something to Katherine but thinks better of it.

Katherine wears concern on her face, does not have a poker face about it at all.

TREVOR appears robotic as he's guided by a perturbed CLAUDIA.

Zombie Trevor walks like he's in a sobriety test or walking the proverbial plank.

The wedding party all but holds their breath...

With each step towards the PAVILION, he is deliberate. Almost calculated with each pace, as if to ensure no fuck-ups.

Nothing short of a miracle, he arrives at his place.

Nervous Side-glances from the rest of the GROOMSMEN confirm the anxious air.

ALL RISE at last for--

CLAIRE, radiant as ever, emerges at the end of the RUNNER.

She marches up the aisle, the only eyes not on her are TREVOR's wandering eyes.

Teddy's eyes can't help but well up as she approaches...

She finally arrives at the pavilion, steps up, holds Teddy's hands who hopelessly dabs at his tears, a desperate attempt to hold them at bay.

The OFFICIANT waits until all have settled and a beat of anticipation passes before--

OFFICIANT  
Dearly beloved--

TREVOR  
(prolonged)  
I...

The Officiant looks on in disbelief. Some murmurs from the crowd...

TREVOR (CONT'D)  
...just want to say a few words.

Claire's mother, mouth agape, can only look on in horror. Todd face-palms.

CLAIRE'S MOTHER  
Oh my god...

She joins him in that sentiment.

TREVOR  
Also, who the fuck starts out a speech with dearly beloved? My...dearly beloved...wants to divorce me! Juuuust because I wanted to introduce some...variety into our lives. To reinvigorate... reignite the spark...the flame, which we had when we first laid eyes on each other. The love, no, the magic that followed, was instant.  
(fighting back tears)  
I just wanted that feeling back.

A beat as he regains composure.

TREVOR (CONT'D)  
But, instead of reigniting a flame, I sparked the fucking powder keg!

CLAIRE'S FATHER  
Somebody get him offa there and let them be wed!

GRIZZLY MEN in SUITS RUSH the pavilion--

TEDDY

No, no. It's fine. Let him talk.

Claire looks audaciously at Teddy.

VOICES FROM CROWD  
Get him off the stage!

VOICES FROM CROWD  
Fuck that guy!

VOICES FROM CROWD (CONT'D)  
What disgraceful behavior!

VOICES FROM CROWD (CONT'D)  
How is he the best man?!

VOICES FROM CROWD (CONT'D)  
This is unacceptable!

Claire's eyes dart about the crowd in pure disbelief. She desperately looks to Teddy to do something.

VOICES FROM CROWD (CONT'D)  
Fucking asshole! Why can't he  
keep his dick in his pants?!

VOICES FROM CROWD (CONT'D)  
This is outrageous!

VOICES FROM CROWD (CONT'D)  
Reprehensible!

TEDDY

Listen, listen! We all know this  
has been...boiling up. Let's just  
let them...y'know, let it all out.

Teddy nods to Trevor as if to say, "take it away"

VOICES FROM CROWD  
Let's get this over with!

TEDDY

Let him finish!

Claire death-glares him down all the way...

VOICES FROM CROWD  
He already did!

Trevor steals the mic from the Officiant who is taken aback.

He takes a deep breath...

FADE OUT OF...

TREVOR ABOUT TO SPEAK--

...AND INTO:

CLAIRE ABOUT TO SPEAK--

Claudia's hand shaking as she holds the microphone.

SNAP CUT TO:

TREVOR PASSED OUT ON THE GROUND.

She breathes out the nerves.

CLAUDIA

Before I say what I need to say, I first feel like I need to apologize. I'm sorry for all that's happened. I'm sorry about the wedding. I'm sorry for...

She looks to Trevor's unconscious body.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

...that.

Claudia looks back to a PROFOUNDLY PISSED OFF CLAIRE.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

I just have to say, this is not what I intended. This isn't what I wanted for this day, for you Claire. I'm deeply, truly sorry.

Claudia turns back to the crowd, fighting off tears.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

Anyway, I'll just clear up the air and we can get you guys married.

(short beat)

To those of you who think we're terrible people: well, that's fair, I suppose. You must all think that Californians are just the worst. That...might-- also be fair. In any event, such as a wedding, we must warn you of what you're getting into. Disaster. Emotional tragedy. Trauma. Heartbreak. Devastation. You name it. Marriage has it all. Lease, I beg of you, do not enter into this sacred promise of matrimony. It's a fucking trap. You'll end up fucked up like me. I guess, if you must do it, don't set yourselves up for failure. We certainly did.

(MORE)

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

Fucking other people sounds fun, huh? But it just fucked me over in the long run. Yeah helluva a time for a minute, but then you realize that your husband is inside another whore!

Gasps and "oh my's" from the CROWD.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

You just break the part of you that you thought you knew. You unlearn tradition. You can't look at what has worked for years, for the most part, tear that down, and think you can build something that is built on a cracked and shaky foundation. You thought you could be different. You thought you could were cool. You thought you were down. That's what I wanted to be! Just "down" for anything. Spice it up in the bedroom? Fuck with the status quo? Hell yeah, sis! I am the fucking coolest wife!

(laughs)

Yeah, no. As it turns out, I am not cool. I am very much not down. I thought I could put emotions aside for a minute just to feel good the next. It doesn't feel good at all. In fact, other penises don't feel good.

More shocked and appalled WEDDING GUESTS voice their discontent as Claudia grabs Trevor's TEQUILA BOTTLE from the ground and CHUGS from it.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

And all I do is think of other vaginas now. All the time.

Oh my gods and murmurs flood our ears...

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

And the penis you used to like is penetrating said vaginas.

VOICES FROM CROWD

My word!

CLAUDIA

It feels horrible. It's not great.  
So, please, all you Midwestern  
ladies, thinking about marriage or  
the like, do not experiment My  
heart hurts. I'm tired of it  
aching, constantly. I  
can't...ache...anymore. I'm done.  
I'm sorry I fucked up your wedding  
day, sis.

Claudia drops the mic.

Feedback rips through everyone's ears like nails on a  
chalkboard.

EVERYONE looks around horrified, murmuring as she walks the  
opposite direction down the aisle.

TEDDY and CLAIRE are mortified.

The OFFICIANT does his level best not to laugh.

Claire's PARENTS wear anger, terror, and disbelief on their  
faces...

The Officiant wipes the smirk from his face and approaches  
the MIC with trepidation...

OFFICIANT

I'm not sure how you want me to  
proceed after--

CLAIRE

Just-- fucking...get on with it!

OFFICIANT

Okay...well, shall we?

Teddy face-palms as Claire wonders through her indifference.

EXT. WEDDING GROUNDS - CONT.

Claudia marches away wiping tears from her face. A desperate,  
futile attempt to regain her composure.

She breathes deep to calm her anxiety before--

CLAIRE'S MOTHER

Claud-- what you did back there, I  
hope you know was simply put  
unacceptable and--

CLAUDIA

You know what, mom? Truthfully, I don't give a tepid fuck what you think.

Her mother can only stand frozen, mouth agape.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

They said I could put out there what I needed to, and I had to.

CLAIRE'S MOTHER

Is that how you truly feel? You unloaded a lot of filth onto us.

CLAUDIA

Mom, I don't know. And in case you haven't noticed, I'm going through a lot right now and--

CLAIRE'S MOTHER

This is not the time or place and you should know that. You just ruined your sister's entire da--

CLAUDIA

Not just me, mom. There's plenty of other people responsible for thi--

CLAIRE'S MOTHER

No, you need to look within yourself and realize that you brought this on everyone here. Nobody here needed to witness what they just witnessed and you put that on this day. And Claire. And, not to mention, your mother.

Claire's mother waivers, stopping herself.

CLAUDIA

Mom. Clearly you're getting a lot out at me that you've been holding back for quite some time. But don't pin this on me. I don't deserve any of this. It's been a constant barrage of shit from everyone since I've gotten here, and that's what I'd been afraid of the most. Maybe you'd realize why I said what I said if you stopped for a minute to think about what filth you've been throwing at me, too.

Claudia drops the proverbial mic as she stomps away.

Claire's mother feebly attempts to hold back, but the water works win.

EXT. WEDDING GROUNDS - MOMENTS LATER.

Claire and Teddy walk down the aisle, as if to celebrate some sort of false victory.

Dominic starts clapping for them, but quickly realizing no one else is joining in, he loses the enthusiasm.

Glares from the crowd as he slows the pace of his applause.

Derek stares at him as he defeatedly stops clapping.

EXT. RECEPTION AREA - MOMENTS LATER.

Todd approaches Teddy and Claire wearing genuine concern on his face.

TODD

I think we need to get him out of here.

TEDDY

No, it's fine. I'll handle this.

CLAIRE

Teddy, I don't know. I think he's right. He's a fucking liability and we can't have him here.

TEDDY

Claire, baby, he's my best man. We can't just--

CLAIRE

But we can. And we should.

Teddy ruminates on that.

TODD

I'll help, if you need.

TEDDY

I just don't--

Claire gives him an urging look.

Teddy begrudgingly caves.

Todd goes off to find him.

Claire studies him as he telegraphs his pang.

EXT. WEDDING PAVILION - CONT.

Todd accompanied by BURLY MEN march up to TREVOR who barely comes to--

They forcibly grab him up--

Trevor swings with a drunken right hook and misses.

One of the BURLY MEN readies him for a GUT PUNCH and CONNECTS.

Trevor clutches his gut and stumbles forward, barely maintaining a stance.

They raise him back up for another go-around.

Trevor tries to swing again--

BLOCKED by the BURLY MEN who haul back for another--

Todd grabs their fists--

TODD

No, no.

Todd grabs Trevor and pushes him back from the BURLY MEN.

TODD (CONT'D)

Trev, I'm gonna need you to go quietly, here. You don't want any of what these guys are selling, believe me.

Trevor groans and acknowledges.

He guides him away from the grounds.

The BURLY MEN stomp up and approach Trevor as if to grab him again--

TODD (CONT'D)

Guys, guys, I can handle this.

Todd waves them off and the BURLY MEN raise their arms in surrender and walk off, allowing him the chance.

TODD (CONT'D)

Trev, I gotta say, that was a mighty fine speech. Admittedly, though, not your finest hour.

Trevor drunkenly curls his body to face up to his eyes--

TREVOR

Todd... you're a great guy.

TODD

I thought you were too, buddy. But, you can be.

Beat.

TREVOR

She's taking our love away from me.

TODD

There are two sides to every story, trev. But from her perspective, I don't know that to be true.

Trevor drunkenly laments as Todd drags him away.

EXT. RECEPTION AREA - CONT.

The WEDDING PATRONS all attempt to have fun in the LARGE reception area.

Dominic, Teddy, Derek, Katherine, and Claire all commiserate the aftermath.

DOMINIC

What's to be done with lover boy?

TEDDY

Think that's already taken care of.

CLAIRE

Better be.

Beat.

DEREK

Seriously, what happened to him?

CLAIRE

What do you think? I'm not letting him back here after that!

DOMINIC  
I'm sure he didn't mean--

Claire bursts into maniacal laughter.

All look incredulously to one another as she blasts through her laughter fit.

CLAIRE  
Yeah. You're right, Dominic. I'm sure he didn't mean to ruin the most important day of my life.

Dominic looks to Teddy with a look that says, "yikes."

Teddy cringes for him.

EXT. RECEPTION AREA - CONT.

Kristyn and Suzie grab their drinks from the bar and strut towards the WEDDING PARTY.

KRISTYN  
I can't believe...

She shakes her head.

SUZIE  
What'd I tell you?

KRISTYN  
Yeah, you called that.

SUZIE  
In sloppy, hot-mess fashion.

KRISTYN  
I heard he got kicked out.

SUZIE  
Of course he did. He blew the big day. Tough loss for Claire.

KRISTYN  
I think it was Trevor who took the L.

SUZIE  
We all took the L for having witnessed that.

They clink glasses as they arrive at the group.

SUZIE (CONT'D)

Well, guys-- any chance this  
reception will be less...bombastic?

Claire glares her down, hard.

CLAUDIA (O.C.)

Should be less eventful.

Claudia joins the group with a fat drink.

SUZIE

Well, that's too bad. I was kinda  
hoping for more excitement.

Claudia, hardly breaking eye contact, downs the rest of her  
drink. All look on in amazement of the absolute power move.

CLAUDIA

Who says there can't be any more  
excitement?

As if on cue: CRASH! Out of fucking nowhere GLASS SHATTERING  
BURSTS through the soft murmuring of the CROWD.

ALL EYES SNAP TO--

Trevor takes a tumble over a WAITER, a SILVER PLATTER of  
CHAMPAGNE FLUTES CRASH and BURN across the WOODEN DANCE  
FLOOR.

All look on in disbelief as Claire buries her face into her  
hands--

CLAIRE

Oh my god...

Teddy rushes over just in time to beat the BURLY MEN racing  
just behind him.

TEDDY

Wait, wait, wait. Let him do  
whatever it is he needs to, then  
get him out of here.

Teddy lifts up the Waiter, then helps Trevor up.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

(to the Waiter)

You okay?

The Waiter, annoyed, nods.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

(to Trevor)

You'd better have a good reason for being here.

TREVOR

I wanna see my wife.

TEDDY

She's...right over-- somewhere, here. Around here.

TREVOR

I'm fighting for my wife over here.

DOMINIC

(under his breath)

You don't...literally-- have to fight for your wife.

Suzie nearly spits out her drink.

CLAUDIA

Trevor... you are an embarrassment.

TEDDY

Trev-- what do you need to say to your wife? I'm putting my ass on the line for you to even show your face here again.

TREVOR

Wifey... I love you. I don't think we need to be doing this dance. We love each other and should be together. That is all.

CLAUDIA

Trevor... I hope you know... that it's over. I don't want us to be doing this anymore. It's not worth all the--

Trevor grabs her face and drunkenly kisses her. She accepts warmly and turns it passionate.

ALL look on in pure confusion.

He grabs her by the hand and runs over to the bar, pulling her behind.

The BARTENDERS back off-- wanting no part in this.

Trevor pulls a bottle of tequila out and sets up TWO SHOTS for them.

They JOINTLY take them-- he lifts to her mouth, and vice versa.

They rip the shots and proceed to suck face again.

CLAIRE

You happy? You good? Now, get the fuck out.

OVER TO DOMINIC and SUZIE--

SUZIE

They're so toxic together.

DOMINIC

I love them.

SUZIE

You just love chaos.

DOMINIC

So do you.

SUZIE

I know.

They look to one another. The tension is real.

Back to--

TREVOR and CLAUDIA.

Claire death-glares Trevor, arms folded.

TREVOR

Okay, I'm leaving.

Claudia gives sad puppy eyes to Trevor. Then to Claire as if to say, "are you really gonna make him leave?"

The BURLY MEN attempt to ROUGH UP Trevor and MANHANDLE him out--

He EVADES capture and runs behind the DJ BOOTH.

The DJ swipes at Trevor--

He DODGES and SWINGS at the DJ--

His FIST CONNECTS. DIRECT HIT.

The DJ GOES DOWN. HARD.

TEDDY

Okay...

The BURLY MEN, TODD, and TEDDY SWARM HIM.

Trevor is TACKLED to the ground and FORCED UP, hands behind his back.

It's like a citizen's arrest.

Deja Vu as Trevor is escorted out once again..

BACK TO--

DOMINIC and SUZIE.

DOMINIC

I love weddings...

Suzie gives a mischievous smirk as she sips her martini.

EXT. RECEPTION AREA - MOMENTS LATER.

Claire grabs Claudia's head, which are inches away from each other.

CLAIRE

Claudia... I'm begging you... if you do this, I will hate you forever.

CLAUDIA

You already hate me.

CLAIRE

No, I don't hate you. Mom hates you. But trust me when I tell you, I am disowning you as a sister and as my best friend for life if you cause another scene.

CLAUDIA

Why don't you just kick me the fuck out like you did my husband--

CLAIRE

Soon to be ex, I hope. For your sake! For all of our sakes!

CLAUDIA

You'd like that, wouldn't you?!

CLAIRE

I'm trying to help you, Claud! But what am I saying?! Why would I help someone who is so casually trying to ruin my life?!

Claudia rips a pull from the TEQUILA BOTTLE, polishing it off.

CLAUDIA

Stay toxic, sister!

Claudia stumbles away to the dance floor.

Claire wants to break down and cry but remains strong and stomps off to her newly wed husband.

CLAIRE

I want to die.

TEDDY

We just might, today.

They embrace each other as if it's the end of their world...which it is.

EXT. RECEPTION AREA - CONT.

Claire marches up to Teddy and smack him.

CLAIRE

You do realize that letting him back was such a mistake.

TEDDY

How was I supposed to know he was gonna do that?

CLAIRE

I don't know-- past experience?!

TEDDY

Don't put all the blame on me. It's not like Claud's been a model citizen either.

CLAIRE

You just worry about your own shit.

TEDDY

And you worry about your fuckin' family.

Teddy storms away as Claire scoffs in disbelief.

EXT. RECEPTION AREA - CONT.

Teddy approaches Dominic.

TEDDY

I'm guessing he's outta here.

DOMINIC

Hated to see him go, but understood it. Thought it would be me to be on the receiving end of that.

TEDDY

I appreciate that it wasn't.

DOMINIC

What's next?

TEDDY

Hopefully nothing. Considering this whole affair, you never know.

DOMINIC

Here's hoping.

They clink glasses. Until they spot--

EXT. RECEPTION AREA - CONT.

Claudia marches towards Suzie with purpose.

Kristyn steps in her way--

Claudia SHOVES Kristyn into Suzie, they collapse like DOMINOES.

BACK TO--

TEDDY and DOM--

TEDDY

Spoke too soon.

DOMINIC

Yup.

BACK TO--

The TUSSLE--

Suzie tosses Kristyn off of her and springs to action.

She claws after Claudia who can only put her arms up in defense.

The BURLY MEN spring to action and pull them off of each other.

Suzie tries to swing at her more but is guided away.

Claudia is carried off like a sack of potatoes.

EXT. WEDDING MANOR - MOMENTS LATER.

Claudia is placed outside without protest.

She raises her arms in surrender before the BURLY MAN can do anything.

Claudia scans her surroundings to find--

TREVOR who stands alone, basking in his drunkenness.

She waltzes to his side. Grabs the TEQUILA BOTTLE from him.

Trevor appears shocked to see who stands before him--

TREVOR

What are you doing here? Don't you want to be at the--

She takes a healthy pull from the bottle.

CLAUDIA

Been there, tried that.

TREVOR

What happened, why aren't you...?

CLAUDIA

I'm in the same position as you, bud.

TREVOR

I sincerely doubt that.

CLAUDIA

Can't you just sit here and get drunk with me?

TREVOR

Don't have to tell me twice.

They climb the landscaping and sit on the BRICK WALL.

They pass the bottle as they gaze up at the stars.

CLAUDIA

One good thing about the Midwest.  
You can actually see these fuckers  
at night.

TREVOR

That's the only one, though. One or  
two good things about this place.  
But no more.

CLAUDIA

No more, no less.

Beat.

TREVOR

What's gonna happen with us?

CLAUDIA

Just shut up and let's enjoy this  
moment, shall we?

Trevor drunkenly nods in agreement.

She pulls his face to her and sloppily kiss.

It's a full-on makeout session now as her wandering eyes spy-  
-

CARS out front.

Lightbulb.

She grabs his hand and pulls him toward the cars. He barely  
keeps up.

She swings the door to an SUV--

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

Get in.

He practically dives in. She climbs in after him.

TREV

Whose car is this?

Clothes are flying off now.

CLAUDIA  
It's my friend's-- Who fucking  
cares?!

Fair point. He stops caring.

She climbs on top of him and goes for a ride.

FROM BLACK TO:

EXT. WEDDING GROUNDS - MORNING.

Claudia wakes up in the car with a dilapidated Trevor.

Her face telegraphs profound regret.

CLAUDIA  
Trevor. We have to get out of here  
before--

A groggy Trevor comes to--

TREV  
Yeah.

They sneak out of the SUV and down the ROW of CARS.

CLAUDIA  
We have to find my--

TREV  
Jeep, I know.

They glide down the row of cars until the end.

CLAUDIA  
We didn't drive here, did we?

TREV  
It was a shuttle, wasn't it.

Claudia buries her face in her hands.

CLAUDIA  
I don't wanna deal with...

TREV  
I know. Me neither.

She puts her head on his shoulder.

CLAUDIA  
What do we do?

TREV  
I don't think I can face them.

CLAUDIA  
Can we call an... or something?

TREV  
I'll get it.

He pulls up his phone. It's dead.

TREV (CONT'D)  
Of course. Do you--

Claudia feels around for her purse, her phone. Nothing.

CLAUDIA  
Oh my god...

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)  
What should we...

TREV  
I think we have to...

She accepts their fate.

INT. WEDDING MANOR - CONT.

They mope into the Mansion. Hungover members of the WEDDING PARTY await them on couches.

DOMINIC  
Who let you back in?

TREVOR  
Nobody.

Suzie gets up, ready to fight a bitch--

CLAUDIA  
Look, we don't want any trouble.

Kristyn gets in her way.

TREVOR  
We need a ride back into town.

SUZIE  
And no one will give you one.

CLAUDIA  
I know, we fucked up and we suck--

SUZIE  
(scoffs)  
Yeah...

CLAUDIA  
We have nowhere else to go.

SUZIE  
Well, that's too bad. Sucks to  
suck.

Claudia and Trevor look at each other. Yeah, it does.

DEREK  
I'll give you a ride.

Suzie looks at him, "Don't you dare."

Derek backs off.

CLAUDIA  
Seriously, we'll pay you. We don't  
even care at this point.

SUZIE  
Yeah, that much is clear.

A tense beat.

SUZIE (CONT'D)  
Nobody here ever wants to see you  
again.

CLAUDIA  
That's understandable and you won't  
have to. We just need to get out of  
here.

Claudia's eyes well up. She's on the verge of a breakdown.

Trevor puts his arm around her. No one can believe the sight.

TREV  
I'll just charge my phone and we'll  
grab a ride.

SUZIE  
Should've thought of that before  
you fucked everything--

CLAUDIA  
Yeah, got it. Thanks.

Suzie takes off after her--

Katherine puts out her fist--

Suzie is CLOTHESLINED by Katherine's arm--

She is LEVELED and PUMMELED to the floor. Crash and burn.

Katherine looks as if she's been waiting to do that all weekend long.

She nods to Claudia.

Claudia is too shocked to say or do anything. Same with the whole group.

Trevor guides Claudia out of the Mansion.

FADE OUT OF...

...AND INTO:

EXT. LOS ANGELES - DAY.

An AIRLINER lands in HOLLYWOOD BURBANK AIRPORT.

EXT. BURBANK AIRPORT - LATER.

Trevor tries to keep up with Claudia's brisk pace.

TREV

Claud, wait.

CLAUDIA

We should probably drive separate.

TREV

Claud, can you please wait for me?

CLAUDIA

What is there to say? You can't just be like, "hey babe, I care about you so much I ruined a whole wedding for you!" and just expect that will just win me back over!

Trevor doesn't know what to say.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

This isn't some stupid, absurd, pathetic romcom where you can expect that will just make everything right.

TREV  
Don't forget formulaic.

CLAUDIA  
That's not a winning formula.

TREV  
But you love those dumb, stupid,  
pathetic, absurd romcoms, though.

CLAUDIA  
I do.

TREV  
I love when you say those two words  
back to back like that.

Cue the trademark Claudia eye roll.

TREV (CONT'D)  
That was like a line from one of  
those cheesy ass things.

CLAUDIA  
Trevor, I have to go.

TREV  
Would you please...? Just-- wait.

CLAUDIA  
I'm done, Trev. I can't.

Claudia climbs in the back of a car.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)  
And don't follow me home. I don't  
wanna be there when you get there.

The rideshare car ambles away...

...leaving Trevor in the dust.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE OUT OF BLACK INTO:

INT. TREVOR'S STUDIO - LATER.

Trevor is joined by Teddy who hands him a SPARKLING WATER.

Teddy drinks one of his own.

They sit across from one another, silent a moment.

                  TEDDY  
How've you been  
doing...after...everything?

                  TREVOR  
I'd been drinking more.

                  TEDDY  
Anything positive?

                  TREVOR  
I've been calling my mom more.

                  TEDDY  
Okay, that's good.

                  TREVOR  
I've been crying more.

                  TEDDY  
That's...okay.

Beat.

                  TEDDY (CONT'D)  
Do you know for sure what's to come  
of you and Claud?

                  TREVOR  
That's all but said and done.

Teddy solemnly nods.

                  TEDDY  
Listen, man... you know I love you.  
You've been my best man for years.  
Not just for the wedding. But... I  
don't know if this is something you  
can come back from. Y'know, I  
thought there was nothing anyone  
could do to blow a friendship with  
me. But, I think you somehow  
managed to find what was so elusive  
to me.

                  TREVOR  
Teddy, I know I fucked up--

                  TEDDY  
This goes-- far beyond that. I  
think maybe... I could forgive,  
but...

(MORE)

TEDDY (CONT'D)

we all think you need to get out of our lives, forever. I'm sorry. But, that's just the way it needs to be.

Teddy rises from the couch and stands before him. Hand on his shoulder--

TEDDY (CONT'D)

You know I want what's best for ya. Something...significant has got to change in your life. I think-- It'll be a long time before I think you can be a part of it again, if ever.

Trevor resists the urge to let the tears flow.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

I'm really sorry. I love ya, buddy. I truly, sincerely hope that you can turn your shit around. Prove to us that you can. Be safe.

He pats him on the shoulder and meanders on out of the apartment.

Trevor sits silent with his thoughts.

INT. APARTMENT - LATER.

Claudia opens to the door to--

You guessed it. Trevor.

She allows him entry.

He waltzes in and she watches him enter like a stranger into such a familiar place.

CLAUDIA

Can I...get you something? Like...a water?

TREVOR

Yeah...water's good.

She pours him a water as he awkwardly paces around.

Claudia spies his discomfort.

CLAUDIA

You can sit down...if you want.

He obeys. She sets the water down in front of him and sits across from him.

An awkward beat before--

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

I just wanted to...you know, have some--

TREVOR

Yeah, no. This is good.

Beat.

TREVOR (CONT'D)

I just wish that we could...I just wanted to see if we could work through our problems--

CLAUDIA

Is there even working through the problem? I don't know that we can.

TREVOR

I'll be better. I promise I'll work at it every day. I'll be better for you. You said I lack stability in our lives. Well, I'll work through this until I--

CLAUDIA

I don't even care about that, so much. It's just--  
(sighs)  
You just didn't need to introduce chaos into our bedroom.

TREVOR

Well, there you have it. No more of that. I promise. I swear to you I won't even entertain the idea of--

CLAUDIA

That doesn't even scratch the surface. That's just one thing.

TREVOR

I'll fix everything. You just have to give me a chance. I love you more than words can describe. And if you love me, you'll allow me to--

-

CLAUDIA

Love doesn't work like that. Love isn't simply enough. It's not enough to just say you love me. You really have to work at the rest.

TREVOR

Well, then, just tell me what to do. And I'll do it. I want to work at it. Tell me how I can work towards this. Tell me what I can do to work towards something that we can--

CLAUDIA

But we wouldn't work through them, you would just run off and do your thing and you thought that giving me the same opportunity would just even things out instead of working out our issues as a team. That's what it's supposed to be. It's not supposed to be just fucking somebody else and hope that I'd come back to you. It hurts when I can't trust that you won't do that. Someone who doesn't talk to me, or say what they mean, or just flip flop on shit. I can't take the indecision or the constant changing your mind all the time! It's emotionally exhausting.

TREVOR

I guess I made it easier for you to hate me.

Claudia throws him a glance which telegraphs, "I never hated you."

TREVOR (CONT'D)

Well, just give me the chance to alleviate the problems this time. Things are gonna be different. I'm gonna change now so that we can make it work. I'm willing to turn it all around. I don't wanna lose us. I wanna fight for us.

CLAUDIA

There's nothing that you can do. I've already decided this.

TREVOR

So, this is just it. There's no trying. We're just gonna end it when it gets tough. Let's run away before we even attempt to work it out.

CLAUDIA

You only went above and beyond for me when you started to fear losing me. I don't want the bare minimum until it's time for desperation.

TREVOR

I'm never gonna feel like this with anyone, Claud. I feel like I'm only ever gonna feel it with you. It's only going to be diminishing returns on my love from here on out.

Trev battles back some tears.

TREV

I felt like I was at a crossroads with you. If you could choose to be happy for the rest of your life, wouldn't you?

CLAUDIA

Then, why did you choose to fuck it up instead?

Trevor lets that sit.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

I only meant to marry one person. I told you that. That's why this feels like the ultimate deception. I married who I thought was going to give me everything and now how am I supposed to trust anyone give that I had my one and only dupe me into thinking that this would be it. I have to go with my gut and my gut tells me you're just going to hurt me again. Now I have to go and find it somewhere else with the lingering doubt in the back of my mind that I'll ever find it again and that it'll actually be real this time.

TREVOR

It's the leap of faith we all take in marrying someone. We give it our all and hope they don't hurt us.

CLAUDIA

I already took that leap with you, and you **did** hurt me. I'm only trying to make sure that doesn't happen. I can't repeat that same mistake. I **have** to protect my heart.

TREVOR

I hope the next one doesn't. But it's a roll of the dice either way. You either roll the dice on me or you roll it on the cesspool we call the dating pool.

CLAUDIA

The pool was murky with you.

TREVOR

And yet, we dive right in.

CLAUDIA

Everything was the best with you, Trevor. You know I love everything about you. But we're just not right for each other. I just know it's not gonna work. I don't trust you anymore and I'm just trying to protect myself from being hurt any further. I can't keep enduring the ups and the downs of this marriage. It hurts too much and I can't continue to justify being together through all the heartache. I have to go with my gut on this and say we have to move on from each other. Even at our best, it was kinda the worst and we can't keep putting each other through this, it's not fair to either of us. I have to end it because one of us has to be strong enough to do this. We can't keep fucking our way out of each battle...it's long past time one of us did what we knew we always had to do. Even if it's so difficult.

TREVOR

I guess I'm glad you're the one to do it because I know I'm not strong enough to do it myself. I don't know how to rip myself away from you. As much as it pains me to agree with you, I do think this is right. It's just extra hard for me knowing you'll be better off and I won't be able to get over you.

CLAUDIA

You have to, and once you do, please promise me that you won't repeat history. Keep her this time.

Trevor wants to laugh but solemnly nods.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

Don't ruin her sister's wedding and expect things to be fine and dandy on the other side. It's kind of a deal breaker.

He does laugh this time and he goes in for a kiss.

She resists at first, but remembers they're the best.

They do kiss this time.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

Your kisses, I will miss.

TREV

They're the best, right?

CLAUDIA

I love Trevor kisses.

TREV

Claudia kisses are the best, too.

Claudia smiles. She has a realization and looks forlorn.

TREVOR

Is there any possibility that you would change your mind for me?

CLAUDIA

I want to say yes, but probably not. I wouldn't count on it.

TREVOR

Can you at least put something in your suggestion box for me?

CLAUDIA

I'll take it under consideration.

Trevor offers her HIS DAD's DICE.

TREVOR

No matter what decision you make. I want you to take these dice and come back to me.

CLAUDIA

Such a gambling man, huh? Even when things are hopeless.

TREVOR

It's all I have. I have to have hope for us. Even if we both know it's over, and it's only a shred of hope. I'll cling to that.

She accepts the dice.

TREVOR (CONT'D)

Whether you roll the dice on me, on someone you're seeing, or someone you haven't even met yet. I want you to give these dice back to me someday.

CLAUDIA

How will I know when?

TREVOR

I'll let you decide. You know where to find me. Just give those dice back when you feel you've had enough time to think.

CLAUDIA

I can do that.

TREVOR

Thanks, Claud. That's all I can ask.

They half smile at one another. Trevor fakes a smile to hide his sadness as he heads for the door.

Claudia watches him as he disappears behind the door.

EXT. CAFE - DAY.

Claudia struts up and spies Claire sitting alone at a two person table outside a small CAFE.

She takes a deep breath and moves to join her.

Claudia looks down at the drink Claire got for her.

CLAUDIA  
Dirty chai. You know me.

CLAIRE  
You're not just my sister.  
(beat)  
Have a sit.

Claudia obeys.

CLAUDIA  
I'm sure you didn't come just to  
talk this out.

CLAIRE  
I also didn't come just to let you  
have it. Much as I'd like that. And  
I'll spare these poor, unsuspecting  
people.

CLAUDIA  
Is there anything I can say that  
can even remotely--

CLAIRE  
I don't know, Claud. Honestly you  
attempting to live down your own  
embarrassment with our entire  
extended family might be punishment  
enough.

CLAUDIA  
Mom already hated me as is.

CLAIRE  
You have my sympathy there.

Beat.

CLAUDIA  
I mean, is there anything I can do?

CLAIRE

Claud. Ugh. I just-- more than anything I'd just like to know why you thought that had to be the time and the place to unload all your bullshit.

CLAUDIA

It wasn't. I sure as hell wasn't thinking and truthfully there are no words that I can say that can either justify it or make things right with you. I understand that. I just hope that there might be some way we can move past this.

CLAIRE

I'd like to but of course the family is talking about disowning you entirely.

CLAUDIA

I could've guessed that.

Beat.

CLAIRE

Something else I don't understand. Hopefully you can help me understand it. What did you see in him? I mean, I guess I just don't understand how this could've all gone so wrong.

CLAUDIA

I don't know, I just looked at him and just knew. Instant connection and effortless chemistry.

INTERCUT:

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT - FLASHBACK.

Claudia accepts an ORCHID with a CARD from Trevor.

CLAUDIA (V.O.)

He knew that orchids were my favorite and I never even told him.

She smiles and hugs him warmly.

EXT. PARK - DAY - FLASHBACK.

Claudia and Trevor at a park with a stream-let and a bridge.  
Trevor ties his shoe on one knee, Claudia turns to face him.

CLAUDIA (V.O.)  
He also knew to give me a sapphire  
ring for our engagement...

From his shoe, he presents--

A SAPPHIRE RING.

CLAUDIA (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
...even though I never told him  
that was my favorite either.

Claudia, in utter shock, offers her finger. He slips it on.

INT. TACO BELL - LATER.

Our focus is on Claudia's hand, complete with new ring,  
holding Trevor's hand as they await their food.

CLAUDIA (V.O.)  
And he took me to taco bell knowing  
that I would get married in a taco  
bell--

They look at each other and smile and kiss as she eagerly  
awaits their order.

CLAIRE (V.O.)  
Yeah, claud, I know the story.

She runs up and grabs the food as it's proffered.

EXT. MUSIC FESTIVAL - SUNSET - FLASHBACK.

Claudia weaves through the crowd, dragging Trevor along  
behind her. Pulling his arm practically out of its socket.

CLAUDIA (V.O.)  
He hates country music but would  
endure it for me.

EXT. MUSIC FESTIVAL - DARK - CONT.

They nearly make it to the front. They stop and commence  
dancing.

CLAUDIA (V.O.)

He'd dance with me despite his suffering. Even if he's humoring me, it's a joy I can't quite put into words.

They draw closer, and kiss as the lights grow brighter--

EXT. CAFE - CONT.

Claudia is caught up in the nostalgia.

CLAUDIA

We have this connection I just can't explain. It's a weird chemistry that was almost hypnotic. He has this inner magnetism that drew me to him so instantly. It's like he anticipated my needs and wants before I ever asked or told him. I don't know he does it or how he did it. It's just this way he has about him. Everything with him is and has always been the best.

Claire looks fed up.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

I know that you all see him as this giant piece of shit. Where loyalty and faithfulness seems to have failed him, and me... but, everything else-- everything in between. He's been perfect. It's hard for me to show you that or to put it into words that will make you believe me. He was this puzzle piece that just fit. But now... I don't know. The doubts we had about him may be coming true. Maybe they were always true. I should've followed this skepticism from the start. But I was probably just so blinded by everything else he did and said. The rose colored glasses were real with this one. But I won't let them affect me next time. It's gonna be hard to get through this, but I know that I have to. There has to be a better ending for me. One that's more stable, and built on a better foundation.

(MORE)

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

It's so much more difficult knowing that he was near perfect in almost every way. But nobody is perfect. Not even my ideal husband.

Claire ruminates on that.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

Do you feel that way with Teddy?

Claire nods.

CLAIRE

It's something intangible. I can't put my finger on it. I'll never be able to explain it with words, either. I get how you feel, Claud. But, as much as I hate to say it, you might've been wrong about him. I'm not denying you felt so strongly for him, but sometimes our feelings just aren't right. We want to think that we are, but we have to follow logic despite knowing that love defies all that.

CLAUDIA

He seemed so promising.

CLAIRE

I know, Claud. And I'm truly sorry. You'll need time to heal, for sure. But you'll be all the stronger for it. You'll end up better and you may not feel it now, but you'll find better than him. You deserve that.

CLAUDIA

It's not about ending up better. I just regret the time that I lost.

CLAIRE

You had so much good to look back on. I'm sure you could've gone on even more, but there were so many positive memories you had to cherish.

CLAUDIA

That's what's so hard for me to abandon. Someone you had all that with, and now...

CLAIRE

You're doing the right thing. I want you to know that. Don't question what you're doing. Break it off clean and move on. Believe me, you probably think this is so easy for me to say, but it's not. I know how much it must hurt for you. But, do it. It's gonna be painful for awhile, but you'll be glad you did once the pain becomes easier to bear.

Claudia reaches out for Claire's hand. She accepts.

CLAUDIA

Thanks, Claire. I appreciate this.

CLAIRE

Don't mention it. I mean, seriously don't ever mention it again. I want us to never bring this up again.

Claudia laughs through some tears. They embrace.

EXT. STUDIO APARTMENT - DAY.

Trevor moves some fresh BOXES around to make room in his new, cluttered studio apartment.

A KNOCK at the door blasts through the silence.

He answers the door to find--

CLAUDIA.

TREV

Hey you.

CLAUDIA

Hey yourself.

TREV

Come on in.

Claudia enters and scans the room.

TREV (CONT'D)

The new digs.

CLAUDIA

How's that going?

TREV  
Cleaner than my old apartment. You  
know.

CLAUDIA  
Oh, I know.

They share in a chuckle.

TREV  
What brings you here? Not that the  
visit isn't nice...or appreciated.

She opens her hand--

--His father's DICE.

CLAUDIA  
As promised.

He studies them.

TREV  
I probably already know the answer.

The smile's wiped away from her face.

CLAUDIA  
Shall we roll them anyway?

TREV  
We shall.

That brings the smile back.

They both walk in unison to--

A LONG TABLE. Amid nothingness.

TREV (CONT'D)  
I got this new table.

CLAUDIA  
I'm surprised this is even  
furnished.

They scoff at that. Almost laugh like school kids.

TREV  
You ready?

She nods.

He blows on the dice.

She rubs them together.

Claudia tosses the dice down the table.

Our focus is on: the dice DANCING down the table.

We shift away from the dice to--

Trevor and Claudia's reactions.

They look to one another as we hear the dice roll to a stop.

We see nothing but their glances held on each other as we--

FADE TO BLACK.

TITLE CARD: **THE BEST MAN'S WIFE.**

CUE CREDITS.

THE END.